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Online Submission

Mar 21 (24 days ago)

d To:

The plan does not adequately address the impacts of Climate Change which can only be expected to become worse as time passes. This is a major deficiency. Development in low lying areas which might be affected by sea level rise must be restricted, or made non permanent.

Strategies for responding to extreme heat must be included.

Sustainability, reduction of environmental impact including carbon emissions and the offsetting of these must be the highest priority this plan, as population growth continues unchecked. Urban growth must be limited by good urban design, urban consolidation and greenfield sites must maintained as far as possible as biodiversity refuges and carbon sinks.

The plan must specify additional undeveloped areas which must be protected such as national parks extensions, the Lake Macquarie Coastal Wetlands Park proposal or Crown lands with significant native vegetation.

The plan must specify how regional wildlife corridors will be protected and enhanced.

The plan must specify how degraded habitat will be restored to enhance protection of native fauna and flora and provide carbon sinks.

The plan must specify how the regions water resources will be protected, .

There are thousands of hectares of degraded land in the Hunter as a result of previous activity and natural processes. The plan must give priority should be given to development on this degraded land before considering development on existing greenfield sites.

Huntlee is a good example of a development that would have been much more appropriate on a degraded site than on a high conservation value area which is being destroyed.

The plan must make provision for sustainable, low emission transport systems such as high speed rail, efficient urban light rail and electric cars to reduce use of high emission private vehicles. Flood free land must be set aside for rail development and electric car charging stations must be allowed for in urban areas. This must be part of a long term plan. Major travel generators such as tertiary education, health facilities, major shopping and work centres must be considered in association with transport infrastructure needs.

Waste minimisation, good urban design, energy efficiency, and water efficiency including reuse of urban runoff should be part of this plan. We cannot as a society expect to continue at our current level of resource use if sustainability and a future for coming generations is not an objective of the plan.

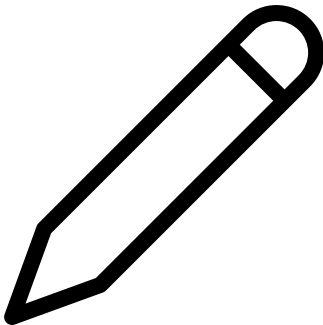
The biodiversity offset strategy is very inadequate. If a project requires clearing of a specific type of vegetation that does not occur elsewhere, then the project should not be allowed. The principle of like for like must be retained to maintain biodiversity. It is not acceptable to offset with a different vegetation type and certainly not acceptable to pay money in lieu. Overall, the plan places too much emphasis on development and not enough on conservation and environmental sustainability.

The plan needs to focus more on the social, economic and land use framework required for sustainable industries such as solar farms, wind farms and sustainable agriculture which will still here when coal and gas has finished.

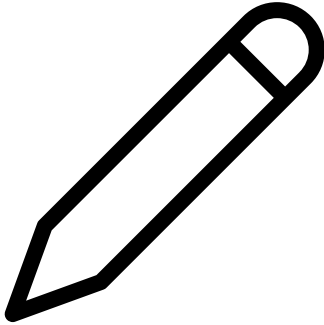
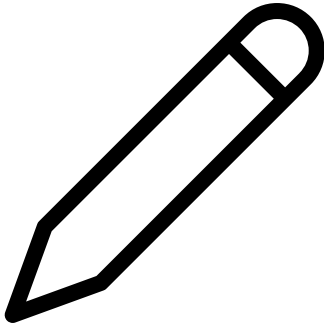
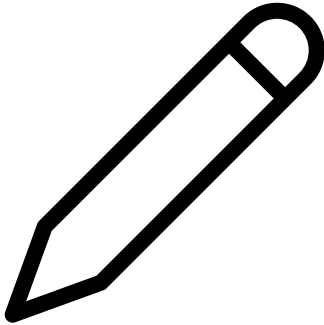
The plan must identify objectives in each of the areas mentioned above and include a review within say 5 years to measure progress towards these objectives.

Please consider and include these suggestions. They are for the benefit of all including future generations

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.



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