

CENTRAL COAST: ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2017
December 2017 © Crown Copyright 2017 NSW Government

Disclaimer

While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure that this document is correct at the time of printing, the State of NSW, its agents and employees, disclaim any and all fliability to any person in respect of anything or the consequences of anything done or ormitted to be done in reliance or upon the whole or any part of this document.

Copyright notice

In keeping with the NSW Government's commitment to encourage the availability of information, you are welcome to reproduce the material that appears in 'Central Coast Regional Plan: Annual Monitoring Report 2017' for personal, in-house or non-commercial use without formal permission or charge. All other rights are reserved. If you wish to reproduce, alter, store or transmit material appearing in the 'Central Coast Regional Plan: Annual Monitoring Report 2017' for any other purpose, a request for formal permission should be directed to Director Central Coast Region, Gosford PO Box 1148 - Gosford NSW 2250.

Cover image: Kayaking through Glenworth Valley (courtesy of Destination NSW)

# Foreword



The NSW Government has a sustained focus on regional NSW. We have recently rolled out a series of strategic Regional Plans, making it the first time that all of New South Wales is covered by strategic land use plans. These plans provide the framework, vision and direction for strategic planning and land use across the State, planning for the regions' future needs for housing, jobs, infrastructure and the natural environment.

The Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 was released in October 2016 and at the same time, a commitment was made to release annual Monitoring Reports to detail progress in delivering priority outcomes including housing, jobs, infrastructure, communities and the environment.

This is the first annual Monitoring Report which details the progress made in implementing the *Central Coast Regional Plan 2036* during the first 12 months.

The Central Coast is a fast-growing region, that has enviable natural environments, a strong labour force, cost-effective housing and employment land, access to major markets, viable business locations, good transport infrastructure and a community that cares about its future.

Two key actions in the first year of this plan were the appointment of the Coordinator General for the Central Coast, and the establishment of the Central Coast Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committee.

The Coordinator General for the Central Coast, Lee Shearer, was appointed in April 2017 to drive the implementation of the *Central Coast Regional Plan 2036*. It is a high level strategic position, defining stakeholder responsibilities and facilitating accountability across Government for the delivery of the Plan's priorities.

The Central Coast Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committee has been given the role of driving the implementation of the Plan and ensuring that all actions are coordinated. The Committee has representatives from all State Government Agencies with an interest in the Central Coast and Central Coast Council.

Highlights from the first year of the plan include:

- Accommodating housing and employment growth by:
  - Issuing Gateway Determinations with the potential for over 800 dwellings and 420 jobs;
  - Approval of 1,590 residential buildings and completion of 1030 new dwellings.
- Supporting the Gosford Hospital Redevelopment within Gosford CBD incorporating a Health and Wellbeing precinct; and
- Identifying 1850 hectares of available industrial lands giving certainty to allow investment of \$66 million industrial activities.

Implementing our Regional Plans is an important focus for the NSW Government and I look forward to reporting our continued achievements in the delivery of all the regional plans. Engaging our regional partners to implement the Regional Plan initiatives presents exciting opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

Looking ahead, it is a great time for regional NSW as we focus on growing regional economies and communities, and invest in catalyst projects to deliver our shared vision from each Regional Plan.

I am very pleased to release the first Monitoring Report for the Central Coast Regional Plan.

**Anthony Roberts MP** 

Minister for Planning Minister for Housing Special Minister of State



# Contents

Imagine a better Central Coast - Vision from the Coordinator General	6
Key Achievements	8
Introduction	g
The First Year	11
Central Coast Regional Plan 2036	13
Central Coast Regional Plan Implementation Plan 2016-2018	14
Our agenda for the Central Coast	16
Highlights	19
A prosperous Central Coast with more jobs close to home	19
Protecting the natural environment and manage the use of agricultural and resource lands	23
Well-connected communities and attractive lifestyles	25
A variety of housing choice to suit needs and lifestyles	29



### Central Coast Regional Plan Monitoring Report 2017

### Imagine a better Central Coast - Vision from the Coordinator General



Lee Shearer

I would like you to take a moment to imagine.

