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MEDIA RELEASE

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CENTRAL COAST FORMALLY DECLARED A REGION

The NSW Government has declared the Central Coast as a region under State environmental planning legislation, in formal recognition of its significance to the State.

Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly, said the region comprises the Wyong and Gosford local government areas, strategically located between Sydney and Newcastle.

“The Central Coast region is already home to more than 300,000 residents across a number of large urban centres and small rural villages, and this population is expected increase by an additional 100,000 residents by 2031,” Mr Kelly said.

“It is also a place with outstanding environmental qualities, including extensive waterways, ocean coastline and national parks, along with significant tourism assets and a diverse economy.

“While the region is recognised by the Geographical Names Board and in various planning strategies – most notably the Government’s Central Coast Regional Strategy – to date it has not been properly recognised under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act.

“This declaration formally acknowledges the Central Coast as a region, distinct from the neighbouring Hunter Valley region and Sydney metropolitan area, which has its own unique strengths, issues and challenges.

Member for Wyong, David Harris, and Member for Gosford, Marie Andrews, welcomed the announcement.

“It reflects the Government’s commitment to ongoing growth and development of the Gosford and Wyong LGAs in the coming years,” Mr Harris said.

“To date, these LGAs have been included as part of the greater metropolitan region for statistical purposes, however it is important they be identified as a separate region.”

Ms Andrews said today’s decision will ensure governments at all levels will be able to assess more accurately the Central Coast community’s needs.

“This will have important benefits for the allocation of funding, services and other government resources,” Ms Andrews said.

The Central Coast Region was formally recognised by the Geographical Names Board in 2005. The Department of Planning also recognises the Central Coast Region through the Central Coast Regional Strategy.
