



ABN: 16 954 683 226
Shop 5 • 158-162 Auburn Street • Goulburn
All mail to: PO Box 775 • Goulburn • NSW • 2580
P: 02 4822 6397
www.rdasi.org.au

The Hon Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning
Department of Planning & Environment
PO Box 5475
WOLLONGONG NSW 2520

Department of Planning
& Environment
RECEIVED

12 SEP 2016

Southern Region-Wollongong

9 September 2016

Dear Minister, *ROB*

Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed vision, goals and actions in the draft 20 year *South East and Tablelands Regional Plan*.

By way of background, Regional Development Australia Southern Inland (RDASI) is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. It is part of a national dedicated network of 55 Regional Development Australia boards across Australia. These boards are made up of local experienced and skilled leaders who work with all levels of Government, business and community groups to support the economic development of regional Australia.

RDASI, as with other RDA's, has been mandated, through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), to address key determinants of long term regional economic growth, which provides a common focus through which authorities can consider and implement regional development. These determinants, at a macro strategic level, involve human capital considerations on employment, housing, health, education and investments that impact on developing sustainable growth in economic, environmental and social development terms. Other commercial determinants impacting on economic development involve addressing access to international, national and regional markets through effective and reliable transport infrastructure and services. In this context, comparative advantage and business competitiveness and effective cross-sectorial and intergovernmental partnerships and integrated regional planning are considered essential elements by RDASI in the coordination of development efforts to our respective communities.

The *Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan* covers geographic five regions in which RDASI has extensive expertise in four. These four regions include the Alpine areas around Cooma and Bombala; the Greater Capital (Queanbeyan, Yass Valley and former Palerang), The Hilltops Regional Council, through the merging of the former Young, Boorowa and Harden Councils; and the Southern Highlands and Tablelands which incorporates Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan and Goulburn Mulwaree communities.

The Draft Plan and its vision is comparable to RDASI's vision in building resilient and sustainable communities by balancing growth opportunities with protecting the region's diverse environment



Australian Government Initiative



A NSW Government Initiative

and lifestyles. The Draft Plan's goals are to sustainably manage growth opportunities from the ACT, protect and enhance the region's natural environment, strengthen economic opportunities and build communities that are strong and well-connected. In this context, the close collaboration with the ACT government is crucial to the future development of the region with Canberra Airport being a key driver of growth. In this context, the following comments of a strategic nature are submitted for your consideration:

1. In delivering the Plan, the status of the ACT-NSW Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a critical document enabling the follow on plan. In recent discussions regarding proposed cross border developments, it is understood that the MOU was being reviewed. Given that the regional landscapes, and particularly the ones abutting the ACT borders and the C+1 group of Councils, matters covered in the plan involving transport, health, education and environmental connectivity must be underpinned by a strong and robust transparent MOU so that the key determinants of development can be co-ordinated efficiently by all stakeholders.
2. With regards to the role of the **Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee**, the draft plan states that the Committee will co-ordinate and drive the delivery of actions, report and monitor on various aspects of the plan such as housing, employment, natural environment etc. It is unclear as to the purpose of the monitoring as there are no targets, action requirements or measurable goals.

RDASI believes that the State agency representation on the Committee should not be limited to "Transport for NSW" and "Office of Environment and Heritage". Agencies such as LLS/DPI/DEC/NSW Health are equally important to be at the table if issues surrounding Agriculture, Mining, Renewable Energy or likewise Education and Health have dedicated "Directions within the Plan."

Given the responsibilities of RDASI, it is strongly recommended that RDASI and RDA-ACT be included on the Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment. It is suggested that this function could be well undertaken by nominated Task Force committees especially dealing with major State and local Council projects.

3. The definition and role of regional development in the plan by councils through the proposed Joint Organisational (JO's) set-up is unclear in terms of accountability and responsibility under the Schedule 4A of the E.P.A Act. It is acknowledged that JO's which are made up of councils within a jurisdictional setup have a role to play in regional development. In this case it is understood that regional development needs to be notified and assessed by a Council and then determined by the relevant Joint Regional Planning Panel. Yet the plan refers to councils leading and participating in strategic projects such as urban design and public domain improvements. This is somewhat at odds with regional economic development as most councils within the region already have this role within their identified *Community Strategic Plans*. As a consequence, are these strategic projects outside the current jurisdiction of councils and will they be funded by the NSW Planning and Environment with the consent of identified stakeholders? To this end, there is a need for structural role clarification and co-ordination functions especially in relation to economic development via RDASI's role and its regional plans.

