

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Hunter Regional Plan.

\* I support all transport options that improves sustainable connectivity not only in the Hunter City but the Hunter Hinterland including more purposed built shared bicycle/walk trails; promotes active transport modes that promote health benefits, reduces air pollution, noise pollution and protects the natural environment; and offers tourist opportunities and sustainable economic growth, as well as opportunities for the aged and lower income residents.

\*I Support the investment of renewable energies projects at a large scale including wind, solar and geothermal and I support the investment of primary industries, and the services and tourism industry, including increasing biosecurity measures.

I support the divestment of new and existing coal mines and projects and that of Coal Seam Gas.

\*While I applaud all actions that promote and deliver the protection and enhancement of the Hunter's natural environment, including biodiversity and connectivity, I am surprised that the west Lake Macquarie area has not been acknowledged in this Plan. The area was acknowledged in the Hunter Regional Conservation Plan (2009, p. 32) and was considered the next high priority by the NSW Government. While the Draft Hunter Regional Plan acknowledges that not all areas of high environmental value have been mentioned, Figure 11(p46-47) recognises the High Environmental Value of the area.

**Why was this area including the Proposed Awaba State Conservation Area not formally recognised?**

I support that the west Lake Macquarie area, including the Proposed Awaba State Conservation Area is acknowledged and planned for in the Draft Hunter Regional Plan. It is an important wildlife corridor and habitat for threatened species such as the Spotted-Tailed Quoll, Squirrel Glider, Regent Honeyeater, Swift Parrot, Powerful Owl, Masked Owl, Sooty Owl, Grey-Headed Flying Foxes and Tetratheca juncea. It provides an important wildlife corridor from the Watagan Mountains to Lake Macquarie State Conservation Area.

\* I support sustainable management of urban growth areas and utilising local retail precincts.

This includes development that:

protects the environment, promoting wildlife corridors and wildlife overpasses over transport corridors; provide street trees, and open green spaces to offset heat island effects and provide recreational spaces; promote active transport such as cycling, walking and public transport; promotes local retail precincts via active transport and infrastructure; uses infill and brown field spaces appropriately for housing development; promotes community engagement; offers affordable housing options for lower income and aged residents.