



MARCH 2011

**Official Newsletter of
Regional Development Australia—Central Coast NSW Inc.**

March Forum

**Infrastructure
Priorities
on the
Central Coast**

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RDA Central Coast

RDA Central Coast is funded by the Federal and NSW State Governments. Project funding is sourced from all governments and the private sector. RDA Central Coast commenced operation on July 1, 2007 and is located in the University of Newcastle, Ourimbah Campus, in the Business Incubator. RDA's focus is on the economic, social and environmental issues affecting communities.

Anthony Dow, Executive Officer, gave his summary of Minister Simon Crean's message "Create a regional vision, form delivery partnerships and develop a set of integrated regional programs that are supported by robust business cases".

The Federal Government have released details of the Regional Development Australia Fund (RDAF). The funding guidelines are as follows:

- The first round of applications can be received up to Friday 13th May, 2011.
- For projects between \$500,000–\$25 m
- Matched funding for all projects over \$5m must be \$ for \$
- First round allocation—\$100m
- Open to local government and not for profit organisations
- Must have RDA committee endorsement & align to Regional Plans
- Funds available for projects that are "investment ready"
- Funding guidelines are available on www.regional.gov.au

Whilst there is an immediate funding opportunity for 'investment ready' infrastructure as detailed above, RDA Central Coast has been leading a wider strategic project to identify the future Infrastructure priorities for the Central Coast.

A Strategy Implementation Group (SIG) was created and includes representatives from : Central Coast Tourism, Central Coast Regional Development Corporation, Department of Planning, Department of Premier & Cabinet, Gosford & Wyong Councils, Industry & Investment NSW, Regional Development Australia Central Coast.

The SIG commissioned a review of all current Central Coast projects, they identified a total 64 reports & 150 infrastructure projects. The SIG developed a criteria based on consistent strategic objectives identified in the previous report review process:

- Significant economic value
 - Improved access
 - Improved quality of life
 - Significant benefits to Central Coast
- For a project to qualify it required a tick against all criteria. This resulted in a suite of 38 infrastructure projects being identified as a priority and this list forms the basis for further discussion and assessment. As RDA Central Coast engages with more stakeholders this list is expected to expand.

Anthony Dow
Executive Officer
Regional Development Australia Central Coast



Wyong Shire Council

Wyong Shire Council has been looking for local initiatives to achieve regional outcomes.

2 infrastructure priorities that have been visible to us are the Sparks Road intersection (to Warnervale Town Centre) and Porters Creek Wetland Stormwater Harvesting Scheme.

The Warnervale Town Centre is a commercial, retail, residential, civic, and community development with a new railway station and new bus interchange.

The regional outcomes of this project would be to house 5000 people and provide 1,200 new jobs. Sparks Road intersection would be a key piece of infrastructure to enable development of the town centre.

Porters Creek Catchment includes Wyong Employment Zone and Warnervale Town Centre. The regional Outcomes of this project would be to house 12,800 people, provide 8,400 new jobs

and provide \$4b of new investment into the economy.

The Porters Creek Wetland Stormwater Harvesting Scheme captures and treats urban runoff and diverts excess stormwater around Porters Creek Wetland and into Wyong River.

Overall the Sparks Road intersection will enable development of the Warnervale Town Centre, and Porters Creek Wetland Stormwater Harvesting Scheme is to enable development of Warnervale Town Centre and the Wyong Employment Zone. These 2 projects have been identified as infrastructure priorities in the Wyong Shire.

Bronwyn Rumbel
Manager | Economic & Corporate Planning
Wyong Shire Council

Central Coast Regional Development Corporation

In June 2010, the Minister announced the creation of the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation. This was an expansion and change of name of the former Festival Development Corporation, which operated the Mt Penang Parklands site at Kariong.

The Corporation's mission is to foster economic development of the Central Coast as a means of increasing employment opportunities and quality of life for Central Coast residents.

We will do this by:

Undertaking strategic projects utilising land and property assets with the aim to attract investment and stimulate economic growth to the Region.

