



Economic Development Strategy

15 messages

Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>

21 November 2018 at 14:31

To: gcox@svc.nsw.gov.au, gcox@snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as the responsible director listed for the "Snowy Valleys Council Economic Strategy" (Snowy Valleys Council Meeting Business Paper 25 October 2018, page 42) with reference to the "Sustainability Assessment" presented as part of this item (page 44).

In this item you indicated as a positive environmental assessment: *"The vision in this document specifically refers to sustainable local industries."*

This assessment appalls both common decency and intelligence. The mere use of the word "sustainable" does not constitute a positive environmental effect. Further, in the actual report, the word appears thirteen times in various forms—two of these instances is a substantially meaningless repetition of the council's slogan; every one of the remaining 11 instances refers to the prolongation of (unsustainable) economic and industrial policies. The report as a whole has precisely zero consideration of protecting or enhancing the environment.

The Strategy is essentially an expansion of heavily polluting corporate industrial activity for the benefit of a tiny minority of wealthy owners, while leaving our region with enduring environmental and health defects, fighting one another over a (proportionally) shirking number of unpleasant employment positions that put our citizens in daily contact with neurotoxic chemicals well documented to stunt intellectual development.

In my view, the gloss you presented as advice for Councillors and the public was misleading to the point of distorting the true nature of the Strategy. Whether or not you intended to deceive the Councillors, presenting substantially misleading content in your summary is in my view reckless and unlawful.

The remedy I seek is the following:

- 1) **SVC is to make a public notice** in the TA Times that corrects the record, indicating that the "Economic Development Strategy" has no significant positive environmental effects.
- 2) **You are to apologise during a public meeting of Council** to the public and to Councillors who voted according to your deceptive Business Paper item, and invite them to rescind the acceptance of the Strategy should the Councillors so be inclined.

Pending your reply I will consider the necessity of escalating this complaint to the General Manager and Ombudsman, or whether to engage in closer research of case law around the torts of negligence and deceit. My preliminary attention suggests that my potential lawsuit against you would turn mostly on my standing as a victim of your deceit. In my view, a Court would be very prepared to accept your lackadaisical word-association is an obvious indication of "recklessness" (this is one of the factors in the tort of deceit). The fact that you have deceived Councillors and public is firmly established by material facts, and is beyond any argument in Court.

I am closely watching the precedent of lawsuits around the world where young people are suing public officials for their recklessness around carbon and other pollution, and will continue the battle to protect our planet until the end of this lifetime and beyond. If you seriously don't care about this planet, where do you intend to live? Can you go there now and let someone who cares write the Sustainability Assessments for the Council Business Papers? I am trying to remain positive but honestly the puerile engagement with "sustainability" is a complete disgrace. Do you even read newspapers?

Putting legal matters aside, there can be absolutely no doubt from anyone concerned that **your conduct here is unethical and fundamentally immoral**—it presents an environmentally-destructive Strategy as an environmental benefit. As ever, it will be the most disadvantaged in our community who suffer the worst from polluted air, soil and water, and the future generations who are left to deal with the toxic mess promoted by you and your department.

I understand that many people in the modern world are fanatically possessed to destroy the natural environment as quickly as they can; what I simply would hope is that officials with an apparent leadership role would reflect a little more carefully on what they do. There are plenty of positive environmental initiatives around the country and the world that could be incorporated into a sound economic strategy for our region. But there is little that can be achieved if the Council doesn't care, even less if you are willing to deceive the public.

What I am asking is really simple. I'm not even asking for a new Economic Development Strategy, though that would be good. I'm just asking for you, Director of Strategy, Community and Development of Snowy Valleys Council, to tell the truth about the Strategy you have developed. Your Strategy is environmentally-toxic. It disproportionately hurts vulnerable people, and uses public funds to subsidise private, foreign business interests (local workers receiving the minimum these interests can possibly get away with). As you would know since you are a competent and capable human, expanding polluting industry serves only to accelerate us as fast as possible into massive environmental calamity causing billions of global refugees, longer and drier droughts, and inter-generational neurological damage to local citizens.

Please, just tell the truth. I cannot believe that you don't understand the imperative of effective environmental management.

If you have trouble accepting the reality of the current Economic Development Strategy, maybe you should think about changing it to be truthfully sustainable. As a start you might hire someone who actually cares about the well-being of local people and the local country to write up the Strategy, rather than an economics graduate from Queensland regurgitating the technocratic playbook on how to centralise wealth away from local people.

