

Central West & Orana Settlements – Managing Growth and Change

Fact Sheet #5

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 region's settlements?

- The Central West and Orana is projected to grow by 18,800 people, from 283,700 in 2016 to 302,500 in 2036.
- Population change will have implications for the patterns, roles and functions of the region's settlements. Success across the region will be measured by the strength and resilience of smaller towns and villages and growth in the regional cities and centres.

What does the draft Plan say about the region's towns and villages?

- The draft Plan recognises the importance of building community capacity in towns and villages to create resilient communities, prepared for change. It proposes to develop a standardised set of baseline data across the region to achieve this. It also proposes capitalising on community assets such as heritage, lifestyle amenity, the environment, and by offering specialised services and products. The draft Plan also identifies the need to support communities build resilience to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change.
- Many of the actions in the draft Plan apply equally across the region's settlements, including the towns and villages, such as actions to improve the region's competitiveness and liveability by strengthening and diversifying the regional economy, improving infrastructure coordination and delivery, providing greater housing choice and enhancing the natural environment.
- Other actions relate more specifically to certain parts of the region such as the regional cities.

What does the draft Plan say about the regional cities?

- The draft Plan reinforces the importance of the regional cities of Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo and regional centres of Mudgee, Parkes and Lithgow, to the ongoing prosperity of the Central West and Orana region.
- The draft Plan proposes to support the role and function of the regional cities and centres and aims to strengthen the connections between the cities and their surrounding network of towns and villages, so that the broader community has access to their services and facilities.
- The draft Plan proposes to achieve this through a Regional Cities Strategy.

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What is the Regional Cities Strategy?

- The NSW Government will work with Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo Councils to develop the strategy.
- The strategy will:
 - provide an overarching strategic direction for the cities at a regional scale, focusing on long-term planning needs to meet the needs of the community;
 - consider the current and future role and function of the cities and their relationships with surrounding towns and villages;
 - identify how the regional cities can respond to opportunities, challenges and long-term drivers of change, including flow-on impacts to regional towns and villages;
 - consider where future residential, commercial and industrial development should be supported and assessed at a regional scale;
 - identify the priorities for regional infrastructure to support growth; and
 - identify who will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the strategy.
- This strategy will form the next step in planning for growth and change across the region.

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