

Implementation Plan 2021 to 2026

Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041

May 2021



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Werri Beach, Gerrigong

Introduction

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2041 (Regional Plan) is the NSW Government’s strategy for guiding land use planning decisions for the Illawarra Shoalhaven region for the next 20 years.

Legislative Context

The Regional Plan has been prepared in accordance with Division 3.1 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and applies to the local government areas of Wollongong, Shellharbour, Kiama and Shoalhaven.

The NSW Government will strengthen governance arrangements already in place and reconvene the Illawarra Shoalhaven Coordination and Monitoring Committee to oversee and report on the implementation of the Plan’s actions. The committee will also monitor the effectiveness of the Plan’s strategies in setting guidance that supports strategic planning and land use planning decisions for the region.

Purpose of the Implementation Plan

The purpose of this implementation plan is to:

- explain linkages between the vision, themes, objectives, actions, strategies and collaboration activities in the Regional Plan;
- assign accountabilities and timeframes for the implementation of actions;
- guide the Illawarra Shoalhaven Coordination and Monitoring Committee in its role of overseeing delivery of the Regional plan; and
- inform monitoring of the Regional Plan.

Four themes guide the 30 objectives for Illawarra Shoalhaven:



A productive and innovative region



A sustainable and resilient region



A region that values its people and places



A smart, connected and accessible region

The 30 objectives are supported by a mix of actions, strategies and collaboration activities.

Implementation

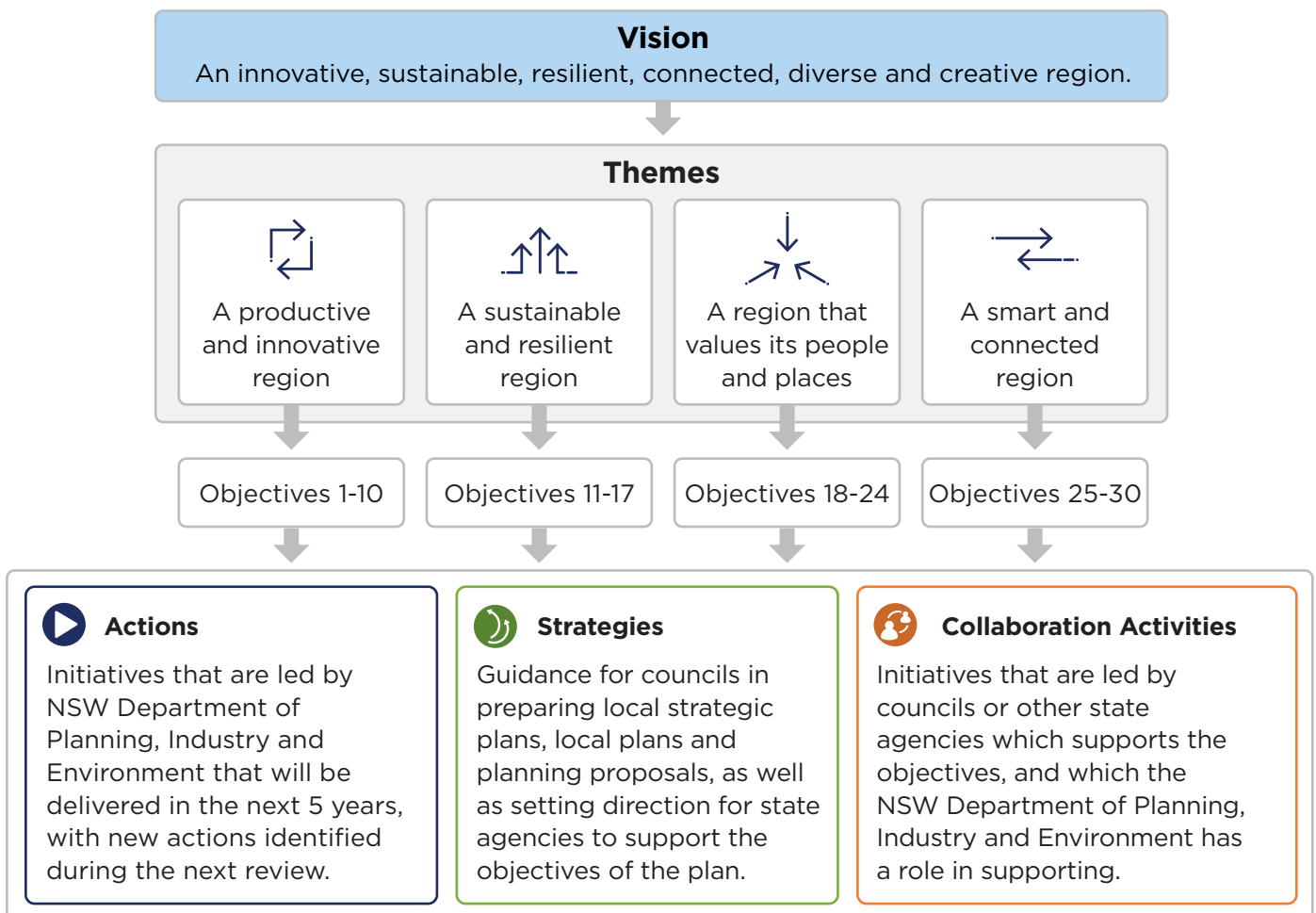
The Regional Plan comprises four themes and 30 objectives. The objectives are supported by nine actions, 61 strategies and nine collaboration activities that will help to deliver the vision for the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region.

