



Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning & Infrastructure

Minister assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

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Consultants for Far North Coast e-zones review

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure Brad Hazzard has today responded to concerns raised publically that the consultants engaged to undertake a review of environmental zones and environmental overlays on the far North Coast may have undertaken similar work in the area previously.

“I am completely satisfied that Parsons Brinckerhoff will get the job done well and that they will listen and learn from the landowners and local community,” Mr Hazzard said.

“Parsons Brinckerhoff has got the goods when it comes to appropriate professional experience and expertise.

“It’s a given that like many similar consulting companies, Parsons Brinckerhoff has undertaken some work for Byron Council in the past – but as I understand it, the work was generally termed ‘desk top’ - assessing other consultants reports.

“In this case Parsons Brinckerhoff has been contracted by the State Government to determine how best to address the balance between environmental protection and ensuring land owners rights are protected.

“The reality is we live in a fairly small world of specialists when it comes to a firm with this level of expertise and the fact that one arm of Parsons Brinckerhoff at some point, using different personnel, from a different office undertook some ‘desk top’ work for Byron Council, won’t stop them getting the job done that’s now needed.

“I am satisfied there is no conflict of interest.

“The important thing for the local community to focus on now is that as a result of the change of Government, they now have an objective review being undertaken with drop-in sessions and an opportunity to talk to the senior consultants from Parsons Brinckerhoff to express their concerns.

“Local State MPs and the local community asked for action. They got it and now the local landowners should grasp the opportunity with both hands and ensure their views are heard,” Mr Hazzard said.

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For more information on the drop-in sessions visit:
<http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/planning-reviews-and-panels>

Submissions can also be emailed to: ezonesreview@planning.nsw.gov.au or mailed to: E Zones Review Project, Attention: Stephanie Schofield, Planning Operations Coordination Branch, Department of Planning and Infrastructure, GPO Box 39, Sydney, NSW, 2001

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