The Mid North Coast Farmland Mapping Project Final Recommendations Report includes planning recommendations covering farmland. Below is a summary. 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 urban or rural residential development unless:

a) identified in a council rural residential strategy which has been agreed to by the Department of Planning as at the date of the Mid North Coast Regional Strategy, or
b) part of a Growth Area under the Mid North Coast Regional Strategy, or

- 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 avoid compromising farmland. Potential land use conflict or loss of land providing services such as flood refuge must be assessed, and buffers incorporated to protect farmland uses. The planning process is to be consistent within the encroaching residential zone.

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.