

Wollombi Valley Progress Association Ltd

C/- Wollombi General Store
Wollombi 2325

The Hon. Frank Sartor MP,
NSW Minister for Planning,
PO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Minister,

Re: Request to delay approval and exhibition of Cessnock Draft LEP 2008.

I write on behalf of the LEP Sub-committee of the Wollombi Valley Progress Association. The Wollombi Valley community is seriously concerned that the drastic changes proposed in the current draft form of the above LEP, to the zoning of the area and to the Heritage Conservation Area, do not accord with current planning policy.

The preparation of the Cessnock Draft LEP 2008 has occurred over some years, well prior to the release of *SEPP (Rural Lands) 2008* in May 2008, and to the *Report of the Independent Expert Panel into the NSW Heritage Act* in December 2007. It is our view that the Cessnock Draft demonstrably fails to reflect the current planning principles enunciated in these documents.

I have today written to the General Manager of Cessnock City Council to request that, in conjunction with the Department of Planning, the approval and exhibition processes relating to the Cessnock Draft LEP 2008 be delayed, in order to review and revise, where necessary, the present Draft, to accord with current planning policy. I attach hereto a copy of that letter. I would much appreciate if you could bring our request to the attention of members of your Department who are handling the Cessnock Draft LEP 2008.

Yours faithfully,



cc. Michael Costa MP, NSW Treasurer, Minister for the Hunter
Kerry Hickey MP, Member for Cessnock
Michael Gallacher MP, Shadow Minister for the Hunter
Brad Hazzard MP, Shadow Minister for Planning