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www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-Your-Area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/How-to-Get-Involved

Fingal Head Community Association Inc.
Submission on the Draft North Coast Regional Plan (DNCRP)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Fingal Head Community Association welcomes the opportunity to comment on the *Draft North Coast Regional Plan* (DNCRP) and recognises that this plan will have significant impacts on the environment and communities in the NSW North Coast.

About Us

The Fingal Head Community Association Inc. (FHCA) is a voluntary, incorporated group representing the views of the small coastal community of Fingal Head which is located on the Fingal Peninsula in the Tweed Shire on the far north coast of New South Wales for the next 15-20 years..

The Fingal Head Community Association Inc. (FHCA) **is concerned that:**

- the Department of Planning and Environment is repealing, reviewing and developing a raft of planning controls, plans and acts including the new Regional Plan which will all impact on the social and environmental future of the north coast and question the need for all these changes.
- the NSW Government and Department of Planning and Environment have made a number of decisions recently in the north coast that contravene existing planning controls and FHCA fear that the NCRP will be yet another plan ignored when convenient.

- the DNCRP does not include knowledge or strategies from other plans including the Northern Rivers Regional Biodiversity Management Plan and Northern Rivers Catchment Action Plan.
- the DNCRP relies heavily on biodiversity off-setting as FHCA has had experience with this in the past and consider it a completely inappropriate justification for the destruction of environmentally sensitive areas especially as the off-sets can be in regions remote from, and unrelated to the north coast.
- although the government is making substantial changes to coastal protection laws in NSW and is redefining the Coastal Protection Zone it has specified in the DNCRP a number a area for development which are not appropriate in this environmentally sensitive and fragile zone.
- Fingal Head village is located on a peninsula which contains areas of high environmental value, significant wildlife habitats and wildlife corridors and that these are not being given sufficient protection or mechanisms for enforcement of protection in the DNCRP
- the village and peninsula is threatened by a rising sea level due to climate change and that the DNCRP does not plan for climate change mitigation, development controls or the mapping of these areas.
- DNCRP does not address measures to resolve conflict between the various land uses but merely defers planning and impact management to a later stage.
- The DNCRP recognises that significant environmental, aboriginal and historic heritage values need to be identified and considered in development proposals but it does not identify when these will be mapped and when the maps will be available, or what local government can use until these maps are available.

FHCA recommends that:

- community representatives should be included on the Coordinating and Monitoring Committee for the implementation of the NCRP and that Local Land Services representatives should also be included.
- the NCRP prohibits coal seam gas exploration and extraction across the entire region as FHCA members have already taken a definite stand against coal seam gas exploration and extraction.

FHCA request that our concerns be considered and incorporated in the final NCRP and that community involvement and consultation is a significant part of the final development and implementation process of the plan.

Submitted by
Karen Morrison
Vice President
Fingal Head Community Association Inc.