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Doc. No.....  
GDA Ref.....  
Years.....

The General Manager  
Attn: Sherilyn Hanrahan  
Strategic Land Use Planner  
Lithgow City Council  
PO Box 19  
Lithgow NSW 2790

DOC13/296195

Dear Sherilyn,

**RE: Local Environmental Plan for Lithgow LGA**

I refer to your letter dated 17 June 2013, about the Draft *Local Environmental Plan* for the Lithgow City Local Government Area. In response to the draft plan, the Department of Education and Communities comments are as follows:

**1. Land use zoning and permissibility of use**

Land use zones over school sites should be attributed a prescribed zone under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007*. This will enable *Education Establishment* to remain a permissible use on all education sites.

The Department's school sites in the Lithgow City Council Local Government Area are: Cullen Bullen Public School (zoned RU5), Capertee Public School (zoned RU5), Coerwell Public School (zoned B4), Coerwell Public School Infants (zoned R1), Portland Central School (zoned R1), Lithgow Public School (zoned R1), Lithgow High School (zoned part R1 & part E3), Zig Zag Public School (zoned R1), Hampton Public School (zoned RU5), Meadow Flat Public School (zoned RU1, Wallerawang Public School (zoned R5) and Lithgow TAFE (zoned R1).

Meadow Flat Public School is zoned RU1 and educational establishments are prohibited within the land use table to Zones RU1. Part of Lithgow High School, which includes school buildings, is zoned E3 in the exhibited plan and educational establishments are prohibited within the land use table to Zones E3. Consequently, the Department seeks amendment to the exhibited plan to allow education establishments to be a permissible use at Meadow Flat Public School and Lithgow High School sites.

The Department requests that should school sites be zoned the same as neighbouring land uses, neighbouring land use controls such as FSRs or height restrictions should not be applied to education sites because the intent of such controls is for different land uses. Without this consideration the planning of new education infrastructure may be inadvertently affected by restrictions related to different land uses.

It is also necessary that school sites allow broader facilities and uses, such as community and recreational uses. This will allow local public schools to provide a broader role in their local communities if required in the future.