

The Hon. Tony Catanzariti M.L.C.
N.S.W. Parliament
Macquarie Street
Sydney. N.S.W. 2000

SD07/145

Dear Mr. Catanzariti,

Enclosed is the documentation you requested from me supporting my statements criticizing the public consultation process at the public forum on N.S.W. state development last Thursday held in Narrabri, Thursday Sep. 6 2007.

Attached is the complete Feedback Report, released by the Namoi Catchment Committee in 1997. I've included a photocopy of page 19 and circled salient points, regarding "Rural holdings too small to be viable rated as of low importance".

The technique used was to lead the group to vote. This answer was achieved by the organiser when she reached the issue "farm economic Viability" and she said "low, medium low".

As a couple of hands started to be raised she quickly stated low and quickly moved onto the next issue.

The group I was in was not given a chance to vote on farm economic viability being of a high priority.

You'll notice that on this same page I've underlined "Compensation for loss of access to water" which was also rated as of low importance.

I was not part of the group who voted on that issue resulting in I did not witness how this absurd vote came about.

I've included a copy of the first three pages of the Narrabri local newspaper, "The Courier" dated Sep. 6. 07. On page three it is worth reading the announcement made by the Member for Barwon Mr. Kevin Humphries, "Water Entitlement News Is Welcomed".

The timing of these compensation payments is very appropriate evidence supporting my complaints with the public consultation process.

The public consultation process often does not work. The organisers and interest groups nearly always pursue their own agendas with their recommendations to government only benefiting themselves and unfortunately at times bring about the worst possible outcomes.

I very strongly agree with the lady from Gravesend who spoke after me on the impact of the drought combined with rural welfare preventing the destocking of properties on shallow fragile sloping soil types.

We are creating an ecological disaster over vast areas of inland N.S.W. because rural properties are too small to be economically and environmentally sustainable.

I have major concerns with the presentation by the Narrabri Shire Council President, Mr. George Sevil when he stated the Council wanted the minimum lot size in the Narrabri Local Government Rural 1A General Zone to be increased from 100 to 400 hectares.

I think a variation in minimum lot sizes in this local government zone should be between 1000 hectares for class 2 and 3 prime cropping land to 4000 hectares in the western areas of the Shire on class 6 grazing land.

Class 7 and 8 land is too environmentally sensitive and unless it can be proven to be managed sustainably it should be removed from agricultural usage.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours faithfully,

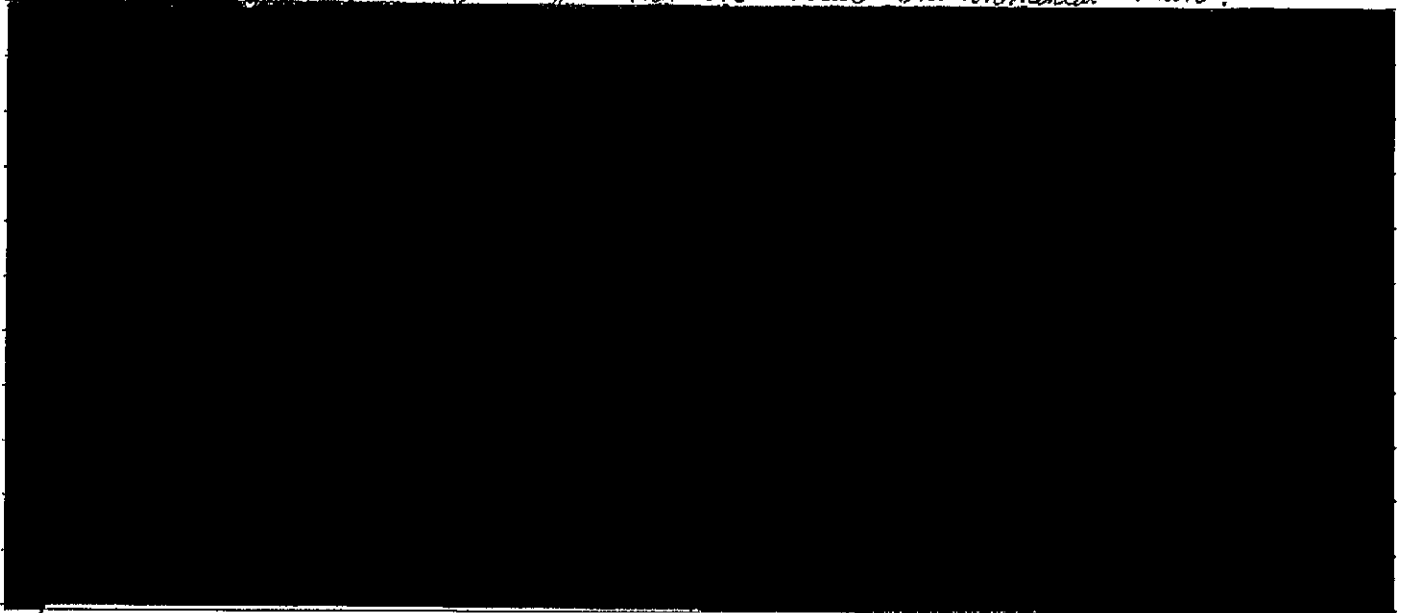


Richard Busby

I have just managed to find the documentation supporting a particularly good example of the failure in the public consultation process at the local government level.

Copies of this documentation have also been included in this submission.

Enclosed are the copies of the submissions by myself and Elizabeth Tomlinson objecting in the strongest possible terms to our properties being placed in the proposed local government rural 1 B zone as part of the 2003 Draft Narrabri Local Environmental Plan.



The following documentation supporting this matter is enclosed
1/ Copies of the written submissions by myself and Elizabeth Tomlinson objecting to our properties being placed in the proposed 1 B Local Government Zone.

2/ A copy of the resolution that was adopted at the council extraordinary meeting on October 2004 stating,

that the submission of E. Tomlinson be accepted and all 1(B) land identified as such in the 2003 Plan remain as is.

The Draft 2003 Narrabri Local Environmental Plan was rejected by the Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

Yours Faithfully,

RICHARD BUSBY