

Regional Planning Monitoring Report

2019

Far West





Acknowledgement

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land and pays respect to all Elders past, present and future.

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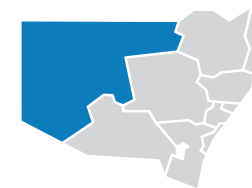
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Cover image:
Kamilaroi Highway near Bourke, NSW.

Introduction



The NSW Government continues to focus on growing regional economies and communities, delivering catalyst projects to achieve these outcomes.

The Regional Plans

The Regional Plans were developed to guide planning for the existing and future community's needs for housing, jobs, infrastructure and a healthy environment. These plans set a clear vision and direction for how each region can leverage future opportunities to ensure their communities remain vibrant and dynamic.

The Regional Plans provide an overarching framework, to coordinating a whole of government approach to land use planning decisions and priorities across the State. To achieve their vision, the Regional Plans are structured around a number of goals, directions and actions. The actions in the Regional Plans are identified as either immediate actions (0-2 years), short term (3-5 years), medium term (5-10 years) or long term and are implemented as strategies or as initiatives. The NSW Government has identified a lead agency and relevant partners and priority for each action.

The lead agency is responsible for project managing the various tasks required to ensure the success of each action.

Governance

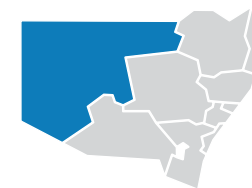
Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committees, including the Hunter & Central Coast Development Corporation, have been established to oversee and coordinate the implementation of the Regional Plan and bring together agencies and organisations responsible for delivering the majority of the outcomes. The Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committees meet regularly, drive delivery of the plan and identify priorities for implementation.

The Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committees are operations focused and membership includes delegates from local government, the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, Department of Premier and Cabinet, NSW Health, Department of Education and Transport for NSW. The Committees are also supported by outcome specific groups that bring together appropriate representatives from government, industry and community to provide advice on particular issues or projects.

Purpose

The *Regional Planning Monitoring Report 2019* details the work undertaken by the NSW Government, local councils and other stakeholders to implement the Regional Plans. The report outlines the key achievements around delivering on the goals, directions and actions of each Regional Plan with a particular focus on the priorities that have been agreed with the Delivery, Coordination and Monitoring Committees in each region. The report outlines the work plan that will be progressed over the next 12 months to deliver the goals of each region across the State.

Highlights



Building Future Communities Project

The Building Future Communities Project is being delivered through a series of workshops and meetings with Far Western Councils. The project provides a better understanding of factors contributing to population change and builds on knowledge and resources that will inform delivery of councils' local strategic planning statements.



Land Management - Goat Industry

Improved land management arrangements are being implemented in collaboration with industry stakeholders to ensure continuity of supply for the emerging goat industry in the Far West.



Cultural Tourism Projects

Projects are being delivered that empower Aboriginal communities to develop tourism businesses as a means of increasing economic participation on country. As part of this work, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service has worked closely with the Mutawintji Local Aboriginal Land Council and NSW Aboriginal Tourism Operators to grow the capacity of the Mutawintji Heritage Tours.

Work is also underway with the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly looking into the options for a Cultural Tourism Strategy that promotes tourism to the Murdi Paaki area.



Walgett Rural Residential Land Use Strategy

Walgett Shire Council's *Residential Land Use Strategy* is being reviewed to enable quick, fair and rigorous assessment of proposed rural residential developments and allow for a streamlined process for assessment of planning proposals.



Seasonal and Itinerant Worker Accommodation

The NSW Government is developing guidance material that will help councils and accommodation providers to better plan for and manage seasonal and itinerant worker accommodation in regional communities.



Social and Affordable Housing Options for the Far West

The NSW Government and the Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly (MPRA) have developed the *Murdi Paaki Social Housing Agreement* to improve social housing outcomes for Aboriginal people in the Murdi Paaki Region by enhancing involvement of the Aboriginal community in decision making processes.

The Social Housing Agreement will sit as a schedule to the overarching *Murdi Paaki Local Decision Making Accord*. The NSW Government and the MPRA will establish the Murdi Paaki Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly (RAHLA) as part of the new Social Housing Agreement to oversee implementation of the Accord actions.

Highlights

NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy

The *NSW Transmission Infrastructure Strategy* is the NSW Government's plan to unlock private sector investment in priority transmission infrastructure projects, which can deliver least cost energy to customers to 2040 and beyond.

The Strategy forms part of the government's broader plan to make energy more affordable, secure investment in new power stations and network infrastructure, and ensure new technologies deliver benefits for consumers.

