Dear Mr Marshall,

I refer to Council’s letter received by the Department on 1 February 2010, seeking the endorsement of the Narrabri Growth Management Strategy.

Following consideration of this Strategy, I am pleased to approve the Narrabri Growth Management Strategy dated December 2009. The preparation of the upcoming comprehensive LEPs should be in accordance with the outcomes of this Strategy and with relevant State Environmental Planning Policies, section 117 Directions, planning circulars and practice notes.

It is noted that the Strategy has identified a number of investigation areas that will be brought forward in appropriate stages, and which will require further detailed studies before they can be progressed for possible rezoning. It is also recognised that a limited amount of land is currently identified as being environmentally sensitive under Council’s existing planning instruments. All areas currently zoned as being environmentally sensitive, along with other known areas such as existing National Parks, should be carried forward into the upcoming comprehensive LEP within the appropriate environmental zone. In the future, all strategic planning work undertaken to inform other comprehensive Plans, or planning proposals within the investigation areas identified in the strategy, will need to be supported by an appropriate review of environmentally sensitive lands.

Should you have any further enquiries about this matter, I have arranged for Ms Gina Davis – Senior Planner to assist you. Ms Davis may be contacted at the Department’s Tamworth Office on telephone number (02) 6701 9987.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
Sam Haddad
Director General
12-4-2010