

Mr J Corkill
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G95/00005

25/08/97

**NORTHERN
RIVERS
REGIONAL
STRATEGY**

a joint project of

DUAP

NOREDO

NOROC

Dear John

**NORTHERN RIVERS REGIONAL STRATEGY - NCEC
REPRESENTATIVES SITTING FEES**

Relations with the North Coast Environment Council (NCEC) in March, 1997 resulted in the recommendation that NRRS funds be used to pay sitting fees for a representative of the NCEC.

Subsequent to this recommendation, Terry Parkhouse was appointed as the NCEC representative on the Strategy Management Committee. The sitting fees and travel expenses payable for attendance at Management Committee and other Strategy meetings are as follows:

Sitting fees:	full day	\$183
	half day	\$ 92

Travel expenses:	1600cc vehicle	38.6 cents/km
	1600 - 2700cc vehicle	54 cents/km
	over 2700cc vehicle	58 cents/km

These arrangements were confirmed with Terry in a letter dated 17 April, 1997 (attached). It was noted that if Terry was not available to attend these meetings another representative from the organisation could receive the sitting fees and travel expenses on the same basis.

Terry is currently away, and there are a number of meetings and workshops scheduled for the exhibition period which require representation from the NCEC. I attended a NCEC meeting on Saturday 16 August, 1997 to discuss the involvement of the NCEC during this period. A number of members have been suggested as people who will attend meetings and workshops and will require sitting fees and travel expenses. Members who may attend specific meetings include John Corkill (Secretary), Peter Morgan, Stan Mussared and Tom Tabart. Only one member will be eligible for sitting fees on each occasion. I will keep the NCEC informed of meetings and workshops through John Corkill, NCEC Secretary.

Strategy Secretariat

PO Box 6

GRAFTON NSW 2460

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email

duapnth@www.nsw.gov.au

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Australian Business Limited

Department of Transport

North Coast Environment Council

Northern Rivers Regional Development Board

NSW Agriculture

Regional Co-ordination Program (Premier's Dept)

Roads & Traffic Authority

Royal Australian Planning Institute

State & Regional Development

... and the Region's 12 local authorities
via the Valley Committees and NOROC

- 2 -

For members to obtain payment of such fees, please provide an invoice for time and travel expenses along with a copy of the member's comprehensive motor vehicle insurance policy.

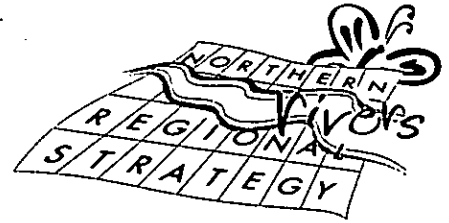
You will also find enclosed a copy of the Presentation Kit, as discussed at our meeting of the 16 August, 1997.

The next meeting of the Richmond Valley Committee is scheduled for 1 October, 1997 from 9.30am to 12.30pm at Lismore City Council Chambers. I will keep you informed about these meetings in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Luckie', written in a cursive style.

Katrina Luckie
Consultation Co-ordinator



MARTIN FROTHICH → J.C.
895240. G

1/05/97

**NORTHERN
RIVERS
REGIONAL
STRATEGY**

Dear

a joint project of

**NORTHERN RIVERS REGIONAL STRATEGY - RICHMOND
COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

DUAP

NOREDO

NOROC

The Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils, the Northern Rivers Regional Economic Development Organisation and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning are co-ordinating the development of the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy. The aim of the Strategy is to provide a co-ordinated strategic framework within which the development of the region can be managed in the area until the year 2016.

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The first step in developing the strategy is the "Northern Rivers - Framework for a Sustainable Future" (summary brochure enclosed), which is currently on public exhibition. A Background Information summary sheet describing the development of the Strategy is also enclosed for your information.

You are invited to participate in a community workshop to be held at Lismore Workers Club, Lismore, on Saturday 20 September 1997, from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Could you please phone Donna Thompson on (066) 420 622 to confirm your attendance at this workshop by Wednesday 10 September 1997.

Yours sincerely
Katrina Luckie
Consultation Co-ordinator

PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

Australian Business Limited

Department of Transport

North Coast Environment Council

Northern Rivers Regional Development Board

NSW Agriculture

Regional Co-ordination Program (Premier's Dept)

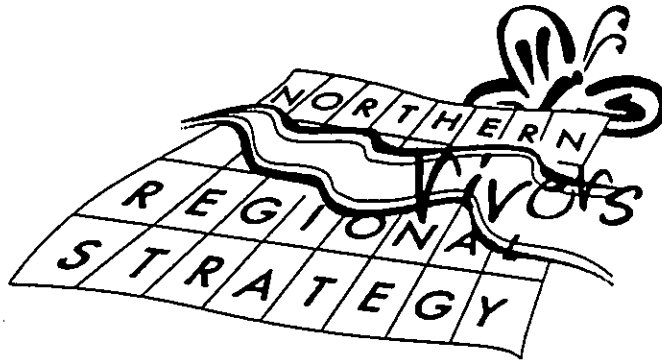
Roads & Traffic Authority

Royal Australian Planning Institute

State & Regional Development

... and the Region's 12 local authorities
via the Valley Committees and NOROC

NORTHERN RIVERS REGIONAL STRATEGY



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Northern Rivers Regional Strategy - Finding a better way

Most residents of the Northern Rivers Region believe it is important to have a job, enjoy a reasonable level of prosperity and as high as possible quality of life. Most residents of the region also believe that a high quality natural, rural and urban environment is a very important part of achieving the quality of life they desire. Additionally, many of the residents and businesses in the region recognise that future economic development in the region is linked to a clean and healthy environment.

