
Subject:

FW: Submission on draft Central Coast Regional Plan

Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 1148
Gosford NSW 2250

Submission on the draft Central Coast Regional Plan

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have lived on the Central Coast from 1982 and live here because of the proximity to Sydney and Newcastle and the bush surrounds. I want to see the COSS corridors and bush reserves stay. I want the CentralCoast to retain it's unique identity and be a holiday/ tourist destination with an 'out of Sydney feel' to my surroundings.

I support the following points:

- The **principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD)** should be a core part of the vision and goals for the draft Plan. The vision and goals should be amended to include ESD.
- The draft Plan does not provide adequate protection for those areas of high environmental value. **The Plan must clearly specify how these areas will be protected and enhanced.**
- The Plan needs to ensure the **protection of water**, including both surface and groundwater ecosystems.
- The draft Plan must **implement a new E5 zone for Gosford's Coastal Open Space System (COSS)** as previously agreed by the current NSW Government. The E5 zone should be gazetted at the same time as the Regional Plan is finalised.
- The Plan needs to include **specific actions to complete and protect the COSS.**
- The Plan should include actions to **extend the COSS into Wyong LGA.**
- The draft Plan **fails to resolve land use conflicts** (such as mining, agriculture, water supply) and defers important strategic planning and impact management to a later stage.
- The Plan should **rule out mining on the Central Coast** and this should be clearly articulated in the Plan.
- The draft Plan **relies too heavily on biodiversity offsetting.** The Plan must identify 'red flag' areas that are not appropriate for biodiversity offsetting.
- If biodiversity offsetting is to occur, it **must meet best practice principles** that require 'like for like' offsets, no net loss of biodiversity and offsets must be provided within the Central Coast region.
- The draft Plan **fails to adequately outline infrastructure improvements that will accompany growth.** The Plan should require a Transport Plan be produced for growth areas (such as Gosford City Centre and the Somersby to Erina Corridor) and exhibited before the final Regional Plan is adopted.
- **All coal seam gas and long wall coal mining activities should be banned** in the Central Coast drinking water catchments.

- The requirement that any **development should have neutral or beneficial effect on the region's water quality must be established in law.**
- The Plan should require the implementation of an **Operating License for the Water Authority(s)** for the Central Coast to ensure environmental protection, transparency, accountability and a minimum standard of service for consumers.
- The draft Plan **fails to adequately plan for climate change adaptation and mitigation.** There should be more emphasis in the document on climate change risks as a constraint on development.
- I **strongly oppose any move by local Councils to develop a Regional Airport** on the Central Coast as it would negatively impact on community and social amenity and on environmentally sensitive land such as Porters Creek Wetland.
- The proposed Coordinating and Monitoring Committee should include **community input into the implementation of the Plan.** For example, community and environment groups should be identified as relevant supporting groups in this structure.
- The poor track record of both Gosford and Wyong councils in failing to adequately protect areas of high conservation value, habitat corridors and sensitive coastal environments is of concern. **Appropriate oversight is needed** to ensure that the relevant local councils protect the important environment and coastal values in accordance with the Plan.
- The Gosford Waterfront area up to and including Mann Street should be for public enjoyment and a Performing Art Centre and Art Precinct should be built.
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- The War Memorial Park and City Park should be kept as open space and should not be built on.
- The maps should have defined areas of development and zonings and not fuzzy circle target areas.
- Public consultation should be more accessible and encouraged.