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## STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS



## 654 BLUE SPRINGS ROAD, STUBBO

**Dual Occupancy (Detached)** 



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# **1** Introduction

This Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) has been prepared for Sunrai Designs and forms part of a development application to Mid-Western Regional Council for the erection of a dwelling to form a dual occupancy (detached) at 654 Blue Springs Road, Stubbo.

The lots that are the subject of this development application are lots 141 and 75 in DP750765.

The objective of this proposal is to create a highly desirable and modern dwelling with an optimal layout for future occupants.

The proposal is in accordance with the relevant zone objectives contained in the Mid-Western Regional Local Environmental Plan (MWR LEP) 2012 and generally satisfies the relevant objectives and controls of the Mid-Western Regional Development Control Plan 2013 (MWRDCP) where necessary.

This document is divided into 6 sections. Section 2 contains a site analysis, Section 3 contains details of the proposal, Sections 4 and 5 contain the detailed assessment of the application in accordance with Section 4.15(1) of the Environmental Planning & Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979, and Section 6 concludes the report. The following details accompany this SEE:

- Architectural Plans; and
- BASIX Certificate;

# 2 Site Analysis

This section contains a description of the following: The Locality; Site Description; Existing Character and Context; and Surrounding Road Network.

## 2.1 The Locality

The subject site is located approximately 40km north of Mudgee and is located within the Local Government Area (LGA) of Mid-Western Region.

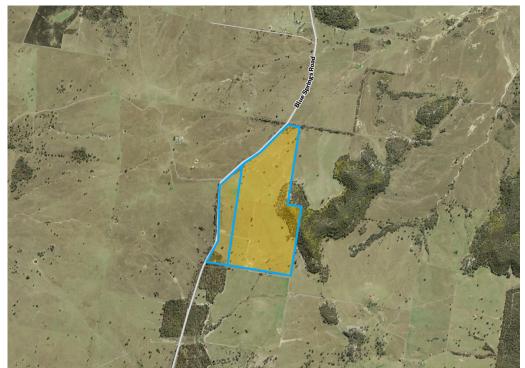


FIGURE 1: LOCATION PLAN (SIX MAPS)

## 2.2 Site Description

The subject site is a standard lot located on the eastern side of Blue Springs Road and is known as 654 Blue Springs Road, Stubbo or Lots 141 and 75 DP 750765.

The site is regular in shape, rises generally to the east away from Blue Springs Road and contains a total area of approximately 102ha, with the majority of the site cleared previously for the grazing.

The site currently contains a dwelling, numerous farm buildings, dams and rural fencing.

## 2.3 Existing Character and Context

The surrounding area is predominantly rural, characterised by larger farms/rural properties.

The outcome of the development is considered to be in keeping with the character of the rural area in that it will have no unreasonable impacts upon the function, environmental criteria, agricultural opportunities or the residential amenity of the locality.

### 2.4 Surrounding Road Network

The site has frontage to Blue Springs Road with vehicular access gained from same via an existing rural access servicing dwelling 1. Blue Springs Road is a two lane sealed road that provides access indirectly to Gulgong via Cope Road. Blue Springs Road is not identified as a Classified Road in accordance with the Roads Act 1993, with Council the roads authority to approve any S138 application concurrently with the development consent.

It should be noted that the proposal includes the installation of a separate access onto Blue Springs Road for dwelling 2, given the excessive separation distance between the two dwellings. It should be noted that the separation is as a result of the Transgrid infrastructure currently being constructed throughout the region servicing the Central-West Orana Renewable Energy Zone. As a part of this project Transgrid has specified that the new dwelling is required to be positioned on the northern extent of the site.

# **3 Details of the Proposal**

It is proposed to undertake the following works upon the site:

- Erection of a new dwelling containing a master bedroom suite, 3 additional bedrooms, double garage, alfresco, 100,000L rainwater tank and open plan living areas;
- Erection of a new vehicle access;
- Earthworks to facilitate the proposal; and
- Consolidation of lots 141 and 75 in DP 750765.

FIGURE 2: LAYOUT (SUNRAI DESIGNS)

The proposal will result in an optimal dwelling layout throughout the site with quality outlook, whilst minimising impacts on surrounding vegetation and adjoining properties.