The major projects that have been identified in the Gosford Shire are the implementation of the Gosford City Master plan Challenge, Activating Gosford CBD, the

Landing at Gosford waterfront and the Gosford Hospital precinct.

The Tourism Enhancement Project at The Entrance includes work for:

- the completion of the Coast Lake Scenic walk, which extends 7.5 kilometres around the tip of The Entrance Peninsula
- An upgrade to picnic point including an additional children's playground area and a fitness station.

We need to work on projects with a regional focus and that are needed. Until we build a market that brings people to invest their business on the Central Coast—funding is critical to make these regional developments.

Brett Phillips
General Manager
Central Coast Regional Development Corporation

Q U E S T I O N S & A N S W E R S

Q & A

Each Focus on the Coast forum gives the community the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters and other members of the forum. Some of the questions and answers are printed in our newsletter. For all questions and answers from the forum please visit our website www.rdacc.org.au

In relation to the economic and social health of our community which has a drastic shortage of social infrastructure in a community which has an average income of \$40,000p.a, a wait list of 12–15 years for public housing and almost 50% of our population living in housing stress, we need to prioritize basic elements of social infrastructure along with roads etc.

This has been considered over the past couple of days when we started the review, once we started going through the criteria, it didn't make the list. We have the opportunity to see what infrastructure can deliver. RDA will update the Regional priorities plan—there will be an opportunity to identify social priorities/environmental/Indigenous etc. Initially we are looking at investment ready priorities & capture it in a regional plan—this will contribute to social infrastructure etc.

Anthony Dow
Executive Officer
Regional Development
Australia

Porters Creek—The map wasn't very clear or explicit as to where it is—boundaries etc?

Porters Creek Wetland is south of Warnervale airport goes down to Wyong River.

Bob Burch
Senior Transportation Engineer
Wyong Shire Council

Is it possible to get funding for design etc as stage 1 & submit funding applications letter for construction of the projects?

The funding is specific for investment ready projects to build not design. There is the opportunity to look at other funding, If it has the potential to be a regional priority, we will need to capture it in Round 2—Need to get through the design phase and align for the next phase.

Anthony Dow
Executive Officer
Regional Development
Australia

How can we contribute to the list of priorities?

You can contribute by going back to your organizations and looking through the criteria contacting Anthony Dow. You can contact him by email or by phone. We are currently in the consultation process, but now is the time to identify who needs to be involved etc.

Anthony Dow
Executive Officer
Regional Development
Australia

SPARKS ROAD INTERSECTION— A) Where is this intersection? what distance? Where does it go to?

The intersection leads up to Warnervale Town Centre.

The distance from Minnesota Road to the entry road is 500 metres. The length of construction at the intersection is 1km.

Bob Burch
Senior Transportation Engineer
Wyong Shire Council

What is the process for maintaining/updating the infrastructure priority list and how often in this proposed to take place?

There is no process at the moment, there will need to be an overarching infrastructure plan that will require an issue date/date to follow up etc.

Anthony Dow
Executive Officer
Regional Development
Australia

SPARKS ROAD INTERSECTION: The Sparks Rd intersection at Lakes Grammar School had an 18 month project then stopped causing lots of traffic, student/bus/parent and general public stress?

The reason for this increase in traffic was because we were asked by the contractor to close that section of the road to speed up construction for him. We would anticipate that this will not be a significant problem, constructing on the main intersection as the RTA will be looking over our shoulders to make sure the traffic is flowing.

Bob Burch
Senior Transportation Engineer
Wyong Shire Council



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A NSW Government Initiative

FOCUS ON REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

Regional Development Australia Central Coast (RDACC) is facilitating Focus on the Coast forums to provide local residents with the opportunity to participate in a consultative process that identifies priorities, aligns resources and promotes solutions. These forums will enable the community to provide input to governments about issues and opportunities in our local area.

FUTURE FORUMS

28th April 2011

**Marketing the Central Coast
as a Business Location**

19 May 2011

Innovation / NBN Update

16 June 2011

Sport & Recreation / Youth Development

To register your interest call Elizabeth Westrup on 4349 4949
or email elizabeth.westrup@rdacc.org.au