The problem is that these quite reasonable needs and desires are often considered to be in conflict. This conflict is not a real and unresolvable conflict. This conflict is about the complexity of issues and the difficulty of finding ways to resolve problems. It is also about the wide range of strong and differing points of view held by people in the Northern Rivers Region.

To help overcome this conflict, the region needs to be able to come together and it needs the will to find a better way. Government agencies, the private sector, and the residents of the region need to be willing to discover and understand (but not necessarily accept) other points of view. These participants must then be willing to tackle these different points of view and the issues affecting the region to find solutions about how to do things a better way.

It could take many more years for all the problems of the Northern Rivers to be resolved, but the process of tackling them must begin now. The first part of finding a better way has begun with the development of the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy.

Strategy as a joint initiative

The Northern Rivers Regional Strategy, covering the area from Grafton to Tweed Heads, is a joint initiative of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP), the Northern Rivers Regional Economic Development Organisation (NORED) and the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC).

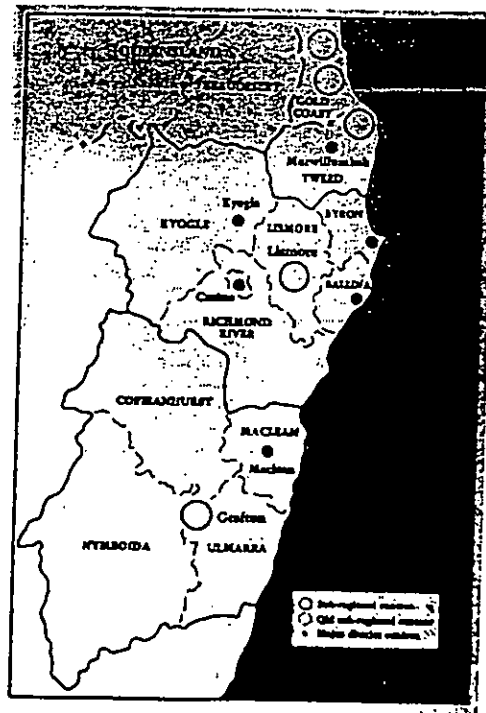
The Strategy also received funds through the Better Cities Program, which has now been abolished. These funds have been used to carry out specific projects and to employ a planner to co-ordinate the Strategy.

Aim of the Strategy

The aim of the Strategy is to provide a co-ordinated, strategic framework within which the development of the region can be managed so that the natural advantages and lifestyle are maintained. The development of the Strategy is underpinned by principles of ecologically sustainable development (ESD). The Strategy will integrate economic, settlement, infrastructure and natural resources planning for the Northern Rivers area.

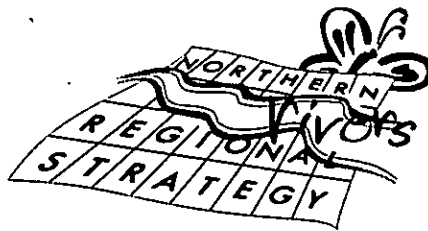
Northern Rivers Region

The Northern Rivers Region extends from the Queensland border to Grafton. The three major sub-regions within the Northern Rivers are based upon the major river catchments in the region - the Tweed, Richmond (including the Brunswick), and Clarence Rivers.



Working towards regional sustainability

The Strategy will implement sustainability principles in a number of different ways. It will include strategies for encouraging sustainable economic development, improving the planning process, monitoring and managing the environment and developing sustainable urban and rural communities.



WHAT YOUR PRESENTATION KIT CONTAINS

1. BRIEFING NOTES

What Is This Thing Called The Northern Rivers Regional Strategy (NRRS)?

The three partners
How the Strategy has been developed
What makes the NRRS different
Why a framework?
Consultation

Finding A Better Way In The Northern Rivers - Moving Towards Sustainability

What is sustainable development?
Importance of sustainability principles
Strategy principles
Examples of sustainable development

What's In The Framework?

Components of the framework: vision, policies, results, suggested action plans
Important issues
Work being done - project components

How You Can Contribute

Exhibition and consultation process
What we want from consultation

2. A SET OF OVERHEADS

The overheads provide:

a map of the region

information to support the briefing notes

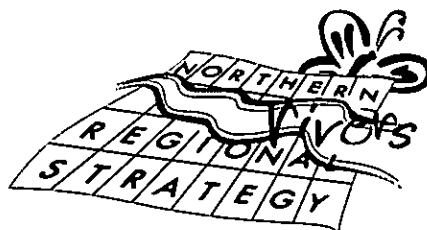
a selection of "quotable quotes" to illustrate key points

3. A SELECTION OF HANDOUTS

These are designed to provide people with background information on some of the issues raised during the presentation and provide examples of sustainable development in practice.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO USE AS MUCH OR AS LITTLE OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS KIT TO HELP YOU.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN DOING YOUR PRESENTATION(S)



WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED THE NORTHERN RIVERS REGIONAL STRATEGY?

A CO-OPERATIVE APPROACH

(OVERHEAD 1: TITLE)

The Northern Rivers Regional Strategy, covering the area from Grafton to Tweed Heads, is a joint initiative of the Northern Rivers Regional Development Organisation (NOREDO), the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC) and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP).

Many other organisations in the region support the Strategy, by participating in its overall management, or contributing to the funding and management of individual projects and components.

