

28/09/05

The Hon Frank Sartor  
Minister for Planning  
Level 34, Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place, Sydney, NSW, 2000

Dear Mr Sartor

**URGENT NEED FOR REGIONAL STRATEGIES PROTECT NSW COASTAL ENVIRONMENT**

Healthy Cities Illawarra urges you to commit to the completion of the NSW Coastal Regional Planning Strategies. The current need for coastal environmental and resource protection should be paramount for Government planning and development strategies.

The NSW coast is subject to increasing pressures from population growth and urban development. Residents and landowners, councils and industry need concrete planning strategies that protect natural environments from poor and unsustainable development.

The coast around the Illawarra region has particularly been under development pressures in recent years. These pressures have most notoriously caused problems with the Sandon Point development, Shellharbour's urban sprawl, the proposed Shellharbour marina, and most recently with the Bulli Brickworks site. We need strong protective regional strategies to ensure development takes place in an appropriate manner.

Problems have occurred largely due to a small number of factors. Firstly, strategic coordinated planning has not existed on a regional scale. Development decisions have tended to occur on a very local level with no consideration of the broader impact. Secondly, rezoning decisions have been too heavily influenced by developer demands and land speculators' positions, and largely ignored the capacity of the land and infrastructure to handle the development. Finally, planning instruments, policies and regulations, and guidelines have not provided clear and consistent rules governing what can and cannot occur in development.

Councils need direction from Regional Strategies that create planning certainty and environmental protection. Regional Strategies that place environmental sustainability as the main priority should be implemented before the end of 2006.

Yours Sincerely,

Ben Grounds  
Community Environmental Health Officer

Cc: Premier Maurice Iemma