

An Australian Government Initiative



MID NORTH COAST

Launch Outcome Summary

Mid North Coast Regional Plan Launch and Consultation

Regional Development Australia Mid North Coast engaged with the region during May and June 2023 to launch the Regional Plan. The launches took place in the six local government areas, with events held for communities and Councils to provide input into the priorities identified.

In the May 2023 Budget, the federal government released its new Regional Investment Framework (RIF) which views regional investment through the lens of Investing in People, Services, Places and Local Industry and Economies. The RIF has become the foundation of RDAs Charter and the Regional Plan will be recast in line with the RIF.

We were grateful for the fantastic participation in the Regional Plan consultations. The prioritisation of action areas produced a picture both of variation and similarity between regions. The clear standout priority areas are housing, workforce and infrastructure.

Next steps

The Regional Plan will be redrafted in line with the federal Regional Investment Framework. This will also require some further discussions with local governments and community stakeholders around the strengths and challenges of the regional localities in the areas of:

- 1. People
- 2. Services
- 3. Places
- 4. Local industry and economy

The action areas identified above will be incorporated into an action plan with regional stakeholders identified as collaborative partners. Once these two aspects have been completed, the Regional Plan and its action tracker will be circulated to the stakeholders for consultation and endorsement. Regional Development Mid North Coast intends to complete development of these action plans by early 2024.

RDAMNC is grateful for the engagement we have received so far in the development of this Regional Plan. Our landscape is continually shifting, as it is for local and state governments. The Regional Plan must be adaptable to change and new challenges. This Regional Plan is, and will continue to be, a living document aiming to harness collaborations and efforts at a regional level.

Consultation feedback

The results of the feedback from Councils and community stakeholders follows. If you would like to discuss this process with RDA Mid North Coast, please contact us (02) 5525 1500 or email at <u>operations@rdamnc.org.au</u>.

Priority 1: Connectivity and Infrastructure	Totals		Per regi	on			
	12	Identify supply chain vulnerabilities	1 1		6	1	2 1
20		Improved linkages between major regional centres and smaller towns	1 1	5		9	4
	3	Small producer logistics strategy and associated advocacy		1		2	
	8	Strategic planning to enhance connectivity to the West		4		1	2 1
	6	Renewed MNC regional freight strategy	1		2	2	1
42		Telecommunications infrastructure investment	8	1	2	11	2 6 3
24		Advocate for a region-wide digital black spots map and identify potential rectification projects	4	2		15	3
25		Work with private sector to identify substandard quality in digital connections, develop a region-wide digital black spots map and identify potential rectification projects	1	11		3	7 3
50		Undertake a regional needs assessment of cultural, sporting, environmental and social infrastructure, which would include community and key stakeholder engagement	1 11		LO 7	8	13
45		All Councils in the region work together to identify priorities and to share procurement opportunities and risks. Investigate opportunities for greater use of renewable energy resources	7	9	5 3	13	8
29		Explore opportunities to align all Councils to the MNC Joint Organisation through a pilot program to address critical infrastructure skills shortages. For example, a regional engineering capacity to design and construct bridges under fixing country bridges Kempsey Shire Council for example currently funded to replace 54 bridges	4	8	4	5	4 4
37		Regionally significant infrastructure projects are advocated for at entry level of government	4	5	11	13	4
53		Regional Infrastructure priorities are identified and prioritised	8	14	5	12	14
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Priority 2: Human Capital and Skills Totals		Per region	
42	Better understand future trends in industry and employment in the Mid North Coast	4 9	8 4 4 13
5	Establish goals related to identified measures	2	1 1 1
3	Promote a set data source among employers and related service providers		3
2	Establish use of a set data source to report employment data	2	2
17	Identify Indigenous business and employment opportunities in consultation with the Aboriginal community and industry leaders	7	4 1 2 3
31	Undertake a health and social services skills study to identify emerging requirements for labour and other resources, in partnership with key operators in this sector (skills audits My Future Workforce)	3 5 1	8 7 7
38	Advocate for skill development and training that is future facing e.g. skills for the digital economy	6 2 9	2 8 11
14	Investigate opportunities to improve regional connectivity to education campuses	2 5	1 5 1
37	Attract skilled workers to the region	5 11	8 4 4 5
7	Grow our service capabilities across the region (pride in our regional identity)	2	4 1
10	Targeted programs for marginalised groups	2 3	2 3
46	Work with industry to investigate workforce development opportunities to attract and retain staff	2 6 11	9 9 9
43	Enhance linkages between jobseekers, students and employers	2 13	12 1 11 4
5	Support for careers advisors	1 1	1 1 1
22	Development of industry-based clusters incorporating support networks	1 10	6 2 3
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Priority 3: Regional Employment & Business Totals

