

Planning Proposal

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: WOLLONGONG

NAME OF DRAFT LEP: REVIEW OF FORMER 7(D) LANDS

ADDRESS OF LAND: HELENSBURGH, OTFORD AND STANWELL TOPS

MAPS:

- **Location map** (attached))
- **Existing zoning map** (attached) – land is currently zoned E3 Environmental Management
- **Proposed zoning map amendments** (attached)
- **Proposed Floor Space Ratio Map amendments** (attached)
- **Proposed Lot Size Map amendments** (attached)
- **Proposed Height of Building Map amendments** (attached)

PHOTOS and other visual material:

- Draft Review of 7(d) Lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops (Willana 2009)
- Draft Review of 7(d) Lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops - Preliminary Review on issues raised in submissions (WCC 2010)
- Draft Review of 7(d) Lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops - Final Report on issues raised in submissions (WCC 2011)

Part 1: OBJECTIVES OR INTENDED OUTCOMES OF PROPOSED LEP:

Concise statement setting out objectives or intended outcomes of the planning proposal.

To introduce new planning controls for land at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops that better reflects land capability and land use, and seeks to protect sensitive environments in some precincts and allow minor development in other precincts.

Part 2: EXPLANATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF PROPOSED LEP:

Statement of how the objectives or intended outcomes are to be achieved by means of new controls on development imposed via a LEP.

Amendment of Wollongong LEP 2009 by changes to the:

- Zoning Map
- Floor Space Ratio Map
- Lot Size Map
- Height of Building Map
- Schedule 1 – Additional use of a “restaurant or cafe” at Lot 4 DP 259401, corner of Lawrence Hargrave Drive and Baines Place, Helensburgh.
Additional use of a dwelling house on a number of vacant properties in the Wilsons Creek, Walker Street and Frew Avenue precincts.

(see attachment proposed amendment maps)

Part 3: JUSTIFICATION OF OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES AND PROVISIONS AND PROCESSES FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION:

Section A – Need for the planning proposal

1. Is the planning proposal a result of any strategic study or report? IF YES: - Briefly explain the nature of the study or report and its key findings in terms of explaining the rationale for the proposal. - Submit a copy of the study or report with the planning proposal.	Yes – Council has undertake a review of the lands formerly zoned 7(d) Hacking River – Environmental Protection under the Wollongong LEP 1990. These areas are now zoned E3 Environmental Management under the Wollongong LEP 2009. The review commenced prior to the introduction of the new LEP. The 7(d) zone was introduced in the 1980s and 1990s to protect the Hacking River catchment, however the zone did not account for existing development. The appropriateness of the former 7(d) zone and current E3 zone have been reviewed and changes are proposed. The study area is divided into 21 precincts, each with a complex history, different environmental attributes and land use pattern. In some areas a higher conservation zone is proposed (E2 Environmental Conservation). In other areas where land has been cleared and is being used for farming, housing, tourism, recreation, business or other uses, an alternate zone is proposed. In other areas, no change is proposed Attached are copies of: - Draft Review of 7(d) Lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops (Willana 2009) - Draft Review of 7(d) Lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops - Preliminary Review on issues raised in submissions (WCC 2010) - Draft Review of 7(d) Lands at Helensburgh, Otford and Stanwell Tops - Final Report on issues raised in submissions (WCC 2011)
2. Is the planning proposal the best means of achieving the objectives or intended outcomes, or is there a better way? (alternatives to changing the controls on development might include community education and new administrative processes such as pre-application meetings)	Yes – to replace the current E3 Environmental Management zone with more suitable zones, a planning proposal is required.
3. Is there a net community benefit? The Net Community Benefit Test: an assessment should be prepared by the proponent to be submitted to council for endorsement prior to submitting to DoP as part of the Gateway test. The level of detail and analysis should be proportionate to the size and likely impact of the rezoning.	A net community benefit test has not been prepared. The better protection of bushland through the introduction of the E2 zone will be of community benefit. The rationalisation of zonings to reflect land capability and existing development will provide certainty for land owners. However, large sections of the community object to these proposed changes.

Section B – Relationship to strategic planning framework

4. Is the planning proposal consistent with the objectives and actions contained within the applicable regional or sub-regional strategy (including the Sydney Metropolitan Strategy and exhibited draft strategies)? - Describe regional or sub-regional strategy outcomes or actions directly relevant to the planning proposal. - Where this is the case, include reasons why the proposal is either explicitly consistent with, or explicitly inconsistent with the outcomes or actions contained in the regional or sub-regional strategy - Where the planning proposal is inconsistent consider whether circumstances have changed, or whether a matter relevant to the planning proposal was not considered in the preparation of the strategy. - Sustainability criteria included in regional strategies should be addressed in the planning proposal.	The proposal is not inconsistent with the Illawarra Regional Strategy (2007). The Illawarra Regional Strategy seeks to: - conserve sensitive environments and habitats – the draft Planning Proposal proposes to rezone large areas to E2 Environmental Conservation. - not promote Helensburgh as an urban release areas – the draft Planning Proposal does not propose urban expansion at Helensburgh. It does propose the rezoning of minor areas to recognise existing residential development, and R2 to part of 4 lots to allow 4-10 dwellings adjacent to Helensburgh shops.
5. Is the planning proposal consistent with the local council's Community Strategic Plan or other local strategic plan?	Council has not yet prepared or adopted its Community Strategic Plan. Council has exhibited two sets of draft options for the future of the area, resulting in 3,447 submissions and 19,390 submissions, respectively. The majority of submissions want the whole area zoned E2 Environmental Conservation. While the E2 zone is appropriate for large parts of the area, it is not appropriate in other areas which have been cleared and are being used for farmland, housing, tourism or employment uses. See attached reports for details of consultation.
6. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable state environmental planning policies?	The proposal is not inconsistent with any relevant SEPP See attached summary of SEPPs and section 117 Directions.
7. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (s.117 directions)? Each planning proposal must identify which, if any, section 117 Directions are relevant to the proposal.	The proposal is consistent with the majority of relevant section 117 Directions. See attached summary of SEPPs and section 117 Directions.