To imagine that instead of the grind of the daily commute up or down the M1 or via the train to Sydney or Newcastle, thousands more Central Coast residents could walk or ride a bike to a job close by. Imagine if their route to work had them strolling or pedalling through vibrant, clean, revitalised urban spaces. Full of street life, fantastic cafes, arts hubs and beautiful green parks.

Places that are the result of considered, cohesive, well designed and planned urban development that puts people at the centre. Where folk choose to come and spend time with family and friends. Dynamic destinations for culture, day and night life. Inspired places not expired places.

Imagine how thousands of extra people spending time and money in their local communities each day would impact positively on local businesses and lead to further job growth and revitalisation.

Imagine a sustained and cohesive program to upgrade, expand and connect our public domain, urban green spaces and National Parks.

Imagine showcasing the rich bounty of the region's hinterland and preserving the environment that produces and sustains it.

Imagine housing to cater for all means and lifestyles clustered around efficient transport and service hubs, close to schools, shops, healthcare and recreation.

Imagine the far-reaching positive impacts all this would have on people's lives.

As Coordinator General for the Central Coast my key focus is to make these visions a reality.

It was a great privilege when the Minister for Planning appointed me to this role in April 2017.

My main job is to progress implementation of the *Central Coast Regional Plan 2036* - the blueprint to shape the development of the region to make it a truly brilliant place to live, work and play.

The future growth of the Central Coast presents as a fantastic opportunity to achieve this ambition.

By 2036, this beautiful and diverse part of the world will be home to 75,500 more people. This means that we will need an extra 41,500 dwellings, 25,000 more jobs and supporting infrastructure over the next two decades.

In eight months in the role, I've had over 100 face-to-face meetings with key stakeholders and agency groups. The feeling I've had when I walk away from those meetings is overwhelmingly positive. There's a palpable willingness from virtually everyone to get in and get things done for the people of the Central Coast.

Once a month I chair a meeting of the Delivery Coordination and Monitoring Committee that comprises representatives from the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Central Coast Council, Transport NSW, Property NSW, NSW Health, Roads & Maritime Services, Department of Planning and Environment - Resources and Geoscience, Department of Industry and the Office of Environment & Heritage.

This is the engine that drives the implementation of the Regional Plan.

The crucial importance of being able to make a living close to where you live is the reason we are working to build investment in the revitalisation of Gosford, our regional city, with an implementation strategy to energise the city and attract larger businesses and the jobs they will bring.

Investment in the City Centre is already well progressed with the \$348 million new health and wellbeing centre and University of Newcastle Central Coast Medical School and Research Institute at Gosford Hospital underway.

At the other end of the City Centre, near the waterfront, the Tax Office building is nearing completion and construction has begun on its neighbour, the Department of Finance, Services and Innovation building. These two facilities will, between them, accommodate nearly 1,000 ongoing jobs and inject millions of dollars into the local economy.

The Central Coast is as productive as it is beautiful. The hinterland soils are rich and support cropping and grazing, supplying not only our own local farmers' markets, but national and international markets. As part of our priority projects we are mapping and conserving our important agricultural lands and developing a strategy to ensure that land west of the freeway is managed to balance lifestyle housing, preserving our food bowl and supporting our economy with wise use of our natural resources.

Delivering on a range of housing choices for all members of our community in hubs close to everything they need in life is in the top 10 of my priority actions.

In the Regional Plan's first year we have seen construction of over 1,030 new homes on the Central Coast, and the granting of 1,590 building approvals. I have overseen the issuing of Gateway Determinations with the potential for nearly 800 new dwellings and 420 local jobs.

But this is just the beginning. Where we will end up is limited only by our imagination, energy and commitment.

