



NEW SOUTH WALES

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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## The Hon Frank Sartor MP

*Minister for Planning*

*Minister for Redfern Waterloo*

*Minister for Science and Medical Research*

*Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)*

9 February 2007

### **STRONGER ENVIRONMENT, JOBS IN FINAL SOUTH COAST PLAN**

**State Plan Priority E5:** Jobs closer to home. **State Plan Priority E6:** Housing affordability

**State Plan Priority P6:** Increased business investment in rural and regional NSW

**State Plan Priority E4:** Better environmental outcomes.

The NSW Government today released the final 25-year South Coast Regional Strategy, with a stronger emphasis on job opportunities for young people.

Planning Minister Frank Sartor joined Member for Kiama Matt Brown and Labor Candidate for South Coast Michelle Miran in North Nowra to release the final strategy.

A key feature of the final South Coast Regional Strategy is the plans for an additional 25,800 new jobs by 2031 – **an increase of 6,700 on the draft plan.**

“This will help to secure local jobs and reverse the drain of youth out of the area,” Mr Sartor said.

“We are heading in the right direction and will continue to work with the South Coast community to attract new investment, including tourism industries.

“At the same time, we have protected unique environmental areas such as coastal lakes, estuaries and beaches, habitat corridors and lagoons for future generations.”

The final South Coast Regional Strategy will help to inform the State Infrastructure Strategy by identifying key infrastructure priorities for the South Coast.

It plans to:

- Support an additional 60,000 residents and 45,600 new homes by 2031;
- Protect for 907 hectares of existing vacant zoned employment land from inappropriate subdivision and development;
- Focus growth near existing centres and towns such as Nowra, Batemans Bay, Eden and Bega which are well-serviced;
- Support affordable housing and services to cater for an ageing population; and
- Protect the region’s \$110 million agricultural industry from unplanned rural residential development.

Member for Kiama Matt Brown welcomed the release of the plan, saying it strikes a good balance for the region.

“I am pleased the Minister has listened to the views of the South Coast community,” Mr Brown said.

“This final strategy balances environmental protection in the area with on-going development and economic growth on the South Coast.”

The South Coast Regional Strategy includes the recommendations from the independent panel review into 17 environmentally-sensitive sites.

Community feedback during public exhibition of the draft plan last year included comments from residents, local councils, environment, community and business groups.