

INQUIRY INTO REGIONAL PLANNING PROCESSES IN NSW

Organisation: Regional Development Australia Far South Coast
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The Far South Coast (FSC) of NSW is a region covering 14,230sq km of coastal land from Berry to the Victorian border.

The region comprises three local government areas – Shoalhaven City, Eurobodalla Shire and Bega Valley Shire.

The FSC is strategically located between the nation's major capital cities and is approximately 2 to 5 hours from Sydney, 8 to 10 hours from Melbourne and just 2 hours from Canberra.

Regional Development Australia – Far South Coast (RDA FSC), through its Strategic Regional Plan (SRP) presents an agreed government position on the future of the South Coast. It is the pre-eminent planning document for the Far South Coast region and has been prepared to complement and inform other relevant State and Federal planning instruments. Other RDA FSC documents, such as the Business Plan, the South Coast Skills Audit (SCSA) and the Equine Industry Scoping Report (EISR), support the SRP.

The primary purpose of the SRP is to ensure that the Far South Coast retains those characteristics that make it such a uniquely liveable environment while adequately addressing identified gaps or shortfalls and providing for the future needs of the region and its increasing population.

With the above in mind, this RDA believes there are opportunities for strategic planning to more accurately reflect and respond to challenges faced by communities in regional areas, through the consideration by the relevant planning bodies, of the RDA networks' Strategic Regional Plans. These Plans provide a comprehensive understanding of the planning differences between regional/rural and suburban areas.

Further, consideration and recognition by the relevant planning instruments of these extensively researched Strategic Regional Plans will identify ideas, already recognised by regional communities, as the means to stimulate regional development while reducing the time and complexity of the planning approval process whilst maintaining community expectations regarding the environment and the economic aspirations of local businesses and potential investors.