

Mr Greg McDonald
General Manager
Upper Hunter Shire Council
PO Box 208
SCONE NSW 2337

Our ref: IRF23/2761

Dear Mr McDonald

Planning proposal PP-2023-2169 to amend *Upper Hunter Local Environmental Plan 2013*

I am writing in response to the planning proposal you have forwarded to the Minister under section 3.34(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (the Act) and additional information received on 29 September 2023 in respect of the planning proposal to reclassify four parcels of public land in Scone.

As delegate of the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, I have determined the planning proposal should proceed subject to the conditions in the enclosed gateway determination.

Considering the nature of the planning proposal I have determined council may exercise local plan-making authority functions in relation to the planning proposal.

The proposed local environmental plan (LEP) is to be finalised on or before 13 December 2024. Council should aim to commence the exhibition of the planning proposal as soon as possible. Should council seek to make a proposed LEP, the request to draft the LEP should be made directly to Parliamentary Counsel's Office well in advance of the date the LEP is projected to be made. A copy of the request should be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment.

The NSW Government has committed to reduce the time taken to complete LEPs. To meet these commitments, the Minister may appoint an alternate planning proposal authority if council does not meet the timeframes outlined in the gateway determination.

The department's categorisation of planning proposals in the *Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline* (Department of Planning and Environment, August 2023) is supported by category specific timeframes for satisfaction of conditions and authority and Government agency referrals, consultation, and responses. Compliance with milestones will be monitored by the department to ensure planning proposals are progressing as required.

Should you have any enquiries about this matter, I have arranged for Miss Rachel Murray to assist you. Miss Murray can be contacted on 4927 3191.

Yours sincerely



30 November 2023

Dan Simpkins
Director, Central Coast and Hunter
Planning, Land Use Strategy and Housing
Department of Planning and Environment

Encl: Gateway determination