### Key Achievements

#### **Gateway** Determinations



potential for +420 new jobs



potential for +800 new dwellings

#### New Dwellings Completed



### Residential **Building Approvals**



#### **Industrial** Approvals



#### **Industrial Lands** Identified



### **Supported Gosford Hospital**

Redevelopment



#### **Delivery, Co-ordination and Monitoring Committee**



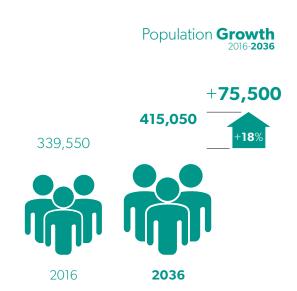
### Introduction

# The NSW Government is focused on growing regional economies and communities and will deliver catalyst projects to achieve these outcomes.

The NSW Government has developed nine Regional Plans across the state to provide vision and direction for strategic planning and land use, planning for the regions' future need for housing, jobs, infrastructure and a healthy environment.

The Regional Plans identify priority actions and catalyst initiatives focused on housing delivery, employment opportunities, improving the vibrancy of communities and conserving the environment.

The Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 was launched on 14 October 2016. The Regional Plan was approved by Cabinet and represents a whole of Government commitment to the outcomes set out in the Plan. This report outlines work undertaken over the last 12 months by Local and State Government and stakeholders to deliver on the Central Coast Regional Plan 2036, along with the work that will be done over the next 12 months to continue delivering on these key initiatives. The Monitoring Report is a whole of government document reflecting the efforts of all stakeholders to deliver on the priority actions.





### The First Year

The Central Coast Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committee has been established under the Department of Premier and Cabinet's regional governance framework as a task group to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the Central Coast Regional Plan 2036. The Central Coast Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committee is chaired by the Coordinator General and meets monthly.

Membership includes the Department of Planning and Environment including Resources and Energy, Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Health, Roads & Maritime Services, Department of Industry, Transport for NSW, Central Coast Council, Property NSW, Office of Environment and Heritage, Office of Regional Development, and NSW TAFE.

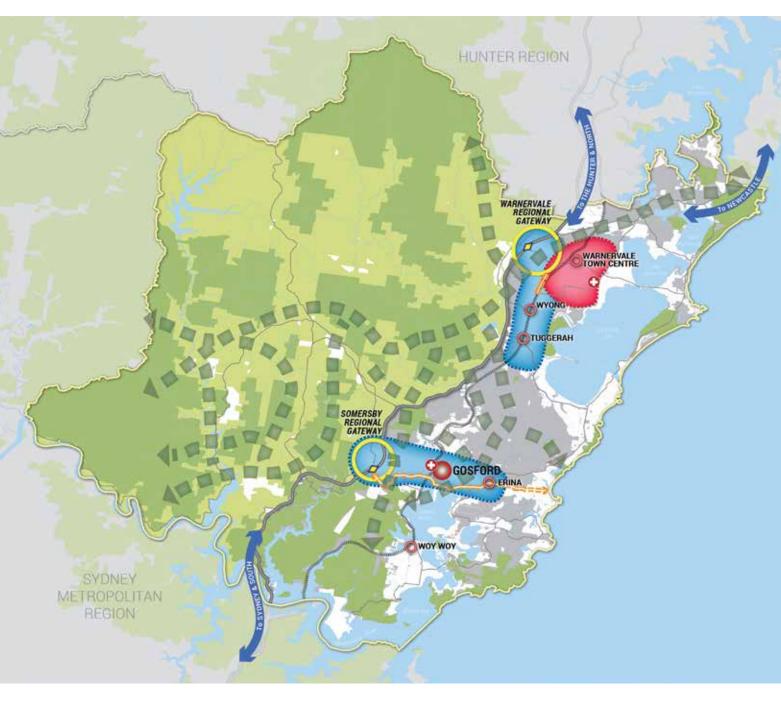
The Regional Plan and the work of the Central Coast Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committee is being overseen by the Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive at its quarterly meetings. The Department of Planning and Environment worked in collaboration with the Committee to prepare this report.

