

A twenty year vision Riverina-Murray

Frequently Asked Questions



April 2016

What is the draft Riverina-Murray Regional Plan?

- The NSW Government has released the draft Riverina-Murray Regional Plan so that the community can have a say about the future of this important region over the next 20 years.
- The draft Plan outlines a vision for the future, centred on a prosperous economy, strong communities, healthy environment and attractive lifestyle choices.
- The draft Riverina-Murray Regional Plan is the first time a plan has been prepared for all 26 local government areas that comprise the Riverina-Murray region.
- The draft Plan applies to 26 councils – Albury, Berrigan, Bland, Carrathool, Conargo, Coolamon, Cootamundra, Corowa Shire, Deniliquin, Greater Hume Shire, Griffith, Gundagai, Hay, Jerilderie, Junee, Leeton, Lockhart, Murray, Murrumbidgee, Narrandera, Temora, Tumbarumba, Tumut Shire, Urana, Wagga Wagga, Wakool.

Why do we need a Regional Plan?

- The draft Plan provides the strategic policy, planning and decision-making framework to guide the sustainable growth of the region over the next 20 years.
- It integrates economic, environmental and social considerations to achieve ecologically sustainable development – a high priority for the region.
- By 2036 the number of residents aged 65 years and over will rise to 27 per cent, an increase of 46 per cent from 2016 creating a demand for age related services and having impact on future housing, jobs and services across the region.
- The region will need 7,650 more homes over the next 20 years to meet the demands of the growing and ageing population.
- The greatest projected population growth will occur in Albury and Wagga Wagga.

What goals have been set to achieve this vision?

- GOAL 1 – A growing economy supported by productive agriculture and sustainable use of natural resources.
- GOAL 2 – Improved regional transport networks and utility infrastructure to support economic activity.
- GOAL 3 – Strong regional cities supported by a network of liveable towns and villages that meet the communities changing needs.
- GOAL 4 – A protected environment and a community resilient to natural hazards and climate change.

What does the draft Plan say about the economy (Goal 1)?

- The draft Plan:
 - encourages and promotes the economic potential and diversification of the agribusiness and manufacturing sectors;

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- identifies and protects regionally important agricultural land;
- supports the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, including water, minerals and energy resources and forestry;
- identifies strategic placement of renewable energy development; and
- maintains an adequate supply of industrial and business-zoned land to support jobs growth.

What does the draft Plan say about transport and infrastructure (Goal 2)?

- The draft Plan aims to:
 - enhance the region's freight network through coordinated investment;
 - improve network efficiency by identifying and prioritising improvements to the freight network, including regionally significant local roads;
 - protect intermodal terminals from encroachment of incompatible land uses;
 - improve connections to the Port of Melbourne to support the export of goods to the international market;
 - improve inter-regional transport connections and services such as airports; and
 - improve coordination of infrastructure delivery to better align user demands with utility capacity.

What does the draft Plan say about settlements (Goal 3)?

- The draft Plan aims to:
 - support the role and function of Albury, Wagga Wagga and Griffith as regional cities and hubs for jobs, services and housing;
 - strengthen the commercial function of town centres and CBDs;
 - increase tourism opportunities and diversify tourism markets, such as eco-tourism, agri-tourism, lifestyle recreational and cultural heritage;
 - provide a continuous supply of housing that meets the needs of the community, including housing for seniors, rural residential housing, accommodation for seasonal and itinerant workers and affordable housing; and
 - enhance connections between cross-border communities through delivery of infrastructure.

What does the draft Plan say about the environment (Goal 4)?

- The draft Plan:
 - commits to protecting the nationally significant Murray River through actively managing settlement pressures and competing land uses;
 - identifies areas of high environmental value and requires councils to protect biodiversity in local strategies and local environmental plans; and
 - aims to increase the region's resilience to climate change and natural hazards such as flooding and bushfire, by reviewing and updating mapping.

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How can I have my say?

- You are invited to have a look at the draft Plan and have a say about what it proposes.
- You can view the draft Plan and make comments up to 21 July 2016 at:
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/RiverinaMurray

What happens next?

- Once all feedback has been analysed, the Plan will be finalised.
- A Coordinating and Monitoring Committee, with state and local government representatives will oversee implementation of the final Plan.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit our website at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/RiverinaMurray
- Call our Information Centre on 1300 305 695. If English isn't your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- Email us at: westernregion@planning.nsw.gov.au