Summary of Final Recommendations

The Mid North Coast Farmland Mapping Project Final Recommendations Report includes planning maps which identify land for farming. Below is a summary of the key recommendations. For a copy of the Report, contact the Department of Planning on 66 41 66 00.

Land mapped as regionally significant farmland cannot be considered for allocation for rural residential zoning unless:

1. it has been agreed to by the Department of Planning at the date of the Mid North Coast Regional Strategy, and
2. part of a Growth Area under the Mid North Coast Regional Strategy, or
3. already zoned, subdivided or approved for an urban or rural residential use under an LEP.

Councils’ Local Growth Management Strategies cannot include regionally significant farmland in future rural residential areas.

In any review of the Mid North Coast Regional Strategy, regionally significant farmland must not be included in the major regional centres of Grafton, Coffs Harbour or Port Macquarie, and

1. there is no practicable alternative, or
2. where the encroachment onto farmland is minor.

New urban or rural residential areas expanding towards regionally significant farmland must avoid compromising the farmland. Potential land use conflicts or loss of land providing services such as flood refuge must be assessed, and buffers incorporated to protect farmland uses. The onus is on the land within the encroaching residential area.

Where regionally significant farmland is zoned for environmental protection, the zoning should not be altered to rural.

The farmland map should be used as an information resource when councils and state agencies plan for public infrastructure.

Department of Planning
Department of Environment & Climate Change
Department of Primary Industries
Northern Rivers Catchment Management Authority

NSW Government