



D16/29690  
F244

7 July 2016

Dept of Planning and Environment  
PO Box 58  
Dubbo NSW 2830



Dear Sir/Madam,

**ORANGE CITY COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON DRAFT CENTRAL WEST & ORANA REGIONAL PLAN**

Orange has contributed to the preparation of the CENTROC submission to the draft regional plan. This submission is therefore intended to supplement the matters raised in that submission from an LGA specific perspective.

Fundamentally, the draft plan in its present form needs a substantive body of additional work before it would be of significant benefit from a land use planning perspective. The vision for the future of the region in 30 years time has only been minimally expressed. The potential for the region to accommodate growth, which in turn could alleviate some pressure in the metropolitan basin, could be better explored and articulated.

The draft regional plan would benefit from a more stratified hierarchy of population centres and infrastructure. As it stands a casual reader would have the impression that there are only three levels of population – Dubbo, Orange, Bathurst as regional cities, Lithgow, Mudgee, Parkes as regional centres and everywhere else. While Orange is an important regional city a more detailed hierarchy would serve to illustrate both the population spread and the level of services that are available at various points across the region. This would serve to inform locational decision making for both public and private sector investment. We support adding towns, villages and communities as a minimum.

Orange would also support this approach being extended to key infrastructure such as airports, hospitals and health services, schools and education establishments, water storage dams to name a few. Additionally the road network shown on the maps does little to identify the various standards of roads and connections between different settlements, more detail in this area would clearly help to identify priorities for upgrades and realignments. Similarly rail corridors, both in active use and mothballed, should be shown to demonstrate current and future potential.

More effort on such hierarchies would enable the plan to better assist in service gap analysis and articulate a vision for what the region should look like in 30 years time. For example what proportion of the population is more than 45 minutes from primary health service facilities? The plan does not presently assist in

With regard to the regional city maps, figure 19 Orange Regional City has a few minor discrepancies:

- The label "Leewood Industrial Estate" is pointing to the former saleyards site. Leewood is the area to the south of this area.
- The city map does not show the Northern Distributor Road, which should arguably have the same status as the other major roads in Orange.
- The urban release area colours obscure local roads in the area, most noticeably in the Shiralee area. Also the Shiralee area now has a DCP masterplan in place and is therefore no longer mapped as a URA in the Orange LEP.

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On the economic front the plan covers the conventional market sectors of agriculture, manufacturing, mining, tourism, health and education. Figure 8 on page 20 gives a 2011 snapshot of the regional workforce but there is no comparable forecast diagram to indicate which sectors are anticipated to grow in relevance over time. This would help inform decision making to facilitate growth sectors.

For example the plan has not made significant reference to the NBN rollout and the potential that this brings to diversify local and regional economies. From a land use perspective greater digital connectivity will both enhance the traditional market sectors but also allow greater participation in the service economy, the latter being location independent has potential to augment small village economies that can offer more relaxed lifestyles to digital workers. This may also marginally increase demand for rural-residential lifestyle properties on the edge of larger centres.

Tertiary education in the region is underpinned by Charles Sturt University campuses in Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo. The contribution of CSU to the region is significant both in economic terms and also in helping to reduce the loss of young people from the region. In this regard the regional plan could articulate a greater and growing role for the university with each current campus being expected to grow and diversify over time. Diversifying the skill base of the region would underpin local and regional economies and enable the region to accommodate a greater population.

Yours faithfully



David Waddell

**DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**