

Mr Michael Archer
CEO
Shellharbour City Council
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Dear Mr Archer

Thank you for seeking endorsement from the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure for the Shellharbour Rural Lands Strategy.

I would like to congratulate Council on its excellent work in finalising this strategy. The Strategy identifies key priorities, outcomes and actions to manage and protect rural/environmental land while supporting appropriate land uses. It identifies the legislative and policy changes required to implement actions. The identification of precinct areas for investigation is supported.

In the request for endorsement, Council has specifically sought advice on the application of Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 Strategy 9.2 which notes that new rural residential development will only be allowed where it has been identified in a local strategic plan endorsed by the Department. I can confirm that, as the Strategy does not identify new areas of rural residential development its endorsement cannot be used as strategic justification for future rural residential development.

I note that some actions will require amendments to the Shellharbour Local Environmental Plan 2014. It is important to note that the overarching endorsement of the approaches and outcomes in the Rural Land Strategy is not a pre-emptive endorsement of any specific planning proposal, each of which will be assessed on its merits and will require appropriate justification. Similarly, the Urban Growth Boundaries identified in the Strategy could potentially be altered, if justified.

With this caveat, the Department is pleased to endorse the Shellharbour Rural Land Strategy as a concise framework that will guide Council's decisions on issues affecting rural land.

If you would like to discuss this advice, please contact Graham Towers, Manager, Southern Region on 4247 1821.

Yours sincerely



26/3/2025

Chantelle Chow
Acting Director, Southern Western and Macarthur Region
Local Planning and Council Support