

TWEED LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (LEP)

The Tweed LEP was gazetted by the NSW government on Friday 4th April. Our Environmental Conservation (E2) and Environmental Management (E3) zones were not gazetted with this plan. That these zones have not been included in our LEP is of grave concern and rings alarm bells for the future sustainability of our shires natural resources that provide the great diversity of our shire and are vital economic assets .

That these zones were not included in our LEP will impede TSC's adopted policy to encourage the responsible sustainable management and conservation of the Tweed's natural and environmentally sensitive areas and will impede the ability to conserve and enhance the biological diversity, scenic quality and ecological integrity of the Tweed

The critical issue being the survival of our Koalas with the science now in that they are indeed on the brink of extinction. That crucial corridors and habitat for the Koalas and many other threatened species has not been afforded the protection in our LEP is a sad day for our shire.

The E2/3 zones include areas that have had some of the most extensive ground truthing studies to provide proper information to support the importance of these zones. Some areas were off-sets for other developments which were supposed to be protected into perpetuity. Much public money has been invested in revegetation/enhancement/management programs to conserve threatened species and provide habitat/corridors. Catchment areas of our waterways have had vegetation restoration works to improve the health of our waterways and to improve fish habitat to support our commercial/recreation fisheries. Vegetation is important to prevent erosion and provide for stability on steep slopes. But despite the critical importance of these zones the government decided not to include these zones in our LEP.

The NSW government committed to decision making to be returned to our local communities but despite extensive consultation over a number of years on our future LEP and the work of our council staff and decision of our elected representatives (councilors) in putting our plan together the NSW government simply ignores all of this. There is significant correspondence re the preparation and progression of our plan through these years and that there was then political interference in the final stages of this process of our LEP requires looking into.

Can you please fwd onto your networks and respond to this matter by making your view known to the NSW government.

Many thanks.