



Enquiries

Please ask for
Direct

Aleksandar Mitreski

4 November 2019

**The Hon Rob Stokes MP
NSW Minister for Planning
Parliament of New South Wales
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000**



Dear Minister Stokes,

Re: State Environmental Planning Policy Activations Precincts

I refer to the draft State Environmental Planning Policy Activations Precincts: Explanation of Intended Effect (**SEP Policy**).

The Upper Hunter has a significant reliance on the thermal coal mining and coal fired power generation. The region is experiencing rapid economic change, particularly in thermal coal and coal fired power generation, and Council is working in partnership with industry and the university sector on a series of initiatives and projects to diversify and secure the region's economy for the future.

Muswellbrook Shire is home to the Liddell and Bayswater Power Stations and Muswellbrook Shire Council (MSC) is working closely with AGL on a program of transitional arrangements to address issues arising from the pending closure of the two power stations, including those impacts on employment, the local economy, energy policy and the environment. MSC strongly believes that the Liddell site should be considered to be established a Special Activation Precinct (**SAP**). Such a determination would not only assist in the management of the closure of the power station, which will close in 2023, but would also benefit the transition of the entire Upper Hunter region.

MSC has identified that the Liddell site as a SAP candidate in near future and draws your attention to the current draft of the SEP Policy which inadvertently presents a challenge for the establishment of that SAP in the Upper Hunter. The Draft Land Use Table of the SEPP Policy currently prohibits open-cut mining. An unintended consequence of the inclusion of mining in the prohibitions, will be to exclude sites that may have closing mining operations from inclusion in a SAP. This is the case with the Liddell site which already has an existing open-cut mine. Therefore MSC suggests that the prohibition of open-cut mining in a SAP excludes pre-existing open-cut mining operations and mining sites that are in care and maintenance.

Please do not hesitate to contact Aleksandar Mitreski on [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED] with any additional questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Plesman
General Manager