

March 2021

Finalised Coffs Harbour Regional City Action Plan

The New South Wales Government, in collaboration with Coffs Harbour City Council, has finalised the Coffs Harbour Regional City Action Plan for land use and infrastructure planning that will guide the growth of the city.

What is the purpose of the plan?

The Coffs Harbour Regional City Action Plan establishes a vision, objectives and actions to guide the growth of Coffs Harbour city.

The plan will set a delivery framework that:

- articulates a clear 20-year vision for the city
- ensures planning provisions grow employment and promote greater housing diversity
- creates new jobs that complement employment nodes in education, health and airport precincts
- identifies infrastructure constraints and public-domain improvements that can make areas more attractive for investment
- delivers infrastructure according to an agreed staging and sequencing of development.

What are the plan's goals and objectives?

The Regional City Action Plan identifies 20 objectives under five goals to make the city a better place to 'Meet', 'Move', 'Play', 'Work' and 'Live':

- Meet
 - Objective 1 Make the city centre Coffs Harbour's Cultural live-work-play hub
 - Objective 2 Enhance the distinctive character, heritage and design of the network of places that make up Coffs Harbour
 - Objective 3 Create engaging, creative and inclusive spaces
 - Objective 4 Cultivate Coffs Harbour's distinctive blue and green open space grid for a healthier city
- Move
 - Objective 5 Reimagine the city's spine and reunite east and west
 - Objective 6 Create a modern, place-based transport network to connect the Coffs Coast's communities
 - Objective 7 Expand the role of Coffs Harbour Airport as a transport gateway
 - Objective 8 Grow Coffs Harbour's sub-regional leadership role
- Play
 - Objective 9 Celebrate the Jetty Precinct as Coffs Harbour's premier harbourside destination
 - Objective 10 Showcase Coffs Harbour's tourism and visitor experiences
 - Objective 11 Distinguish Coffs Harbour as a centre of sporting excellence
 - Objective 12 Support the local arts, cultural and creative energy of Coffs Harbour

- Work
 - Objective 13 Grow South Coffs Harbour as an integrated enterprise area
 - Objective 14 Optimise employment land delivery across the city
 - Objective 15 Nurture the Coffs Coast food bowl
 - Objective 16 Foster the city's innovation ecosystem through life-long learning and promote new economy jobs
- Live
 - Objective 17 Deliver a city that responds to Coffs Harbour's unique green cradle setting and offer housing choice
 - Objective 18 Coordinate infrastructure for new housing release across the Coffs Coast
 - Objective 19 Strengthen resilience to natural hazards and climate change
 - Objective 20 Strive for a carbon neutral future and enhance local biodiversity.

What consultation has been done?

The Department consulted with council, government agencies and other stakeholders, such as the Chamber of Commerce, universities and Regional Development Australia, to inform the development of the draft plan.

The community then had its say on the draft plan that was placed on public exhibition from 5 June 2020 to 3 July 2020.

To compensate for COVID-19 and the difficulties the pandemic posed to people wanting to have their say, the exhibition period was extended to 31 July 2020, resulting in an extended submission period of 56 days (8 weeks).

During exhibition we held four targeted workshops with key community representatives and government agencies in addition to a series of one-on-one stakeholder interviews with Coffs Harbour City Council staff, the Chamber of Commerce, the council's City Centre Masterplan Committee, Southern Cross University and TAFE NSW.

The feedback gathered through the consultation period was closely considered to inform the development of the final Regional City Action Plan.

What were the key changes incorporated in the final plan in response to consultation with the community and stakeholders?

- Feedback from consultation showed the community overwhelmingly believes local arts, cultural infrastructure and the creative industries have an important place in Coffs Harbour.
- We've amended the plan to reflect this, with the key changes being:
 - Adding a new objective under the 'Play' goal, Objective 12 To support the local arts, cultural and creative energy of Coffs Harbour;
 - Including 'culture and creative energy' in the plan's Vision; and
 - Adding a new 'Collaboration Opportunity' to distinguish Coffs Harbour as a 'thriving and dynamic culture sector'.

Why have we developed a Regional City Action Plan?

Development of the Regional City Action Plan is a priority action of the *North Coast Regional Plan 2036*, which was released in March 2017 by the NSW Minister for Planning.

The North Coast Regional Plan outlines an ambitious vision for the North Coast to be the best region in Australia to live, work and play, thanks to its spectacular natural environment and vibrant communities. The plan sets out four specific goals to guide work to achieve that vision.

A key finding of the North Coast Regional Plan under 'Goal 2 - A thriving, inter-connected economy' is that more than three-quarters of population growth and the majority of housing developed across the North Coast over the next 20 years will occur in Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Lismore and Tweed.

The draft Regional City Action Plan will be an important tool to plan for the changes we expect to see in Coffs Harbour towards 2036. The success of Coffs Harbour will help achieve the vision and goals of the North Coast Regional Plan.

Why are we releasing this Regional City Action Plan now?

As NSW continues to feel the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, our planning system must keep the economy moving, now and in the months ahead.

It is more important than ever we continue with plans to support strategic planning at a local level. This will ensure we create and maintain strong communities for people to live and work in.

How is the Regional City Action Plan different from the Local Strategic Planning Statement for Coffs Harbour City Council area?

The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) was by Coffs Harbour City Council for its entire local government area.

The LSPP is a succinct and easy-to-understand document that will allow community members to contribute to and understand the future direction of land use in their area.

The LSPP identifies the planning priorities for an area and explains how these are to be delivered.

It also shows how the council will monitor and report on how the priorities will be implemented.

The Regional City Action Plan has been prepared by the NSW Government in collaboration with Council and relates only to the Coffs Harbour city area where a significant amount of the future growth in the local government area is anticipated.

The Regional City Action Plan links land use and infrastructure planning across State and local government levels to help guide and deliver the key land use outcomes that will support future growth in Coffs Harbour.

What other planning actions are underway in my area?

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is working with stakeholders to implement the priority actions of the *North Coast regional plan 2036*. More information on the work the department is doing is available on www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Delivering-the-plan