Feeling very upset, threatened, attacked and let down by those meant to protect our community, but trying to stay positive and pro-active,

Yours sincerely,

Kemble Dawson Walker
Batlow

B.A. (Anthropology), Columbia University in the City of New York
Master of Sustainability, University of Sydney

Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>

21 December 2018 at 14:24

To: sivill@svc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sue,

Please find my email to Mr Cox below.

I have also attached my letter regarding the same matter which was published in the T A Times.

Regards

Kemble

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, 21 Nov 2018, 14:31

Subject: Economic Development Strategy

To: <gcox@svc.nsw.gov.au>, <gcox@snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Sir,

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In this item you indicated as a positive environmental assessment: "The vision in this document specifically refers to sustainable local industries."

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The Strategy is essentially an expansion of heavily polluting corporate industrial activity for the benefit of a tiny minority of wealthy owners, while leaving our region with enduring environmental and health defects, fighting one another over a (proportionally) shrinking number of unpleasant employment positions that put our citizens in daily contact with neurotoxic chemicals well documented to stunt intellectual development.

In my view, the gloss you presented as advice for Councillors and the public was misleading to the point of distorting the true nature of the Strategy. Whether or not you intended to deceive the Councillors, presenting substantially misleading content in your summary is in my view reckless and unlawful.

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I am closely watching the precedent of lawsuits around the world where young people are suing public officials for their recklessness around carbon and other pollution, and will continue the battle to protect our planet until the end of this lifetime and beyond. If you seriously don't care about this planet, where do you intend to live? Can you go there now and let someone who cares write the Sustainability Assessments for the Council Business Papers? I am trying to remain positive but honestly the puerile engagement with "sustainability" is a complete disgrace. Do you even read newspapers?

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Feeling very upset, threatened, attacked and let down by those meant to protect our community, but trying to stay positive and pro-active,

Yours sincerely,

Kemble Dawson Walker
Batlow

B.A. (Anthropology), Columbia University in the City of New York
M. Sustainability, University of Sydney



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1135K

Ivill, Susan <sivill@svc.nsw.gov.au>
To: Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>

2 January 2019 at 11:02

Thank you for your email Kemble.

I will follow-up with Rob Cox and his Director Phil Stone to ascertain whether or not they've responded to you or what their intentions are.

Kind regards,

Susan Ivill

Susan Ivill
Executive Assistant to General Manager



76 Capper Street, Tumut, NSW 2720
P: 02 6941 2519
F: 02 6941 2678
W: www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

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From: Kemble Walker [mailto:kemble.walker@gmail.com]

Sent: Friday, 21 December 2018 2:24 PM

To: Ivill, Susan

Subject: Fwd: Economic Development Strategy

[Quoted text hidden]

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The contents of this email message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s), may contain confidential and/or privileged information and may be legally protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or their agent, please immediately alert the sender by reply email and delete this message and any attachments. You should only disclose, re-transmit, copy, distribute, act in reliance on or commercialise the information or any attachments if you are authorised to do so. Snowy Valleys Council does not represent, warrant or guarantee that the communication is free of errors, virus or interference. Snowy Valleys Council complies with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act (1998).

Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Ivill, Susan" <sivill@svc.nsw.gov.au>

2 January 2019 at 11:28

Dear Sue

The listed director of community, strategy and development is named "Gus Cox" according to SVC website
[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments



svc-instagram.jpg
2K



svc-logo.jpg
9K



svc-youtube.jpg
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1K



svc-twitter.jpg
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Ivill, Susan <sivill@svc.nsw.gov.au>
To: Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>

2 January 2019 at 11:35

Thanks Kemble,

Yes Gus Cox is the Director of Community, Strategy and Development however is on leave for several months.

Phil Stone is currently acting in the role of Director Community, Strategy and Development and his Division Manager Strategy and Place is Ben Smith.

Phil advised that he is in the process of responding to your email.

Kind regards,

Susan Ivill

Susan Ivill
Executive Assistant to General Manager



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P: 02 6941 2519
F: 02 6941 2678
W: www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

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From: Kemble Walker [mailto:kemble.walker@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 January 2019 11:29 AM
To: Ivill, Susan
Subject: Re: Economic Development Strategy
[Quoted text hidden]

Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Ivill, Susan" <sivill@svc.nsw.gov.au>

2 January 2019 at 11:46

Ok thanks
[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments

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1K

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9K

 svc-facebook.jpg
1K

 svc-instagram.jpg
2K

 svc-twitter.jpg
1K

Ivill, Susan <sivill@svc.nsw.gov.au>
To: Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>

2 January 2019 at 12:04

My pleasure, happy to assist.