The focus for the first year has been on project initiation and scoping with key stakeholders to develop broad project plans for the ten priority actions. These plans are now being refined and scheduled to ensure timely delivery that fits in with partner agency and Council priorities.

Over the last twelve months the Committee has met eight times and has:

- Shared information and received updates from other agencies;
- Elevated matters to the Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive where required;
- Established sub working groups to resolve technical matters relating to specific priorities;
- Provided high-level progress updates to the Central Coast Regional Leadership Executive via Department of Premier and Cabinet; and
- Informed the preparation of this annual report. The Central Coast Coordination team report on the ten priority actions through six focus areas. These focus areas best articulate the outcomes of the immediate priorities of the Plan and the project work being undertaken by the team. The six focus areas are:
- 1. Northern and Southern Growth Corridors;
- Land Use Needs West of the M1 Pacific Motorway;
- 3. Housing and Employment Land Supply Acceleration;
- 4. Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council Strategic Assessment;
- 5. Revitalisation of Gosford CBD and Waterfront; and
- 6. Build capacity of Central Coast Council to deliver the Regional Plan.

Figure 1: Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 Strategy Map







### Central Coast Regional Plan 2036

The Central Coast Regional Plan 2036 is the overarching framework that guides land use decisions and sets planning priorities for Central Coast. The region continues to grow with projections forecasting an additional 75,000 people over the next 20 years, requiring the creation of 24,600 new jobs and 41,500 new homes

The Regional Plan commits to ensuring the future prosperity of the region by leveraging the region's competitive advantages including a strong labour force, cost effective housing and employment land, access to major markets, viable business locations, established transport infrastructure and a beautiful natural environment.

Major issues in the region include lack of local employment opportunities (over 37,250 people travel to work in Sydney or Newcastle per day), separation between growth and infrastructure, and a need for improved decision-making to sustain the environment and natural resources.

This story has driven the focus of four goals for the region:

- **Goal 1:** A prosperous Central Coast with more jobs close to home.
- Goal 2: Protect the natural environment and manage the use of agricultural and resource lands.
- **Goal 3:** Well-connected communities and attractive lifestyles.
- **Goal 4:** A variety of housing choice to suit needs and lifestyles.

These goals will be achieved through 110 actions grouped into 23 directions.

4 GOALS

**23** DIRECTIONS

110 ACTIONS

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

### Central Coast Regional Plan Implementation Plan 2016-2018

The Central Coast Regional Plan Implementation Plan 2016-2018 sets out governance, tasks, responsibilities and timing for delivery of the Plan and highlights ten priorities for immediate delivery. These priorities are about building the capacity of Central Coast Council and improving housing, jobs and infrastructure delivery. The Minister for Planning added an additional priority in 2017 to facilitate the revitalisation of Gosford City Centre and Waterfront.

Number of **Employed Residents** 2016



158,156

### **10** Priority Actions

### **6** Focus Areas

Northern and Southern Growth Corridors

Land Use Needs West of the M1

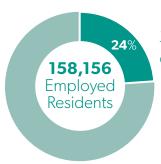
Housing and Employment Land Supply Acceleration

Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council Lands

Revitalisation of Gosford CBD and Waterfront

Build Capacity of Central Coast Council to deliver Regional Plan

### **Travel out of area** to work



**37,250**Travel outside the Central Coast for work





# Our agenda for the **Central Coast**

# The following activities will be progressed

### Focus Area 1: Northern and Southern Growth Corridors

over the next 12 months:

 Support Central Coast Council to exhibit a draft Growth Corridor Strategy for the Southern and Northern Growth Corridors.