Participating organisations include:

- Australian Business Limited
- Northern Rivers Regional Development Board
- State and Regional Development
- Department of Transport
- Roads and Traffic Authority
- North Coast Environment Council
- Royal Australian Planning Institute
- Premiers Department Regional Co-ordination Program
- NSW Agriculture
- Department of Housing

(OVERHEAD 2: MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

A management committee, which meets monthly, oversees the Strategy. The committee is chaired by Ian Campbell, Assistant Director-General of the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, and also includes representatives from industry, environmental groups and local government.

An advisory committee of about 30 members, representing a wide range of interests, was established as a broader reference group for the Strategy. This committee has met only a few times and many members have also been involved in Strategy development through other consultation opportunities.

Local government has an especially important role in the development of the Strategy. Three local government-based committees have been set up in the Tweed, Richmond and Clarence valleys. The focus of these committees, which also draw upon community and industry expertise, is on aspects which relate particularly to the local councils in their areas. The valley committees are intended to foster a collaborative approach to the Strategy. The chairman of each valley committee is represented on the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy

management committee, providing direct input from local government, as well as representation from NOROC.

Working groups are convened from time to time to provide technical expertise on particular issues.

THE NEED FOR A STRATEGY

(OVERHEAD 3: THE NEED FOR A STRATEGY)

Some of the most important issues confronting the region, confirmed through discussion at valley committee level but also at both community workshops (No 1 in Ballina in August 1995 and No 2 in Ballina in April 1997).

The region is experiencing **loss of economic potential** through the loss of farming land and the loss and degradation of other natural resources.

The region is experiencing very **rapid population growth, which is exceeding jobs growth**. Consequently, the unemployment rate is relatively high.

Incomes in the region are **significantly lower** than for NSW as a whole.

The **quality of the natural environment**, which is one of the major reasons for attracting new residents, is declining through pollution and sedimentation of waterways, land degradation and loss of native species of plants and animals.

The dispersed settlement pattern of the region, combined with few public transport services, result in **social isolation**, particularly for old, young and disabled people.

Conflict over land use in the region was a major reason for initiating the NRRS.

THE AIM OF THE STRATEGY

(OVERHEAD 4: MAP OF THE REGION)

The region extends from Grafton to Tweed Heads and includes the twelve local government areas of Tweed, Byron Bay, Ballina, Lismore, Kyogle, Richmond River, Casino, Maclean, Ulmarra, Copmanhurst, Grafton and Nymboida.

The Northern Rivers Regional Strategy aims to manage the development of the region so that the natural advantages and lifestyle of the Northern Rivers are maintained. The development of the Strategy is underpinned by principles of sustainable development, which will enable:

- integration of planning at all levels in our region to strengthen co-operation and regional identity
- development of human settlements and activities in a way that achieves sustainable communities
- sustainable economic development and employment growth for our region's population
- improvement of our region's distinctive quality of life, including the social, natural and cultural environment, for all people

- protection, maintenance and, over time, strengthening of our region's biodiversity and its supporting ecosystems
- protection of our region's existing and potential natural resource base and maximisation of efficiency of its use
- improvement of communications, accessibility and transport, both within our region and between our region and others
- accommodation of the diversity of views and values within our region and reduction of conflict between them.

The Strategy has a planning horizon of about 20 years, to 2016.

WHAT MAKES THE NRRS DIFFERENT?

(OVERHEAD 5: A PARTNERSHIP)

It is the first time in the region that a planning strategy has been developed as a partnership of business, local and State government.

The partnership approach means that the disciplines of land use planning, economic development and environmental management can be fully integrated.

It is the first strategy in the region to use sustainability principles as its foundation.

It has involved probably the most extensive consultation undertaken yet as part of a planning exercise in the region. This overhead is intended to show, on the left hand side, the positive things about the region that we want to encourage and, on the right hand side, the things that are considered as negative and that we want to change. Again, these are issues that have been identified and confirmed through background research and the various levels of consultation.

We would like to **increase**:

- prosperity- acknowledging that different people want different levels of material wealth
- jobs - we would like to achieve long term, secure employment for people in the region. During consultations people have questioned the traditional definitions of jobs and suggested that we should define 'work' in an appropriate way for the Northern Rivers
- quality of life - this is very important to people in the region, although it means different things to different people. We want to improve quality of life for the region's population, now and in the future
- cultural diversity - the benefits of diversity can be seen in our thriving arts and music industries; increasing diversity increases the strength of the community through exchange of ideas, views and experiences
- environmental quality - many people are attracted to this region because of its natural attributes; our economy is dependent upon the continued health of our environment

We would like to **reduce**:

- sprawl - the futures workshop in Ballina in August 1995 (Community Workshop No 1) raised the issue of limits to growth and determining boundaries to urban settlement. This also applies to rural settlement. It is generally agreed that sprawl is undesirable on a number of grounds
- conflict -. by finding a better way to do things in the region and through more consistent planning we can reduce conflict
- pollution - contamination of waterways has had a negative impact on industries such as the oyster industry in recent times. Air pollution leads to health problems. We need to reduce pollution if we are to maintain a sustainable economy and improve our quality of life
- loss of farming potential - this was also an important issue raised at Community Workshop No 1 and in subsequent consultations. We need to look at the problem both in terms of planning controls and farm viability
- fragmented planning - integrated planning was the highest priority identified at Community Workshop No 1. The fragmentation of planning responsibilities and inconsistency of planning objectives contributes to conflict in the region

HOW THE STRATEGY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED

A futures workshop (Community Workshop No 1), held in Ballina in August 1995, provided the basis for the development of the Strategy. About 150 people, from a wide variety of backgrounds, attended the workshop and put forward their views about the important issues facing the region.

