



South Coast Regional Conservation Plan released

The Regional Conservation Plan for the South Coast which sets out the regional conservation priorities to guide the conservation efforts, including for councils and catchment management authorities has been released today.

The Department of Planning has prepared regional strategies for the South Coast and this landmark document set the blueprint for sustainable development in the regions over the next 25 years.

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, (DECCW) Director South Gary Whytcross said the new Regional Conservation Plan complements the regional strategies.

The South Coast Regional Conservation Plan covers the local government areas of Shoalhaven, Bega and Eurobodalla.

“The Plan highlights the biodiversity values of the region and where conservation efforts should be focussed. Through this approach, the impacts on biodiversity from any proposed development can be considered and offset into the future in a strategic manner,” Mr Whytcross said.

“The NSW Government recognises the intrinsic values of all three regions which offer opportunities for sustainable development, yet much of the regions’ appeal is in its high conservation value, their biodiversity assets and their important Aboriginal heritage values.

“The Government is intent on delivering a balanced package between development and conservation. The Regional Conservation Plan seeks to ensure that this balance is achieved.

“They will provide direction to councils in drafting new Local Environment Plans or future amendments and will assist those councils who may seek biodiversity certification for their environmental planning instruments.

“Due to past land clearing and urban development in coastal areas much of the remaining vegetation provides strongholds for unique threatened species and it is critical to protect these areas.”

Copies of the Plans can be obtained from DECCW office Queanbeyan, or on the DECCW website – www.environment.nsw.gov.au

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