

General Manager
Wyong Shire Council
Attention: Jenny Mewing
PO Box 20
Wyong NSW
2259

DOC 15/144865

Planning Proposal – Lake Monmorah rezoning (RZ/12/2014)

I write in response to your request by email dated 5 March 2015 and thank you for inviting the Department of Education and Communities (the Department) to comment on the above planning proposal.

The planning proposal is in close proximity to Lake Munmorah Public School, which is the only primary school in the area. The School is already close to 100% utilisation of permanent classrooms and local demand is projected to increase from 2018. Your recent advice is that these planning proposals would generate up to 620 dwellings. It is expected that a significant number of dwellings are likely to be occupied by families and therefore additional education infrastructure may be required to service population increases.

When considering significant land use changes, such as those taking place in Lake Munmorah, the Department encourages planning authorities to account for education infrastructure and allow for the lead time required to plan and build new education infrastructure.

Our challenge is to plan for the expected increase in student population arising from major development, in a balanced and affordable way. The Department encourages the broader state planning system and for Wyong Council to be supportive of land use development policies that help address these pressures. The Department is therefore supportive of a shift in planning decisions and policies which will encourage:-

- the construction costs of additional teaching spaces to be funded from developer contributions;
- optimising the size, amenity and function of existing schools so that they afford greater choice and provide contemporary teaching spaces for students;
- facilitating out of hours shared use of education facilities such as ovals and halls;



- the removal of planning policy barriers to school development;
- land dedications and appropriate rezoning in areas where a new school is required; and
- streamlined planning approvals for new education infrastructure

If achieved, these proposals will support education infrastructure to keep pace with student demand generated from planning proposals such as the proposed rezoning.

If you would like to discuss this response and/or schools planning for the Wyong Local Government Area, please do not hesitate to contact Joe Lantz, Senior Asset Planner on 9561 1058.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Neish', written over the printed name.

John Neish
Director Planning and Demography
Asset Management

WN March 2015