



NEW SOUTH WALES

MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Frank Sartor MP

Minister for Planning

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LOCAL JOBS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AS STRONG GROWTH PROJECTED FOR THE CENTRAL COAST

The lemma Government today released the final Central Coast Regional Strategy, outlining a sustainable approach to the region's forecast population growth.

The plan - which covers the Gosford City and Wyong Shire local government areas - aims to protect the environment and deliver jobs closer to home for the region's residents.

Planning Minister Frank Sartor said the improved outlook for the area's long-term water supply – subject to the local government *Water Plan 2050* strategy - meant the Central Coast is now expected to grow by around 100,000 people by 2031.

“The final Central Coast Regional Strategy strongly promotes the area's key centres of Gosford and Tuggerah-Wyong, complementing the existing Gosford City Centre Plan and plans for the new Warnervale Town Centre,” Mr Sartor said.

“Gosford has been identified as one of the six major regional cities around Sydney, and the revitalisation of its city centre is an important factor in accommodating the region's expected growth.

“New greenfield development will be located almost entirely in the northern part of the Wyong LGA, in land identified in the North Wyong Shire Structure Plan.

“The structure plan will be developed in conjunction with Wyong Shire Council and will be exhibited for public comment.

“An additional 56,000 new dwellings will be required over the life of the regional Strategy, up from 36,000 in the draft Strategy.

“But the new housing requirements will not come at the expense of the region's valuable environmental assets.

“All land west of the F3 will continue to be quarantined from urban residential development, as was outlined in the draft Strategy, and a Regional Conservation Strategy will be developed in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Climate Change.

“Existing agricultural areas will also continue to be strongly protected from inappropriate development.

“Currently one in four Central Coast workers commutes outside of the region for work.

“The Strategy particularly focuses on delivering more local jobs, in line with the Government's State Plan priority to create jobs closer to home.

“The Strategy will support the plans for the new Wyong Employment Zone, which has the potential to create around 6,000 new jobs.

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“The revitalisation of the Gosford City Centre will also deliver around 6,000 new jobs, while Tuggerah-Wyong, identified as a Major Centre is targeted for an additional 5,500 jobs.”

NSW Member for Wyong, David Harris said the challenge was to ensure that future Central Coast residents not only have places to live and work, but that this is achieved in a way that ensures the region remains liveable and environmentally sustainable.

“While the long-term security of the Central Coast’s water supply is good news for locals and future residents, it means we need to plan carefully to accommodate the region’s future population,” Mr Harris said.

Member for the Entrance, Grant McBride said ongoing population forecasts would be closely monitored, particularly in regard to the region’s water supply.

“If necessary, the Strategy’s growth projections will be adjusted as part of the standard five-yearly reviews that all of the Government’s regional planning strategies undergo.”

Member for Gosford, Marie Andrews said the Strategy also identified additional employment opportunities for the region.

“The region’s existing employment lands are to be protected and enhanced, while a range of new employment lands have also been identified. Together they will deliver the capacity to provide more than 45,000 new jobs over the lifetime of the Strategy,” Ms Andrews said.

Mr Sartor said that due to the region’s ongoing water shortages in 2006, the draft Strategy – released in September that year – was based on population projections of 64,250 additional people over the same period.

“However, the draft also acknowledged that the region had the capacity to support higher levels of growth subject to the completion of a long-term water supply strategy,” Mr Sartor said

“This Strategy – *WaterPlan 2050* – acknowledges the importance of water sourced from Hunter Water and the proposed Tillegra Dam to secure water supplies in the long-term. The local water authority, which includes both Gosford and Wyong Councils, has now adopted this plan.”

The Central Coast Regional Strategy:

- Identifies Gosford as a Regional City, Tuggerah-Wyong as the Major Centre and a network of centres including Town Centres at Erina, Woy Woy, The Entrance, Bateau Bay, Toukley, Lake Haven and Warnervale.
- Protects the significant environmental and resource values of the Central Coast Plateaus, Wyong Valleys and other non-urban areas by focusing residential development east of the F3 and in suitable areas within the North Wyong Shire Structure Plan Area.
- Identifies, protects and enhances the region’s Strategic Employment Lands to encourage appropriately-located job growth within the region to reduce the need for locals to commute outside the region for work.
- Complements the revitalisation plans for the Gosford City Centre and plans for the Warnervale Town Centre.
- Aligns with and will inform future reviews of the State Infrastructure Strategy, which identifies a number of important regional infrastructure projects
- Limit expansion of the urban footprint by protecting land west of the F3 Freeway

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