

August 2021

Lismore Regional City Action Plan

The New South Wales Government, in collaboration with Lismore City Council, has developed the Lismore Regional City Action Plan for land use and infrastructure planning that will guide the growth of the city.

What is the purpose of the plan?

The plan establishes a vision, objectives and actions to guide the growth of Lismore city and transform it into a more exciting regional city bursting with jobs, investment and a vibrant lifestyle.

The plan will set a delivery framework that:

- o articulates a clear 20-year vision for the city
- o ensures planning provisions to maximise employment opportunities and ensure future housing needs are met to cater for a variety of lifestyle choices and needs
- o deliver a vibrant, innovative city by bringing laneways to life, opening up Wilsons River waterfront to the public, create green corridors and integrated transport systems
- o creates new jobs by better connecting people to the city's health, business and education core
- o delivers infrastructure according to an agreed staging and sequencing of development
- o includes initiatives to enhance bushland habitat of many species of animal that call Lismore home, including its large koala population.

What are the goals and objectives in the plan?

The Regional City Action Plan identifies 18 objectives under five goals to make the city a better place to 'Work and Learn', 'Meet', 'Play and Protect' and 'Move' and 'Live'. Each objective has a number of actions:

- o **Live**

A city with a range of housing and lifestyle options to meet new and emerging community needs

Objective 1 Support community aspirations for greater housing diversity and choice

Objective 2 Encourage design that responds to Lismore's subtropical climate

Objective 3 Strengthen resilience to natural hazards and climate change

- o **Work & Learn**

A city of opportunity, with established and emerging industries

Objective 4 Grow health, education, and professional services precincts to cultivate a city of opportunity

Objective 5 Position Lismore as the Learning City; the Northern Rivers' primary place of education, training and research

Objective 6 Showcase opportunities to grow green industries and the use of renewable energy

Objective 7 Deliver local jobs through the city's employment lands and industry sectors

Objective 8 Position Lismore at the heart of the Northern Rivers agricultural food bowl

o **Meet**

A city with a bold and eclectic centre and active main streets and public spaces

Objective 9 Make the city centre the dynamic heart of the Northern Rivers

Objective 10 Bring the city's laneways to life with a canvas of colour, art, culture and history

Objective 11 Reconnect to the Wilsons River and reactivate the waterfront

Objective 12 Strengthen and grow the cultural and arts scene

o **Play & Protect**

A green city where the spectacular natural setting entices visitors and locals to come together and be active

Objective 13 Create places that encourage healthy activities throughout the city

Objective 14 Protect and value Lismore's biodiversity, waterways and green landscapes

Objective 15 Continue to develop Lismore as a regional sports hub and enhance sport and recreational facilities

Objective 16 Enhance tourism, events and visitor experiences

o **Move**

A city connected to its neighbouring communities by an efficient road network and sustainable transport modes

Objective 17 Develop an integrated place-based transport network that delivers a connected Lismore

Objective 18 Encourage active transport and advances in transport technology

What are the future drivers that will help shape Lismore?

The plan identifies three city drivers that will shape Lismore as a well-connected river city which is innovative, resilient and creative, and has a strong economy which leverages its advantages:

1. That it is the heart of the Northern Rivers
2. A city for innovation and knowledge
3. Expanding arts, culture and business for a vibrant city centre.

Why are we developing a Regional City Action Plan?

Development of the Regional City Action Plan is a priority action of the *North Coast Regional Plan 2036*, which was released in March 2017 by the NSW Minister for Planning.

The North Coast Regional Plan outlines an ambitious vision for the North Coast to be the best region in Australia to live, work and play, thanks to its spectacular natural environment and vibrant communities. The plan sets out four specific goals to guide work to achieve that vision.

A key finding of the North Coast Regional Plan under 'Goal 2 - A thriving, inter-connected economy' is that more than three-quarters of population growth and the majority of housing

developed across the North Coast over the next 20 years will occur in Lismore, Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour and Tweed.