Kind regards,

Susan Ivill

Susan Ivill
Executive Assistant to General Manager



76 Capper Street, Tumut, NSW 2720
P: 02 6941 2519
F: 02 6941 2678
W: www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

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From: Kemble Walker [mailto:kemble.walker@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, 2 January 2019 11:46 AM
[Quoted text hidden]

Ok thanks

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76 Capper Street, Tumut, NSW 2720
P: 02 6941 2519
F: 02 6941 2678
W: www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

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3/15/2019

Gmail - Economic Development Strategy

Stone, Phil <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

To: "kemble.walker@gmail.com" <kemble.walker@gmail.com>

Cc: "Hobson, Amanda" <ahobson@svc.nsw.gov.au>, "Ivill, Susan" <sivill@svc.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Mr Walker

Attached is an emailed letter in response to your correspondence to Gus Cox below. My apologies for the delay.

Kind Regards

Phil Stone | Acting Director Strategy, Community & Development

P: 02 6948 9116 | F: 02 6948 2865

Phil Stone

Acting Director Strategy, Community & Development



W: www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

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[Quoted text hidden]

Economic blueprint no

SIR, - SNOWY Valleys Council adopted a new five-year Economic Development Strategy at its meeting on 25 October. It is described as a "blueprint for enhancing the vibrancy, diversity and sustainability" of our region.

The substance of the plan is well-trodden territory—upgrading roads, supporting industry and increasing tourism—but despite the moniker, there is little sustainability to be found. All the proposed "emerging economic drivers" contribute significant carbon emissions, exacerbating an already devastating drought while polluting water, soil and air. There is no recog-

inition of the shift to a low-carbon economy that all sides of government now recognise as necessary.

There's no doubt that tourism, beef and cardboard packaging can be lucrative in the short term, but relying on them to grow a modern economy seems like parochial naivety. Industry is ever moving towards automation and globalisation, meaning fewer employees and more profit going overseas. Also, consumer attitudes are changing even if producers' are not: people care about the environment.

Sustainability is about planning for the long term and building an equitable econ-

 20190107 - Reponse - Economic Development Strategy - Walker.pdf
751K

Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

15 January 2019 at 10:51

OK Phil, thanks for reading the EDS and for your good faith reply. I will take this as an ongoing discussion and write some thoughts for you here to peruse at leisure with no response necessary. I will get involved with council in any way I can to elucidate this strategy further and deliver a good outcome for our shire.

The word "sustainability" means to "support for long duration". There is no debate or contest about the word; it appears in the dictionary. I was trained with Commonwealth funding to identify and implement sustainability in Australian society. In our field, there is a sense of having to outreach and negotiate with authorities to update them on current best-practice.

The concern with the proposed developments in the EDS is that they veer in one direction: towards the centralisation of wealth (towards inequality), towards damaging the ecosystem (a shared good), and towards haemorrhaging profit out of the shire via industrial corporations and technology.

There is a trend away from local jobs, towards robotic and foreign seasonal labour. AKD laid off another round of timber workers. Rainfall and soil health decline. The land itself becomes less valuable. This kind of development cannot last for a long time: it is not sustainable.

For example, shire funds being used to build and investigate roads and infrastructure that mainly benefit industries that are owned and operated outside the shire. At the same time, Council should not be blocking initiatives for local people to establish business and improved land-management practices (such as subdividing off parts of their farm to share the burden -- an actual case study in Batlow).

We live in a shire with 15.3 ha of grazing land for each person, much of it higher rainfall than the regional average. It is crazy that our per capita income is below the state average; even crazier that the population is falling (relatively) in Tumut and (in absolute terms) in Batlow.

There is a lot of economic activity happening in this shire, but the wealth is not staying here. Instead, local people are being left with mess to clean up. In the history of Batlow, I read that A.C. Barbour planted the first apple orchard after noticing how prolifically the fruit trees produced without any attention whatsoever. In 100 short years, the farmers of Batlow have turned a natural paradise into a scraped and compacted locality where no farm can make money without massive energy and investment into irrigation.

In this shire we have the potential to increase our population 10-fold at least, and to bring the productivity of this land up to a much higher standard. For nominal comparison, NSW DPI estimates profit of \$250/ha/yr for this kind of grazing, compared with \$20,000/ha/yr or more for mixed small-scale horticulture.