# **4 Planning Controls**

Pursuant to section 4.15(1)(a) of the EP&A Act, this section will assess the compliance with the planning controls applicable to the site and relevant to the proposal pursuant to the relevant heads for consideration. The relevant controls include:

- Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016
- Mid-Western Regional Local Environmental Plan 2012 (MWRLEP 2012);
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience & Hazards) 2021;
- State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021;
- Mid-Western Regional Development Control Plan 2013 (MWRDCP 2013).

### 4.1 Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016

The Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 prescribes the requirements for addressing impacts on biodiversity from development, particularly where clearing is also proposed. The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme applies to development that triggers the Biodiversity Offsets Scheme threshold, or, is likely to significantly affect threatened species based on the test of significance in section 7.3 of the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.

The Biodiversity Assessment Method (BAM) is the assessment protocol that details how an accredited person assesses impacts on biodiversity in connection to a development proposal. The assessor documents the results of the biodiversity assessment in a Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR). A proponent must provide the BDAR to the Council as part of their development application.

The Biodiversity Offsets Scheme Threshold is a test used to determine when it is necessary to engage an accredited assessor to apply the Biodiversity Assessment Method (the BAM) to assess the impacts of a proposal. The threshold is triggered either when:

1. The amount of native vegetation being cleared exceeds a threshold area.

or,

2. When the impacts on vegetation occur on an area mapped on the Biodiversity Values map published by the Minister for the Environment.

If clearing exceeds either of the above triggers, the Biodiversity Offset Scheme applies to the proposed development.

However, the proposal does not involve the clearing of vegetation or impact upon any threatened species. Subsequently, no further consideration of this legislation is necessary.

### 4.2 Mid-Western Regional Local Environmental Plan 2012 (MWRLEP 2012)

The subject site is zoned RU1 - Primary Production under Council's MWRLEP 2012 (see Figure 3). *Dual Occupancies* are permissible with consent in the zone and the proposal is considered to satisfy the objectives of the zone.

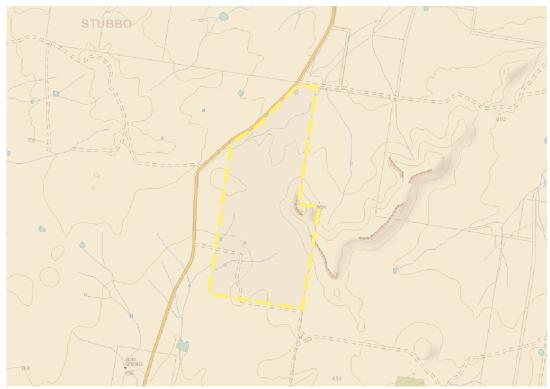


FIGURE 3: EXTRACT FROM ZONING PLAN (SOURCE: MIID-WESTERN REGIONAL LEP 2012)

### 4.2.1 Zone Objectives

The relevant objectives for Zone RU1 are stated:

1. To encourage sustainable primary industry production by maintaining and enhancing the natural resource base.

**Comment:** The proposed additional dwelling will allow the site to continue benefiting from the current agricultural use, with the dwelling to be positioned in a generally unused part of the site. Subsequently no impact of substance on the area of the property used for agriculture will result.

2. To encourage diversity in primary industry enterprises and systems appropriate for the area.

**Comment:** As noted above, the additional dwelling will have no impact of substance upon the ability of the property to be used for a variety of enterprises.

3. To minimise the fragmentation and alienation of resource lands.

**Comment:** As noted above, the additional dwelling will have no impact of substance upon property size and does not involve subdivision.

4. To minimise conflict between land uses within this zone and land uses within adjoining zones.

**Comment:** Surrounding land consists of RU1 Primary Production and the proposed additional dwelling will not result in any additional land use conflict.

 To maintain the visual amenity and landscape quality of Mid-Western Regional by preserving the area's open rural landscapes and environmental and cultural heritage values.

**Comment:** The proposed additional dwelling is of a minor scale and will not create any visual intrusion upon the surrounding rural landscape given the excessive setbacks and isolated location proposed.

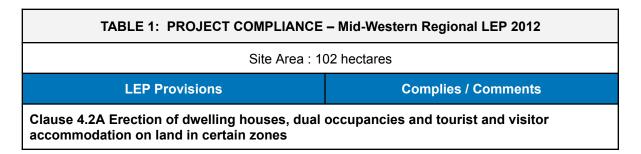
6. To promote the unique rural character of Mid-Western Regional and facilitate a variety of tourist land uses.

**Comment:** The proposal will not hinder the site or surrounding properties from being used for the purposes of tourist activities and enterprises.

