



Rob Stokes
Minister for Planning

MEDIA RELEASE

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CERTAINTY FOR NORTH COAST ENVIRONMENT ZONES

Planning Minister Rob Stokes today announced the finalisation of the environmental zoning reforms for the Far North Coast.

Mr Stokes said the reforms will take effect through a Ministerial Direction that ensures environmental zones will be applied fairly and equitably across the five Far North Coast councils.

"This will enable local councils to confirm the most appropriate zone for environmentally important areas while ensuring agricultural land is protected," Mr Stokes said.

"Good planning involves balancing environmental, economic and social considerations. These environmental zoning reforms will help us achieve that balance on the Far North Coast."

Member for Lismore Thomas George, Member for Tweed Geoff Provest and North Coast Nationals MLC Ben Franklin welcomed the finalisation of the reforms.

"This will ensure that environmental zones are applied clearly and consistently on the Far North Coast," Mr George said.

"I am pleased the NSW Government has finalised these reforms to provide greater certainty to landowners, councils and the community," Mr Provest said.

"These measures will mean councils can identify appropriate zonings for different areas, based on existing primary use of the land including fallow agriculture," Mr Franklin said.

Councils will be required to notify private landowners affected by a proposed zoning change. Landowners will also be able to have proposals for new environmental zones independently reviewed by the NSW Chief Planner.

The Department of Planning and Environment will work closely with the relevant councils to implement these reforms on the Far North Coast. Councils have also been requested to ensure their development control plans are consistent with the final environmental zoning reforms.

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