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Online Submission

Mar 23 (15 days ago)

d To:

I live on the central coast of new south wales and would like my opinion to be considered about this regional plan. It is long overdue that such plans be truly ecologically sustainable as well as supporting the needs of development, however the definition of development is where I most often seem to be at odds with policy bodies definitions. Anyway for the central coast I would like to see the following:

- *There should be more emphasis in the document on climate change risks as a constraint on development. The State Government has a responsibility to the community to map areas that will be impacted adversely by climate change
- The requirement that any development should have neutral or beneficial effect on the region's water quality must be established in law (c.f. State Environmental Planning Policy (Sydney Drinking Water Catchment) 2011.
- The Regional Plan should require the implementation of an Operating License for the Water Authority(s) for the Central Coast - this does not currently exist. The Operating License would ensure transparency and accountability within our water supply operations and protect consumers by prescribing minimum standards of service.

Similar to Sydney Water and Hunter Water, the licence would include requirements for:

- water quality
- asset performance, including system performance standards
- water conservation
- environmental indicators and management
- community consultation
- performance monitoring and auditing

Each year, an independent audit should be undertaken to assess compliance with the Operating Licence.

- any Infrastructure Draft Plan should require a Transport Plan to be produced and exhibited before the final draft Regional Plan is adopted.
- The draft Plan places too high an emphasis on 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.

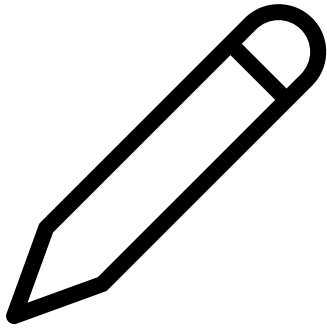
* The draft plan fails to resolve land use conflicts and also leaves the door open for mining in our drinking water catchment, it is now time to rule out mining on the Central Coast

- The COSS is unique to our region, with Gosford council the only council in NSW to actively acquire and manage bushland as a system of networks to encourage the enhancement and protection of our natural open spaces.
- The COSS should be used as a model for the entire Central Coast region. The Regional Plan should outline actions to undertake investigations, develop a strategy and maps to carry the COSS forward in Wyong LGA.

*The vision statement should contain the term ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE economic growth etc etc,

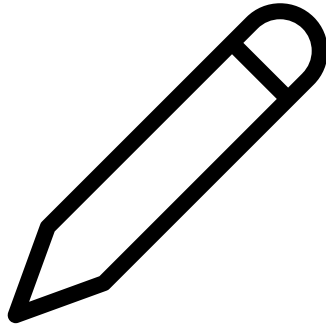
* and finally the plan must clearly specify how the identified areas of high environmental value will be protected and enhanced, which it does not do in its draft form.

I hope my submission is noted... many people who feel like me that development and any environmental cost is not appropriate also feel that our point of view is so rarely listened to that they won't even send a submission.... so perhaps i could count as 10?? ha,ha. thank you for noting my opinion

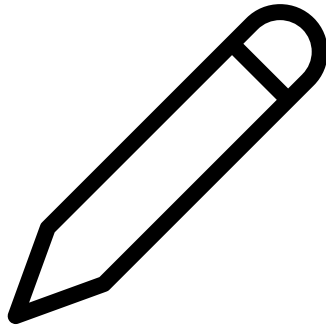


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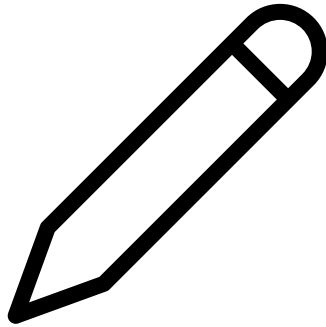
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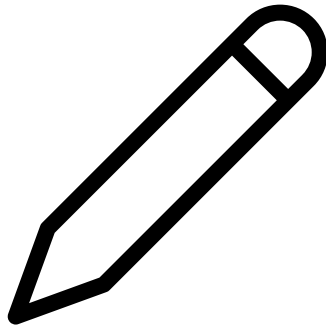
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