In our opinion the proposal is consistent with the relevant objectives of the RU1 Primary Production zone as detailed above. The proposal is intended to create an optimal residential layout whilst also preserving the majority of the site for farming opportunities, as is currently the case.

A summary of our assessment of the proposed development against the relevant LEP provisions is in the following table (see Table 1):

### 4.2.2 Other LEP Provisions



| (1) The objectives of this clause are as follows—  |   |
|--|---|
| (a) to minimise unplanned rural residential development,   | The site benefits from an existing use for the existing dwelling and the proposal will not contribute to any unplanned rural residential development. |
| (b) to enable the replacement of lawfully<br>erected dwelling houses in rural and<br>environmental protection zones,   | The proposal does not include replacing the existing lawfully erected dwelling as it is for a dual occupancy.   |
| (c) to control rural residential density affected by historical subdivision patterns in Zone R5 Large Lot Residential.   | N/A. The site is zoned RU1.   |
| (2) This clause applies to land in the following zones—  | The land is zoned RU1 Primary Production.   |
| <ul> <li>(a) Zone RU1 Primary Production,</li> <li>(b) Zone RU4 Primary Production Small Lots,</li> <li>(c) Zone RU5 Village,</li> <li>(d) Zone R5 Large Lot Residential,</li> <li>(e) Zone C3 Environmental Management.</li> </ul>  |   |
| (3) Development consent must not be granted<br>for the erection of a dwelling house or dual<br>occupancy on land in a zone to which this<br>clause applies, and on which no dwelling house<br>or dual occupancy has been erected, unless the<br>land—  | The proposal is for the erection of a dual occupancy.   |
| (a) is a lot that is at least the minimum lot size<br>shown on the Lot Size Map in relation to that<br>land, or  | YES. The site has a minimum lot size prescribed as 100ha. The consolidated lots will achieve a lot size of 102ha.                                     |
| (b) is a lot or holding that existed before this<br>Plan commenced and on which the erection of a<br>dwelling house or dual occupancy was<br>permissible immediately before that<br>commencement, or   | N/A.  |
| (c) is a lot resulting from a subdivision for which<br>development consent (or equivalent) was<br>granted before this Plan commenced and on<br>which the erection of a dwelling house or dual<br>occupancy would have been permissible if the<br>plan of subdivision had been registered before<br>that commencement, or | N/A.  |
| (d) is an existing holding that is not within Zone<br>R5 Large Lot Residential, or   | N/A.  |
| (e) would have been a lot or a holding referred<br>to in paragraphs (a)–(d) had it not been affected<br>by—  | N/A.  |

| <ul> <li>(i) a minor realignment of its boundaries that did<br/>not create an additional lot, or</li> <li>(ii) a subdivision creating or widening a public<br/>road or public reserve or for another public<br/>purpose, or</li> </ul>  |  |
|---|--|
| (f) is, in the case of land within 500 metres of<br>land within Zone RU5 Village, a lot that has an<br>area of at least 5 hectares, that has a sealed<br>road frontage and that is connected to the<br>sealed road network, or  | N/A.   |
| (g) is a holding within Zone R5 Large Lot<br>Residential that has an area of at least 5<br>hectares, that has all weather access, including<br>all weather vehicular access, to which adequate<br>services provided by public utility undertakings<br>are available and that is suitable for the on-site<br>disposal of domestic wastewater, or | N/A. Property not within zone R5.  |
| (h) is a former holding, or   | N/A.   |
| (i) is a former rural lot that has an area of at least 40 hectares.   | N/A.   |
| (3A) Development consent must not be granted<br>to development for the purposes of tourist and<br>visitor accommodation on land to which this<br>clause applies unless a dwelling house or dual<br>occupancy is permitted to be erected on the land<br>under subclause (3).   | N/A. Proposal is not for tourist and visitor accommodation.  |
| (4) Development consent may be granted for<br>the erection of a dwelling house or dual<br>occupancy on land to which this clause applies if<br>there is a lawfully erected dwelling house on the<br>land and the dwelling house to be erected is<br>intended only to replace the existing dwelling<br>house.                                    | N/A. The proposal is relying upon clause<br>4.2A(3) above for achieving a dwelling<br>entitlement. |
| (5) In this clause—   | Noted.   |
| existing holding means land that—   |  |
| (a) was a holding on the relevant date, and   |  |
| <ul><li>(b) is a holding at the time the application for development consent referred to in subclause</li><li>(3) is lodged, whether or not there has been a change in the ownership of the holding since the relevant date,</li></ul>  |  |
| and includes any other land adjoining that land acquired by the owner since the relevant date.  |  |
| former holding means land—  |  |
|   |  |

