

Rural City of Wangaratta

Wangaratta Government Centre
62-68 Ovens Street
Wangaratta Vic. 3677

P.O. Box 238
Wangaratta 3676

Telephone (03) 5722 0888
Facsimile (03) 5721 9526
Email council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au
Website www.wangaratta.vic.gov.au



*In Replying Please Quote:
If Calling Please Ask For: Harj Singh*

12 July 2013

Mr. Stephen Swart
Senior Project Manager
Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure
PO Box 1282
WANGARATTA VIC 3676

Dear Sir,

DRAFT HUME REGIONAL GROWTH PLAN – JUNE 2013

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Hume Regional Growth Plan.

Whilst the Council will not meet until the 16 July 2013 to formally endorse this submission, it is presented with Councillors approval.

The following three comments are provided on behalf of the Council for your consideration. I have provided explanation against each comment.

That Council will consider the land use planning framework within the Draft Plan to guide future land use decisions for the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Explanation – This comment seeks Council's ongoing consideration for the development of the Draft Hume Growth Plan to provide a framework for local strategic planning decisions. This is particularly important with Council currently preparing a Population and Housing Strategy to provide guidance and direction for future housing and population growth within the City. It is also evident that other local strategies regarding economic, environmental and social issues will need to consider the Draft Hume Growth Plan directions.

That Council supports the ongoing development of the Draft Plan to enable consistent land use decisions to be made with regional support of State agencies.

Explanation – This comment seeks to ensure that there is a suitable framework to provide for clear and consistent land use decisions under the Draft Plan within the Region. At present Council is of the view that there is no suitable statutory mechanism to enable the Draft Plan to be considered in the local Planning Scheme Amendment process. It is clear that the State Planning Policy Framework does not have a



regional or sub-regional focus in growth and land use planning. This recommendation highlights the need to have a statutory Regional Planning Policy Framework or other related mechanism that reflects the regional outcomes of this Plan within the Hume Region.

Council raises concerns with DTPLI that the Draft Plan as exhibited does not identify priority actions, does not include timeframes and responsibilities for actions and does not identify a financial implementation strategy to support the Draft Plan actions.

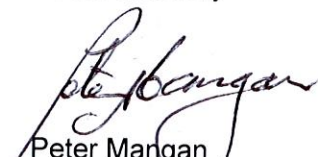
Explanation – While the Draft Growth Plan provides a framework for land use changes and allows land use decisions to be made within a consistent framework in the region there are some concerns with the Draft Plan including:

- that priorities within this Draft Plan have not been clearly identified and the Draft Plan relies on the Hume Strategy to deliver priority actions and outcomes;
- no timeframes have been included in the Draft Plan for Councils and State Government Agencies to ensure delivery of, and responsibility for strategies and actions; and
- no financial implementation strategy has been presented at this stage to support actions that require further detailed investigation, study or Council and agency collaboration.

It is considered that the absence of agreed timeframes and a financial plan has implications for the successful implementation of the Draft Plan. This directly affects Council's ability to set strategic planning priorities impacting on its participation in the delivery of the Draft Plan.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Harj Singh Manager Planning and Customer Services on (03) 5722 0733 or h.singh@wangaratta.vic.gov.au.

Yours sincerely


Peter Mangan
Acting Director Sustainability