

12 December 2020

Sarah Lees
Director, Southern Region
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Submission – draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

Kiama Municipal Council would like to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to work collaboratively with the Department on the preparation of the draft Regional Plan.

The development of the plan has been a significant piece of work that helps to set the future direction for the region. It is pleasing that the plan provides a clear linkage to our Local Strategic Planning Statement and has been clearly lead by the community's priorities.

The following comments are provided for consideration:

- Council supports the changes to the plan that have provided a more regional focus rather than specific dwelling targets and which has allowed for priority to be placed on existing greenfield growth areas in Shoalhaven, Wollongong and Shellharbour, acknowledging the significant constraints that are faced within the Kiama Municipality. Council is supportive of the removal of any numerical population/dwelling projections from the draft Regional Plan, as this has been a point of conjecture for some time. Council look forward to collaborating with the Department in preparing our Local Housing Strategy in the near future.
- Council acknowledges that our community may have made submissions directly to the Department regarding the plan and that the content of these submissions is not currently known by Council. We are sure that these submissions will be considered as part of the processing being undertaken by the Department.
- We do wish to provide a proposed change to the plan which has not been highlighted in our previous discussions and this relates to the Bombo Quarry. Whilst we acknowledge that the requirement within the plan is to create a community and Council vision for the site, we would like to ensure that emphasis remains on the needs for commercial opportunities to be included within this future vision. Given the limited commercial growth opportunities available within Kiama, it is important for emphasis to be placed within the plan that provides the opportunity for economic growth to secure jobs for our community in the future.
- The draft Regional Plan also no longer refers to the regionally important agricultural lands project as an action for the NSW Government. A number of actions of the Kiama Local Strategic Planning Statement are dependent on the finalisation of this project, which currently sits with the NSW Government. While the draft Regional Plan references this project, it is removed as an action and no commitment has been given to its finalisation.

- No mention is made to the importance of regional weed management in protecting important environmental assets. The ongoing management of weeds is a priority of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation and should be included as a collaborative activity under Objective 11.

To improve accessibility of the draft, it is suggested that the final Regional Plan contain a table, potentially contained within an appendix, which lists all the actions, strategies and collaborative activities and shows the lead agency.

Should you have any further enquiries in regard to this matter please contact Edward Paterson on 4232 0444.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Rippon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Rippon
Director Environmental Services