| <ul> <li>(a) that was a holding on 9 August 2012, and</li> <li>(b) that is a holding at the time the application for development consent referred to in subclause (3) is lodged, whether or not there has been a change in ownership of the holding since 9 August 2012, and</li> </ul>   |  |
|---|--|
| (c) that is at least the minimum lot size<br>applicable under the environmental planning<br>instrument that applied to the land immediately<br>before the commencement of this Plan.  |  |
| former rural lot means a lot—   |  |
| (a) located in the former Mudgee, Rylstone or Merriwa local government areas, and   |  |
| (b) that was created prior to the commencement of this Plan, and  |  |
| (c) on which the erection of a dwelling house was permissible immediately before that commencement, and   |  |
| (d) that is in Zone RU1 Primary Production, and   |  |
| (e) in respect of land in the former Mudgee local<br>government area—that was held in separate<br>ownership from any adjoining land on 11<br>February 1985.   |  |
| <i>holding</i> means all adjoining land, even if<br>separated by a road or railway, held by the same<br>person or persons.<br>Note—<br>The owner in whose ownership all the land is at<br>the time the application is lodged need not be<br>the same person as the owner in whose<br>ownership all the land was on the stated date. |  |
| relevant date means—  |  |
| <ul> <li>(a) in relation to land marked "Mudgee" on the<br/>Former LEP Boundaries Map—29 November<br/>1967, or</li> </ul>   |  |
| (b) in relation to land marked "Merriwa" on the Former LEP Boundaries Map—18 April 1975, or   |  |
| (c) in relation to land marked "Cudgegong" on<br>the Former LEP Boundaries Map—24<br>November 1967, or  |  |
|   |  |

| (d) in relation to land marked "Rylstone" on the Former LEP Boundaries Map—31 July 1970.  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Clause 5.16 Subdivision of, or dwellings on, land in certain rural, residential or environmental protection zones   |  |  |
| (1) The objective of this clause is to minimise<br>potential land use conflict between existing and<br>proposed development on land in the rural,<br>residential or conservation zones concerned<br>(particularly between residential land uses and<br>other rural land uses).  | No land use conflict is expected to arise<br>between the proposed additional dwelling and<br>any surrounding properties or land uses given<br>the excessive setbacks put in place.                           |  |
| (2) This clause applies to land in the following zones—   | Yes. Zone RU1.   |  |
| <ul> <li>(a) Zone RU1 Primary Production,</li> <li>(b) Zone RU2 Rural Landscape,</li> <li>(c) Zone RU3 Forestry,</li> <li>(d) Zone RU4 Primary Production Small Lots,</li> <li>(e) Zone RU6 Transition,</li> <li>(f) Zone R5 Large Lot Residential,</li> <li>(g) Zone C2 Environmental Conservation,</li> <li>(h) Zone C3 Environmental Management,</li> <li>(i) Zone C4 Environmental Living.</li> </ul> |  |  |
| (3) A consent authority must take into account<br>the matters specified in subclause (4) in<br>determining whether to grant development<br>consent to development on land to which this<br>clause applies for either of the following<br>purposes—  | Refer to subclause (4) comments below.   |  |
| <ul><li>(a) subdivision of land proposed to be used for<br/>the purposes of a dwelling,</li><li>(b) erection of a dwelling.</li></ul>   |  |  |
| (4) The following matters are to be taken into account—   |  |  |
| (a) the existing uses and approved uses of land<br>in the vicinity of the development,  | The immediate surrounding area consists of<br>other large rural parcels used predominantly<br>for livestock grazing. No impact is existing or<br>anticipated as the proposal provides excessive<br>setbacks. |  |
| (b) whether or not the development is likely to<br>have a significant impact on land uses that, in<br>the opinion of the consent authority, are likely to<br>be preferred and the predominant land uses in<br>the vicinity of the development,  | Proposal is for one additional dwelling.<br>Accordingly, no significant impact is expected<br>beyond the existing context.   |  |
| (c) whether or not the development is likely to<br>be incompatible with a use referred to in<br>paragraph (a) or (b),   | N/A. No impacts identified.  |  |