(OVERHEAD 6: COMMUNITY WORKSHOP - shows issues in order of importance)

The workshop results were consolidated into six key issue areas. Discussion papers were prepared on these key issues to direct debate and help define the direction and scope of the Strategy.

The six key issues are:

- sustainable development
- economic viability of the region
- landscape, lifestyle and the environment
- current and future land use patterns
- accessibility, communications and transport
- resource utilisation and management

The discussion papers were circulated widely to obtain the views of local government, interest groups and the community.

Some issues, identified by the management committee or through the discussion papers, required more detailed investigation before ways to address them could be found. These specific research projects include:

discussion papers on:

- social issues
- environmental management
- public transport
- land use/transport integration

development of recommendations on:

- industries futures
- environmental management
- protection of agricultural lands
- urban renewal options, South Grafton
- an audit of industrial land in all local government areas in the region.

All the discussion papers and research findings have been circulated to the management committee, valley committees, working groups and other interested parties.

(OVERHEAD 7: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK)

The information from the research, together with the results from the consultation to date, have been used to develop a vision for the future of the region, suggested policies, a set of specific results we want to achieve by 2016, a list of possible action plans and a schematic structure plan setting out a possible settlement hierarchy and important regional resources.

WHY A FRAMEWORK

The region has now spent 18 months researching the issues and obtaining the views of as wide a range of people as possible. It will take some time longer to resolve all the issues and gain full agreement on all the actions we will take as part of the Strategy.

The NRRS Framework document is attempting to do no more than make a suggestion as to what such a Strategy might contain, what the broad direction for the future might be and to seek comment.

The questions people in the region need to ask about the Framework are:

Does it reflect the appropriate philosophy and attributes for the region?

Does it contain the most relevant bits and pieces for the plan to be useful?

Are the right issues being considered and the priorities right?

Will it enable the final Strategy to deliver real results?

To put forward now the completed draft Strategy without seeking the community's response to the Framework (the broad direction and context) would be unreasonable. The Strategy that will make a difference for the region will be complete and require many of us to struggle fiercely with the issues facing the Northern Rivers and to accept, in some instances, that new ways and attributes are required. It is a matter of moving forward at a rate that all of us feel comfortable with.

CONSULTATION TO DATE

(OVERHEAD 8: CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION)

Development of the Strategy to date has involved extensive consultation with State and local government, business, community and professional organisations and the general public. This overhead shows the main focus of consultation to date and who has been consulted. We have tried to reach as wide a range of people and use as many different ways as possible

The consultation to date has focused on the issue of sustainability principles as the basis of the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy, and how those principles might be applied in practice.

Sustainable development was identified as the second highest priority at Community Workshop No 1, after integrated planning. The management committee, valley committees and Community Workshop No 2 have all endorsed sustainability principles as the foundation of the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy.

The NRRS guiding principles (developed from established sustainability principles) have been used to develop the suggested policies, results and action plans in the Framework document.

Consultation has included:

the stakeholders:

Management of the Strategy, involving a large number of organisations, through:

the management committee - the decision-making body - which meets monthly

the three valley committees, which are local government-based but also include representatives from community, business and environment groups, also meet monthly

the advisory committee, which meets as necessary.

A project team, consisting of four members of the management committee, the strategic planner and the consultation co-ordinator is responsible for incorporating the research and consultation findings into the Strategy. The project team meets on a weekly basis, or as necessary.

experts and the community

Six working groups, made up of individuals and organisational representatives with particular interests or expertise, were set up to discuss issues based on the topics of:

- sustainable development
- economic viability
- landscape, lifestyle and the environment
- resource utilisation and management
- accessibility, communications and transport
- land use and settlement patterns

These were established to review the six key issues discussion papers and other research and investigation projects. They are convened on an 'as needs' basis. In the past 18 months working groups have been convened to consider discussion papers on social issues, public transport and land use/transport integration, and environmental management.

The initial and subsequent discussion papers and results of other research projects have been referred to the appropriate working group for comment.

In addition, **key business and agricultural industry groups** are being consulted on a review of agricultural land and industries futures in the region.

There have been two forums to give the broader community an opportunity to discuss and comment on relevant issues: Community Workshop No 1 at Ballina in August 1995, which identified the priority issues to be covered by the NRRS and Community Workshop No 2, also at Ballina, in April 1997, which endorsed sustainability principles as the basis for the NRRS and discussed some of the questions arising from those principles.

information to the wider community

A **newsletter**, providing updates on the NRRS, has been circulated to everyone who has participated in the Strategy process.

Advertisements and newspaper columns are to attract the interest of, and provide opportunities to participate to, people who are not yet involved.

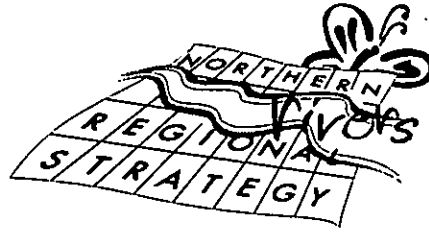
A **photographic competition** for young people has been used as a project to improve understanding about sustainable development in high schools and is part of an education and awareness program to be carried out as part of the development of the Strategy.

Two **community workshops** have been held. The first was the futures workshop, held in August 1995, to identify the priorities which the community felt should be addressed by the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy. The second workshop was held in April 1997 to give participants who attended the futures workshop, together with interested members of the public, an opportunity to comment on the guiding principles and general direction of the Strategy to date.

Other **events and media contacts** have included an information stand at the Nimbin Expo at Easter 1997 and Primex in Casino in June, ABC radio coverage through Stuart White's fortnightly environmental management program and feature articles and advertisements in the press.

State and Federal members have been briefed on relevant occasions on the progress of the Strategy.

