

Council Reference: GT1/LEP/2014
Your Reference:

16 May 2016

Department of Planning & Environment
Acting Executive Director
Regions
Locked Bag 9022
GRAFTON NSW 2460

Attention: Mr Steve Murray

Dear Mr Murray

Submission - Draft North Coast Regional Plan 2016

Tweed Shire Councillors' express their gratitude for the opportunity to comment on the draft North Coast Regional Plan.

We and our community recognise that a robust and well informed regional strategic policy is essential for managing population growth pressures within our region and we welcome the Government's initiative and commitment to building a stronger regional economy and healthy communities through its collaborative and monitoring proposals.

The Government's renewed and strengthening of their commitment to work with Council to identify prevailing infrastructure blockages to the much needed housing and employment supply, particularly with the emphasis on Tweed's expansive existing zoned urban release areas is also welcome news for our region, as is the recognition of the role and significance of Tweed Heads as the north coast region's Regional City.

Through this new partnership with government, and upfront investment in key local infrastructure, the major barriers to the development of Tweed's urban release areas can be overcome; ensuring that employment and housing needs for the projected population can be achieved. We see the best utilisation of these areas as a key element to delivering much need community infrastructure and for protecting the rich natural environment that Tweed is renowned for, and upon which our growing Tourism industry is dependent.

We also welcome the Plan's objective of the alignment of cross-border planning with South-East Queensland.

We congratulate the Government, the Minister for Planning, and the Department of Planning and Environment for its pragmatism and commitment to stronger collaboration in preparing this new Regional Growth Plan.

Finally, we ask that the Government clarify the current references in the draft Plan regarding Coal Seam Gas (CSG) and their implication for our Region.

Yours faithfully

Troy Green
GENERAL MANAGER