### Focus Area 2: Land Use Needs West of the M1 Pacific Motorway

- Establish an inter-agency Working Group that meets on an as-needs basis.
- Prepare an Integrated Agency Action Plan including recommendations for planning instrument changes.
- Complete consultation for the Primary Production and Rural Development State Environmental Planning Policy Review (including options for SREP 8 Central Coast Plateaus).
- Roads and Maritime Services corridor protection for Higher Speed Connections.

#### Focus Area 3: Housing and Employment Land Supply Acceleration

- Complete an audit of baseline housing and employment data.
- Deliver high level housing and employment supply analysis.

- Review existing planning processes and identify areas for improvement.
- Deliver an audit of development contributions paid and spent on the Central Coast.
- Prepare and exhibit the draft Central Coast Special Infrastructure Contributions Plan Discussion Paper.
- Deliver baseline audit of local infrastructure staging and sequencing.
- Roads and Maritime Services Public Transport Network Plan for the Central Coast.
- Active Transport Program.
- Rapid Bus Package for Central Coast.
- Bus Headstart Program for growth suburbs.

#### Focus Area 4: Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council Lands

- Commence negotiations for Aboriginal Land Agreement with Crown Lands, Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council and Central Coast Council.
- Exhibit existing Planning Proposals.
- Progress Strategic Biodiversity Certification investigation.
- Identify development impact areas for the Strategic Biodiversity Certification investigation.

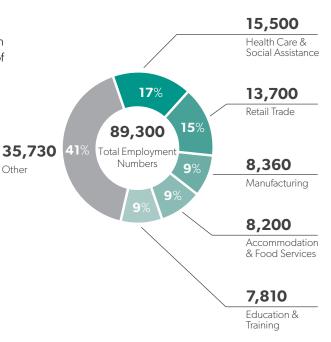
### Focus area 5: Revitalise the Gosford CBD and Gosford Waterfront

- Deliver the Urban Design and Implementation Framework for Gosford to guide activation of the city centre.
- Resolve connectivity issues and improve planning for the interface between the Gosford Hospital redevelopment and the broader Gosford City Centre.
- Finalise the Central Coast Council City
   Centre Incentives Local Environmental Plan.
- Roads and Maritime Services Movement and Place Framework.
- Roads and Maritime Services car parking review in Gosford.

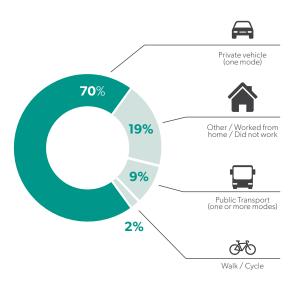
### Focus area 6: Build capacity of Central Coast Council to deliver the Regional Plan

- The Department of Planning and Environment is progressing the investigation of developing a Local Planning Toolkit (LPT) to guide planning practitioners on the implementation of the Regional Plans.
- Department of Planning and Environment is progressing the Central Coast pilot digital mapping solution for Local Environmental Plans (LEP) to improve changes and publishing of LEP maps in NSW Planning Portal.
- Roads and Maritime Services precinct action plans for the Central Coast.
- The Department of Planning and Environment has commenced preparation of an Urban Design Guide for Regional NSW in collaboration with the Government Architect NSW.

### **Top Five Industries** by Employment Numbers



### **Residents Journey** to Work Mode





## of a prosperous Central Coast with more jobs close to home

Goal 1 aims to deliver more local jobs and reduce the necessity for workers to commute out of the region every day. It leverages the Central Coast's economic strengths of a skilled workforce, proximity to Sydney, a growing population and natural environment and resources.

The Plan identifies directions to:

- facilitate the growth of 24,600 jobs over the next 20 years;
- ensure these jobs are close to where people live or public transport options;
- align economic and jobs growth with major transport and infrastructure investments like that of Gosford and Wyong Hospital Redevelopments; and
- inform Transport for NSW Future Transport Strategy and Central Coast Regional Services and Infrastructure Plan.

