



COPY

Office of the Director General

Ms Carissa Bywater
General Manager
Forbes Shire Council
PO Box 333
FORBES NSW 2795

Y09/1020

Attention: Mr Paul Bennett

Dear Ms Bywater

FORBES SHIRE GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (FEBRUARY 2009)

I refer to Council's letter of 4 March 2009 requesting the Department's endorsement of the Forbes Growth Management Strategy (GMS).

I commend Council for completing this project in conjunction with the community and State Government with funding assistance from the Department. I am therefore pleased to endorse the Forbes Growth Management Strategy (February 2009) as the basis for the strategic direction of the Forbes LGA until 2028. The Strategy represents a commitment to a sustainable future for the Shire and seeks to balance economic, social and environmental issues.

It is pleasing to note that you have analysed your commercial and industrial land stocks and have adequate supply to ensure that employment generating activities are well catered for. It will be important to ensure that you monitor the uptake and development of this land to ensure that there continues to be sufficient supply.

In endorsing the GMS, I note Council's commitment to protecting areas of the Shire for primary production by increasing the minimum lot size for a dwelling in the rural area and providing for a range of different forms of agriculture. This combined with providing strategically located areas for future urban and rural lifestyle settlement will ensure that Forbes protects its economic base whilst also ensuring that future housing choice can be satisfied.

Council should be aware that the Department is currently examining the priorities under the Standard LEP Program and Council will have received a separate letter on this matter. Any changes to the timing and priority of Council's comprehensive LEP will be considered as part of that exercise.

Should you have any further enquiries about this matter, I have arranged for Ms Azaria Dobson, Environmental Planning Officer, Western Region to assist you. Ms Dobson may be contacted at the Department's Dubbo Office on telephone number (02) 6841 2180.

Yours sincerely



Sam Haddad
Director General

21/4/2009.