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Mr Steve McDonald
General Manager
Muswellbrook Shire Council
PO Box 122
MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333

Our ref: 11/06873

Attention: Pathum Gunasekara

Dear Mr McDonald

Muswellbrook Local Environmental Plan 2009 – Assistance to amend maps

As discussed at the Department's meeting with Council on 18 April 2011, when Council prepares an amendment to Muswellbrook Local Environmental Plan 2009 (LEP) it is necessary to prepare the LEP maps in accordance with the Department's standard technical requirements. The Department appreciates that Council has limited GIS resources and these miscellaneous mapping amendments cause time delays, making it difficult for Council to meet its planning proposal completion timeframes.

The NSW Government is committed to improving the efficiency of the planning system and it is important that Council meets the planning proposal completion timeframes. To assist Council, the Department would like to offer its assistance to amend Council's LEP maps to comply with the standard technical requirements.

To commence this amendment to the LEP, Council would need to resolve to prepare a planning proposal and request a Gateway Determination under s56 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, to amend the LEP maps to comply with the Department's standard technical requirements. Council will be consulted about the mapping amendments as they are prepared and before the planning proposal is forwarded to the Minister's delegate to be made.

If you require any clarification of the above, please contact Mr Trent Wink at the Department's Newcastle Office on 49042716.

Yours sincerely



Michael Leavey
Regional Director
Hunter and Central Coast

9/5/11