Biodiversity Values Map

The Biodiversity Values Map (BV Map) identifies land with high biodiversity value that is particularly sensitive to impacts from development and clearing. The BV Map is one of the triggers for determining whether the *Biodiversity Offset Scheme* (BOS) applies to a clearing or development proposal. The BV Map has been prepared by the Environment, Energy and Science Group (EES) under Part 7 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* (BC Act).

Western NSW Doppler Weather Stations

In February 2019 the Government announced that Doppler Weather Stations will be located in Parkes, Brewarrina and Hillston-Ivanhoe. The process for site selection will involve detailed site inspections and tests to ensure that Doppler radar performance and coverage is optimised and is critically important to success in delivering the required services. It is anticipated that all three radars will be installed and operational in 2022.

Broken Hill Pipeline

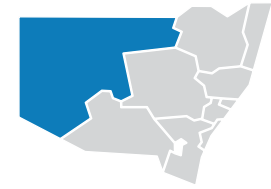
Broken Hill pipeline became operational in February 2019. The pipeline will deliver a secure long-term water supply to Broken Hill and its surrounding communities.

Building Drought Resilience

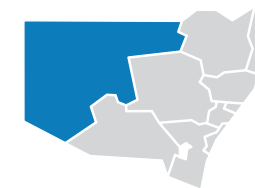
The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment has developed the drought hub which has a number of Primefact information sheets available specifically developed for primary producers preparing for and experiencing dry seasons and drought conditions.

Working with cross-border councils

Planning for new communities in border locations *Principles for the funding and delivery of infrastructure and services* paper has been completed. The report focuses on flexible principles, guidance and examples which provide stakeholders with direction when planning for new communities in border locations.



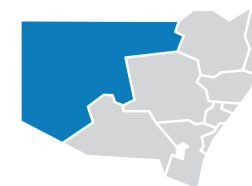
Priority Actions 2017-19



Update on the Priority Actions	Establishment	Preparation	Consultation	Review	Finalised	Expected Finalisation
Promote agribusiness diversification by reviewing local plans and removing planning barriers.	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	JUN 2020
Develop and implement land management arrangements to ensure continuity of supply for the emerging goat industry.	✓	✓	✓	✓		Completed
Align local land use and tourism strategies with the relevant Destination Management Plan.	✓	✓	-	-	-	JUN 2020
Identify the regional freight network (including key national, state, regional and local roads and the rail network).	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	MAR 2020
Prepare and implement a waterfront management strategy for the Murray River.	✓	✓	-	-	-	JUN 2020
Undertake modelling with local communities to better understand the implication and factors contributing to population change.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	JUN 2020
Work with stakeholders, including Aboriginal housing providers and prescribed body corporates, to identify opportunities for social and affordable housing options to meet the cultural needs of Aboriginal communities.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Completed
Conduct a pilot project to progressively improve mineral claims process around Lightning Ridge.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Completed
Support pilot projects and opportunities that empower Aboriginal people to develop tourism businesses as a means of increasing economic participation on country.	✓	✓	✓	-	-	MAR 2020
Work with the Local Aboriginal Land Councils to identify landholdings and map the level of constraint for each site at a strategic scale to develop options for the potential commercial use of land	✓	✓	-	-	-	JUN 2020

Our work plan 2019-20

to implement the Far West Regional Plan



Action 5.8

Align local land use and tourism strategies with the relevant Destination Management Plan.

(Council)

Action 6.1

Identify the regional freight network (including key national, State, regional and local roads and the rail network).

(Council)

Action 19.1 *

Increase heritage protection and revitalise main streets and town centres through community education and development incentives in local plans.

(Council)

Action 8.1 *

Identify options to improve access to shared telecommunication and internet services, including public access to services at community centres and schools.

(Council)

Action 22.1 *

Develop partnerships and engagement protocols with Aboriginal communities during the planning process.

Action 5.9 *

Identify opportunities for tourism and associated land uses in local plans.

(Council)

Action 19.4 *

Assess the viability of bypasses and identify and safeguard future bypass corridors in local land use strategies.

(Council)

Action 5.1 *

Implement Destination NSW's Draft Aboriginal Tourism Action Plan 2017 - 2020 when finalised.

(Destination NSW)

Action 6.2 *

Investigate and prioritise Council identified projects to address impediments to the regional freight network to improve capacity and opportunities in the network.

(TfNSW)

(DPIE) Responsible agency

TfNSW - Transport for NSW

* New priorities