- Where the planning proposal is inconsistent, those inconsistencies must be specifically justified - Certain directions require consultation with government agencies – if such a direction is relevant, this should be identified however should not take place until the gateway determination is issued, confirming the public authorities to be consulted on the planning proposal.	The draft Planning Proposal has minor inconsistencies with Section 117 Direction: 1.5 Rural Lands – reduction of minimum lot sizes for some properties zoned E3 Environmental Management, 2.1 Environmental Protection zones - some areas zoned E3 Environmental Management are proposed to be zoned B6, E4, R2, RE2, SP3, or RU2 to better reflect land capability and existing land use. The inconsistencies are justified in the attached reports.
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Section C – Environmental, social and economic impact

8. Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected as a result of the proposal? IF YES: it will be necessary to carry out an assessment of significance in accordance with section 5A of the EP&A Act and the “Threatened Species Assessment Guidelines” issued by the Department of Environment and Climate Change. Any adverse impact will trigger the requirement under section 34A to consult with the Director General of the Department of Climate Change – such consultation if required does not take place until after the issuing of the initial gateway determination.	The area does contain the EEC Southern Sydney Sheltered Forest. The draft Planning Proposal does not propose large scale development in these areas. Any individual development proposals that affect the EEC will need to undertake their own assessment. Council is not proposing to undertake a flora and fauna study. The draft Planning Proposal seeks to rezone large areas of bushland (non-EECs, but part of an important habitat linkage) to the E2 Environmental Conservation zone.
9. Are there any other likely environmental effects as a result of the planning proposal and how are they proposed to be managed? This might include natural hazards such as flooding, land slip, bushfire hazard etc. If it is necessary to undertake technical studies or investigations to address an identified matter, these should be undertaken following the initial gateway determination.	The area has a high bushfire risk. Bushfire issues were considered as part of the proposal, including consultation with the RFS. Council has considered the impact clearing for bushfire mitigation would have on the sensitive environments, development in these areas has not been supported. Individual development proposals will need to incorporate bushfire mitigation measures. The study area is not subject to flooding. Steep slopes – development on steep slopes has not been supported. Water quality – the area is in the upper catchment of the Hacking River and flows through the Royal National Park. The Hacking River has poor water quality, and it is important that it does not become worse. Large areas of bushland are proposed to be zoned E2. Any

	new development proposals will need to incorporate water quality measures.
10. How has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects? This includes effects on items or places of European or aboriginal cultural heritage.	There are no non-Indigenous heritage items affected by the proposal. The area does contain Aboriginal heritage. A study has not been undertaken as no development of undisturbed environments is proposed. Large areas of land are proposed to be zoned E2 Environmental Conservation which will better conserve Aboriginal heritage. Other zones are proposed for existing disturbed and developed land, which are unlikely to still contain indigenous heritage. Council is not proposing to undertake an Aboriginal Heritage Study.

Section D – State and Commonwealth interests

11. Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal? This applies to planning proposal that may result in residential subdivision in excess of 150 lots, substantial urban renewal, or infill development.	Water & Sewerage – Sydney Water has advised that there is capacity in the system, that they have no plans to expand the network, and any expansion to serve future development will need to be funded by the developers.
12. What are the views of State and Commonwealth public authorities consulted in accordance with the gateway determination? This is completed following consultation with the State and Commonwealth Public Authorities identified in the gateway determination and must summarise and address issues raised not already dealt with in the planning proposal.	Preliminary consultation has occurred with a number of State Authorities (particularly Office of Environment and Heritage, and Sydney Water, and RTA) – see reports for details of submissions received.

Part 4: DETAILS OF COMMUNITY CONSULTATION TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON THE PLANNING PROPOSAL:

Outline the community consultation that is to be undertaken in respect of the proposal, having regard to the requirements set out in the guide (refer to the document “**A guide to preparing local environmental plans**” which outlines the consultation required for different types of planning proposals).

If the planning proposal is supported, the proposal will be exhibited for a minimum period of two months, and include:

- Hard copies at Council's Administration building and Wollongong and Helensburgh Libraries;
- Electronic copy on Council's website;
- Notification letters to surrounding and nearby property owners; and
- Notification letters to:
 - Sutherland Council
 - RTA,
 - Origin Energy,
 - Sydney Water,
 - Rural Fire Service,
 - Office of Environment and Heritage,
 - Hacking River Catchment Management Authority
 - Department of Primary Industry, and
 - any other authorities nominated by the Department.

The planning proposal includes land owned by Council, so Council has resolved to exhibit the planning proposal in accordance with the Department's Guidelines “LEP and Council Land”.

Location Map



Existing Zoning map – Wollongong LEP 2009

