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Online Submission from company Kariong Progress Association (org_comments)

Mar 24 (13 days ago)

m To:

To: General Manager,
Dept of Planning & Environment
(Hunter & Central Coast),
PO Box 1226
Newcastle NSW 2300

From: Kariong Progress Association,
PO Box 7069
Kariong NSW 2250

Members of Kariong Progress Association discussed the draft Central Coast Regional Plan covering Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils at two of its recent monthly meetings and determined to make some comments on the draft plan as follows:

1. Goals and Directions: We are broadly supportive of the four Goals of this plan except that the 2nd Goal should be amended to say: Grow and diversify the regional economy following the principles of ecologically sustainable development. While we support providing a "business and work environment that attracts investment and provides local jobs" (p. 25), we see that our citizens are becoming a lot more aware of environmental concerns and practices in their lives and that business here needs to change to more ecologically sustainable development models in the 21st century. These models take account of both the precautionary principle "that if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage in the regional economy from business, then we should not be postponing measures to prevent degradation of the region; and also the principle of intergenerational equity "the businesses of this present generation should be ensuring that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment are enhanced (or at least maintained) for the benefit of future generations on the Central Coast. These are the directions where the region has strengths and employment opportunities that are unrecognized in Goal 2 (see p. 26).

2. Self-determination of Aboriginal communities: We fully concur with the inclusion of Direction 2.7 which envisages supporting the Darkinjung Land Council in efforts to revitalize and promote their language and culture, and empowering their people's opportunities, capacities and choices, especially on their landholdings.

3. Southern economic gateway: We are quite concerned about the "future development options for undeveloped parts of the Mount Penang site" (p. 34). There are environmental, recreational and cultural values along this section of the Somersby to Erina Corridor which are completely ignored in Action 2.4.3 and which could be utilised in any

employment opportunities identified for ecologically sustainable development of the site. We fear the Council will be completely shut out of developing a plan to manage this section of the Corridor (Action 2.4.3).

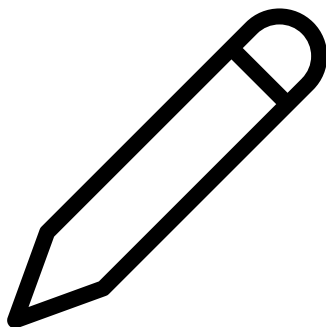
4. Transport connections: We support Action 2.4.4 to "improve connectivity and amenity along the Somersby to Erina Corridor". The upgrade to the Central Coast Highway at West Gosford has been well planned and well constructed but attention now needs to turn to upgrading the Woy Woy Road / Langford Drive intersection (including pedestrian connectivity) as soon as possible owing to excessive traffic and inadequate infrastructure there. We are also concerned with the need to upgrade The Avenue, the only access road into possible commercial development of the Highway Precinct at the Mount Penang site. There is no indication in the draft Plan that the infrastructure planning needed for the "long term transport framework" is well advanced, nor is there any mention of a route for the Very Fast Train talked about here for at least a decade.

5. Coastal Open Space System: There is no mention of the COSS in the draft Plan, Gosford Council's actively acquired and managed network of bushland precincts for the benefit of current and future generations. This Regional Plan must commit to articulating and fully implementing the COSS strategy including mechanisms to ensure the remaining 37 percent by area of high nature conservation value land is eventually acquired for the network.

Kariong Progress Association members earnestly hope you will closely consider all these points and include them in the final Central Coast Regional Plan.

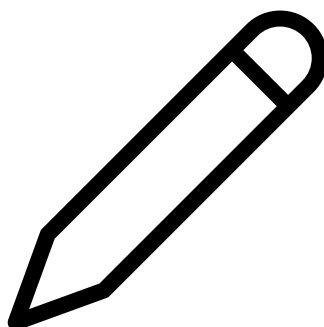
Yours sincerely,

Secretary, Kariong Progress Association
Thur 24th March 2016



Email Details

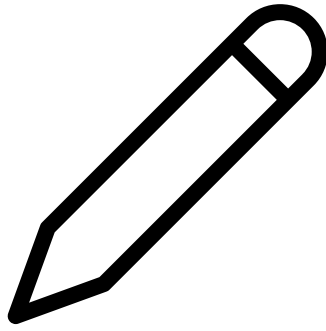
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Priority Medium

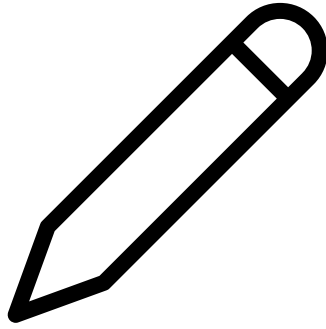
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