



Planning & Infrastructure

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Your ref: Z12/5271
File: 11/12893

Mr David Farmer
General Manager
Wollongong City Council
Locked Bag 8821
South Coast Mail Centre NSW 2521

Dear Mr Farmer

Subject: Revised Planning Proposal for Lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops

I refer to Council's letter dated 3 February 2012 requesting that a revised Planning Proposal for lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops be referred to the Department's LEP Review Panel for a Gateway Determination.

I appreciate the complexities of planning for this area and would like to thank Council for referring the revised Planning Proposal to the Department for consideration. Please be assured that the Department will be giving careful consideration to the proposal.

From a preliminary review of the proposal, the rationale behind Council's decision to expand the proposed E2 Environmental Conservation zone to areas not identified in the previous Planning Proposal (PP_2011_WOLLG_008_00) is unclear. I note from the Planning Proposal that the additional areas proposed to be zoned E2 are not identified as Endangered Ecological Communities and that this decision does not appear to be based on a planning study.

In order to assist the Department in preparing its Gateway report on the Planning Proposal, Council is requested to provide details on the basis for the decision to increase the area proposed to be zoned E2 beyond those lands identified in the previous Planning Proposal.

Should you wish to discuss or have any enquiries about this matter, please contact me on 4224 9450.

Yours sincerely

Brett Whitworth
Regional Director
Southern Region

13 February 2012