

Mr Derek Finnigan  
General Manager  
Muswellbrook Council  
PO Box 122  
Muswellbrook NSW 2333  
Via Email [council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au)

Our ref: IRF24/1232

Attention: Sharon Pope

Dear Mr Finnigan

**Planning proposal (PP-2024-732) to amend Muswellbrook Local Environmental Plan 2009**

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) to facilitate additional permitted uses at identified key sites, New England Highway, Muswellbrook and to undertake associated land use table changes.

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

I have also agreed, as delegate of the Secretary, the inconsistency of the planning proposal with section 9.1 Ministerial direction 4.1 Flooding is justified in accordance with the terms of the Direction. No further approval is required in relation to this Direction.

Council may still need to obtain the agreement of the Secretary to comply with the requirements of relevant applicable directions of the Minister under section 9.1 of the Act 4.3 Planning for Bushfire Protection, 4.4 Remediation of Contaminated Land and 8.1 Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries. Council should ensure this occurs prior to the LEP being made.

Considering the nature of the planning proposal I have determined that 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 6 months of the Gateway determination date. 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, Housing and Infrastructure.

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, Housing and Infrastructure, 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 Stacey Stephens to assist you. Ms Stephens can be contacted on 92286239.

Yours sincerely



13/6/24

**Craig Diss**  
**Acting Director, Hunter and Northern Region**  
**Local Planning and Council Support**

Encl: Gateway determination