



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

Mr Paul Hickey
General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA NSW 2478



Dear Mr Hickey,

In April 2012 the NSW Government called for public submissions on a draft policy statement to improve the local plan making process by returning local planning decisions to local councils and their communities, and by making the process more accountable. The proposed changes included formalising the existing statutory arrangements for two reviews within the plan making process (at both the pre and post Gateway determination stage) and introducing delegations to local government to make plans in certain circumstances.

Having considered the submissions received by the Department of Planning & Infrastructure, I now propose to introduce the changes. I note that in their reports released last month the Chairs of the Independent Review into the NSW planning system, the Hon Tim Moore and the Hon Ron Dyer, recommended that the reviews be implemented. The changes will commence on 1 September 2012.

To implement the new policy I have delegated to councils all my functions under section 59 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* for the making of Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). The delegations will operate in respect of draft LEPs for local matters where council receives an authorisation following the Gateway determination. For the first time councils will be fully empowered to complete the plan making process for these LEPs.

The Director General of the department has issued planning circular PS 12-006 about the two new reviews and the delegations. Delegations will routinely be issued for particular types of draft LEPs and these are specified in the circular. However, other types of draft LEPs will also be delegated to councils if the Gateway determines that the draft LEP is a local matter and that council should make the LEP.

To be able to exercise these delegations, your council must write to the department advising that they are accepted. Councils are also requested in their response to nominate the officers or employee of council who will be granted the proposed delegation. The name and position of the employee is required.

Council is reminded that the provisions of Section 381 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* require that such functions cannot be delegated to:

- a) The general manager, except with the approval of the council; or
- b) An employee of the council, except with the approval of the council and the general manager.

Further information on the administrative procedures for the various stages of the plan making process for delegated draft LEPs are available on the department's website at: <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/lep-practice-notes-and-planning-circulars>

Council is asked to respond to this letter advising if it wishes to accept the delegation and identify the nominated council officers by Friday 30th November, 2012.

If you require any further information on this matter, I have arranged for Mr Neil Selmon, Director Planning Operations Coordination to respond. Mr Selmon may be contacted on (02) 9228 6259 or at Neil.Selmon@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



HON BRAD HAZZARD MP
Minister

Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower, 1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: (61 2) 9228 5258 Fax: (61 2) 9228 5721 Email: office@hazzard.minister.nsw.gov.au