Other groups and Government departments which have been consulted on an ad hoc basis include the North Coast Catchment Co-ordinating Committee, Environmental Protection Authority, North Coast Environment Education Committee, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and other indigenous groups, Southern Cross University, North Coast Environment Council, NSW Agriculture, local government and consultant planners, Department of Housing and the Ministerial Task Force on Housing.



FINDING A BETTER WAY IN THE NORTHERN RIVERS - MOVING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

The term 'sustainable development' has been used since the 1970s to denote development which does not automatically lead to environmental degradation and which does not lead to large inequities in society.

The terms 'sustainable development', 'ecologically sustainable development' and, sometimes, 'economically sustainable development' have been used interchangeably as interpretations of the challenge to reconcile our social and economic development with maintenance of a healthy, functioning biophysical environment, upon which all life depends.

Sustainable development in practice

Sustainable development is a process rather than an end result. It means adopting a set of principles to guide our actions towards the outcomes we want: long term economic viability, social harmony and a healthy and attractive natural environment.

(OVERHEAD 9: SUSTAINABILITY DIAGRAM)

There are a number of fundamental principles which have been endorsed by both government and environmental organisations. These include:

- intergenerational and intragenerational equity - involves accepting that the current generation should not leave a degraded environment for the next generation, and recognition that equity within the present generation is a legitimate and necessary goal
- integration of the economy and the environment - acknowledging the linkages between the health of both the economy and the natural environment
- dealing cautiously with risk, uncertainty and irreversibility - adoption of the precautionary principle and an anticipatory approach to potential development impacts
- conservation of biological diversity - maintaining the variety of life forms and ecological integrity
- recognition of the global dimension - accepting that the impacts of national, state and local policies and activities are not spatially or temporally confined

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

In order to maintain our quality of life in the Northern Rivers, we must live within the carrying capacity of the region's resource base and its supporting ecosystems. The Northern Rivers Regional Strategy has adopted the principles of sustainable development to demonstrate that we acknowledge that the social and economic well-being of the region depends on the continued health of the natural environment. We intend to follow a path of social and economic development which maintains the integrity of the ecosystems on which we depend.

Sustainable development was the highest priority for the region (after integrated planning) identified at the futures workshop (Community Workshop No 1) held at Ballina in August 1995.

The management committee, valley committees, working groups and the Community Workshop No 2, held in Ballina in April 1997, have all endorsed sustainability principles as the foundation for the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy.

The application of sustainability principles in the Northern Rivers region will involve the resolution of some key issues, including:

1. Distinguishing between economic growth and economic development

The Commission for the Future (in the Australian edition of the Brundtland Report) distinguished between economic growth and development:

Economic growth is defined as an increase in real income per capita. Development, on the other hand, simply means desirable change. The Commission also stated that 'in a market economy, it is likely that development, however defined, requires that the level of real income per capita is maintained if not increased.'

The discussion paper 'Economic Viability of the Northern Rivers Region' highlighted this issue. Our current measures of economic performance, such as gross domestic product (GDP), register **economic growth** in terms of the number of resources used. Thus, for example, the hospital and para-medical resources used to deal with road accidents are included as positive measures of economic growth. The discussion paper suggests that the region follow the example of the United Nations by measuring **economic development**, which incorporates quality of life factors such as health and access to educational and cultural services, for example. This would mean that some types of resource use (such as those used in dealing with road accidents) would be assigned a negative rating.

The Strategy has adopted the definition of economic development, as suggested in the discussion paper, as the basis for measuring economic performance in the region. This approach has been endorsed by the management committee, the valley committees, participating organisations and working groups.

(OVERHEAD 10: HERMAN DALY)

(OVERHEAD 11: GROWTH OR DEVELOPMENT)

2. Identifying the real costs of development and activities

If the economy is seen to be integrated with, and dependent on, the environment, the environmental and social costs or impacts of development must be taken into account. This is currently not the case. 'Green accounting' is now being adopted by many organisations and businesses (including the World Bank) to take into account what

were previously termed 'externalities', such as quality of life issues and environmental degradation.

3. Measuring benefits and costs of proposed developments and activities in terms of:

financial, social and ecological wealth;

effects on individuals and the community as a whole; and

effects on future generations (the seventh generation principle).

The quality of life in the Northern Rivers is very important, both to existing residents and newcomers. Activities which result in little or no modification of ecosystems can also satisfy human needs and improve the quality of human life.

4. determining some sort of carrying capacity for the region, i.e. what are its available resources and capacities to absorb wastes.

What we are aiming towards in the Northern Rivers region is best practice in planning and development. Sustainability principles are a guide to achieving best practice.

(OVERHEAD 12: THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE)

STRATEGY PRINCIPLES

(OVERHEAD 13: GUIDING PRINCIPLES)

We require a set of guiding principles to help us achieve best practice in our region and attain the vision of the future expressed in the NRRS Framework document. The Strategy guiding principles have been derived from sustainability principles developed for Australia's National Strategy on Ecologically Sustainable Development.

They are:

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT MEANS A HEALTHY ECONOMY

The natural environment provides society with a wide range of useful goods and services which we use to engage in economic activity. If we do not have healthy water, soils and air we will not be able to maintain our sugar cane, macadamia, cattle, fishing and oyster industries which are the mainstay of the regional economy.

DECISIONS SHOULD BE MADE WHICH BENEFIT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO ENJOY WHAT WE HAVE

Everybody in our region's communities is entitled to quality of life. Equally, future generations of people in our region should not be prevented from having a high quality of life because of what we do now.

