

# 2 Methodology

## 2.1 Project Staging

The preparation of the draft Study has been undertaken in four phases which is discussed in further detail below.

Over the course of the study, there have been a number of changes to rural planning policy which have had implications for the Study. These are outlined below.

## 2.2 Phase 1

During Phase 1, the following activities and tasks were undertaken:

### 2.2.1 Inception Meeting and Site Visits

An initial inception meeting was held with representatives from Hassall & Associates, GHD and Council. Site visits were also undertaken at this time to identify the key features and provide a greater understanding of the local and regional issues affecting the Yass Valley LGA.

### 2.2.2 Review of Background Information

A range of background information was provided to the consultants for their review to assist in familiarising themselves with the local and regional issues of the Yass Valley LGA. This background information provides the statutory and strategic context for the Study and is considered throughout the Study in informing the development of the Study's recommendations.

### 2.2.3 Agency Consultation

A workshop was held at Department of Planning offices in Queanbeyan on 21 June 2006 with the key statutory authorities and service providers to seek their input into the Study. Representatives of the following agencies and authorities attended the workshop:

- Department of Planning (DoP);
- Department of Primary Industries (DPI);
- Department of Environment and Climate Change (DEC);
- NSW Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA);
- Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authority (CMA);
- Department of Water and Energy (DWE);
- Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD); and

- Premiers Department (PD).

The meeting notes from this workshop are included in Appendix 10.

#### **2.2.4 Community Consultation**

During Phase 1, a Community Information Sheet (provided in Appendix 5) was prepared and distributed to the community to introduce the project, outline issues that would be considered and provide information on the ways in which the community could be involved in the project.

Eight community meetings were held during Phase 1 of the Study. A summary of the locality, venue and approximate attendance numbers at the Phase 1 community meetings is set out in Table 2.1 below. Appendix 6 contains the notes from each meeting.

**Table 2.1 Phase 1 Community Meetings**

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Gundaroo	Hall	5 June 2006	50
Sutton	Hall	6 June 2006	40
Yass	Memorial Hall	7 June 2006	50
Wallaroo	Bushfire Shed	8 June 2006	30
Bowning	Hall	19 June 2006	15
Murrumbateman	Recreation Ground Hall	20 June 2006	62
Binalong	Hall	21 June 2006	10
Wee Jasper	Hall	22 June 2006	15
<b>Total</b>			<b>275</b>

Appendix 10 contains a summary of the issues raised in community submissions.

Throughout Phase 1, comments and submissions were invited from interested community organizations and individuals.

#### **2.2.5 Initial Report**

An Initial Report was provided to Council for their review. The Initial Report contained the desktop analysis and initial identification of issues for Council's review.

### **2.3 Phase 2**

During Phase 2, the following activities and tasks were undertaken:

#### **2.3.1 Community Consultation**

During Phase 2 another Community Information Sheet was prepared (provided in Appendix 7) and distributed to the community. The Community Information Sheet

summarised the outcomes of Phase 1 of the Study and presented initial findings about the local and regional rural issues.

Community meetings were held again for Phase 2 of the Study with the detail of the meetings provided in Table 2.2 below. Appendix 8 contains the notes from each meeting.

**Table 2.2 Phase 1 Community Meetings**

<b>Locality</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Gundaroo	Hall	21 August 2006	30
Sutton	Hall	21 August 2006	30
Yass	Memorial Hall	21 August 2006	13
Wallaroo	Bushfire Shed	21 August 2006	50
Bowning	Hall	28 August 2006	35
Murrumbateman	Recreation Ground Hall	29 August 2006	52
Binalong	Hall	30 August 2006	16
Wee Jasper	Hall	31 August 2006	27
<b>Total</b>			<b>253</b>

Throughout Phase 1, comments and submissions were invited from interested community organizations and individuals (refer to Appendix 9 for details of these).

### **2.3.2 Agency Consultation**

During Phase 2 government agencies were invited to provide written submissions on their areas of interest in the Study. These submissions are in Appendix 11 of this report.

### **2.3.3 Landholder Reference Group Workshop**

To provide a greater understanding of existing agricultural enterprises, the potential agricultural opportunities and provide guidance in relation to determining sustainable minimum lot sizes for agriculture, a one day workshop was held with the landholder reference group. As a result, the Minimum Lot Size Analysis was prepared for Council.

The outcomes of this report are discussed in further detail in Section 12 of this report.

### **2.3.4 Draft Non Urban Lands Study**

A draft Study was prepared by the consultants for Council Officers' review. The draft Study was also peer reviewed by Ian Sinclair, Edge Land Planning.

## **2.4 Phase 3**

Phase 3 of the Study involved the finalisation by the draft Study by the consultants for public exhibition.

## **2.5 Phase 4**

Phase 4 of the Study will involve the finalisation of the Study following consideration of the submissions received.