Actions describe initiatives that will be led by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment in the next five years, with new actions identified during the next review. These actions each have an outcome that will be delivered by 2026, and implementation will be monitored and reported on by the Illawarra Shoalhaven Coordination and Monitoring Committee. Other relevant stakeholders will be involved in the delivery of the actions as appropriate. See ‘Actions for Implementation’ for more information.

Strategies identify policy positions or directions implemented through council local strategic planning (including local strategic planning statements), local plans (including local

environmental plans and development control plans) or State agency planning. They are there to guide decisions that affect land use. Strategies will be implemented through council’s Local Strategic Planning Statements, local housing strategies, and other state government strategies and plans. Strategies will also be used to guide and inform decisions relating to land use planning. While the Illawarra Shoalhaven Coordination and Monitoring Committee will monitor the effectiveness of strategies in setting guidance and supporting strategic planning across the region, the Committee will not have a formal role in reporting against the strategies.

Collaboration activities include important initiatives led by State agencies, local councils or other bodies. These are key activities that will help the region achieve the objectives of the Plan, and that DPIE’s Local and Regional Planning team will actively participate in.



Actions

Priorities for the Illawarra Shoalhaven are economic and jobs growth, providing a variety of housing choice to meet demand and environmental protection. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Coordination and Monitoring Committee will take ownership for implementing this Regional Plan by prioritising the actions needed to be delivered over the next five years.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will be responsible for implementing the nine actions throughout 2021-2026. These actions align with initiatives across Government, councils and industry and will require a collaborative effort involving multiple agencies, councils and stakeholders. The nine actions are to:

Action 1:

Develop a Metro Wollongong Health Precinct Strategy

Action 2:

Develop a Nowra City Centre Strategic Roadmap to set a vision, identify actions and guide inter-agency and inter-government collaboration

Action 3:

Develop precinct profiles for the regionally significant employment lands and where required, establish precinct collaboration teams to activate land for economic growth

Action 4:

Develop a resilience benchmarking matrix tool to assist councils to assess their level of resilience

Action 5:

Develop the Illawarra Shoalhaven Green Grid and identify priority projects for enhancement

Action 6:

Develop an Illawarra Shoalhaven Sustainability Roadmap that identifies innovative initiatives which can be delivered through an ecosystem of collaboration

Action 7:

Develop a sustainability framework for regionally significant precincts to promote carbon neutral sustainable growth and development

Action 8:

Establish the Illawarra Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Roundtable with councils, community housing providers, NSW Government and the housing development industry to collaborate, build knowledge and identify barriers to increase the supply of affordable housing

Action 9:

Develop a shared vision for the future of Bombo Quarry lands in collaboration with Kiama Municipal Council, landowners and the community

Governance

Coordination and Monitoring Committee

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Coordination and Monitoring Committee was established during the implementation of the 2015 Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan 2036. The Committee has informed a regional governance framework and participated in the review of the Regional Plan which commenced in 2019. A re-established Coordination and Monitoring Committee will oversee and coordinate the implementation of this Regional Plan, bringing together agencies and organisations responsible for delivering the Plan's actions.

