

yass valley council

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30 April 2012

Secretary, Standing Committee on
Climate Change, Environment and Water
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Salvaneschi

Inquiry into Current and Potential Ecotourism in the ACT and Region – Submission

I write on behalf of Yass Valley Council to make a submission regarding the *Inquiry into Current and Potential Ecotourism in the ACT and Region* being undertaken by the Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water.

Council staff have recently completed our draft comprehensive Yass Valley LEP, which is anticipated to go on public exhibition shortly. The new LEP is in the NSW Standard Instrument format, and as such will introduce provisions for eco-tourist facilities for the first time.

The Yass Valley Town and Villages Study is one of a suite of studies that has guided the development of the draft LEP, and which has already been endorsed by the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure. It identifies appropriate land use zonings in and around the Binalong, Bowning, Gundaroo, Murrumbateman, Sutton, Yass, Wee Jasper and Bookham areas, taking into account projected growth and availability of services, infrastructure and natural resources. It also identified suitable areas where eco-tourist facilities could be potentially located within the LGA. This includes the new E3 Environmental Management and E4 Environmental Living zones, as well as being able to be considered in RU1 Primary Production, RU2 Rural Landscape, R5 Large Lot Residential, RE1 Public Recreation, and RE2 Private Recreation zones.

Council acknowledges the potential economic and environmental contributions that increased tourism - including ecotourism will have in the region and the Yass Valley LGA in the future. Council intends to further aid the facilitation of eco-tourist facilities whilst maintaining the environmental and cultural values of significant lands through controls in its Standard Instrument LEP.

Yass Valley Council would like to thank the Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and Water for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the *Inquiry into Current and Potential Ecotourism of the ACT and Region*. Council looks forward to working with the Committee wherever necessary throughout the Inquiry process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liz Makin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Liz Makin
Strategic Planning Manager