Per region

ity 5. Regional employment & business Totals		Fel Tegion
39	Identify development opportunities that have regional significance and collaboratively advocate to realise the vision	5 9 12 3 2 8
23	Facilitate Manufacturing and light industry hub around intermodal facility linking airport, rail and road infrastructure	5 6 3 4 5
19	Investigate opportunities for food tourism and food manufacturing across the Region, building on its clean and green image	2 1 2 1 10 3
13	Seek investment in key infrastructure to support conferences and events, in partnership with the main tourist resorts	1 1 3 1 4 3
14	Diversify tourism offering to incorporate eco-tourism, cultural tourism, sports and events	5 2 2 3
26	Circular economy opportunities, particularly in replacing key economic leakages	4 7 6 1 4 4
28	Identify and promote key strengths of each LGA to better enable industry clustering opportunities	1 3 9 3 8 4
14	Strengthening already established local businesses	3 3 5 1 2
14	Shop local campaigns	1 6 2 3 2
6	Strengthening regional supply chains	1 1 2 2
18	Enhance opportunities for niche manufacturing in the region	2 1 4 4 7
16	Local procurement policies at all levels of government and in business	1 2 6 3 1
14	Understand supply chains and associated gaps	6 2 1 2 3
13	Understanding the breadth of business in the region (including micro business, home-based businesses, social enterprise)	3 1 7 2
17	Resolving potential land-use conflicts through completion of a land-use strategy	3 7 1 1 5
23	Reduction of red tape that stifles business growth	3 9 3 3 2
17	Workforce development and succession planning for small business	1 2 5 4 5
1	Access to current program information spanning State/Commonwealth boundaries	1
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Per region



Priority 5: Amenity and Liveablity	Totals		Per region			
	2	Incorporate principles and practices of resilience officers in liveability teams	1		1	
1	7	Support Councils to engage permanent resilience/liveability teams	6	2	8	1
	2	Implement RDAMNC's 'Our Spaces' campaign to encourage community led solutions to housing	1		1	
43		Advocate for Transport for NSW and the Department of Planning and Environment to: assess public and community transport requirements necessary for 'hub and spoke' regional service delivery link precinct planning outcomes to public transport, school transport and community transport requirements	6 7	11	4 7	8
	13	Extend existing Urban Growth Strategies to cover the whole Region	1 4	2	6	
	15	Provide greater access to and awareness of Indigenous and environmental heritage	3 2		7	3
32		Advocate for the Department of Planning & Environment to assess the development feasibility of different housing choices across the Region	6 1	10	5 6	3 2
36		Develop a regional catalogue of residential lands for activation and proactively seek funding opportunities for enabling infrastructure to accelerate housing supply	8	15	3	10
	.6	Undertake a gap analysis of requirements to better support an ageing population	3 1	4	5	3
22		Encourage other lifestyle and tourist developments that will increase the Region's attractiveness to sea/tree change professionals and other skills workers	1 6	3 1	7	4
19		Uses best practice in environmental rehabilitation to further build the clean and green image	5	4 2	7	1
22		Access to public transport	3 5	6	2 1	5
51		Work with the Department of Planning and Environment to increase and diversify the supply of social and affordable housing types to meet the community's needs	1 <mark>1</mark> 12 6	6	21	10
33		Strategic action to support further housing	1 10	11	1 2	8
	2	Apply the RAI's liveability toolkit methodology to map liveability across the MNC	1		1	
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Priority 6: Sustainable Natural Resources	Totals		Per region		
	6	Collaborate with Coffs Harbour to share the know-how to become an eco-destination	1	3	2
1	LO	Leverage Coffs harbour's Eco-Destination Certification to promote the eco-tourism in the region	1 5	5 1	3
20		Support councils to retain resilience teams and morph to permanent liveability, resilience and (or) community development roles to ensure communities remain resilient	4	9	5 2
15		Further develop the regions "Clean and Green" image for the agribusiness and tourism sectors	2 1	7	5
35		Take advantage of renewable energy and micro grids to reduce energy costs	5 7	6 3	9 5
15		Leverage the Region's clean and green image to further niche food manufacturing	1 4	5	1 2 2
21		Use best practice in environmental rehabilitation to further build the clean and green image	5	8	3 3 2
27		Support small farm cooperatives to create local secure food supply eg North Arm Farms	5 8	2 4	2 6
29		Support climate change mitigation funding at local government level ie. High tide, sea level rises, landslips, house lifting and moving in flood risk areas, change zoning regs etc	5 8	5	9 2
30		Facilitate connections among communication professionals across the councils to support collaboration and connectedness especially for emergency communications	6 5	8 2	3 6
29		Support uptake of community based and individual renewable energy solutions to facilitate greater resilience	9	6 2	9 3
29		Support incorporation of cultural burn practices across the region as a preventative for bushfires	4 5	5 4 3	8
31		Map circular economy opportunities and blockages throughout the Mid North Coast	5 5	12	2 4 3
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