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Online Submission

Mar 23 (14 days ago)

m To:

Central Coast Regional Plan

This plan MUST include ecologically sustainable development There is no point in development if it is not ecologically sustainable, since we only have this one planet on which to live. In order therefore to have economic growth whilst maintaining liveable communities, we must diversify and be innovative;e.g. renewable energy; green waste renewal and recycling.

This plan must state how the areas of high environmental value will be protected, since everything included is a part of the worlds bio-diversity and every action has an input somewhere, which needs to be minimilised. The idea of bio-diversity offsets would be amusing if it weren't so disastrous.There is NO way in which one eco system can be exchanged for another:each is unique to its situation and the bio-diversity which relies on it. Humans are unaware of the many symbiotic miracles taking place around us and beneath our feet.

Water is a number one neccessity to all forms of life and so surface and groundwater must be protected at all costs. In light of this, mining and water do not mix well as can be seen by many disasterous events not only in Australia but around the world. Promises are useless:safe-guards must be in writing as part of the plan. So Coal Seam Gas mining on Peats Ridge must be ruled out, as that is a part of our drinking water catchment. Since,as stated above, water is of great importance , it is essential that an operating licence be established on the Central Coast so that our water is protected by the law.

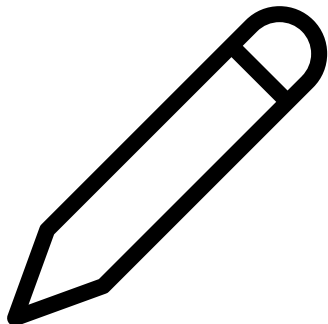
My husband and I are vey proud of our COSS Scheme, unique to Gosford City and show it to all our visitors. COSS is a program which encourages and protects our open spaces. InOctober 2014only 63% of the land had been aquired by Council. We must at least make that 100% by ensuring the long term voluntary acquisition of land identified for COSS. Our present Council seems weak on this matter. The previous State Government had given an E5 zoning to these COSS Lands which should be continued in the new Regional Plan.

In the event of a Council amalgamation, between Gosford and Wyong, the importance of the COSS scheme must be maintained and extended into what is now Wyong Council and then into Lake macquarie. In this way the whole of the Central Coast will be an exemplary region for the rest of Australia. With its close proximity to Sydney it will be of great interest and an attraction not only to Sydney siders but to overseas visitors.

During our 45 year connection with the C.C.we have often written and discussed the problem of transport. The topography and many waterways make it difficult. Just because it is difficult does not mean that it can be overlooked completely. Lack of infrastructure and transport are a problem everywhere and it leads to frustration and stress and therefore is detrimental to the quality of life of the citizens. The lack of response in the Draft Plan is ominous. It must be defined if the public is to have any confidence at all in the strategy. Quality of life is most important, impacting as it does on physical and mental health but this plan just seems to focus on quantity or growth. I believe a Transport Plan is essential and a first priority.

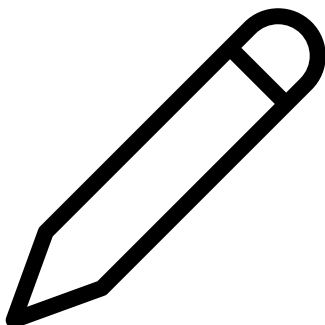
It is amazing that the foremeost problem facing the planet is just ignored. It is particularly relevant on the C.C. with its many waterways. I work with Dunecare near Ettalong on the Woy Woy Peninsula and last April the last 10 m of the sand dune where we had been working was lost to the sea in a storm undermining the Esplanade. The sea is now within 10m or less of the dwellings and yet still developments here are being permitted and proceeding at this time. Experience in different parts of the world e.g.Forida; the E.coast of America and Britain,show that this strategy is sheer stupidity.In

addition the Authorities are determined to build a new city on the present foreshore of Gosford, much of which is re-claimed land. This again is stupid:the land should be left for flooding which is inevitable. We have already experienced this during big storms. Continuing development with no regard to climate change is in my opinion unethical. Development must be restrained by climate change risk and a policy of managed retreat be put in place. Furthermore urban sprawl with its resulting hard surfaces must be avoided as it leads to more flooding and a loss of water to re-fill the water table. My experience with the present Council and what I read about Wyong Council, lead me to be very concerned about them being left in charge of this plans implementation. Appropriate, objective oversight is essential. After such a long association with the C.C. I would hope that any essential development would be of a high sustainable standard and beautiful. We DO NOT want the C.C. to be a continuation of the sprawl of Sydney. It is a naturally very beautiful area and we hope that this can be maintained

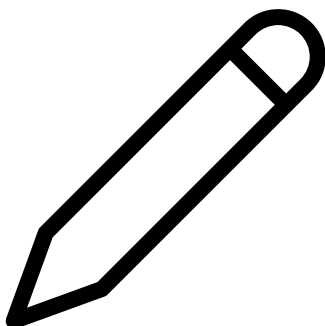


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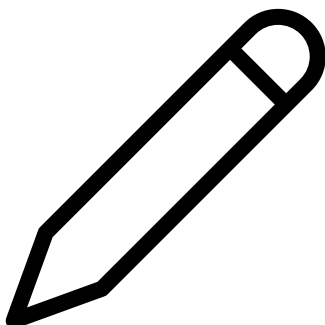
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Priority Medium



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