

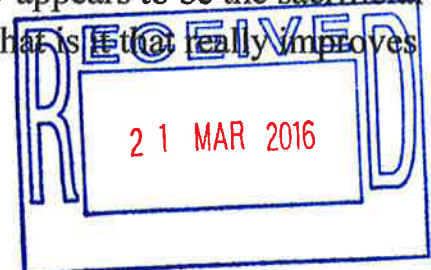
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 1148
Gosford. 2250

21ST March 2016,

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I wish to make the following comments on the Draft Central Coast Regional Plan:

- My major complaint about the DCCRP is that it almost totally focused on growth, with very little concern for the environment; with so many proposals for increases in population, housing and new infrastructure, which, if achieved, would destroy much of the green open spaces and be a great threat to flora and fauna.
- I am really concerned that the NSW State Government currently appears to be allowing Gosford Council a free hand in allowing development approvals that are not in line with their planning guidelines. eg. a 33 story building in Gosford CBD—210% over allowed height.
- Are the DCCRP growth rates and projections based on currently available land zoned for residential purposes or what would necessarily be actual demand/growth, once existing land is used. I believe that this is not a valid basis for planning out future, or justification for further suburban development on the Central Coast.
- The state government needs to explain more on what they want the region to look like; do they wish to keep providing for a greater population? ; do they wish to look after the current population first, and what do they believe to be the Central Coast's carrying capacity.
- It is important that the people on the Central Coast have more control over what happens in our own locality. The community appears to be the sacrificial pawn in the statewide economic game of chess; what is it that really improves our quality of life?



- I believe that the community of the Central Coast should aim to become regionally self-sufficient, should have localization- down to a neighbourhood level, aim for energy reduction and reduce consumption.
- With the proposed plans to increase the population there does not appear to be a suitable proposal to retain / increase areas for recreational purposes- e.g.- playing fields.
- Climate Change should be a serious issue for the community on the Central Coast, but it does not appear to be for the state government, their politicians the Department of Planning who prepared this report, and especially not by Gosford City Council. The comments on protecting the environment (P.53) are only 'window dressing'; Environmental areas are subject to development, using the strategy of biodiversity off-setting (the scale of Fig.9) shows that there is no environmental value placed on many areas on the Central Coast.
- There are approximately 180,000 people living within one kilometre of lakes or oceans on the Central Coast, and many of these areas are at increased risk of coastal erosion and inundation expected from storm damage in the future, from sea level rise etc. Does this not include planned retreat?
- I do not support the proposed amalgamation of Gosford City Council and Wyong City Council because of their different attitudes to the environment e.g. Wyong Council currently allows residents to cut down trees with very little reason. Gosford Council has the Coastal Open Space system – which will be under threat from an amalgamated council, as will be the current proposal to sell of community land. What action has the NSW State Government taken to support transparency and accountability, and this is certainly not taking place with local government.
- The DRCCP does not allow protection of areas of high environmental value through 'development', when development is the reason for many environmental problems. I.e. – threatened species, habitat loss, loss of flora and fauna, and fragmentation.

I would like to thank the NSW Department of Planning for allowing me to make the above comments on the *Draft Central Coast Regional Plan*, and hope that they are taken in to consideration when the plan is adopted.