#### **Goal 1 Highlights**

### Focus Area 1 Northern and Southern Growth Corridors:

- The Department has supported Central Coast Council in the preparation of the draft Southern and Northern Growth Corridor Strategy;
- Transport for NSW has prepared the draft
  Future Transport Strategy and draft Regional
  NSW Services and Infrastructure Plan. These
  plans look at how transport can support
  growth and the economy across Sydney
  Metropolitan area and Regional New South
  Wales, including a focus on Newcastle and
  the Central Coast area over the next 40 years;
- Roads and Maritime Services has prepared a draft Network Study for the Central Coast that looks at traffic efficiency across the State road network and prioritising upgrades at pinch points;
- Gosford Hospital and Health and Education Precinct Redevelopment and Wyong Hospital Redevelopment is being progressed by the Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committee who have established an inter-agency Working Group to coordinate resolution of issues; and
- Somersby Plan of Management update and review of infrastructure contributions in the area is being considered by an interagency working group established under the Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committee



### Focus Area 3 Housing and Employment Land Supply Acceleration:

 The Department is working with Central Coast Council to assess employment lands for the Central Coast, including representation of the supply data spatially.

### Focus Area 4 Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council Lands:

- The Department has completed a strategic assessment of Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) land holdings, and is progressing actions to achieve the identified Darkinjung LALC land management outcomes; and
- State government agencies and Central Coast Council are now working with the Darkinjung LALC to determine options for resolving the key issues to allow the Darkinjung LALC to progress its land management strategy.

### Focus Area 5 Revitalisation of Gosford CBD and Gosford Waterfront:

- The Department of Planning and Environment has analysed the significant work that has been put into planning for the revitalisation of Gosford City Centre and Waterfront. This project builds on all the existing knowledge and documents to create a strategy to implement the actions from the Our City Our Destiny Masterplan; and
- The Department of Planning and Environment has engaged the services of the Government Architect NSW and an experienced consultant to bring all stakeholders together over a series of workshops to develop the implementation framework.





### of protecting the natural environment and managing the use of agricultural and resource lands

Goal 2 aims to protect environmental values and strengthen biodiversity corridors. It also directs land use and infrastructure planning to ensure the longer-term productivity of agricultural and resource land.

The Plan identifies directions to:

- Protect the region's distinct cultural identity;
- Secure environmental corridors to protect water resources, coastal areas and biodiversity;
- Strengthen the Coastal Open Space System by expanding links and extending new corridors;
- Address land use needs west of the M1 Pacific Motorway; and
- Minimise the effects of extracting mineral resources on communities and the environment.

#### **Goal 2 Highlights**

### Focus Area 2 Land Use Needs West of the M1 Pacific Motorway:

The project to review and plan for Land Use Needs West of the M1 aims to ensure a sustainable land use mix including protection of high quality agricultural land for food production, wise use of resources and water catchment protection.

- The Central Coast Council has prepared a draft Central Coast Rural Lands Strategy (Stage 1 Northern Areas);
- The Department of Primary Industry –
   Agriculture branch has appointed a project
   manager to complete Important Agricultural
   Lands Mapping; and
- The Department has established a technical advisory group that includes experts from state government and Central Coast Council to deliver this project.

### Focus Area 3 Housing and Employment Land Supply Acceleration:

 Preparation of a draft Strategic Decision-Making Framework to assist planning for the region's biodiversity corridor and development. This is supported by Office of Environment and Heritage's Ecological Connectivity Analysis.





# of well-connected communities and attractive lifestyles

Goal 3 aims to create well-planned, functional and compact settlement patterns around existing urban and employment areas, supported by more open space, recreation, walking, cycling and public transport opportunities.

The Plan includes directions to:

- Improve the network of vibrant centres across the region that are accessible to residents;
- Improve infrastructure delivery to align with growth.