DEVELOPMENT MEANS MORE THAN JUST ECONOMIC GROWTH

Traditionally, we measure our progress in terms of economic growth, which is simply a measure of how many resources we use. Our wealth as a region also includes quality of life and our cultural diversity. A measure of regional development which includes quality of life factors will provide a much clearer overall picture of the prosperity and progress of our region

WE SHOULD CARE FOR OUR REGION'S RESOURCES

Some resources, such as quarry resources and fossil fuels, are finite. Other "renewable resources", including agricultural land and forestry products, start to degrade or become less productive if they are overused. If we overuse our resources there will be none left for our children's children.

OUR NATURAL CAPITAL IS PART OF OUR REGION'S ASSETS

Our natural capital includes the ecosystems of the region (biological wealth) and the amenity or "non-use" values of our natural environment, such as landscapes. Our healthy and relaxed lifestyle are part of the income we derive from this natural capital.

WE SHOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT WE DO

We do not always know what the effect will be of the things we do. If we choose to do things which could damage the environment we must take responsibility for ensuring that impacts are minimised.

WE SHOULD LOOK BEYOND OUR OWN BACKYARD

Some of the effects of what we do in the Northern Rivers are felt outside the region. For example, the non-renewable fossil fuels we use to drive our cars come from outside our region. Similarly, the air pollution we create by driving cars is dispersed beyond the boundaries of our region.

DIVERSITY AND EFFICIENCY ENCOURAGE RESILIENCE

Our region's economy and social environment are complex networks of contact and exchange. Their resilience lies in the diversity of activities and the strength of the links between them.

WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE REAL COSTS OF WHAT WE DO

The social and environmental impacts of goods and services are paid for separately, such as the charges for garbage services to carry away the packaging our food and other goods come in. If social and environmental costs were included in the prices of goods and services, the balance of supply and demand would become much more realistic.

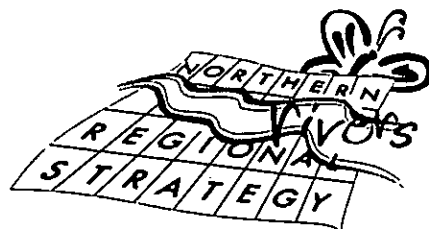
THE COMMUNITY HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DECISION MAKING

Broad community participation is required to ensure that what we do in our region benefits the whole community rather than individuals or particular sectors.

EXAMPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

There are 6 handouts which give examples of sustainable development in practice.

(OVERHEADS 14, 15, 16, 17 AND 18 PROVIDE OTHER EXAMPLES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY BE OF USE WITH THESE NOTES)



WHAT'S IN THE FRAMEWORK?

COMPONENTS OF THE FRAMEWORK

(OVERHEAD 7: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK)

The main components of the NRRS Framework document are:

A suggested **VISION** for the region. The vision is intended to be a clear, concise expression of how we would like the region to be in the year 2016: the ideal state of the region. There is no set time frame but it is a long term view.

(OVERHEAD 19: A VISION)

A set of **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**, based on sustainability principles, to provide the overall direction for the NRRS and establish best practice in the region.

(OVERHEAD 13: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK)

Suggested **POLICIES** apply the guiding principles to the important issues in the region as a way to work towards the vision. They translate the Framework's direction into something more immediately useful.

A list of **RESULTS**, which are specific and measurable things we would like to see achieved by 2016. They can be short, medium or long term and they will apply to the regional, valley and local level.

POSSIBLE ACTION PLANS are suggested ways to achieve the results we want to see. The final action plans will detail who does what and when. Attachment 1 describes the possible action plans in detail.

(OVERHEADS 20, 21, 22: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK - POSSIBLE ACTION PLANS)

A **SCHEMATIC STRUCTURE PLAN** seeks to identify the desired future character of our region as it will be about the year 2016. It builds on the functional hierarchy defined in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning's North Coast Urban Planning Strategy to more clearly define:

- . the form and character of settlement
- . major regional corridors
- . major regional ports
- . important regional greenbelts
- . important regional agricultural lands

- . industrial areas of regional importance
- . extractive industry sites of regional importance.

IMPORTANT ISSUES

The following issues were identified at the futures workshop in Ballina (Community Workshop No 1) and have been raised in discussion papers and subsequent consultations. Some issues are now the subject of research projects being undertaken as part of the development of the NRRS. Other issues, although no less important, will require more long term investigation.

Issues under investigation:

Protection of agricultural land

Protection of extractive resources

Growth management and building sustainable communities

Creating appropriate employment in the region through sustainable economic development

Better protection of biodiversity and natural environment

Fostering cultural diversity while reducing conflict

Quality of life

Issues requiring investigation in the future

1. Transport and the integration of land use and transport planning, including, for example:
 - . the role of rail transport in the region
 - . developing a transport information system
 - . regional cycling and walking strategies
 - . a regional integrated transport plan
 - . investigation of innovative transport opportunities
 - . local transport strategies
 - . a regional telecommunications strategy
 - . a regional freight and commercial travel strategy

2. Monitoring the State of the Environment (SoE), including, for example:

- . preparing a regional SoE report based on the information in local SoE reports (the Department of Local Government is preparing guidelines on regional SoE reporting), with relevant indicators to measure progress
- . developing a sustainability index to assess the contribution of results and action plans to achieving the vision
- . establishing a measure for regional economic development which takes into account quality of life factors (and uses the data base established through the input-output table)

3. Research on carrying capacity, green accounting and cumulative impact, including, for example:

- . identification of carrying capacity at the local, valley and regional levels - this will be important for defining limits to growth and for achieving sustainable development
- . green accounting as a means to acknowledge the full costs of the things we make and do. Organisations such as the World Bank are introducing green accounting techniques into their assessments of countries' wealth and assets. More research is needed on how these accounting methods could be applied in our region.

