

April 2022

Tweed Regional City Action Plan

The New South Wales Government, in collaboration with Tweed Shire Council, has developed the Tweed 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 Tweed city and transform it into a more vibrant regional city bursting with jobs, investment and lively public spaces that tap into the natural beauty of its subtropical surrounds.

The plan will set a delivery framework that

- o ensures planning provisions promote employment growth and housing to cater for a growing population and a variety of lifestyle choices and needs;
- o strengthens Tweed's resilience to natural hazards such as floods and bushfires;
- o promotes new job opportunities that complement existing employment nodes around tourism, education, health and airport precincts;
- o increases cross-border integration and capitalises on competitive advantages
- o identifies infrastructure constraints and public domain improvements that can make areas more attractive for investment; and
- o delivers infrastructure and coordinates an agreed staging and sequencing of development.

What are the goals and objectives in the plan?

The Regional City Action Plan identifies 17 objectives under five goals to make the city a better place to 'Live', 'Move', 'Work', 'Meet' and 'Play'. Each objective has a number of actions to achieve it:

Live

- o Objective 1 Facilitate housing choice in distinctive, well-connected centres
- o Objective 2 Deliver increased opportunities for affordable housing
- o Objective 3 Create a green and sustainable city
- o Objective 4 Strengthen resilience to climate change and its impacts

Move

- o Objective 5 Develop an integrated place-based transport network that delivers a connected Tweed
- o Objective 6 Support more people to walk, cycle and take public transport
- o Objective 7 Facilitate seamless connections across the border
- o Objective 8 Maximise the benefits of regional transport networks to increase community and economic connectivity

Work

- o Objective 9 Position Tweed Regional City as a destination of choice for business and investment

Frequently asked questions

- Objective 10 Increase cross-border integration and capitalise on competitive advantages
- Objective 11 Optimise the delivery of employment land
- Objective 12 Develop a shared city centre vision with business and the community

Meet

- Objective 13 Support a vibrant city centre and a network of connected precincts
- Objective 14 Cultivate Regional City design excellence
- Objective 15 Support Aboriginal cultural awareness, inclusion and place

Play

- Objective 16 Grow tourism, events and visitor experiences in a culturally and environmentally sensitive way
- Objective 17 Create places that encourage healthy activities throughout the city.

What are the future drivers that will help shape Tweed?

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

1. That it is a true gateway destination
2. A sustainable green and blue city united with the natural environment
3. Region-shaping infrastructure investment to support population growth.

Why did we develop a Regional City Action Plan?

Tweed is ready to thrive. As the largest Local Government Area by population on the north coast of NSW, Tweed is transforming into a vibrant Regional City that champions good design, the environment and cultural heritage to create attractive and diverse lifestyles connected with a coastal subtropical climate. Tweed has the potential to become NSW's great green city of the north and gateway to the economic powerhouse of south-east Queensland.

The North Coast Regional Plan 2036 identified Tweed Heads as one of four North Coast Regional Cities.

This first ever Regional City Action Plan for Tweed supports the vision of the North Coast Regional Plan 2036, by capitalising on Tweed's spectacular environment, lifestyle and vibrant communities.

The plan will build on the opportunity created by major public and private investment, support employment growth and will redefine links with Tweed's dynamic and vibrant network of centres. It also aims to optimise quality lifestyles currently enjoyed and valued by residents.

Regional Cities provide high-level services and economic opportunities for their residents and surrounding areas. They are centres of business, governance and culture, and benefit from critical investments in major infrastructure.

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

The Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) identifies the planning priorities for Tweed 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 Tweed city centre area and immediate surrounds.

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 Tweed.

The plans complement and support each other.

What other planning actions are underway in my area?

The Department of Planning 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 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 Tweed Valley 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 local flood risk management study for the South Tweed business district and residential area that considers the findings of the Tweed Valley flood study to help council make appropriate development decisions on flood prone land. The plan includes objectives to manage the effects of climate change and ensure future infrastructure designs are flood resilient.

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 the Tweed coast.

The plan also includes actions to protect existing vegetation by directing future growth into existing urban areas and by planting new trees in streets and parks to strengthen corridors that support koalas and other wildlife.

How does the plan accommodate future housing needs?

Housing affordability and diversity is a key priority for the Government. In July 2021 the NSW Government established the independent Regional Housing Taskforce to investigate the planning barriers people are experiencing in buying, renting and building a place to live in the regions..

In October 2021 the Taskforce provided recommendations to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces suggesting ways the planning system can better facilitate the delivery of an adequate supply of diverse and affordable housing that addresses the needs of regional communities.

The NSW Government will release a comprehensive response to the recommendations in 2022 .

One of the Tweed RCAP's key points is to encourage the development of housing options that encourage social inclusion, including for crisis accommodation, senior living, people with disability, single households, and affordable living.

Over the next 20 years, 11,600 more homes will be needed to house Tweed's growing population. Tweed also has enough serviced land available to support housing for projected households until 2031.

The plan also includes a target to ensure 40 per cent of new housing is in the form of dual occupancies, apartments, townhouses, villas or dwellings, on lots less than 400 square metres by 2036. This will accommodate new residents and provide more affordable housing options.

How do we strengthen the gateway between Tweed City and the Gold Coast?

The Tweed is the fifth most economically diverse council in the country and has the highest projected population growth on the North Coast and we need to have the right strategies in place to accommodate this growth.

It's a gateway destination and it's our mission to strengthen the connection between Northern NSW and South East Queensland. The Gold Coast is on our doorstep and directing future investment will change the way people access employment, transport, housing, education, and services.

What consultation was done?

The draft Regional City Action Plan was on public exhibition from **9am Tuesday 26 October 2021 until 11.59pm Tuesday 23 November 2021** to give the community an opportunity to have its 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, one for government agencies, one for Aboriginal stakeholders, plus one-on-one sessions with a variety of stakeholders.

Prior to exhibition the Department consulted widely with Tweed Shire Council, government agencies and other stakeholders, such as local businesses to inform the development of the draft plan.

Thank you to everyone who took time out to respond to the RCAP. Community consultation is a vital part of the planning process The feedback was closely considered and incorporated into the final Regional City Action Plan.

What happens next?

The Regional City Action Plan will be implemented through the planning and delivery activities of Tweed Shire Council and other government agencies.

More information on Regional City Action Plans is available on <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Plans-for-your-area/Regional-Plans/North-Coast/Regional-City-Action-Plans>