

Feedback on the Draft Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

Provided below are my personal thoughts on the draft IS Regional Plan 2041.

The development of Bombo quarry (west of the railway line) is ideal to addressing the future housing supply needs in Kiama. We do not want to see any more of our current fertile agricultural lands used for housing development. It is the beautiful green rolling hills between the mountains and the ocean that makes this area special. Nor do we want to see high-rise development like the Gold Coast.

However, the development and use of Bombo quarry must be done in consultation with the local community. I know of broad support for an entertainment hub, located within the quarry. I would also support dedicating some of the new homes for social housing. It would be good to have light rail or increased public transport between Bombo quarry and the Kiama township.

Job creation is vital to the local area, especially for our youth. The idea of a business and technology park at Shell Cove is a great idea.

A new hospital in the Shellharbour area is definitely required to address increasing demands – located near Dunmore Station. I feel that there should be a dedicated mental health facility within the hospital, as well as a dedicated eating disorder facility/program.

I'm concerned that with the increase in population at Shell Cove, that there will be environmental damage to Bass Point Reserve. Mitigating strategies need to be put in place in the short term to address the increased traffic flow and impact of increased visitors to this area.

I disagree with a large investment into the Kiama Harbour Revitalisation plan. The majority of the public enjoy the land surrounding the harbour, not the water. It is the natural environment, allowing people to be close to the water, that is favourable. We wouldn't want to see lots of development around the harbour with such things as shops or cafes i.e. not like Darling Harbour or Shell Cove.

Public transport needs to be enhanced within the Kiama Municipality, but also to create better links to the other areas such as Wollongong and Nowra. There needs to be an increased number of charging stations for electric vehicles within each council area.

With the increase in cycling, in particular e-bikes, we should create a regional plan to make our roads cycle friendly. And establish secure parking bays for bikes, so that people who choose to cycle to work can lock their e-bikes away safely.

I support the Urban Tree Canopy coverage plans and would encourage all councils to have a target to achieve. It is really important that we retain, maintain and protect our green and public space.

Water conservation – I would encourage incorporating a reduce and recycle water strategy – and maybe encourage State government or councils to provide subsidies for residents and business to purchase water tanks.

I support the Kiama Arts and Cultural Precinct Development – however I'm aware that Kiama Council would not be able to fund a new Arts building without the financial support of the State Government.

We need to improve our use of solar energy and it would be good to set regional and local targets in this area. All buildings with federal, state government and local government staff should be funded to instal solar panels.

We need to look at the long term impacts of climate change and consider coastal management plans. With predicted increase in sea levels, increase dangerous weather events causing coast erosion and land inundated by the sea, we need to establish plans on how to mitigate these risks.

Tertiary education – you have mapped the universities and TAFE, however failed to identify Community Colleges who provide vocational education from Certificate I through to Diploma level qualifications. For example, Kiama Community College Ltd is an Registered Training Organisation, not-for-profit and is provides nationally recognised qualifications just like TAFE. They also do apprentices and traineeships in various industry areas. They also provide education to those with barriers or who are disadvantaged. There is also the Shoalhaven Community College and WEA Illawarra. Given the high youth unemployment, the plan could also describe 'employment pathways' such as leaving school, to attending a Community College or TAFE, or going to university or linking to the various 'employment' precincts e.g. hospitals, business parks, etc.

Jodi Keast
Kiama Downs