



Our reference: EF13/4931; DOC19/12310-01
Contact: Ms Alex McGuirk; (02) 6333 3807

The General Manager
Forbes Shire Council
PO Box 33
FORBES NSW 2871

Attention: Ms Eliza Scarpellino

31 January 2019

Dear Ms Scarpellino,

**FORBES LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PLAN 2013 – SP3 TOURIST ZONE
DEVELOPMENT PERMISSIBLE WITH CONSENT**

I refer to the gateway determination, made by the delegate of the Minister for Planning on 18 December 2018, in relation to proposed inclusion of 'highway service centres' and 'service stations' as permissible with consent in 'SP3 tourist zone' under the Forbes Local Environment Plan 2013 (the Planning Proposal). The gateway determination requires Forbes Shire Council to consult with various government agencies, including the Environment Protection Authority (EPA), in relation to the Planning Proposal.

The EPA notes that, should the Planning Proposal proceed, any proposed highway service centres or service stations within the SP3 tourist zone will be subject to the development assessment process under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act* 1979. However, the EPA is concerned that the SP3 tourist zone is identified as 'groundwater vulnerable' due to its proximity to the Lachlan River. As such, the EPA considers that there are other more appropriate locations along the Newell Highway for highway service centres and service stations.

Should you have any further enquiries in relation to this matter, please contact Ms Alex McGuirk at the Central West (Bathurst) Office of the EPA by telephoning (02) 6333 3807 or by emailing central.west@epa.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SL', written over a light blue horizontal line.

SHERIDAN LEDGER
A/Head Regional Operations Unit - Central West
Environment Protection Authority