

Riverina-Murray Regional Cities

Fact Sheet #6



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 the region's settlements?

Many of the actions in the draft Plan apply equally across the region's settlements, such as actions to improve the region's competitiveness and liveability: by strengthening the regional economy, diversifying employment opportunities, improving infrastructure coordination and delivery, providing a greater choice of housing and enhancing the natural environment.

Other actions relate more specifically to certain parts of the region such as the Regional Cities.

What does the draft Plan say about the regional cities?

The draft Plan reinforces the importance of the regional cities of Albury, Wagga Wagga and Griffith to the ongoing prosperity of the Riverina-Murray region.

These cities provide a wide range of housing options, job opportunities and services to a large population – including specialist and retail services, major hospitals and regional health services, entertainment and recreation facilities, universities, airports and industrial hubs. These services help meet the needs of residents in both immediate and surrounding communities.

The draft Plan proposes developing a health precinct around the existing Wagga Wagga Rural Referral Hospital to better coordinate and capitalise on growth in the health care sector.

How does the draft Plan support growth in the regional cities?

The draft Plan identifies that most of the growth in the region is likely occur in the cities, and it identifies key residential and industrial growth areas:

City	Residential	Industrial/ Commercial
Albury	Thurgoona/ Wurlinga	Nexus Industrial Estate
Wagga Wagga	Estella, Lloyd and Boorooma	Bomen Business Park
Griffith	Hanwood and Lake Wyangan	Tharbogang industrial precinct

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What is the Regional Cities Strategy?

The draft Plan aims to make the cities thriving, vibrant places that are attractive places to live, work and visit.

It plans to strengthen the connections between the cities and their surrounding towns and villages so that the broader community has access to their services and facilities.

The draft Plan proposes to achieve this through a Regional Cities Strategy. The NSW Government will work with Albury, Wagga Wagga and Griffith Councils to develop the strategy.

The strategy will:

- provide an overarching strategic direction for the cities at a regional scale, focussing on long-term planning needs to meet the needs of the community;
- consider the current and future role and function of the cities and their relationships with their surrounding towns and villages;
- identify how the regional cities can respond to opportunities, challenges and long-term drivers of change, including flow-on impacts to regional towns and villages;
- consider where future residential, commercial and industrial development should be supported and assessed at a regional scale;
- identify the priorities for regional infrastructure to support growth; and
- identify who will be responsible for implementing and monitoring the strategy.

This Strategy will form the next step in planning for growth and change across the region.

How will the 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