The Regional City Action Plan will be an important tool to plan for the changes we expect to see in Lismore towards 2036. The success of Lismore will help achieve the vision and goals of the North Coast Regional Plan.

Lismore is already a fantastic place to live. It has a strong education, health and business core that's surrounded by stunning natural beauty.

With the pandemic changing the way we work; this attractive core and our strong strategic planning is going to entice more people to the area.

This plan sets out 63 actions to help Lismore thrive into the future.

Why are we releasing this Regional City Action Plan now?

In this time of COVID-19 our planning system has a vital role to play to keep the economy moving, now and in the months ahead.

It is more important than ever we continue with plans to support strategic planning at a local level. This will ensure we create and maintain strong communities for people to live and work in.

COVID-19 means we need to find new ways of communicating with people and ensuring communities have their say on our plans.

How is the Regional City Action Plan different from the Local Strategic Planning Statement for the Lismore City Council area?

The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) identifies the planning priorities for Lismore local government area and explains how these are to be delivered.

The LSPS also shows how the council will monitor and report on how the priorities will be implemented.

The Regional City Action Plan has been prepared by the NSW Government and relates only to the Lismore city area and immediate surrounds where a significant amount of the future growth in the local government area is anticipated.

The Regional City Action Plan links land use and infrastructure planning across State agencies and levels of government to help guide and deliver the key land use outcomes that will support future growth in Lismore.

The plans complement and support each other.

What other planning actions are underway in my area?

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment is working with stakeholders to implement the priority actions of the *North Coast Regional Plan 2036*. More information on the work the Department is doing is available on <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast>

How does the plan support wildlife habitat, in particular the koala population?

We are committed to ensuring that koalas remain protected and continue to thrive.

We understand that development can threaten koala habitat and green corridors and this plan directs growth to locations where these spaces will not be affected.

Council already has a comprehensive Koala Management Plan in place for south-east Lismore and is preparing a broader one that will cover the entire LGA.

The plan also includes actions to protect existing vegetation and plant new trees in streets and parks to strengthen corridors that support koalas and other wildlife.

How does the plan accommodate future housing needs?

Council proactively supports all types of housing, including apartments, shop-top housing and other forms of medium density housing.

One of the plan's key points is to encourage the development of housing options that support social inclusion, including crisis accommodation, senior living, persons with a disability, single households and affordable living.

Lismore has enough serviced land available to support housing for projected households to the year 2031.

Potential future residential development areas include Pineapple Road and Trinity Drive, Goonellabah and North Lismore Plateau.

How does the plan protect against flooding?

We've seen how devastating ongoing heavy rainfall and flooding can be and we want to ensure that all new development is done safely.

Our planning processes consider these risks. The Lismore Floodplain Risk Management Study as well as several reports into natural disaster will continue to help guide the decision process, to avoid new development in high-risk areas.

We are working with Council on a revised floodplain risk management plan that considers findings of the Lismore Floodplain Risk Management to help council make appropriate development decisions on flood prone land.

What consultation has been done?

The draft Regional City Action Plan was on public exhibition from **9am Monday 17 May 2021 until 11.59pm Tuesday 15 June 2021** to give the community an opportunity to have a say on the plan.

During exhibition the Department conducted a number of workshops, including two that were open to members of the community, one for Council and one for government agencies, plus one-on-one sessions with a variety of stakeholders.

Prior to exhibition the Department consulted widely with Lismore City Council, government agencies and other stakeholders, such as the Chamber of Commerce, universities and Regional Development Australia, to inform the development of the plan.

Thank you to everyone who took time out to respond to the RCAP. The feedback will be invaluable to inform the development of the final Regional City Action Plan.

What changes were made to the Lismore RCAP following consultation?

A detailed table of the changes made to the RCAP can be found in [the appendix of the Submissions Report](#).

What happens next?

The Department will work closely with council, other government agencies and stakeholders to implement the objectives to realise the vision of the Lismore Regional City Action Plan.

[Find more information on Regional City Action Plans.](#)