Small-scale mixed horticulture "gardening" (not farming) is the biggest opportunity I have identified for our shire. It meets sustainability goals about responsible land management, equity and local food security at the same time

Two rules of thumb:

- 1) Spend shire funds promoting shire profit, not bled out of our region via overpriced consultants or foreign-owned companies (including companies owned in other parts of Australia). Besides making our shire richer, keeping economic activity local builds social relations and reduces pollution of logistics/transport.
- 2) Minimise technology and machinery. Needless to say, we don't produce it here, so any purchase of technology sends money straight out of our region.

I live in Batlow which is our highest rainfall and deepest soil, but many other parts of the shire are now becoming borderline environments due to poor land management (deforestation, tilling, burning, overgrazing) and anthropogenic global warming. The abundant good-quality land in our shire is our biggest resource and potentially a massive source of wealth for all local residents and government. In my view, it should be protected with maximum attention. Short term cash-splash on more concrete and steel infrastructure is flogging the dead horse of technocratic industry, not sustainable on any view of the word. Land management and especially increasing human contact with the landscape itself is our main opportunity both for environmental restoration and economic growth.

Practically this means facilitating subdivision into smallholdings and the natural-material development of such smallholdings into horticultural and tourist products. I am currently working with SVC to iron out the creases of the DA process to make this process easier.

It's just surprising since we have so much land that land-based opportunities were absent from the EDS. The main objection that upset me so much was an apparent lack of engagement with sustainability, in other words the long-term future that I and people younger than me stand to inherit.

At this point let's take development of the shire as an ongoing long-term project and a conversation that continues. I look forward to the proposed climate change forum.

Kemble

Stone, Phil <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>
To: Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
Cc: "Smith, Ben" <bsmith@svc.nsw.gov.au>

15 January 2019 at 12:43

Hi Kemble

Thanks for the reply. I look forward to interacting with you in the future. Let me know if there are any issue with which we may be able to help in the meantime.

Kind Regards

Phil

Phil Stone | Acting Director Strategy, Community & Development
P: 02 6948 9116 | F: 02 6948 2865

Phil Stone
Acting Director Strategy, Community & Development



W: www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

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From: Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
Date: Tuesday, 15 January 2019 at 10:51 am
To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Economic Development Strategy

OK Phil, thanks for reading the EDS and for your good faith reply. I will take this as an ongoing discussion and write some thoughts for you here to peruse at leisure with no response necessary. I will get involved with council in any way I can to elucidate this strategy further and deliver a good outcome for our shire.

[Quoted text hidden]

Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

14 March 2019 at 07:15

Dear Phil,

You need to know that having to write emails like this gives me no joy. Nobody will be happier than I when we never have to exchange another word. I will leave the ball in your court to respond to the letter I presented at BDL last night.

Summary of the matter:

You spray known-toxic chemical on our footpath, exposing me, my soon pregnant wife, my future babies and children to a substance that has been found to cause significant harm.

I request moratorium on poison spray because of this serious concern, citing peer reviewed science.

I offer to mow the verge for free as a private contractor. This saves Council money, and requires no paperwork or insurance apart from one simple work contract that can be drawn up between me and you.

The only action required of Council is to order workers to cease spray when they reach our footpath on Yellowin Road, Batlow, including both sides of the road between number 125 and the 50 zone, **as per BDL Recommendation to Council on 13 March 2019.**

If this is difficult for you to understand, give me a call on 0478417306 and we can sort something out.

My qualifications:

B.A (Anthropology), Columbia University in the City of New York

Master of Sustainability, University of Sydney

including a major research paper into the merits and methods of Monsanto

I read the paper every day, have smart friends on Facebook, and listen to Radio National

My ABN: 27 751 658 541

For the record let's just get in writing that I do not sanction your conduct at the meeting last night nor do I consider it consistent with your role as defined by the Local Government Act 1993.

You told the Committee that "glyphosate was not used" on my walk to town. You quoted Mel Wilkerson's email to me, **but cut the sentence halfway through, diametrically reversing the meaning of the words.**

This is the second time I have had reason to write to this Director over what appears to me to be "deceit". Phil in common parlance this is called "lying", but when you are a public officer it takes on more serious elements of negligence. In other words, **there are very serious legal consequences for Council to inform BDL that there is no glyphosate exposure risk, whereas in reality there is high risk of exposure.** This is basic concept of even the most elementary risk analysis.

