

MEDIA RELEASE

NAMBUCCA VALLEY COUNCIL

STATE GOVERNMENT A ROAD BLOCK TO SUSTAINABLE HORTICULTURE

The NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure have determined that the Nambucca Local Environmental Plan 2010 (LEP) will not be amended to require development consent for horticulture within the Nambucca Valley.

Nambucca Valley Council resolved in November 2024 to proceed with the amendment to the LEP, with the intent being to ensure adequate measures are implemented as part of farm establishment to minimise off site impacts including water and air pollution.

The vague decision from the State Government claimed Council's proposed amendment did not include sufficient evidence base to support and justify the changes, despite the proposal including evidence from the NSW Environmental Protection Authority of the impacts experienced by inappropriately established farms on the Mid North Coast. "Council's intention was to only require the control measures already set by the State Government and the industry bodies themselves", Mayor Gary Lee stated.

Mayor Lee said "the decision from the State Government is frustrating given the level of impact known to occur from inappropriately established horticulture farms. Council's proposal was just to ensure measures set by the State Government for horticulture farms were implemented as part of the farm establishment. The lack of support from NSW Department of Planning means some intensive horticulture practices remain uncontrolled and pollution incidents will continue to occur."

Council will continue pursuing the proposed amendment and the planning proposal will be re-submitted. Prior to doing so, Council will be seeking a meeting with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure and the NSW Department of Primary Industries to obtain a greater understanding of their reasons for not supporting the proposed amendment.

Should you have any inquiries or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Council at council@nambucca.nsw.gov.au.

ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES TO:

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