



Central West and Orana

Frequently asked questions

May 2016

What is the draft Central West and Orana Regional Plan?

- The NSW Government has released the draft Central West and Orana 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 to grow and diversify the economy over the next 20 years by supporting jobs growth, strengthening the region's cities, centres, towns and villages, and sustainably managing its agricultural, mining and natural resources.
- The draft Central West and Orana Regional Plan is the first time a plan has been prepared for all 20 local government areas that comprise the Central West and Orana region.
- The draft Plan applies to 20 councils – Bathurst, Blayney, Bogan, Cabonne, Cowra, Coonamble, Dubbo, Forbes, Gilgandra, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Oberon, Orange, Parkes, Warrumbungle, Weddin and Wellington.

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 a prosperous economy for the future.
- By 2036 the number of residents aged over 65 years will rise from 18 per cent to over 25 per cent - creating a demand for age related services and impacting future housing, jobs and services across the region.
- The region will need 13,600 more homes over the next 20 years to meet the demands of the growing population.
- The greatest projected population growth will occur in the regional cities of Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo.

What about Fit for the Future? How does the Regional Plan impact on my local council?

- The NSW Government is transforming the system of local government to ensure councils can deliver the quality services and infrastructure that communities deserve. This may impact some current council boundaries. Until this process is finalised, planning for regions and districts will continue to be developed based on existing council boundaries.

What goals have been set to achieve the vision?

- **Goal one** – A growing and diverse regional economy.
- **Goal two** – A region with strong freight transport and utility infrastructure networks that support economic growth.
- **Goal three** – A region that protects and enhances its productive agricultural land, natural resources and environmental assets.



Central West and Orana

Frequently asked questions

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- **Goal four** – Strong communities and liveable places that cater for the region’s changing population.

What does the draft Plan say about the economy (goal one)?

- The draft Plan:
 - encourages and promotes the growth and sustainable development of the agribusiness and mining sectors;
 - identifies economic diversification opportunities through value-added and advanced manufacturing and tourism which will help the region become more resilient;
 - requires councils to undertake local strategic planning to protect the agricultural supply chain;
 - identifies mineral and energy resources areas to support the sustainable growth of the mining industry; and
 - aims to support jobs growth in the health, education and tourism sectors.

What does the draft Plan say about transport and utility infrastructure (goal two)?

- The draft Plan aims to:
 - enhance the region’s freight network through coordinated investment to support economic growth;
 - improve network efficiency by identifying and prioritising improvements to the freight network, including identifying regionally significant local roads;
 - protect intermodal terminals from encroachment of incompatible land uses and investigate opportunities for new intermodals and rail freight facilities;
 - 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 agricultural, mineral and energy lands and environmental assets (goal three)?

- The draft Plan proposes:
 - identifying and protecting regionally important agricultural land from incompatible land uses;
 - managing the growth of mineral and energy resources whilst being sensitive to agricultural uses;
 - managing and conserving water resources across the region;
 - protecting and managing the region’s environmental assets; and
 - building resilient communities by protecting its people and the environment from natural hazards.

What does the draft Plan say about settlements (goal four)?

- The draft Plan aims to:
 - support the role and function of the regional cities and centres as primary hubs for jobs, services and housing;
 - strengthen the commercial function of town centres and CBDs;



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- support Aboriginal communities in the enhancement of their communities;
- increase and improve housing choices to suit the different needs of the community; and
- enhance access to jobs and services by creating well-connected neighbourhoods.

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 4 July 2016 at:
www.planning.nsw.gov.au/centralwestandorana

What happens next?

- Once all feedback has been analysed, the draft Plan will be finalised.
- For the first time, a Coordination and Monitoring Committee will be established to drive the coordination and delivery of actions in the final Central West and Orana Regional Plan.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit our website at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/centralwestandorana
- 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