

Focus on The Coast

Regional Plan 2011-2015



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CENTRAL COAST NSW

John Dawson, Chairman

Regional Development Australia Central Coast



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Tonight's Focus on the Coast

Presentation 1 : Overview of the Regional Plan
Anthony Dow - 20 mins

Presentation 2 : Preview Invest Central Coast.com.au
Jacquie Fredericks-Smith 15 mins

Presentation 3 : Innovation Plan
Anton Kriz – 15 mins

Question Time – **20** mins

Anthony Dow, CEO

Regional Development Australia Central Coast



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What we do on the ground.....

- Bringing the National Broadband Network to the Central Coast
- launch of www.investcentralcoast.com
- Management of Arts NSW \$460k investment in building the Creative Industries of the Central Coast
- Managing the rollout of the Central Coast Innovation Program
- Identifying and advocating for the Infrastructure priorities of the Central Coast (Transport, Town Centre Development)
- Support Businesses and communities to access government support – Carbon Economy Incentives
- Supporting the Central Coast Bears bid for the NRL
- Regional Planning.....

Central Coast Regional Plan 2011-2015

What is the Regional Plan?

- ✓ The Central Coast Regional Plan is essentially a regional version of Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils' most recent Community Strategic Plans.
- ✓ It describes the region, its attributes and challenges, suggests a vision to aspire to, and lists objectives and actions under economic, environmental and social sections.

Purpose

- ✓ The primary purpose of this Regional Plan is to present a co-ordinated representation of the Central Coast's aspirations and priorities to partners and funders, ensuring our region's needs are heard and addressed by way of investment and local action.

“The Central Coast is united in the need to build confidence”

Economy and Employment - Challenges

- ✓ Economy made up of 22,500 businesses - high proportion small or micro
- ✓ economic activity slowed and participation rates and employment numbers have weakened.
- ✓ High number of workers leave the Region for employment in Sydney and Newcastle.
- ✓ A major challenge is creation of local job opportunities.
- ✓ The Region will look to build on its strengths: innovative small manufacturers, competitiveness in logistics, strong growth in building and construction, food production, hospitality and tourism.



Economy and Employment - Vision

A vibrant Central Coast Region with a regional economy that is sustainable, smart and connected

Economy and Employment - Priorities

- ✓ **Local Jobs** – Youth unemployment is up to 30% in some areas and a large proportion of workers leave the Region each day for employment. The Central Coast must increase and diversify job opportunities and increase the level of employment self-containment.

Economy and Employment - Priorities

- ✓ **Transport Connectivity** – intra-regional and inter-regional:
 - ✓ Resolution of arterial road options such as F3, M2 or M9 and the possible build of a Very Fast Train (VFT) connection between Sydney and Brisbane via the Central Coast.
 - ✓ Opportunity for the Central Coast to play a major role in the airport infrastructure solution for the wider Sydney region. Peak organisations, including RDACC, on the Central Coast are only likely to support a leading edge international passenger facility that satisfies all economic, social and environmental conditions.



Economy and Employment - Priorities

- ✓ ***National Broadband Network and Innovation*** – *Early introduction of high speed broadband will help address some of the challenges identified on the Central Coast, such as: high volume of commuters, aging population, declining youth population, high proportion of home businesses and disconnected communities.*
- ✓ *The rollout of the Central Coast Innovation Plan and its program of innovation champions and clusters will be a powerful partnership with high speed broadband, and an enabling ingredient for a local high speed knowledge economy*

Economy and Employment - Priorities

- ✓ **Investment in Infrastructure and Town Centre Development** – In addition to the priority of improved transport connectivity is the urgent need for town centre development and enabling infrastructure. Priorities are: Gosford Revitalisation and The Landing; Warnervale Town Centre and Wyong Employment Zone; and The Entrance.