It is acknowledged that balancing the growth of this region over the next 20 years, whilst protecting its highly regarded natural environment and proximity to ACT, are key drivers of the *Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan*. To this end, it is also acknowledged that the plan is a first draft which encapsulates a variety of motherhood statements which require careful analysis and specific management to achieve the desired outcomes.

With regards to the specific Goals, Directions and Action identified in the plan, attached is a summary of general comments for your consideration.

I would like to stress that RDASI, with our vast local knowledge of the region and connections with local businesses and related government and local stakeholders, is well positioned to focus on the development and to assist the government in delivering your plan to the community.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan. If further information or clarification on any issue raised is required, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Yours sincerely



Mr Mark Schweikert

Chairman

RDA Southern Inland

E chairman@rdasi.org.au

W www.rdasi.org.au

M 0408 967 855

CC: The Hon. Katrina Hodgkinson MP



NSW Planning and Environment-Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan . Submission by RDASI

This document Covers five regional landscapes:

- Alpine - Snowy-Monaro Regional Council (previously Cooma-Monaro, Bombala, Snowy River)
- Far South Coast – Eurobodalla and Bega Valley Shire Councils.
- Greater Capital – Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council and Yass Valley.
- Hilltops – Hilltops Regional Council (previously Young, Boorowa and Harden).
- Southern Highlands and Tablelands – Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan and Goulburn Mulwaree.

Vision – build resilient and sustainable communities by balancing growth opportunities with protecting the region’s diverse environment and lifestyles

Goal	Direction	Action	RDASI Response
Goal 1 – Sustainably manage growth opportunities from the ACT	1.1 Provide well-located and serviced land for housing in the Greater Capital to meet demand	1.1.1 Coordinate infrastructure delivery to support release areas in the Greater Capital	Agreed
		1.1.2 Develop principles to guide the development of a cross-border infrastructure funding model to support cross border development	Agreed
		1.1.3 Develop a cross-border land monitoring program	Agreed
		1.1.4 Support the development of local housing strategies in the Greater Capital	Agreed
	1.2 Improve cross-border transport connectivity	1.2.1 Work with the ACT Govt. to make travelling to and from Canberra easier and more convenient	Agreed
		1.2.2 Improve sharing of transport data between the ACT and NSW, including the development of a cross-border transport model	Agreed
		1.2.3 Standardise & implement vehicle cross border operational safety requirements and registration fees & charges	RDASI Proposal
		1.2.4 Involve transport operators in intergovernmental & regional Council goals involving SEATS/RDASI on cross border issues.	RDASI proposal

Goal	Direction	Action	RDASI Response
Goal2 – Protect and enhance the region’s natural environment	2.1 Protect the region’s diverse environmental values	2.1.1 Avoid, minimise and offset the impact of development on significant environmental assets	Agreed.
		2.1.2 Protect the region’s biodiversity corridors in local planning controls	Agreed. But need to map such areas
		2.1.3 Prepare a comprehensive koala plan of management for the former Cooma-Monaro Local government area.	Not relevant to RDASI
	2.2 Manage development to protect the Far South Coast environment	2.1.4 Introduce cost effective offsets that enhance growth and investment whilst still maintaining environmental values.	RDASI proposal
		2.2.1 Focus urban growth on the Far South Coast in existing urban growth areas	Not relevant to RDASI; but supportive in principle.
		2.2.2 Protect sensitive estuaries on the Far South Coast	Not relevant to RDASI but supportive in principle.
		2.2.3 Review and update coastal management plans	Not directly relevant to RDASI but support in principle.
		2.2.4 Create a consistent approach to protecting important riparian areas in planning and development controls.	Not directly relevant to RDASI but supportive in principle.
		2.2.5 Investigate opportunities to integrate the marine estate and adjacent coast land uses	Not relevant to RDASI but support in principle.
	2.3 Build the region’s resilience to natural hazards and climate change	2.3.1 Apply contemporary risk management to flooding and other hazards	Agreed in principle
		2.3.2 Build on regional understanding of projected climate impacts and implement opportunities to respond	Agreed in principle
	2.4 Protect and secure the region’s water resources	2.4 .1 Finalise water sharing plans for rivers and groundwater systems in the region.	Agreed in principle
		2.4.2 Prepare integrated water cycle management strategies	Agreed
	2.5 Protect the region’s cultural heritage	2.5.1 Conserve heritage sites when preparing local planning controls.	Not directly relevant to RDASI but support the planning initiative.
		2.5.2 Enhance & strengthen cultural diversity within the region.	RDASI Proposal

Goal	Direction	Action	RDASI Response
Goal 3 Strengthen the economic opportunities of the region	3.1 Support and promote the growth of the tourism industry	3.1.1 Improve tourism related transport services	Agreed with appropriate availability of funding.
		3.1.2 Develop a stronger marine-based tourism industry capitalising on the region's numerous small ports.	Agreed in principle
		3.1.3 Enhance destination management of business and visitor stakeholders to regional alpine areas involving TSM and Tourism NSW initiatives.	RDASI Proposal, should also investigate reactivation of Canberra Cooma rail link and extension onto Cooma Airport, Jindabyne and Ski Tube Station. See 4.5.2.
		3.1.4 Involve RPT air transport and vehicle passenger transport with promotional activities to regional alpine and surrounding tourist areas	RDASI proposal
		3.1.5 Secure appropriate funding (private/government) to sustain a growth tourism industry based on securing international markets	RDASI proposal
	3.2 Enhance the productivity of primary industries	3.2.1 Identify regionally important agricultural lands and reflect the outcomes in local planning controls	Agreed in principle.
		3.2.2 Manage biosecurity risks to protect current and future industries	Not an RDASI issue; but support the planning initiative
	3.3 Support the productivity and capacity of the region's mineral and energy resource lands	3.3.1 Implement the NSW Renewable Energy Action Plan to increase renewable energy generation	Agreed
		3.3.2 Identify energy and mineral resource lands to support sustainable growth of mining industries and diversification of NSW energy supplies	Agreed
		3.3.3 Protect valuable mineral and extractive resources in the region	Agreed
		3.3.4 Plan for the ongoing productive use of mineral and energy resource lands	Agree
		3.3.5 Implement a robust assessment process to consider social, economic and environmental implications of mining activities and manage these throughout the life of the project	Not directly relevant to RDASI but support the planning initiative.
	3.4 Grow regional strategic assets to support economic growth across the region	3.4.1 Deliver the breakwater wharf extension at the Port of Eden	Agreed. RDA Southern Inland proposal: and investigate further breakwater works for the southern side to protect commercial operations and Navy ammunition operations from bad weather. Navy report an increasing inability to effectively use the ammunition wharf due to bad weather, mostly NW swells and winds. Breakwater needed to also facilitate commercial operations on that side of the harbour and for future commercial expansion.
		3.4.2 Protect the role of the Canberra Airport to service the south east through relevant local planning controls	Agreed

	3.5 Strengthen the economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities	3.5.1 Conduct a strategic assessment of land held by the region's Local Aboriginal Land Councils to identify their landholdings and map the level of constraint for each site.	Agreed. A strategic audit and appropriate mapping of the landholdings in the region could provide economic benefits and increased opportunities for local indigenous people.
		3.5.2 Assist and fund Aboriginal tourism strategies and activities as a regional attractor.	RDASI Proposal

Goal	Direction	Action	RDASI Response
Goal 4 Build communities that are strong, healthy and well-connected	4.1 Provide sufficient housing to suit the changing demands of the region	4.1.1 Plan for a range of housing types to cater for changing community needs and household choice	Agreed. Suitable mapping and principles must be developed to cover land use planning to cater for aging population.
		4.1.2 Protect agricultural and environmental land by avoiding the impacts of rural residential development	Agreed in principle
	4.2 Plan for facilities, including health and education, to service the region's growing and changing population	4.2.1 Identify capacity and provide flexibility for investment to upgrade and deliver health services to the community	Not directly relevant to RDASI but strongly support the initiative in a system context
		4.2.2 Undertake school asset planning to better understand where and when additional schools may be required	Agreed in principle
		4.2.3 Coordinate the planning and delivery of cemeteries and crematoria	Agreed in principle
	4.3 Strengthen the commercial function of the region's centres	4.3.1 Focus commercial and retail activities within the region's centre in line with the regional centres hierarchy.	Agreed
	4.4 Build socially inclusive, safe and healthy communities	4.4.1 Review and update the Neighbourhood Planning principles	Agreed in principle
	4.5 Enhance community access to jobs, goods and services by improving connections	4.5.1 Develop a sustainable model for community transport service provision	Agreed
		4.5.2 Identify and protect future rail corridors	Agreed, see also RDA Southern Inland proposal 3.1.3
		4.5.3 Deliver improved transport connectivity for urban centres and towns	Agreed