

# Northern Councils Environmental Zones Review



Planning &  
Environment

## Frequently Asked Questions

May 2014

### WHAT IS THE NORTHERN COUNCILS E ZONE REVIEW?

- The Northern Councils E Zone Review is an independent review, being conducted by consultants Parsons Brinckerhoff, into the way environmental zones and overlays are being applied to land on the Far North Coast.
- The review applies to the zoning of land in the Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Tweed and Kyogle local government areas.
- The environmental zones under review are E2 Environmental Conservation, E3 Environmental Management and E4 Environmental Living.

### WHAT WILL BE THE PRACTICAL OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTANT'S RECOMMENDATIONS?

- Only land with high value vegetation, such as recognised littoral rainforests, wetland areas or Endangered Ecological Communities, will be included in environmental zones.
- E zones will only be applied where there is evidence of significant environmental values.
- This means that E zones will be more restrictively applied, while still protecting the most important environmental areas.
- Where land does not have the required environmental significance to be given an E zone, it will be zoned according to its primary use.
- This means that cleared land used for agricultural or rural purposes will be given an appropriate rural zoning.
- Agricultural and rural uses will continue while important environmental values are protected.

### HOW WILL THE GOVERNMENT ENSURE COUNCILS IMPLEMENT THE ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS?

- The Minister will issue a Ministerial direction to councils about the criteria which must be used when applying an E2 or E3 zone and the circumstances in which an environmental overlay will be used.