

Mr Greg Petty
Independent Candidate for Heathcote

greg@gregpetty.com.au

Our Ref	Z11/28117
File	SU26444
Date	14 March 2011

Dear Mr Petty

7(D) LAND REVIEW OF HELENSBURGH

Thank you for your letter dated 14 February 2011 concerning a number of issues associated with the 7(d) Lands at Helensburgh.

7(d) Submissions: Thank you for providing an electronic copy of the 18,521 submissions submitted to the 7(d) Review via the Otford Protection Society website. They will be used to inform the 7(d) Review.

Helensburgh Commission of Inquiry: As you are aware, the Commission of Inquiry occurred in 1994. The Inquiry's recommendations were considered by the State Government at the time, and Council. The recommendations have no statutory force. The Preliminary Report on submissions to the 7(d) Review summarised the actions recommended by the Commissioner and noted whether or not they had been completed. Some actions have not been implemented by the State, Council and/or landowners.

The Department of Planning has not requested Council to undertake further studies. If Council resolves to prepare a planning proposal to rezone land, it is expected that the Department will request further studies.

The Department has advised Council that it does not support the Planning Proposal submission lodged by the Otford Protection Society. Council has met representatives of the Otford Protection Society previously, and is willing to attend further meetings.

Council does not have a list of bores and springs in the area. Bores and water extraction proposals are licensed by the NSW Office of Water. Topographic maps of the area can be purchased from camping stores, book stores or newsagents

Coal Seam Gas Exploration: Exploration for coal seam gas is a new issue that Council became aware of through the exhibition of the Apex Energy Part 3A application by the Department of Planning in 2009.

Mining is controlled by State legislation and while environmental impacts are of concern, is not related to the issues under examination by the 7(d) Review. Additionally the land subject to Part 3A application is not within the 7(d) study area.

Rail Corp Fencing: I am not aware of Council having any involvement in the fencing of the rail corridor. A search of Council's records has not revealed any correspondence.

Land Transfers: Council has met with representatives of Ensite Pty Ltd and the DECCW concerning the possible transfer of land in exchange for development rights on other parts of the holdings. Council has not determined its position on the request.

Land Clearing: If you have evidence of land clearing occurring please inform Council, so the Rangers can inspect. Council's complaint database indicates that there have been four (4) tree removals/land clearing complaints in the Helensburgh area, for the period 1 January 2010 to 20 January 2011.

There have been six (6) Development Applications and three (3) amendments to existing consent lodged on former 7(d) lands, now zoned E3, since February 2010. None of the applications were for new dwelling houses.

Please contact Andrew Carfield, Director Planning and Environment 4227 7284 should they require further information.

Yours faithfully



DAVID FARMER
General Manager
Wollongong City Council
Direct Line (02) 4227 7010