#### **Goal 3 Highlights**

### Focus Area 3 Housing and Employment Land Supply Acceleration:

The Department of Planning and Environment continues to work to increase housing supply by accelerating rezonings and facilitating the building of infrastructure that will enable development. The Department is also working closely with council to ensure that planning preserves and improves the local character of local neighbourhoods.

- The Department is auditing existing development infrastructure contributions arrangements to determine how best to facilitate new development; and
- Central Coast Council is assessing current and planned local infrastructure funding and delivery.

#### **Faster Rezonings**

A specialist Department of Planning and Environment team is accelerating council rezonings across NSW. Faster rezoning of greenfield and urban renewal sites will speed up the supply of available homes. An Office of Housing Coordinator has been established which will resolve impediments between councils, the government and home builders.



### Focus Area 6 Build Capacity of Central Coast Council to Deliver Regional Plan:

The Department of Planning and Environment is working closely with Central Coast Council to assist and facilitate the delivery of the Regional Plan.

- The Department has partnered with Central Coast Council in a state-first project to implement an innovative web mapping tool to exhibit the Central Coast Consolidated Local Environment Plan (LEP) mapping online. This will save the printing of approximately 1700 maps at each service centre. The tool supports the Department's ePlanning initiatives to reduce costs and time associated with LEP map production and give members of the Central Coast community greatly enhanced access and interactivity to LEP map resources;
- Council will ensure that all service centres will have staff on hand to assist the public with accessing and providing comments;
- The Government Architect NSW (which sits within the Department of Planning and Environment), is collaborating with regional state government agencies, councils and key stakeholders to develop Urban Design Guidelines for Regional NSW. These guidelines build on the principles of the Better Placed collaborative project with regional state government agencies and councils and other key stakeholders; and
- The Department's Housing Policy team is working with councils to develop the Local Housing Toolkit which includes local housing strategy guidelines and templates.

### Urban Design Guide for Regional NSW

The Department of Planning and Environment in collaboration with the office of the Government Architect NSW has embarked on the preparation of an Urban Design Guide for Regional NSW (the Guide).

The preparation of the Guide is in response to actions in the Regional Plans to prepare guidelines for urban design and healthy built environments. In preparing the Guide, The Department of Planning and Environment is engaging with Councils across Regional NSW to better understand the built form and urban design issues in different communities across NSW, and potential responses to these issues through a new Guide. This has included gathering feedback on a range of urban design issues and challenges occurring in different Councils through a survey. It is anticipated that the Guide will be made available for feedback in 2018.





### of a variety of housing choice to suit needs and lifestyles

Goal 4 aims to make more housing and a diversity of housing types available across the region to suit the needs of the ageing population, seasonal visitors and students. It also aims to accommodate more social and affordable housing in the region to cater for people of all means and incomes.

The Plan identifies directions to:

- Accelerate housing supply and increase housing choice within a well-planned and compact settlement pattern;
- Deliver housing in new release areas;
- Coordinate infrastructure to support growth; and
- Provide more certainty around rural residential development and expansion of rural villages.

#### **Goal 4 Highlights**

### Focus Area 3 Housing and Employment Land Supply Acceleration:

- The Department of Planning and Environment has progressed an analysis of existing and planned land and housing supply for the Central Coast which will be presented as maps supported by an explanatory discussion paper in early 2018; and
- The Department of Planning and Environment is reviewing the North Wyong Shire Structure Plan 2012 to progress release of land for housing and employment.

#### **Understanding Housing Supply**

The Department has developed the Housing Supply Monitor. Anyone can subscribe to email updates of this information.

Housing monitor reports provide information on residential housing activity in Sydney.

The monitors contain information on:

- the total number of dwellings approved and completed;
- where dwellings are being approved and built;
- the types of dwelling that are being built; and
- land available for future housing development.

For more information about the Central Coast Region, see our current reports at:

http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/ Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans



### Central Coast Regional Plan



### Central Coast Implementation Plan



Central Coast Monitoring Report

