



Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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ENVIRONMENTAL E2 AND E3 ZONES TO BE REVIEWED IN NORTH COAST LEPs

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard yesterday met with Ballina MP and Minister for North Coast Don Page and Lismore MP Thomas George to discuss their concerns about environmental zonings being applied to agricultural land.

Today Minister Hazzard announced the Government would not endorse the use of E2 and E3 environmental zones on land that is clearly rural in council local environmental plans (LEPs) on the Far North Coast.

Instead, areas proposed to be covered by these zones would be excised from the plans while the Department of Planning and Infrastructure reviews the use of these controls in consultation with other government agencies and stakeholders.

Minister Page said this approach would apply to LEPs in the Ballina and Byron council areas in his electorate. Mr George said he was happy the same would apply for the LEPs in Lismore, Kyogle and Tweed.

“These proposed zones and overlays have the potential to limit existing agricultural and other rural uses without a valid evidence base,” Mr Page said.

“There are also very strong concerns that these restrictive controls could reduce the value of existing properties.

“The NSW Government will act to ensure the rights of existing landowners are protected.

“The Government will now review the suitability of these controls, whilst still providing appropriate protection for the environment.”

A number of LEPs in the region have been exhibited for public comment and are expected to come to the State Government shortly for approval.

Minister Hazzard said that any E2 or E3 zoned land in these draft plans would be excised when the LEPs are finalised. Similarly, any proposed environmental overlays on land that is clearly rural would be removed.

“Local environmental plans establish good land use planning principles for the entire council area and it’s important that planning for other uses such new housing and employment generation can go ahead while this issue is being resolved,” Mr Hazzard said.

“However, this Government is not going to stop farmers and other existing landowners from carrying on their businesses through overly restrictive environmental zones.”

MEDIA: Adam Raskall 0409 565 083