

**Response given to the Newcastle Herald regarding strategic planning in the Hunter region**

*Response given on 7 July in response to questions about the scheduled five-yearly review of the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy*

In line with the Government's recently-announced policy to address potential land use conflicts in regional areas of the State, the Department is currently focusing on the preparation of an Upper Hunter Strategic Regional Land Use Plan.

The initial focus of this plan is the need to balance mining with other land uses such as agriculture, viticulture, the thoroughbred industry and tourism, and further information on this work can be found at

<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/StrategicPlanning/StrategicRegionalLandUse/tabid/495/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

The Department will let the community and stakeholders know in due course about progress for the scheduled five-yearly review of the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy.