

# Draft Far West Regional Plan: 20 year vision

## ○ Frequently asked questions

December 2016

### What is being consulted on?

- The NSW Government has released the *Draft Far West Regional Plan* (the Plan) for the community and stakeholders to have a say about the future of this important region over the next 20 years.
- The draft Plan outlines a 20-year vision to diversify the economy by supporting job growth, and strengthening Broken Hill the region's strategic centre, and other local centres throughout the region.
- The draft Plan applies to Broken Hill, Wentworth, Balranald, Central Darling, Cobar, Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke and the Unincorporated Area.
- The Draft Far West Regional Plan is the first time a land use plan has been prepared for the Far West region.

### Why do we need a regional plan?

- The draft Plan provides the strategic framework to manage change across the region over the next 20 years.
- It integrates economic, environmental and social considerations to achieve ecologically sustainable development – a priority for the region.
- By 2036 the number of residents aged 65 years and over will rise to 28 per cent in the region. This increase will create a demand for age related services and have an impact on housing, jobs and services.

### What goals have been set to achieve this vision?

- Goal 1 – A diverse economy with efficient transport and infrastructure networks
- Goal 2 – An exceptional and distinctive natural environment
- Goal 3 – Strong and connected communities

### What does the Plan say about the economy and infrastructure (Goal 1)?

- The draft Plan aims to:
  - Grow the economic potential of the agribusiness and manufacturing sectors by protecting agricultural land and maximising value add opportunities
  - Promote tourism opportunities, including eco-tourism, agri-tourism and cultural heritage
  - Support the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources, including water, minerals and energy resources (including renewable energy)
  - Enhance the economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities
  - Improve the freight network by identifying and prioritising improvements on regionally significant roads
  - Improve regional airport connections and protect airports from development pressure
  - Enhance access to telecommunications, such as high speed internet.

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### What does the plan say about the environment (Goal 2)?

- The draft Plan aims to:
  - Protect the environments
  - Manage and conserve water
  - Increase resilience to natural hazards including drought, bushfire, flood, and other impacts of climate change.

### What does the plan say about communities (Goal 3)?

- The draft Plan aims to:
  - Manage changing demographics and improve access to local health, transport and aged care
  - Increase housing choice and improve the availability of affordable housing
  - Protect cultural heritage sites and create healthy built environments

### What happens next?

- The feedback received throughout the consultation period will inform the finalisation of the plans.
- The final Plan can be then delivered in one of two ways:
  - alongside the Far West Initiative
  - by establishing a coordination and monitoring committee that would deliver, coordinate and be accountable for achieving the vision and goals of the Plan.
- ○ The NSW Government's preference is delivery alongside the Far West Initiative.

### How do I find out more and make a submission?

- Submissions on the Draft Far West Regional Plan are welcome until **13 March 2017**.
- You can view the draft Plan at:
  - [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/FarWest](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/FarWest)Department of Planning and Environment, Level 22, 320 Pitt St, Sydney 2000.  
Department of Planning and Environment, Level 1, 188 Macquarie Street, Dubbo
- You can make a submission by:
  - responding online at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/FarWest](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/FarWest)
  - by mail to the writing to the Director Regions, Western PO Box 58, Dubbo NSW 2830
- Call our Information Centre on 1300 305 695. If English isn't your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- All submissions will be made public in line with the Department's objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not want your name published, please state this clearly at the top of your submission. Before making a submission, please read our privacy statement at: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy)