



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE CONSULTATION ON STRATEGIC LANDS

Additional public consultation events have been announced to get feedback on plans to protect high-quality agricultural land from mining and coal seam gas.

“We will be going out into the New England North West and Upper Hunter regions to get the community and stakeholder input we need to finalise our regional land-use plans,” Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard said.

“Last week I announced two public forums at Gunnedah and Singleton and today I am encouraging people to attend eight evening community drop-in sessions.”

In the New England North West region, drop-in information sessions are planned for:

- Moree Library - Wednesday 21 March, 4pm to 7pm;
- Narrabri Council Chambers – Thursday 22 March, 4pm to 7pm;
- Tamworth Library – Wednesday 28 March, 4pm to 7pm; and
- Armidale Library – Thursday 29 March, 4pm to 7pm.

In the Upper Hunter, drop-in information sessions are planned for:

- Singleton Library - Wednesday 11 April, 4pm to 7pm;
- Muswellbrook Library – Thursday 12 April, 4pm to 7pm;
- Gloucester Library – Wednesday 18 April, 4pm to 7pm; and
- Dungog Council Chambers – Thursday 19 April, 4pm to 7pm.

“Representatives from the key government agencies will be on-hand during the three-hour sessions to answer questions and provide advice about the draft plans,” Mr Hazzard said.

“We want to ensure people understand the plans and the maps, which identify some 1.3 million hectares of strategic agricultural land, including the famous ‘black soil plains’, the horse breeding industry near Scone and vineyards near Cessnock.”

Already this week, representatives from key State agencies met with councils and general managers from the New England North West region to discuss the draft plans.

Mr Hazzard thanked the councils for their co-operation, including their help with exhibiting the documents and providing venues for the drop-in sessions. More information is available at www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/regionallanduse

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