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Our ref: 13/20611

Mr David Farmer
General Manager
Wollongong City Council
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David
Dear Mr Farmer

Planning Proposal for land at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops and Request for Pre-Gateway Review – Lady Carrington Estate South and Land Pooling sites, Helensburgh

I refer to Council's Planning Proposal for land at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops (PP_2012_WOLLG_004_00) and to the request for a Pre-Gateway Review (PGR_2013_WOLLG_002_00) relating to the Lady Carrington Estate South and Land Pooling sites, Helensburgh.

I have considered both matters and I have determined that there is merit in referring the matters to the Southern Region Joint Planning Panel (JRPP) for a detailed independent review for the following reasons:

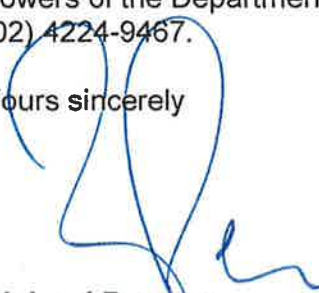
- There is a need to clearly define a boundary for Helensburgh. Planning issues in the Helensburgh area have been contentious for nearly 30 years and have been the subject of a Commission of Inquiry in 1994.
- Consideration of the proposals by the JRPP will ensure the merits of the proposals are thoroughly, transparently and independently reviewed.
- Council's Planning Proposal and the Pre-Gateway Review seek different and opposing outcomes in relation to parts of the Lady Carrington Estate South site and the Land Pooling site.
- Due to the large number of submissions received and the high level of public interest in the Planning Proposal.

The JRPP will be requested to review the Planning Proposal and to make recommendations for the Minister's consideration.

The review request will be referred to the JRPP to consider whether the proposed instrument should proceed. It is likely the JRPP will contact Council to seek its views as part of its assessment process. You will be advised of the Panel's recommendations once its assessment has been completed. You can check the progress of the review on the LEP Tracking System at www.leptracking.planning.nsw.gov.au/default.aspx

Should you have any further enquiries about these matters, I have arranged for Mr Graham Towers of the Department's Southern Region to assist you. Mr Towers may be contacted on (02) 4224-9467.

Yours sincerely


Richard Pearson
Deputy Director General
Growth Planning and Delivery

5/2/14