



Katrine O'Flaherty
NSW Planning & Environment - Western Region
PO Box 58
DUBBO NSW 2830

Email: westernregion@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Katrine

DRAFT FAR WEST REGIONAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Wentworth Shire Council welcomes this opportunity to present a formal submission in response to the Draft Far West Regional Plan (the Plan). This submission is a follow up to the matters raised during consultation sessions conducted in Buronga, Monday 6 February at the Midway Community Centre and a review of the Plan conducted by Council staff.

General Feedback

The Draft Far West Regional Plan was generally well-received by Council (as an organisation) but less so by the members of the Wentworth community who attended. This dissatisfaction may have been the result of some confusion between the Plan and the Far West Initiative.

From a planning perspective, the Plan is a constructive holistic document that provides direction for an extremely large area that contains numerous diverse environments and communities. From the perspective of Wentworth Shire Council, a higher prevalence of 'ourselves' within the document itself would be welcomed. Nonetheless, the document in its makeup of goals, directions and objectives are all highly relevant to our community's social, environmental and economic wellbeing.

From a permeability and connectivity perspective, it is believed that the benefits for our communities, localities and townships within this proposal could be significant, if as a Council, we embrace the opportunities presented within the Plan and move forward with them, in as many of our future strategic planning documents as possible.

The Plan itself does not seek to hinder or restrict development, but aims to provide direction for local governments to enable future economic growth and sustainability. The plan also assists by highlighting and showcasing the opportunities available within each local government area.

Specific Issues, Opportunities & Concerns – Explored during Community consultation 6 March 2017

We identify and acknowledge the following issues:

- It was noted that an absence of "photographic, visual material" directly referring to Wentworth Shire Council in the physical document itself should be rectified by Council supplying appropriate material.
- Direction 5 – This should include reference to European or built heritage together with Aboriginal heritage reference.

- Direction 7 – Include the valuable air connection Wentworth has to Melbourne and Adelaide from Mildura Airport. Being located so far west, social, medical and professional flights to and from Mildura are frequented to Melbourne perhaps more so than to Sydney. (Flight time to Melbourne is 75 min in comparison to a 6-7 hour drive).
- Direction 10 – Paragraph 4 references ‘strengthen the commercial core of Broken Hill by clustering commercial activities’. This reference could be repeated to include all of the major towns that provide some form of commercial service to the community.
- The actions of Direction 10 have a strong focus on industrial land, this direction should include an additional action that encourages the establishment of new businesses in addition to accommodating new commercial and retail activities in existing commercial precincts. (A slightly stronger emphasis on commercial growth strengthens economic growth).

Community-related Issues, Opportunities & Concerns

We identify and acknowledge the following areas of concerns that were raised “by members of the community”:

- An apparent focus on unrelated issues to the Wentworth community, including:
 - Environmental significance
 - Health of Murray River and species residing within it – our river and tributaries are considered to be well managed and maintained.
 - Transport infrastructure upgrades
 - Priority should be given to identifying a suitable location for a second bridge crossing from Buronga/Gol Gol into Victoria in general.
- Wentworth community and residents “feel forgotten” by metropolitan-based state agencies (non-specific concern). There needs to be a greater presence of agency representatives in the west part of the state.

If you require any further information please contact the Health & Planning Division on Tel: (03) 5027 5027.

Yours sincerely



KEN ROSS
DIRECTOR HEALTH & PLANNING