The role of the Committee is:

- Oversee and coordinate the implementation of the Regional Plan
- Provide accountability for delivery of the Regional Plan
- Monitor and report periodically on the progress of implementing the Regional Plan
- Collaborate to resolve issues where impediments are identified
- Provide a forum to discuss and resolve implementation issues or action delivery in a changing regional policy environment
- Prioritise delivery of actions and review project plans for each action in the Regional Plan
- Develop a communication strategy to guide communication from Committee members to the wider network of stakeholders
- Provide high level progress updates to the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Leadership Executive
- Sign off completed actions that have been finalised or no longer appropriate, relevant, or possible due to a changing regional policy environment
- Inform and participate in a five-year review of the Regional Plan

Committee membership includes:

- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Joint Chair)
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation (Joint Chair)
- Department of Regional NSW
- NSW Health (Illawarra-Shoalhaven Local Health District)
- Transport for NSW
- Wollongong City Council
- Shellharbour City Council
- Kiama Municipal Council
- Shoalhaven City Council

Supporting Groups

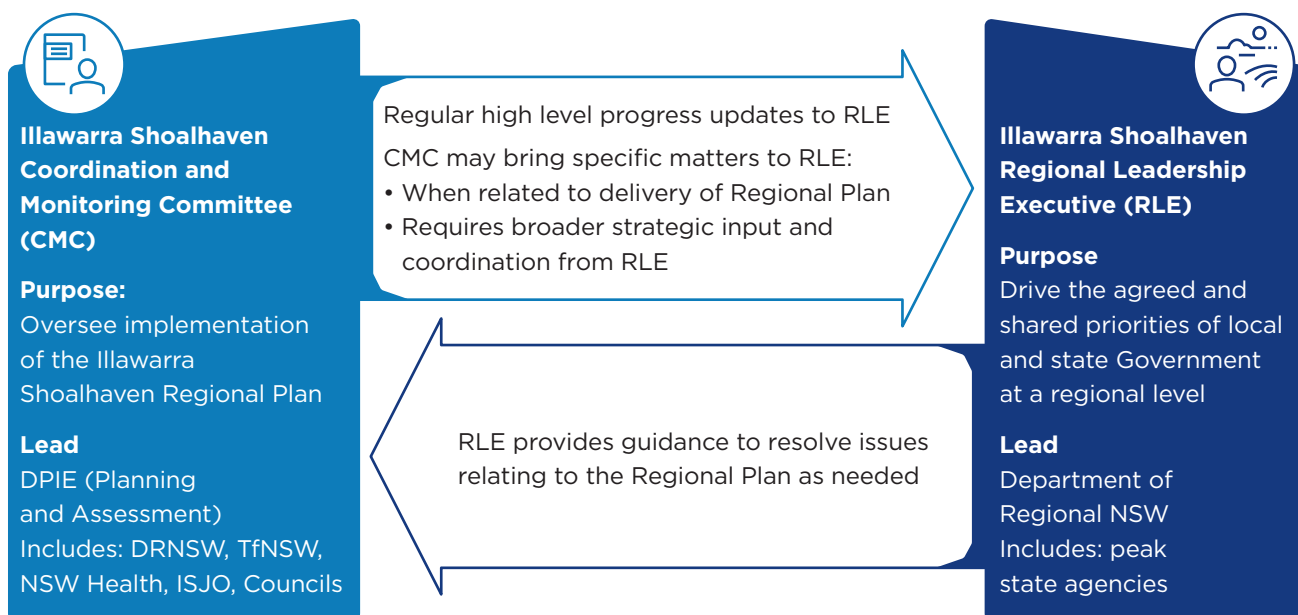
The Committee will be supported by outcome-specific working groups that bring together appropriate personnel (government, industry or community) to provide advice on particular issues or projects.

Existing governance framework

It is important to recognise the existing broader governance framework in operation within the region to ensure the re-established Committee complements existing governance structures and does not duplicate current activity.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Leadership Executive is a platform that supports closer working relationships between NSW Government agencies and the Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation of Councils. The network encourages strategic collaboration, consultation, solution brokerage and engagement on regional priorities across government.

The Committee benefits from having access to the Regional Leadership Executive and can escalate issues or requirements to collaborate with other agencies.



Links to other strategies

The NSW Government has in place, or is developing, several other strategies that will influence the implementation of the Regional Plan, including the:

- State Infrastructure Strategy 2018-2038, Future Transport 2056;
- A 20-year Economic Vision for Regional NSW and the Regional Economic Development strategies for Kiama, Shellharbour and Shoalhaven;
- Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan;
- A Regional Approach to Sustainability in the Illawarra Shoalhaven 2020; and
- Public Spaces in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Region 2020

The Regional Plan incorporates and responds to the aspirations and priorities of local communities, as articulated through the councils' Local Strategic Planning Statements and Community Strategic Plans. In turn, the Regional Plan also outlines several strategies that should be considered by councils when undertaking reviews of their Local Strategic Planning Statements and Community Strategic Plans. This feedback cycle from local to regional planning ensures that the line of-sight between the different levels of spatial planning works both ways.

Review mechanisms

Monitoring

The Committee will monitor and review progress towards achieving the vision and meeting the objectives. An online dashboard will include indicators for housing, employment, communities and the environment relating to each theme. An annual Monitoring Report will also be prepared to monitor progress on implementation of the Regional Plan. The Report will outline progress on actions and collaborative activities and reprioritise where needed. A new program of work for each subsequent year will also be identified in the annual Monitoring Report.

Regional Plan Review

The Plan will be reviewed and adjusted every five years, or as necessary, to realise the vision for 2041. A five-yearly review will revisit regional performance, challenges and opportunities and incorporate the most up to date information provided through the census process and updated Local Strategic Planning Statements and local plans. The review of the Regional Plan will be informed by the Committee as well as monitoring and indicators.

Implementation Plan Updates

The implementation priorities will be updated on an annual basis as part of the monitoring programme and will form the work program for the following year. This will ensure that implementation of the Regional Plan remains current and responsive to regional conditions.

Actions for implementation

▶ Action 1: Develop a Metro Wollongong Health Precinct Strategy.

Why is this action needed?

To strengthen Metro Wollongong as a connected, innovative and progressive city, and to enhance the growth potential of the Health Precinct.

How will the action be delivered?

DPIE together with NSW Health, TfNSW, Council and other relevant stakeholders will work together to transform the Health precinct from a collection of health and medical related uses into a nationally significant health precinct, supporting prosperity, and attracting private sector investment and business.

A Metro Wollongong Health Precinct Strategy will consider and identify:

- Growth needs of the Wollongong Public Hospital
- Opportunities for a central meeting place that incorporates green infrastructure
- Improving the safety and amenity of connections between the Health Precinct, Wollongong Train Station and the Commercial core
- Incentivising a mix of health and medical uses and higher density living
- Future opportunities for health and medical industry innovation leveraging Wollongong's research capabilities.

▶ Action 2: Develop a Nowra City Centre Strategic Roadmap to set a vision, identify actions and guide inter-agency and inter-government collaboration.

Why is this action needed?

To activate and transform Nowra City Centre.

How will the action be delivered?

DPIE together with Council, TfNSW, NSW Health, Regional NSW and other relevant stakeholders will develop a Strategic Roadmap to set a vision, actions and guide inter-agency and inter government collaboration for Nowra City Centre.

The Nowra City Centre Strategic Roadmap will identify:

- Opportunities to leverage and coordinate investments into the Nowra Bridge, Riverfront Precinct, and Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital
- The Shoalhaven District Memorial Hospital's capacity for growth, consider opportunities for expansion, and complementary land uses around the hospital
- Clear planning and approval pathways and remove planning barriers that may be inhibiting increased residential development
- Options to improve walking and cycling connections between the Nowra Bridge, Riverfront Precinct, Hospital and commercial area
- Guidance on decision making for infrastructure and service delivery including public domain improvements, green infrastructure, open space and walking and cycling connections.

