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Online Submission

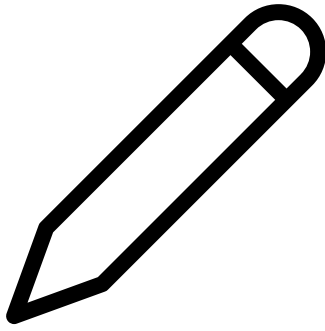
Jan 31

C To:

I believe your draft regional plan for the Central Coast does not afford enough protection of the natural environment. In your introduction you state "The natural environment is the defining feature of the Central Coast and its most important asset", yet your chapter on protecting and managing the natural environment occurs at the end of your glossy brochure and consists of a mere 3½ pages in comparison to 8 pages on grow and diversify the regional economy. I think this reflects the importance you place on the natural environment; and yet human life and well-being is totally dependent on the natural environment. Therefore, this should be an important priority and I feel your vision for the future of the protection of the natural environment is not robust or detailed enough. Coal and CSG extraction should not be included as part of the future for the Central Coast Region. This will lock us into, not only a future of increasing global warming, but a future where we and future generations will have to live with the environmental and health consequences these activities consistently deliver. I am disappointed there is no mention of transitioning towards renewable energy and no plans to explore how we can do this on the Central Coast. Information on page 47 particularly alarms me because it would appear resource development will go ahead despite negative impacts to health and the environment, so long as these are mitigated as much as possible. You do not have to look far to see the effects of the so called mitigated impacts of coal mining in the Hunter Region. A future including coal is a ridiculous plan for the Central Coast given the dramatic drop in coal stocks and the fact other countries are turning away from coal and investing far more in renewable energy. Why then would you be so short sighted to promote coal & CSG extraction on the Central Coast?

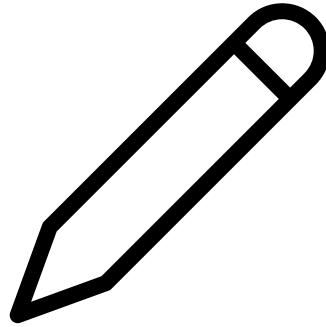
I seriously question the motives of those high up making these plans for us on the Central Coast. We need planning processes that include genuine and meaningful public participation; not some token gesture of making public submissions after plans or development proposals have been made, which most likely will not be genuinely considered. Planning and development controls must also genuinely consider and adhere to the National Strategy of Ecologically Sustainable Development, particularly the precautionary principle. We need total protection of remnant bushland areas within urban landscapes that can never be rezoned for development. We must retain as much natural vegetation in our urban areas as possible to promote healthy and happy communities as well as the existence of nature and native fauna. Not condone policies such as Wyong Council's controversial tree removal policy that promotes indiscriminate removal of healthy native trees in urban areas that reduces biodiversity.

Additionally, I am concerned about the lack of details outlining improvements to public transport and roads (other than replacing roundabouts with traffic lights). Increased development and population growth will result in higher traffic volumes, clogging up our arterial roads. We need more roads; for example, out of the Tuggerah Business Park across Ourimbah Creek to Enterprise Drive to divert traffic from Wyong Road at Tuggerah. We need a by-pass around Wyong, and a dual carriageway through Long Jetty and The Entrance. If past planning had been better we wouldn't be sitting in traffic queues today.

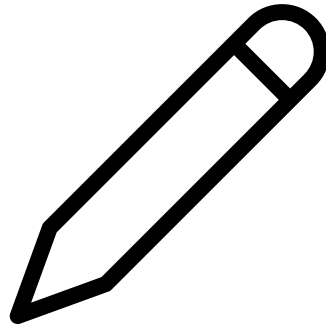


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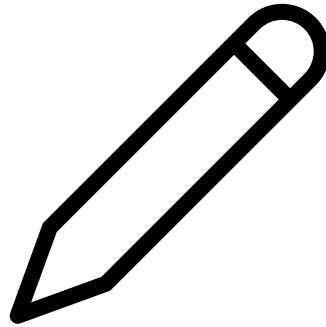
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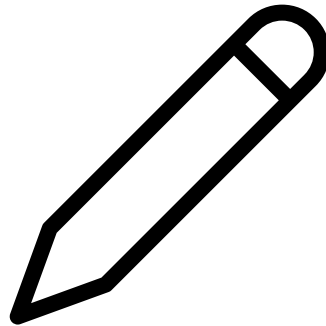
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Class Comment



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