

# Riverina-Murray Agricultural Development Strategy

Fact Sheet #4

April 2016

## Planning for the Riverina-Murray

The NSW Government has released the draft Riverina-Murray Regional Plan (draft Plan) to guide sustainable growth in the region over the next 20 years.

It outlines a vision to grow and diversify the economy over the next 20 years by creating more jobs; strengthening the region's cities, towns and villages; and sustainably managing its agricultural, mining and natural resources.

You can have a say on the draft Plan which is now on exhibition.

## What does the draft Plan say about agriculture?

The draft Plan identifies agriculture as one of the major economic drivers in the region. The Riverina-Murray generated 20 per cent of the total NSW gross regional product for agriculture in 2011.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing was the third largest employer in the region, employing 11,700 people. Agricultural production also supports an important manufacturing sector, including food and beverage processing, which is a major economic contributor and employer.

The agricultural sector requires efficient access and also generates significant freight flows.

Opportunities for productivity growth across the agriculture and associated agribusiness sectors will be supported by defining and coordinating investment in higher capacity freight networks.

## What does the draft Plan propose for agriculture?

The draft Plan proposes that a Regional Agricultural Development Strategy be prepared.

This strategy will:

- map regionally important agricultural land;
- identify emerging regional opportunities;
- give guidance and direction for local planning of agricultural development; and
- complement the existing Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL) mapping (this is the most productive agricultural land).

The draft Plan also proposes the development of an updated policy framework to recognise the importance of agricultural land, protect important agricultural industries from potential land use conflict, consider the impacts of climate change and guide council planning.

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## How will the final Plan be implemented?

A Coordination and Monitoring Committee will be established to oversee the implementation of the final Riverina-Murray Regional Plan, comprising State agencies and councils.

## Further information

To find out more about what is in the draft Plan and to make a comment visit:  
[www.planning.nsw.gov.au/riverinamurray](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/riverinamurray)