Recognition of cumulative impacts to understand and maintain the supply of natural capital in the region. Methods of assessing cumulative impact are being developed elsewhere and could be applied to the Northern Rivers region

4. Improved resource management, including, for example:

- . a regional GIS network to establish natural resources data base (to use for explaining and displaying natural resource limits)
- . a river management plan for the three rivers covering residential, commercial, industrial, recreational and tourism uses
- . developing a stronger relationship between planning and management by supporting the fundamental components of catchment management with planning legislation and monitoring the outcomes.

5. Research on community values and participation, including, for example:

- . incorporating the findings into the strategic planning and development assessment processes
- . establishing formal structures for community participation

WORK IN PROGRESS: RESEARCH PROJECTS

Agricultural Lands Review

The objectives of this review are to:

- (a) review and refine the existing land classification mapping system to take into account areas of specialist class land and include forestry suitability mapping in our region's definition of agricultural land;
- (b) establish, through consultation, the present and future requirements of a range of agricultural industries;
- (c) identify the landscape and lifestyle values associated with agricultural land; and
- (d) develop a range of planning and economic measures to ensure better protection of agricultural land in the future.

NSW Agriculture is finalising the land classification mapping.

A workshop was held in April to identify the future land requirements for agricultural industries in the region, from which a number of discussion points emerged.

The first steps have been taken to develop a method for evaluating and mapping regionally significant landscapes at a workshop held in July. The NRRS Management Committee has collaborated with the Royal Australian Planning Institute and the Northern Rivers Landscape Group to work further on this issue, with a view to developing guidelines for scenic landscape protection in the region.

An Agricultural Lands Review Task Force has been established to:

- . review the effectiveness of existing strategic and statutory planning mechanisms in the region
- . assess the applicability of planning measures and economic instruments used elsewhere in Australia and overseas
- . recommend specific strategies and actions to be included in the NRRS, based on principles of sustainable development
- . make recommendations for NSW Agriculture policy guidelines to assist councils in their decision-making on conservation of agricultural land versus urban or rural-residential development.

The Task Force will be meeting during the period of exhibition and its findings will be incorporated into the final report to be prepared at the end of the year.

Protecting extractive and mineral resources

As part of the implementation of DUAP's North Coast Urban Planning Strategy, a discussion paper has been prepared to explore ways to protect regionally significant extractive sites and

A joint project of the Northern Rivers Regional Economic Development Organisation (NOREDO), Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC) and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP)

their haulage routes. The findings of the discussion paper, where they are relevant to the Northern Rivers region, can be adapted and expanded upon to come within the terms of reference of the NRRS.

Sustainable Communities: Urban Renewal Initiative, South Grafton

A proposal is being prepared for redesign of part of an existing Department of Housing estate in such a way as to maximise the sustainability and liveability of the defined area while working to improve the efficiency of the Department of Housing's stock. The project will also provide an example of best practice for other re-development projects.

Sustainable Communities: Clarence Valley Joint Planning Exercise

A joint planning strategy is being prepared by Grafton, Ulmarra, Nymboida and Copmanhurst Councils which will apply the NRRS guiding principles at a valley level and meet the requirements of DUAP's North Coast Urban Planning Strategy and Rural Settlement Guidelines.

Sustainable Communities: Guidelines for Sustainable Development

The purpose of the guidelines is to assist planning authorities (particularly councils) and developers to apply sustainability principles to strategic planning and development assessment processes. The guidelines could address extent, location, form and function of human settlement.

Sustainable Economic Development: Industries Futures

This project has two components:

- (a) preparation of an economic input-output table for the Northern Rivers region which will identify the range of economic activities and their contribution to the regional economy; and
- (b) two or three individual case studies of sustainable industries that could be promoted in our region.

The project will demonstrate how economic and environmental objectives could be reconciled and suggest specific strategies for economic development.

Protection of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment - Environmental Management

A discussion paper was prepared on environmental issues facing our region and suggested management approaches. These suggested approaches are now being refined to develop specific recommendations for improved environmental management in our region. The recommendations will be discussed as part of the consultation process during the exhibition of the NRRS Framework document.

Protection of Biodiversity and the Natural Environment - Regional Greenbelt Network

This is designed to provide a network of "green" areas within the North Coast region as defined in DUAP's North Coast Urban Planning Strategy. It is likely to include wilderness

A joint project of the Northern Rivers Regional Economic Development Organisation (NOREDO), Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC) and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP)

areas, national parks and reserves, together with areas of particular biodiversity value and linkages between core areas. The network will be joined with those already identified elsewhere, such as SE Queensland, or to be identified in the future.

Fostering Diversity and Reducing Conflict: A Conflict Management Strategy

A conflict management strategy is being developed for our region. This involves researching the current methods used to settle disputes and working to encourage, through consultation, policies, guidelines and operating procedures to make the management of conflict, including access to a range of alternative dispute resolution techniques, a normal part of planning, development and building approval processes in our region. The very clear benefits which would result from this include:

- . greater responsiveness to local concerns and issues;
- . providing the opportunity for disputing parties to meet on a face-to-face basis, thus empowering them to resolve their differences in an atmosphere conducive to conciliation;
- . greater potential for early resolution of conflict;
- . avoidance of litigation in the Land and Environment Court; and
- . reduced community conflict and improved public confidence in the development assessment process and faster assessments of applications, providing savings for the development industry, residents and councils.

