

1. UPDATE ON RURAL RESIDENTIAL STRATEGY REVIEW

Introduction

This report is provided to update Council on the progress of the review of the Rural Residential Strategy. Council would recall that this Strategy review was due for completion this month. Due to a potential conflict of interest, site assessments involved in this Strategy Review have been referred to an external consultant for assessment and recommendations.

Background

The Rural Residential Strategy provides a future plan for the growth of the Narromine Shire's rural residential zones, taking into account existing settlements, distance from towns and a review of limiting factors to a successful rezoning, to name a few of the matters. The Strategy to date has been completed in-house with certain components (as well as the overall Strategy) now being assessed by a consultant. The Strategy follows a process of adoption by Council, community consultation and final endorsement by the Department of Planning and Environment.

Discussion

- **Policy**
The Local Government Act and Council's Code of Conduct determines the process to be followed when potential conflicts are recognised. This process has been followed and the General Manager is now overseeing the project.
- **Consultant**
An external consultant has been engaged to review sites put forward for rezoning by land owners. To ensure fair consideration for all, whether there is a perceived conflict or not, all sites put forward for rezoning have been referred to the consultant for review. This ensures that the consultant is able to take into account the wider picture of interest shown in rezoning and ensures an equitable playing field for all rezoning suggestions.
- **Key deliverables**
The report provided to Council will be a written assessment of the sites put forward for rezoning as well as commentary on the overall review to provide context. The consultant is preparing to submit this report to Council by mid-April with a Councillor Workshop set for Wednesday 3rd May, 2017. Any enquiries on this process are to be directed to the General Manager.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council hold a workshop on Wednesday 3rd May 2017 at 4.30pm to consider the outcomes of the Rural Residential Strategy review.

Jane Redden
General Manager