| (d) any measures proposed by the applicant to avoid or minimise any incompatibility referred to in paragraph (c). | N/A. No impacts identified.  |
|---|--|
| 6.1 Salinity  | The proposal does not involve any major<br>physical works apart from benching the site in<br>preparation for the erection of the dwelling.<br>Subsequently, no impacts related to salinity are<br>expected. Any salinity related impacts are<br>expected to be addressed with a condition of<br>consent.   |
| 6.4 Groundwater vulnerability   | The site is identified as groundwater vulnerable<br>within the MWRLEP 2012 mapping.<br>The proposal involves one additional dwelling<br>with an extensive separation of 730m to the<br>existing dwelling 1 upon the site.<br>An OSSM report will be prepared confirming<br>the site is capable of handling the sewage<br>load, taking into consideration the groundwater<br>system. The new system will be installed as a<br>part of the development proposal and given the<br>size of the lot will be expected to readily be<br>provided prior to the issue of a CC.  |
| 6.5 Terrestrial biodiversity  | Some portions of the site are mapped on the<br>sensitivity biodiversity mapping layer. This<br>includes a small portion where the proposed<br>access intersects with Blue Springs Road.<br>However, the construction of the access does<br>not necessitate the clearing of any vegetation<br>and as such there is expected to be negligible<br>impact on the condition, ecological value and<br>significance of the fauna and flora on the land.<br>Accordingly, the considerations of this clause<br>are expected to be readily met with the<br>conclusion that the development avoids any<br>significant adverse environmental impact. |
| 6.9 Essential services  | All essential services associated with a rural<br>location are already available and connected to<br>the site.<br>These are not expected to be affected by the<br>proposal.  |

# 4.3 State Environmental Planning Policy (Resilience and Hazards) 2021

The object of this policy is to provide a mechanism to ensure remediation of contaminated land is undertaken within the planning framework.

Part 4 of the SEPP requires the consent authority (Mid-Western Regional Council), before determining a development application, to consider whether the land is potentially contaminated and if so whether the land is suitable in its current state for the proposed use.

Clause 4.6(1) of the SEPP prescribes the specific considerations for the consent authority as noted below:

(1) A consent authority must not consent to the carrying out of any development on land unless—

(a) it has considered whether the land is contaminated, and

(b) if the land is contaminated, it is satisfied that the land is suitable in its contaminated state (or will be suitable, after remediation) for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, and

(c) if the land requires remediation to be made suitable for the purpose for which the development is proposed to be carried out, it is satisfied that the land will be remediated before the land is used for that purpose.

**Comment:** No potentially contaminating activities are undertaken on the property or have been known to have been undertaken on the property. No further consideration of the SEPP is considered necessary.

# 4.4 State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity & Conservation) 2021

The Biodiversity and Conservation SEPP 2021 applies to the site as the site sits within Mid-Western Regional Council LGA, as noted under Schedule 2.

Clause 3.6 of the SEPP prescribes as follows:

#### 3.6 Step 1—Is the land potential koala habitat?

(1) Before a council may grant consent to a development application for consent to carry out development on land to which this Part applies, the council must be satisfied as to whether or not the land is a potential koala habitat.

(2) The council may be satisfied as to whether or not land is a potential koala habitat only on information obtained by it, or by the applicant, from a person who is qualified and experienced in tree identification.

(3) If the council is satisfied—

(a) that the land is not a potential koala habitat, it is not prevented, because of this Chapter, from granting consent to the development application, or

(b) that the land is a potential koala habitat, it must comply with section 3.7.

**Comment:** The land upon which the dwelling is proposed is currently grassland and does not form any native vegetation that would be considered potential koala habitat. The consent authority is therefore able to conclude that 3.6(3)(a) applies and development consent is able to be granted.

### 4.5 Mid-Western Regional Development Control Plan 2013

The Mid-Western Regional DCP 2013 applies to the site and the proposed development.

Part 5.4 '*Environmental Controls*' contains some relevant provisions including protection of aboriginal archaeology, riparian lines and vegetation management. The proposal generally satisfies these provisions, which are also discussed in various sections throughout this report. No significant impact with respect to the local ecology or groundwater is expected as a result of the proposal.

