

## 1. Requested changes to the AIMS

1. Remove the AIMS as included in the Draft SLEP2013 ... ref File 33363E (PDR) as recommended by the former Council in 2012. This form of words is as follows;

### **The particular aims adopted by councillors contrary to Staff recommendation:**

- i. to encourage the proper management, development and conservation of natural and man-made resources;
- ii. the facilitation of the social and economic wellbeing of the community is a substantive objective;
- iii. to ensure that suitable land for beneficial and appropriate uses is made available as required;
- iv. to manage appropriate and essential public services, infrastructure and amenities for Shoalhaven;
- v. to minimise the risk of harm to the community through the appropriate management of development and land use.

.. File 33363E (PDR) ... outlined below

2. Replace the form of words above by the AIMS recommended by Staff at the Special Development Committee of 19 March 2012.

### **The following AIMS of the plan (SLEP) were recommended by Staff and supported by the community:**

- i. allow for ecologically sustainable development through the proper management, development, protection, restoration, enhancement and conservation of the environment, consistent with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development and taking into account the impacts of climate change and sea level rise, **and**
- ii. to conserve and maintain and improve biodiversity and ecosystems function, and
- iii. to consider and plan for the potential effects of natural hazards on development and infrastructure, **and**
- iv. to facilitate economic and business development to increase employment opportunities by providing sufficient employment lands in the City and a mix of business and industrial zones; **and**
- v. to protect scenic and landscape qualities, places of cultural and heritage value, and the amenity and character of settlements, and coastal and rural areas; **and**
- vi. to safeguard the role and efficiency of the main road system of the region, particularly by recognising the importance of primary arterial roads; **and**
- vii. to ensure the consideration and protection of social wellbeing and community through responsible development; **and**
- viii. to maintain the agricultural use of prime crop and pasture land by minimising development which has an adverse and irreversible impact on the land's agricultural potential; **and**
- ix. to protect and enhance watercourses, riparian habitats, groundwater, surface water, wetlands and water quality within the hydrological catchment so as to enable the achievement of the water quality objectives; **and**
- x. to ensure an appropriate mix of land uses that provides for housing choice and that enables easy access to employment and commercial, recreational, open space and community facilities.

### **Reasons for concern**

- The AIMS as proposed by Staff and supported by the community are a more definitive set of Aims to provide a strategic vision to maintain the distinctive values of Shoalhaven communities, our heritage and environment, whilst establishing the foundation for future social and economic prosperity. Such Aims would be consistent with Council's obligations under the Local Government Charter as well providing for evidence-based merit assessment and decision-making.

- The Aims agreed by Council do not provide criteria to be used in assessing and coming to decisions regarding rezonings and development applications on the basis of merit. They do not refer to the principles of ecologically sustainable development which provide the framework for weighing up and integrating social, economic and environmental objectives in strategic plans and applying them in assessment of rezoning and development applications. Accordingly the Council agreed Aims as included in the Draft SLEP2013 are not consistent with the Local Government Charter with regard to Council's responsibilities to;

-“properly manage, develop, protect, restore, enhance and conserve the environment of the area for which it is responsible, in a manner that is consistent with and promotes the principles of ecologically sustainable development.

-To have regard to the long term and cumulative effects of its decisions.”

- The aims should be stated as outcomes eg “maintain and improve” or standards, to give direction in assessing rezoning and development applications and in defending refusals in the Land and Environment Court as well as providing the basis for long term monitoring and evaluation of achievement of the aims.
- The Aims should be specific to deter discretionary, politically driven, flexible decision-making so Councillors are dissuaded from supporting proposals irrespective of their worth or public benefit. The Independent Commission against Corruption has already criticised the NSW Government's Green Paper Planning Reform proposals on this basis.