



Central West & Orana Economy

Fact Sheet #1

May 2016

The NSW Government has released the draft Central West and Orana Regional Plan (draft Plan) to guide sustainable growth in the region over the next 20 years.

It outlines a vision to grow and diversify the economy by supporting jobs growth, sustainably managing its agricultural, mining and natural resources and strengthening the region's cities, centres, towns and villages.

You can have a say on the draft Plan which is now on exhibition.

What does the draft Plan say about the regional economy?

- **Agribusiness**

The draft Plan identifies agribusiness as an important economic sector for the region. Agribusiness is the group of businesses associated with primary and secondary production and the processing and distribution of agricultural products. For example, it includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, transport and logistics, storage and warehousing, machinery and equipment, food, beverage and other product outlets, as well as the financial institutions that fund these activities.

Agribusiness provides the economic base for many of the region's settlements and is vital to the regional and State economies.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing is the second largest contributor to gross regional product in the region (behind mining), contributing \$1.3 billion to the regional economy and employing more than 10,980 people (11 per cent of the workforce) in 2011. This accounts for 18 per cent of the total NSW gross regional product for agriculture.

- **Manufacturing**

The draft Plan identifies manufacturing as an important economic sector which supports the region's cities, centres, towns and villages. In 2011, the manufacturing sector contributed over \$1 billion to the regional economy and employed over 8,078 people.

A large part of the region's manufacturing sector is aligned with agriculture, including the processing and manufacturing of raw agricultural produce. This is a type of value-added manufacturing.

- **Resources and Energy**

The draft Plan identifies the minerals and energy resource sector as a key economic driver in the region.

Mining is the largest contributor to gross regional product in the region, contributing \$2.5 billion to the regional economy in 2011. The majority of this product was generated from the established mining industry in the Central West. The draft Plan identifies that the minerals and energy resource sector is an emerging economic driver in the Orana, including mining rare earths around Dubbo.

The draft Plan identifies that the mineral and energy resources sector has significant economic and employment benefits in the region and care must be taken to manage the impacts of mining to produce long-term sustainable outcomes.



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- **Health Care, Education and Tourism**

Other sectors such as health care and social assistance, retail, education and training and tourism are also important to the regional economy as they contribute to gross regional product and provide essential services and employment opportunities across the region.

What does the draft Plan propose for the agribusiness, manufacturing and resources and energy sectors?

- The draft Plan outlines actions to foster increased investment, innovation and diversification in the agribusiness sector to strengthen the economy and support jobs growth.
- It proposes that the NSW Government work with councils and stakeholders across the region to support growth of the agribusiness sector and overcome potential barriers to investment and industry diversification.

Additionally, it proposes that the agricultural supply chain, including key freight network infrastructure such as grain silos, abattoirs, saleyards, secondary processing facilities, and transport and logistics industries be protected in local plans and investment opportunities in supply chain infrastructure be identified.

The draft Plan aims to support the transformation of the region's manufacturing sector by growing high-technology advanced manufacturing and mining manufacturing industries and identifying value-added manufacturing opportunities (such as food and beverage production). It seeks to protect these operations from potential land use conflict and encourages the co-location of related manufacturing industries and the use of by-products and waste materials from other industries to create new products and services.

- The draft Plan also seeks to better understand the social and economic benefits and impacts of mining on regional communities and to develop and implement scenario planning and modelling tools to assist regional communities plan and prepare for mining.

How will the final Plan be implemented?

- A Coordination and Monitoring Committee will be established to oversee the implementation of the final Central West and Orana Regional Plan, comprising State agencies, councils and other representatives.

Further information

- To find out more about what is in the draft Plan and to make a comment visit:
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/centralwestandorana