Part 6.1 '*Dwellings in Rural Areas*' contains specific controls relating to the proposal and the relevant sections, as they relate to an additional dwelling forming a dual occupancy, are addressed in the table below.

| TABLE 2: PROJECT COMPLIANCE – Mid-Western Regional DCP 2013   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Relevant sections applicable to this proposal.  |                                 |
| DCP Provisions  | Complies / Comments             |
| Primary Production Small Lots   |                                 |
| Dwellings on land within the Primary Production<br>Small lots zone will only be approved where it<br>can be demonstrated that the dwelling is<br>required to support the agricultural use of the<br>land. | N/A. The site is not zoned RU4. |
| The agricultural use of the land for the purposes of the RU4 zone means intensive plant   |                                 |

| N/A.   |
|--|
| N/A. Site not within the former Rylstone LGA.  |
| N/A. The lot is not within 500m of the R1 or R2 zone.                                  |
| N/A. Property not within proximity to the RU5 zone.                                    |
| The proposed dwelling will be setback 480m from the Blue Springs Road street frontage. |
| The side setback to the nearest boundary to the east is approximately 170m.            |
|  |

| <b>Out-buildings and farm buildings</b><br>This clause prescribes floor area controls for<br>farm buildings and the like. | N/A. No outbuildings or farm buildings are proposed for this development application. |
|---|---|
|---|---|

# **5 Planning Assessment**

This section will consider the following: the Assessment of Natural Environmental Impact; the Built Environment Impacts; the Site Suitability and the Public Interest in accordance with Section 4.15(1)(b),(c) and (e).

# 5.1 Assessment of Natural Environmental Impact – S4.15 (1)(b)

### 5.1.1 Micro Climate Impacts

The proposed development is unlikely to result in any adverse effects to the micro-climate in the locality.

### 5.1.2 Water & Air Quality Impacts

The proposed development is unlikely to result in any adverse effects on the locality in terms of water and air quality.

# 5.2 Assessment of Built Environment Impacts – S4.15 (1)(b)

### 5.2.1 Impact on the Areas Character

The surrounding built environment comprises a mix of single dwellings on larger rural allotments. The proposal will not impact this character as it is simply an additional dwelling, which will sit comfortably within the landscape as perceived from the surrounding areas.

### 5.2.2 Privacy, Views & Overshadowing Impacts

The proposed development will not impede the existing privacy or views of the subject or surrounding lots. The development will not provide overshadowing within the subject or adjoining lots given the rural context of the site.

### 5.2.3 Aural & Visual Privacy Impacts

The proposed development, being within a standard rural area and generally compliant with the relevant planning provisions, will not result in any significant privacy concerns for adjoining properties.

### 5.2.4 Environmentally Sustainable Development

The proposal will have minimal impact with regards to ESD subject to standard conditions imposed by the consent authority.

## 5.3 Assessment of the Site Suitability – 4.15(1)(c)

### 5.3.1 Proximity to Service and Infrastructure

As outlined, the site is accessible via Blue Springs Road and a new compliant rural access is able to be facilitated. Potable rainwater, on-site sewage management and mains power will all remain available to the site and will be able to be provided separately to dwelling 2. No other demand on services are expected from the development.

#### 5.3.2 Traffic, Parking & Access

The development will not significantly increase the traffic volume for the area, as the proposal is for one additional dwelling only that will result in only minor additional traffic movements. It is expected that the current road network is capable of continuing to support the minimal traffic movements.

Refer to the previous comments in Section 2.4 where the proposed access is discussed and justification provided to demonstrate that the additional access is warranted.

#### 5.3.3 Hazards

The site is not subject to any known hazards such as bushfire threat, landslip, flooding and the like.

### 5.4 The Public Interest – 4.15(1)(e)

#### 5.4.1 Social and Economic Impact

The proposal will make a positive contribution to the Mid-Western Region by facilitating the improvement of housing stock and the creation of employment.

### 5.4.2 The Public Interest

The proposal is in the public interest as it satisfies the objectives of the MWRLEP 2012 and MWRDCP 2013 and will not set any undesirable planning precedents.

# **6** Conclusion

The proposed development has been assessed in accordance with Section 4.15(1) of the EP&A Act 1979 and Council's planning instruments. The proposal is permissible in the RU1 Primary Production Zone under the Mid-Western Regional LEP 2012 and in our opinion is consistent with the relevant objectives of the Zone.

As discussed throughout the SEE, the crux of the proposal is to facilitate the erection of an optimal dwelling design in a suitable location on the site in consideration of a number of critical factors including access, vegetation and surrounding agricultural uses.

For the above reasons the proposal is considered to be in the public interest and is recommended for approval subject to standard conditions.