You are in serious breach of common law. Any affected citizen can sue you for damages at three torts at least:

- 1. Deceit
- 2. Maladministration
- and my personal favourite:
- 3. Trespass against person

(This takes on the element of assault and harrasment against my person, my conception of my child, and my family life; this trespass carries higher damages)

Does Council have a Risk Manager? Responsible for analysing corporate risk to Council? **Please provide contact details**

Does Council have a head of legal? **Please provide contact details.**

I look forward, dear man, to your swift and wise response to these matters.

Sincerely,

Kemble Dawson Walker

Council must accept all reasonable, relevant and sincere submissions, and not dismiss them based on emotions, spelling or vocabulary.

[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments



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svc-instagram.jpg
2K



svc-facebook.jpg
1K



svc-logo.jpg
9K



svc-youtube.jpg
1K

Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>

14 March 2019 at 08:00

To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

Add to the charge sheet that you defamed me, so you're on the hook for libel now too

Phil said to BDL on 13.3.19 that I "verballed" him, suggesting falsely and maliciously that I was being in some way dishonest.

See OED definition:

verbal /ˈvɜːb(ə)l/

• noun

4 (usu. verbals) Brit. informal a verbal statement containing a damaging admission alleged to have been made to the police, and offered as evidence by the prosecution.

• verb

(verbals, verballing, verballled)

[with obj.] Brit. informal attribute a damaging statement to (a suspect), especially dishonestly.

Causing damage to my reputation. Admittedly not large damage since Phil's opinion is not very respected among the BDL. Damages not worth going to court over, but it remains on record

On Tue, 15 Jan 2019, 12:43 Stone, Phil, <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments



svc-youtube.jpg
1K

svc-logo.jpg
9K



Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

14 March 2019 at 08:18

Sorry mate for so many emails, I'm just writing these out as I remember everything. I will be finished by 9am; all these emails can be considered together

Keith Dawson, a highly respected member of Batlow community, Committee member of Batlow Development League, independently suggested exactly what I originally proposed to you:

I mow the verges for free; you take them off your books and cease maintenance activities in the specified area.

This may not have been recorded in the minutes as several people were talking while Keith said, "You should become a volunteer and mow them yourself"

On Tue, 15 Jan 2019, 12:43 Stone, Phil, <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments



Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

14 March 2019 at 08:38

My mistake, I should have written "slander" instead of "libel"

On Tue, 15 Jan 2019, 12:43 Stone, Phil, <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

5 attachments



Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

14 March 2019 at 11:20

Dear Mr. Stone,

Please find attached my formal tender for Contract of Works on Yellowin Road, Batlow.

I refer to the Recommendation of the Batlow Development League of 13 March 2019, which requests this matter to be contracted in the way I have designed in this legal document.

Note that this work will be fulfilled free of charge to Council, and saves the Ranger's time. All you need to do is sign this form and tell your ranger to skip that section of road, and this problem will instantly be resolved.

Sincerely,

Kemble Walker
[Quoted text hidden]

 **Yellowin Road work contract.docx**
271K



Kemble Walker <kemble.shiels.wood@gmail.com>

(no subject)

1 message

Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

14 March 2019 at 07:29

Also what was that email you read aloud calling the glyphosate lawsuit non scientific hype, and saying I was emotive?

That wasn't an email to me.



Kemble Walker <kemble.shiels.wood@gmail.com>

Wood at Batlow packing house

3 messages

Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

12 March 2019 at 17:53

Hi Phil,

Are we allowed to take a privately re-use this timber for non-structural garden furniture etc?

Located cnr Memorial Ave and Mill Road Batlow on property of old packing shed across the road (Memorial Ave) to the south of Cannery site.

Photos attached.

Kemble

3 attachments**1552373524459952.jpg**
46K**1552373524354630.jpg**
38K**1552373524206947.jpg**
65K

Stone, Phil <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>
To: Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>

13 March 2019 at 11:18

Hi Kemble

That land is privately owned, therefore Council has no jurisdiction to make a call on this property.

You will need to approach the owner directly but I cannot share that information with you due to privacy legislation.

Regards

Phil

Phil Stone | Acting Director Strategy, Community & Development
P: 02 6948 9116 | F: 02 6948 2865 | M: 0427 618 746

Phil Stone
Acting Director Strategy, Community & Development



W: www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

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[Quoted text hidden]

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Kemble Walker <kemble.walker@gmail.com>
To: "Stone, Phil" <pstone@svc.nsw.gov.au>

13 March 2019 at 11:30

Cheers Phil, thanks for the info. I will ask around in town.

5 attachments





svc-instagram.jpg
2K



svc-youtube.jpg
1K