
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 moved to the Central Coast (Wyang) nearly 5 years ago from Sydney. A major attraction for me was the beautiful environment which still had remnants of wetlands and abundant birdlife. At that time it appeared that Central Coast Councils were committed to maintaining the environment. When I watch the wholesale destruction of native flora and fauna now happening around Wyong I am appalled. A more planned approach would have been better! Whilst I recognise the arguments for some development on the "Coast" this must be done in a manner that conserves the natural beauty and ecology or the very things that attracts investment to our area will be destroyed.

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.
- 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.