

DRAFT CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL PLAN
SUBMISSION BY KATHY SMITH MP, MEMBER FOR GOSFORD

8 March, 2016

After reading the draft plan I find it difficult to comment in a positive manner. There would appear to be no confirmed commitment to the future development of the Central Coast with only vague proposals put together following minimal community and stakeholder consultation.

The following comments are made in response to a very disappointing and unworthy regional plan for the Central Coast of NSW;

1. The lack of community involvement in this Draft Plan is taken by the writer to be a major contributing factor to the demonstrated lack of understanding of community needs of the residents of the Central Coast.
2. The Central Coast has a high proportion of elderly residents and future planning needs to be made for their accommodation, both in suitable housing and residential aged care.
3. The Central Coast does not have any dedicated Hospice facilities for the palliative and end of life care. There is nothing included in this Draft Plan to rectify this situation, as there is no plan to do so in the upgrade working being carried out by the Ministry of Health in the Local Health District. The need for such a facility is becoming vital.
4. With a high proportion of residents falling into a lower socio economic category, carefully planned affordable community housing is a must for the area. The Plan gives no discernible proposal to fulfil this need.
5. Public transport is the lifeline of the Central Coast, particularly for commuters to Sydney. There is a need that should be addressed urgently to improve train services between the Central Coast and Sydney. Services have rapidly declined over recent years and improvement is urgent to help local residents maintain a healthy work/lifestyle balance as much as is practicable.
An improved bus service, particularly between Council areas and bus operators, is necessary to help local residents traverse the area in order to reach, schools, work, health appointments, shopping, family and social networks. Public transport is vital for the social, psychological and financial health of any community.
6. The main business centres in my electorate have been in strong decline for many years. While some activity and planning has been done over the years for the restoring of Gosford to the vibrant centre it once was, these efforts have not been successful to date. Much is said to be in the pipeline but at this time of Council

amalgamation and the resultant confusion and lack of progress that will be a consequence in many areas of progress, it would have been expected that more would have been proposed in this Draft Plan to assist the city of Gosford and its residents.

My electorates "second" city is Woy Woy. This centre has declined due to years of neglect. Indeed the entire Woy Woy Peninsula is in decline. Today the only Government services available on the Peninsula for its 36,000 plus residents are the Federal Government Centre Link office. There are no NSW Government Services. This area is one of the most densely populated in NSW and is also an area that generates much to the tourist economy of the area. It is an area which needs the attention of the architects of such proposals as the Central Coast Draft Regional Plan

7. This document makes no definitive commitments to a vague Draft Plan. It appears to promise the flowers and the frills without any substance at its base.
- 8 Agriculture on and around Mangrove Mountain has equally barely been touched upon despite being a major employment source.

Community response from the Electorate of Gosford has been disappointment and anger. The lack of any meaningful consultation and the apparent total lack of recognition of the needs of the residents of this area, both now and into the future, leaves the community with little hope of transparent and useful planning for future needs.

KATHY SMITH MP
MEMBER FOR GOSFORD