

Appendix E Submission Responses from Country Energy



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33 274 454 218	GREATEARDS - C.C.	28 April 2006
four Ref. SP-Strat-11	0 3 MAY 2006	
Oreat Lakes Council PO Box 450 FORSTER 2428	RMC11.1.D RECORDS	

Dear Alex,

RE: DRAFT TEA GARDENS HAWKS NEST STRATEGY

I refer to your letter dated 17 March 2006 and regret the delay in replying. Firstly I would advise that we have had a minor restructore in recent months which has involved Graeme Watkins moving into our Operations division, whilst I now have responsibility for planning and development matters at MidCoast Water.

In your letter you have advised that Council considers that the peak population of the Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest region may rise to 17,000 people. I would advise that a recent review of the water supply strategy for Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest confirmed that the scheme can accommodate 18,000 people using current water demand and technology, whilst our sewerage strategy has a capacity using current technologies to accommodate 15,000 people.

There are a number of important points relevant to the population capacities mentioned above:

- We are currently undertaking detailed hydrological and environmental studies of the Tea Gardens water supply aguifer to confirm its yield is sustainable, and that environmental impacts are minimal. Our experience is that we have had no long term effects in the decades of operation of the scheme to date, but we do need to identify the ultimate sustainable limit of water extraction from the aquifer.
- 2. The constraint of 15,000 people on the sewerage scheme relates to the scheme's capacity to return treated effluent to the groundwater at Hawks Nest. We are currently working with Crownland Developments on the North Hawks Nest to find additional sostainable ways for this development to reclaim water where possible and return effluent to the groundwater table locally in North Hawks Nest where necessary. Similarly, we have asked Crighton Properties to look at opportunities to heneficially reuse effluent and/or pursue other sustainable water management practices. These initiatives will serve to extend the population capable of being served by sewerage in the Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest region.
- Council may be aware that the Department of Energy, Utilities and Sustainability now requires that Integrated Water Cycle Management Plans be prepared for the operational areas of all water utilities. Preparing an IWCM plan entails broad consideration of water management issues and will require that Great Lakes Council and MidCoast Water work



closely together to integrate issues relating to water supply, sewerage, stormwater and catchment management. The objective is to ensure that all water is used optimally and sustainably. As many development proposals are at a crucial point in planning, it will be important that the rules of sustainable water management are incorporated into development requirements. One important issue is the careful planning of effluent reuse and stormwater harvesting schemes to ensure that duplication is avoided and maximum benefit is obtained.

To summarise, MidCoast Water has quoted scheme capacities based on current demand values and the use of traditional water and sewerage technology. We would like to work closely with Council in developing sustainable and integrated water management strategies for the overall Council area that will alleviate the population constraints mentioned in this letter whilst reducing the impacts our current water management practices are having on the environment.

We would be pleased to set up a meeting with Council to discuss 1WCM with a view to putting together a working group from both our councils. In the meantime, please contact me on 6591 7503 if the information above requires further clarification.

Yours faithfully

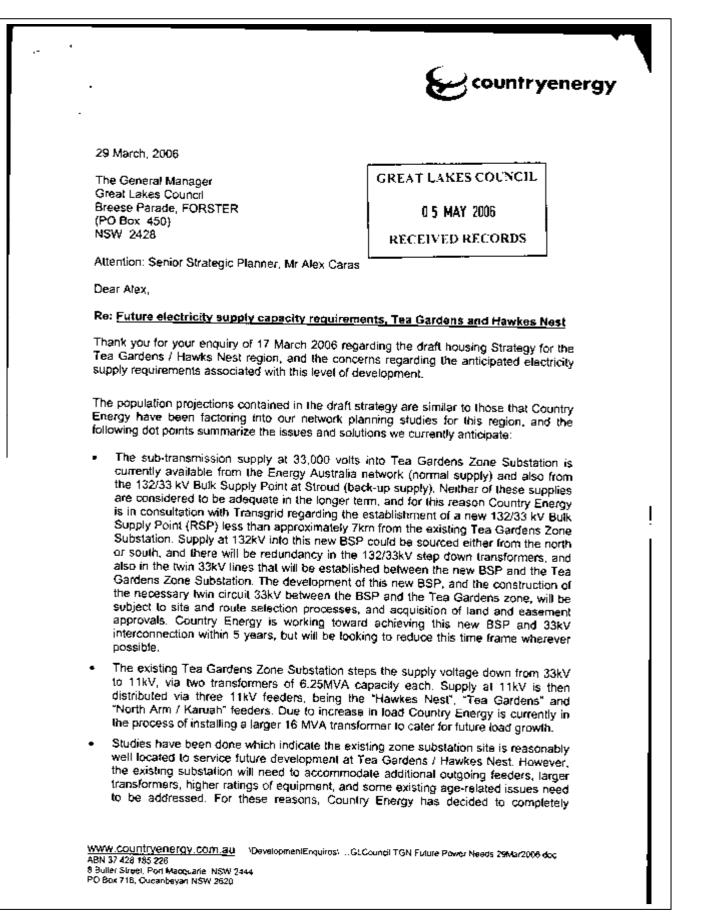
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BRENDAN GUINEY Planning & Development Manager