▶ **Action 3: Develop precinct profiles for the regionally significant employment lands and where required, establish precinct collaboration teams to activate land for economic growth.**

Why is this action needed?

To activate the region's regionally significant employment precincts to support new and innovative economic enterprises.

Regionally significant employment precincts include:

- Port Kembla
- West Dapto Employment Lands
- Tallawarra Employment Lands
- Shellharbour Airport Employment Precinct
- Shell Cove Business and Technology Park
- South Nowra Employment Precinct
- Albatross Aviation Technology Park

How will the action be delivered?

DPIE together with councils, relevant State agencies, landholders and the development industry will develop precinct profiles that identify each area's:

- Future role
- Land requirements to support targeted industries
- Infrastructure and servicing requirements
- Existing land constraints
- Enabling and simplified planning controls
- Potential planning approvals pathways to support simplification.
- Precinct profiles will identify key stakeholders and where required a precinct collaboration team to activate the precinct.

▶ **Action 4: Develop a resilience benchmarking matrix tool to identify where councils can increase resilience in the land use planning system.**

Why is this action needed?

To build resilient places and communities.

How will the action be delivered?

DPIE will develop a Resilience Benchmarking Matrix tool that councils can use to assist them to identify how they can become more resilient and progress from baseline level resilience through to best practice.

The benchmarking tool will:

- Assist councils to increase their resilience to shocks and stresses, identifying where they can increase their communities' resilience to shocks and stresses within the land use planning system
- Provide guidance for and support councils to build on projects and programs they may already have underway to increase resilience.

▶ **Action 5: Develop the Illawarra Shoalhaven Green Grid to identify priority projects for enhancement.**

Why is this action needed?

To enhance and connect parks, open spaces and bushland with walking and cycling paths.

How will the action be delivered?

DPIE together with councils and TfNSW will develop a Green Grid to provide a spatial understanding of the open space network within the region. The Green Grid will identify how to improve and better connect existing open spaces allowing the NSW Government and councils to identify long-term and large-scale open space priorities.

▶ Action 6: Develop an Illawarra Shoalhaven Sustainability Roadmap that identifies innovative initiatives that can be delivered through an ecosystem of collaboration.

Why is this action needed?

To plan for a 'Net Zero' region by 2050.

How will the action be delivered?

DPIE will work closely with relevant stakeholders to establish a roadmap of initiatives to support business and industry to improve energy efficiency, reduce emissions and encourage the use of renewables.

▶ Action 7: Develop a sustainability framework for regionally significant precincts to promote carbon neutral sustainable growth and development.

Why is this action needed?

To plan for a 'Net Zero' region by 2050.

How will the action be delivered?

DPIE in consultation with councils, relevant State agencies and the development industry will develop a sustainability framework for Regionally Significant Precincts. This will identify precinct specific opportunities for employment precincts, growth areas and centres which may include renewable energy, water cycling management, building design, circular economy, transport, smart technology, connection to Country, green/public spaces and climate change adaptation.

Councils and agencies can use the framework to encourage greater sustainability opportunities to be incorporated into the planning, design and operation of the precinct over time.

▶ Action 8: Establish the Illawarra Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Roundtable with councils, community housing providers, development industry and the NSW Government to collaborate, build knowledge and identify barriers to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Why is this action needed?

To deliver housing that is more diverse and affordable and increase the supply of affordable housing.

How will the action be delivered?

DPIE will establish the 'Illawarra Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Roundtable' a collaborative multi stakeholder forum to share and leverage stakeholder knowledge and expertise to increase the supply of affordable housing in the region.

DPIE will investigate affordable housing targets in consultation with the Illawarra Shoalhaven Affordable Housing Roundtable.

▶ Action 9: Develop a shared vision for the future of Bombo Quarry in collaboration with Kiama Municipal Council, landowners and the community.

Why is this action needed?

Future use of this site requires a shared vision in collaboration with council, TfNSW, landholders, and the community.

How will the action be delivered?

DPIE in collaboration with council, TfNSW, landholders and the community will develop a vision for the Quarry's future use once existing operations cease. This will include investigation into the mix of future employment, housing and recreational use as well as opportunities to contribute to the open space network, and how best to connect the site with surrounding areas.



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