



NSW Department of Planning and Environment  
PO Box 1148  
Gosford. 2250

15th March. 2016

Dear Sir/ Madam

**Submission-Draft Central Coast Regional Plan**

On behalf of the Australian Conservation Foundation-Central Coast branch( ACF-CC), I wish to make the following comments on the Draft Central Coast Regional Plan:

- Our major complaint about the DCCRP is that it almost totally focused on GROWTH, with very little concern for the environment; with so many proposals for increases in population, housing and new infrastructure, which, if achieved, would destroy much of the green open spaces and be a great threat to flora and fauna.
- We are concerned that the NSW State Government currently appears to be allowing Gosford Council a free hand in allowing development approvals that are not in line with their planning guidelines.
- Are the DCCRP growth rates and projections based on currently available land zoned for residential purposes or what would necessarily be actual demand/growth, once existing land is used. ACF-CC believes that this is not a valid basis for planning out future, or justification for further suburban development on the Central Coast.
- The state government needs to explain more on what they want the region to look like; do they wish to keep providing for a greater population? ; do they wish to look after the current population first, and what do they believe to be the Central Coast's carrying capacity.
- The ACF-CC has already said it is concerned about the strong focus on growth; so do the people on the Central Coast actually want economic growth or is a steady state economy is what is needed—is much less economic activity is what is needed?
- It is important that the people on the Central Coast have more control over what happens in our own locality. The community appears to be the sacrificial pawn in the statewide economic game of chess; what is it that really improves our quality of life?
- ACF-CC believes that the community of the Central Coast should aim to become regionally self-sufficient, should have localization- down to a neighbourhood level, aim for energy reduction and reduce consumption.



- To achieve the above principles we should aim to have simpler, lower cost housing, more house and land sharing opportunities- one third of our adult population live in single adult households( very resource inefficient), more agriculture in residential areas and more agriculture –based residential communities in rural areas, and more ecovillages and environmentally –purposed intentional communities.
- With the proposed plans to increase the population there does not appear to be a suitable proposal to retain / increase areas for recreational purposes- e.g.- playing fields. The standards of human health has been and still is in decline with the reduction of recreational space and increased pressure on scarce infrastructure, the decline in human health will continue.
- Climate Change should be a serious issue for the community on the Central Coast, but it does not appear to be for the state government, their politicians the Department of Planning who prepared this report, and especially not by Gosford City Council. *Climate Change is not limited to the natural environment, sea level rise and ocean acidification.*
- The comments on protecting the environment (P.53) are only ‘window dressing’; Environmental areas are subject to development, using the strategy of biodiversity off-setting (the scale of Fig.9) shows that there is no environmental value placed on many areas on the Central Coast.
- There are approximately 180,000 people living within one kilometre of lakes or oceans on the Central Coast, and many of these areas are at increased risk of coastal erosion and inundation expected from storm damage in the future, from sea level rise etc. These conditions are not taken in to consideration when some of the extreme proposals for development, shown in this strategy.
- There does not appear to be a planned strategy if the Central Coast continues to have extreme weather events, including flood inundation and bushfire conflagration. What will happen to residents living in low lying flooding areas, with insufficient roads to escape. Does this not include planned retreat?
- The ACF-CC does not support the proposed amalgamation of Gosford City Council and Wyong City Council because of their different attitudes to the environment e.g. Wyong Council currently allows residents to cut down trees with very little reason. Gosford Council has the Coastal Open Space system – which will be under threat from an amalgamated council, as will be the current proposal to sell of community land. This is not taken in to account in the DRCCP. What action has the NSW State Government taken to support transparency and accountability, and this is certainly not taking place with local government.



- Through the DRCCP it is not possible to protect areas of high environmental value through 'development', when development is the reason for many environmental problems. I.e. – threatened species, habitat loss, loss of flora and fauna, and fragmentation.

The ACF-CC thanks the NSW Department of Planning for allowing it to make a submission on the DRCCP and hopes it considers our comments when making its final report.

Yours sincerely,

John Wiggin  
Branch President. ACF-CC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Wiggin".