Environment- Challenges

- ✓ *Economic growth without consideration of the natural environment affects quality of life for future generations.*
- ✓ *The Region needs a secure water supply and is concerned about energy consumption and the amount of waste for disposal.*
- ✓ *There are a range of threatened species and endangered ecological communities known to occur locally and it is important that native species are protected*

Environment- Challenges

- ✓ The Central Coast Region Environmental Attitudes Survey 2010, monitors the attitudes of Central Coast residents towards the environment.
- ✓ In summary, Central Coast Residents **agreed that:**
 - **Climate change will have a direct impact on their lives in the next 20 years**
 - **Human activities are causing significant changes to the Earth's climate**
 - **Climate change is a problem, and action needs to be taken.**

Environment- Vision

"The Central Coast environment will be protected, enhanced and sustained for current and future generations"

Environment- Priorities

- ✓ **Land use and development protects the value and benefits provided by the natural environment –** sustainable economic growth, securing our water supply, addressing climate change, the human impacts on native species, threatened and endangered species and communities, the effectiveness of environmental monitoring, increasing the representation of conservation lands, adequate funding for projects and the protection and celebration of environmental heritage.

Environment- Priorities

- ✓ **There will be a sense of community ownership and the benefits of the natural environment are understood and valued** – This responds to understanding the human impacts on native species, energy use, consumption, waste reuse and recycling, compliance with environmental standards, securing adequate funding for projects, and how we protect and celebrate environmental heritage.

Environment- Priorities

- ✓ ***Opportunities exist to access and experience natural areas – This responds to a desire for providing recreational opportunities, the protection and celebration of our environmental heritage and participation in community life***

Social Inclusion and Quality of Life - Challenges

- ✓ Social issues and challenges are associated with population growth, lack of facilities and services to meet the needs of residents, lack of local education and employment opportunities, housing affordability, access to public transport and a perception of increased crime.
- ✓ A key challenge for the region is to increase social, civic, and economic participation – need for capacity building

Social Inclusion and Quality of Life - Challenges

1. Local education and training opportunities
2. Local employment opportunities
3. Intergenerational disadvantage
4. Balancing work, family and other commitments
5. Facilities, services and programs to meet the demands of an increasing and aging population for example:
 - i. Improved public transport
 - ii. Quality health facilities and services
 - iii. Affordable and adequate housing
 - iv. Arts and culture
 - v. Leisure, sporting and recreation
 - vi. Recurrent funding for community services, activities and programs including intervention and prevention programs
6. Residents being connected and feeling part of their community
7. Build individual and community capacity and participation
8. Residents to feel safe in our community
9. Recognise and respect cultural diversity
10. Strengthening, connecting and valuing our young people
11. Promoting opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles

Social Inclusion and Quality of Life - Vision

***The community will be vibrant,
innovative and inclusive, with a
shared sense of pride and
belonging.***

Social Inclusion and Quality of Life - Priorities

✓ **Community Connectedness and Participation**

Overall wellbeing and quality of life are linked to the ability of people to participate in community life and daily activities, feel connected and have a strong sense of place. There is a high priority on improving intra-regional transport connectivity as well as providing the opportunity for people to participate in community life, build relationships, social connections and community capacity; as well as encouraging projects and programs that build a sense of place and community identity and contribute to a health, safe and inclusive community.

Social Inclusion and Quality of Life - Priorities

✓ **Social Infrastructure**

Social infrastructure has not kept pace with this growth leaving existing and future residents with a significant backlog in facility and service provision. Facilities, services and programs are required to meet the needs of a growing and changing community. This includes arts, culture, recreation, sporting, leisure, learning, community support, health and access to appropriate and affordable accommodation and transport.

Social Inclusion and Quality of Life - Priorities

✓ **Education**

Education is an investment in the economic and social sustainability of the Central Coast. A more highly educated community will create income generating opportunities through innovation and creativity as well as employment opportunities, and have a positive impact on the social fabric via improvements in community participation and health. It is important to raise participation and attainment levels, increase the value the community places on education, provide opportunities for lifelong learning, and foster creativity and innovation.

Next Steps

- ✓ Tonight – review copy of plan, opportunity for initial questions
- ✓ Take time to review full Regional Plan and provide feedback – email, website, phone
- ✓ Input into future versions in 2012 and beyond
- ✓ Social and Environmental sections require most refinement and improvement