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Online Submission

Mar 22 (16 days ago)

e To:

I have lived on the Central Coast for 16 years and moved here to get away from the cement-clad rat-race Sydney had become. I fully appreciate the hidden pockets of bushland, beaches and green cloaked hills that to my mind represent this area I call home. The natural environment defines the Central Coast and must be preserved in the Central Coast Regional Plan (CCRP) so that our child, and our child's children can share in the natural wealth of this remarkable area.

There are some non-negotiable aspects which require consideration in the CCRP, including:

Ecologically sustainable development must be core to the vision and goals for the draft Plan. The present visions and goals will thus require amendment.

The Plan must clearly specify how these areas of high environmental value will be protected and enhanced. It does not at present.

Water protection (surface and groundwater ecosystems) is critical to the Plan.

A new E5 zone for Gosford's Coastal Open Space System (COSS) must be implemented in the Plan and gazetted at the same time the CCRP is finalised. An E5 zone was previously agreed to by the current NSW Government.

The CCRP needs to include specific actions to complete and protect the COSS and extend the COSS into Wyong LGA.

The CCRP should rule out all mining on the Central Coast and this should be clearly articulated in the Plan. This will help resolve land-use conflicts and will protect Central Coast drinking water catchments.

The CCRP relies too heavily on biodiversity offsetting and biodiversity offsetting should not be considered. At Forresters Beach, we have been victims to biodiversity offsetting allowing local development approvals which were responsible for loss of important pockets of native bush (including two endangered ecological communities), an important wildlife corridors and a significant filter for the Wamberal Lagoon catchment. In return, an area in Lake Macquarie was protected.

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.

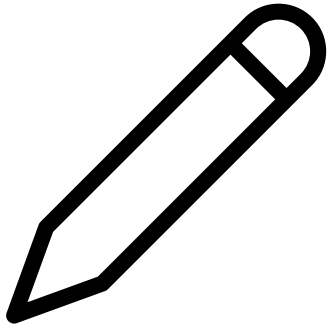
Any development should have neutral or beneficial effect on the region's water quality must be established in the CCRP. There should be more emphasis in the document on climate change risks, adaptation and mitigation as a constraint on development.

A Regional Airport on the Central Coast should not be considered or allowed.

The proposed Coordinating and Monitoring Committee should include community input into the implementation of the

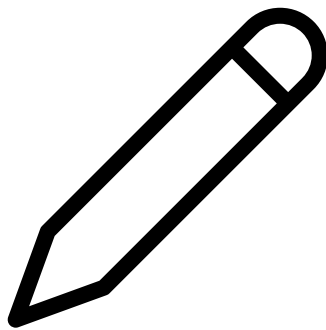
Plan.

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.

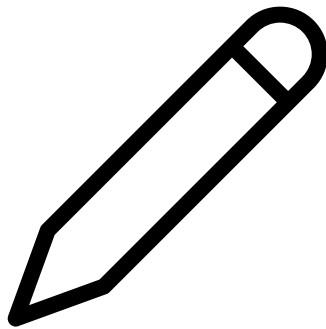


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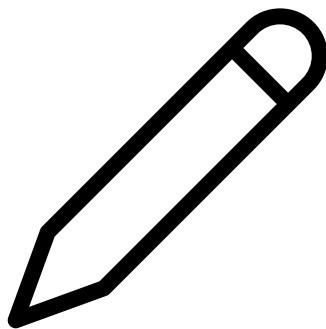
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