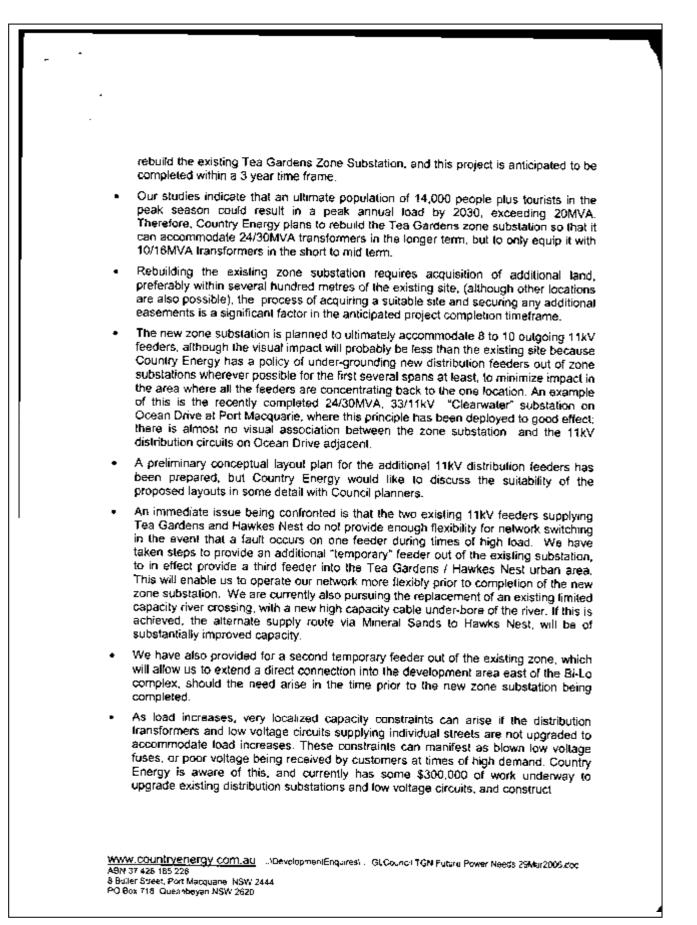
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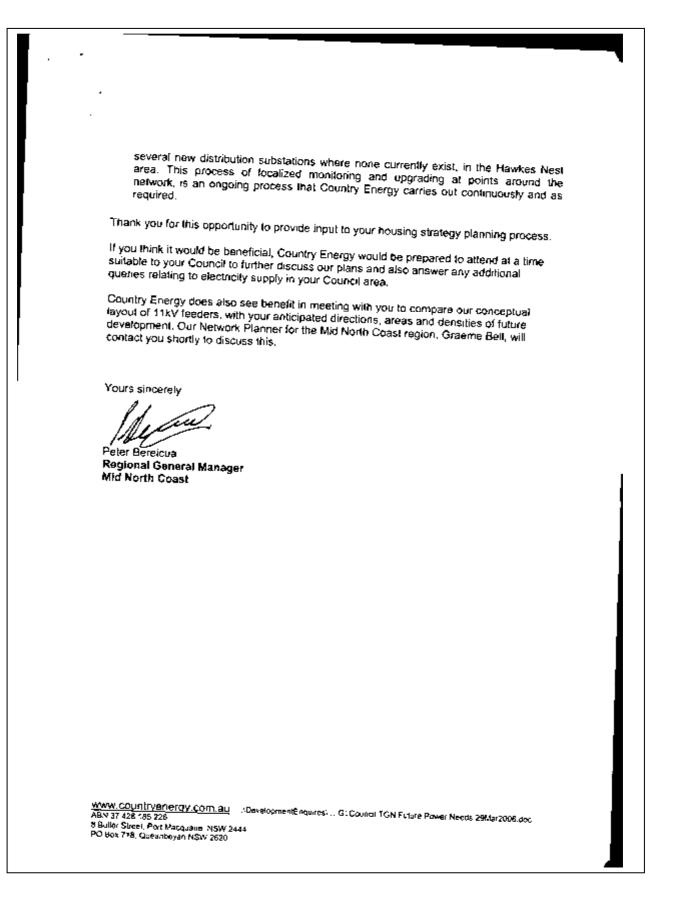












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