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**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 in the Wyong region of the Central Coast for seven years. I live here for a number of reasons, but especially because of the access to nature. I live near Tuggerah Lake and love going for long walks by the lake and under the trees, looking at the birds. It is a time for quiet reflection before or after work, and helps me stay healthy in body and mind. I also value my proximity to the train station and the ability to use the train to go to Sydney or Newcastle.

In the next 20 years, I would like to see real action on Climate Change so the Central Coast is a zero emissions region. I think that the Central Coast Regional Plan should be addressing the issue of climate change in every aspect of its vision and goals. For example:

- the Coastal Open Space System (COSS) expanded and used as a model for the entire Central Coast.
- an integrated Public Transport System which links all areas to a train station and community hubs via fleets of small electric buses instead of the big buses which often run almost empty of passengers.
- I would very much like to see the Central Coast as a hub of renewable energy research and technology, providing sustainable and interesting TAFE apprenticeships and jobs for our children and their children.
- environmentally friendly housing developments that are well designed, affordable, and do not clear-fell tracts of land, destroying both wildlife habitat and natural amenity. This is possible.
- a local Council that has a strong Environment Department with well qualified officers and planners.

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.
- Climate Change and building a zero emissions region should also be a core part of the vision and goals for the draft Plan.
- 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, and to extend the COSS across the entire Central Coast.**

- 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. Instead of relying on extractive industries to "strengthen the economy and create resilient communities", the Plan should be focusing on industries which will really strengthen the economy and create resilient communities, such as renewable energy industries.
- 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. This Transport Plan should put the emphasis on an integrated Public Transport System linking all areas to trains and buses (fleets of small electric buses that are able to be flexible to meet local community transport needs).
- **All coal seam gas and long wall coal mining activities should be banned** in the Central Coast drinking water catchments.
- I am very concerned about the impacts of "development" on the Tuggerah Lakes system, including run-off from erosion, and the impacts of "development" on high velocity water run-off and how that contributes to flooding.
- 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.
- I am very concerned about Wyong Council's approach of 'development at any cost'. Appropriate oversight is needed here as well.