



Gareth Ward MP

Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast
Member for Kiama

MEDIA RELEASE

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REGIONAL BUFFER FOR GERRINGONG AND GERROA

Parliamentary Secretary for the Illawarra and South Coast, and Member for Kiama Gareth Ward has today announced that a rural buffer will be created between the two towns of Gerringong and Gerroa as part of the New South Wales Government's blueprint for the Illawarra-Shoalhaven.

"The Plan is the New South Wales Government's vision for our region for the next two decades and sets out our agenda to generate jobs, homes and a resilient environment over the next two decades," Mr Ward said.

"Gerringong and Gerroa are two distinct towns, and a rural buffer will help them maintain their unique characters.

"The draft Regional Plan was also put on public exhibition late last year, with more than 1,200 people providing feedback.

"The final Plan has been updated based on this feedback to better address issues raised during consultation.

"The rural buffer was an important issue for the locals of Gerringong and Gerroa, and we have listened to that feedback," Mr Ward said.

The New South Wales Government will also:

- Work with Kiama Municipal Council to review housing opportunities in the region, including the suitability of land west of the Elambra Estate in Gerringong; and
- Work with Kiama Municipal Council to consider any other areas for potential new homes to cater for the changing area

The Plan sets out 40 actions to:

- Grow the local economy;
- Improve access to local jobs and homes; and
- Protect and improve the region's heritage and environment

A new body will be established will be established to drive the implementation of the Plan, jointly chaired by a representative of the Illawarra Joint Pilot Organisation and the Department of Planning and Environment.

Mr Ward said there has been extensive community consultation in the lead-up to the Regional Plan being released.

“The Illawarra is a fantastic place to live and work, with a lifestyle and community spirit to match the spectacular environment,” he said.

“This Plan sets out how the New South Wales Government will plan for more homes and jobs in the area, while protecting the region’s natural coastal assets.

“A Discussion Paper was released in 2013, with hundreds of locals identifying what they liked about the area and what they wanted to see improved,” Mr Ward concluded.

MEDIA: Gareth Ward 0401 499 933 or Ben Blackburn 0423 466 358