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## **RURAL AREAS STATEMENT OF INTENT DECLINED- Confidential report released**

### **Key points** **Jensen Report 2 released from confidence** **Minister Knoll declines support for Rural Areas Statement of Intent**

At its meeting on 26 February 2019, Council considered correspondence recently received from the Minister for Planning the Hon. Stephan Knoll pertaining to a Statement of Intent (SOI) lodged by Council, seeking agreement to commence a Development Plan Amendment (DPA) involving the Rural Zone.

The Rural Areas SOI, which was submitted to the Minister for Planning in May 2018, expressed Council's desire to amend land use policies within the Rural Zone in accordance with the vision and set of guiding principles adopted by Council following community consultation on Rural Land Use and infrastructure Investigation Report 1.

It also outlined the scope of investigations and the statutory consultation process to be undertaken by Council in order to support such a land use policy change. However, this SOI has been declined by the Minister for Planning.

The Minister for Planning has advised that he is unable to support the SOI, suggesting that this is a significant DPA for the Council, requiring additional investigations in order to justify such a policy change. He also recommended Council undertake further community consultation on the SOI and investigation reports to determine a suitable policy framework moving forward.

*"After careful consideration, the elected members resolved on Tuesday night to release both the Rural Areas Statement of Intent and Jensen Planning and Design Rural Land Use and Infrastructure Investigation Report 2 from confidence", said Mayor Redman.*

*"Given the Minister's decision to decline the Statement of Intent, the time taken to reach this juncture and no clear indication this proposed policy change would be supported by the State Government, it was considered appropriate to release both documents from confidence.*

*"The release of these documents will now allow this matter to be further considered by Council in the context of the impending Planning and Design Code, in particular a future Code amendment post 1 July 2020".*

The Council resolution stated that Rural Land Use and Infrastructure Investigation Report 2, prepared by Jensen Planning and Design, is simply a reference document that has not been formally endorsed by Council and has no legal status under the State Planning System.

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#### **ENDS**

The media may wish to make contact with: Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359