Research program on quality of life indicators and community values

A preliminary survey has been undertaken to find out what quality of life factors are important to people in our region. More detailed research at the local, valley and regional level will provide information which can be taken into account in the strategic planning and development assessment process. Finding out community values will help to define the character of villages towns and cities and contribute towards a better sense of regional identity.

ATTACHMENT 1: SUMMARY OF POSSIBLE ACTION PLANS INCLUDED IN THE NRRS FRAMEWORK

Integrated planning (4 possible action plans identified):

1. Options for implementation of NRRS, including:
 - establishing a regional secretariat
 - co-ordinating State and local authorities to develop regional budgets to implement the NRRS
 - undertaking research to implement and review action plans
 - developing a monitoring program
2. Standardised procedures for residential release

Residential release strategies prepared by councils could be an important contribution to achieving sustainable communities. Standardising the criteria used to develop the strategies will ensure a more co-ordinated and integrated approach within our region.
3. Finalisation of regional structure plan

The structure plan shown in the Framework document is schematic only. Finalisation will include not only identifying a preferred settlement pattern but also reaching agreement on regionally important agricultural land, an appropriate greenbelt and other resources important to our region.
4. Regional SOE reporting

The Department of Local Government is proposing that SOE reporting, already a statutory requirement for councils, take more account of sustainability principles. The Department will also be preparing guidelines for regional SOE reporting.

Sustainable human settlements and activities (3 possible action plans identified):

1. Urban renewal initiative, South Grafton

A proposal is being prepared for redesign of part of an existing Department of Housing estate in such a way as to maximise the sustainability and liveability of the defined area while working to improve the efficiency of the Department of Housing's stock. The project will also provide an example of best practice for other re-development projects.
2. Clarence Valley Joint Planning Exercise

A joint planning strategy is being prepared by Grafton, Ulmarra, Nymboida and Copmanhurst Councils which will apply the NRRS guiding principles at a valley

level and meet the requirements of DUAP's North Coast urban Planning Strategy and Rural Settlement Guidelines.

3. **Guidelines for sustainable development**

The purpose of the guidelines is to assist planning authorities (particularly councils) and developers to apply sustainability principles to strategic planning and development assessment processes. The guidelines could address extent, location, form and function of human settlement.

Economic development (2 possible action plans identified):

1. **Industries Futures**

This project has two components:

- (a) preparation of an economic input-output table for the Northern Rivers region which will identify the range of economic activities and their contribution to the regional economy; and
- (b) two or three individual case studies of sustainable industries that could be promoted in our region

The project will demonstrate how economic and environmental objectives could be reconciled and suggest specific strategies for economic development.

2. **Research on carrying capacity, green accounting and cumulative impact**

Identification of carrying capacity at the local, valley and regional levels will be important for defining limits to growth and for achieving sustainable development. Green accounting is a means to acknowledge the full costs of the things we make and do. Organisations such as the World Bank are introducing green accounting techniques into their assessments of countries wealth and assets. More research is needed on how these accounting methods could be applied in our region. Recognition of cumulative impacts is essential in understanding and maintaining the supply of natural capital in the region. Methods of assessing cumulative impact are being developed elsewhere and could be applied to the Northern Rivers region.

Quality of Life (2 possible action plans identified):

1. **Research program on quality of life indicators and community values**

A preliminary survey has been undertaken to find out what quality of life factors are important to people in our region. More detailed research at the local, valley and regional level will provide information which can be taken into account in the strategic planning and development assessment process. Finding out community values will help to define the character of villages, towns and cities and contribute towards a better sense of regional identity.

2. Guidelines to protect regionally important landscapes

Our landscapes contribute significantly to our region's attractiveness and high quality of life. The purpose of this action plan would be to develop a methodology to identify and protect regionally important landscapes.

Biodiversity (2 possible action plans identified):

1. Environmental management

A discussion paper was prepared on environmental issues facing our region and suggested management approaches. These suggested approaches are now being refined to develop specific recommendations for improved environmental management in our region.

2. Regional greenbelt network

This is designed to provide a network of "green" areas within the North Coast region as defined in DUAP's North Coast urban Planning Strategy. It is likely to include wilderness areas, national parks and reserves, together with areas of particular biodiversity value and linkages between core areas. The network will be joined with those already identified elsewhere, such as SE Queensland, or to be identified in the future.

Natural resources (2 possible action plans identified):

1. Agricultural lands review

The objectives of this review are to:

- (a) review and refined the existing land classification mapping system to take into account areas of specialist class land and include forestry suitability mapping in our region's definition of agricultural land;
- (b) establish, through consultation, the present and future land requirements of a range of agricultural industries;
- (c) identify the landscape and lifestyle values associated with agricultural land; and
- (d) develop a range of planning and economic measures to ensure better protection of agricultural land in the future.

2. Protecting extractive and mineral resources

As part of the implementation of DUAP's North Coast Urban Planning Strategy, a discussion paper has been prepared to explore ways to protect regionally significant extractive sites and their haulage routes. The findings of the discussion paper, where they are relevant to the Northern Rivers region, can be adapted and expanded upon to come within the terms of reference of the NRRS.

Communications and transport (7 possible action plans identified):

1. A transport information system

Good transport planning relies on an adequate information system which could include:

demand for different modes of travel and factors influencing that demand, such as journey to work statistics, demographic factors and non-work journeys;

regional and sub-regional travel generators;

patterns of land use;

costs (including environmental and social costs) of different transport networks and travel modes; and

demand for, and costs of, inter -and intra-regional freight movement

2. Regional cycling and walking strategies

Investigation of ways in which walking and cycling can be encouraged, both in new and existing developments, and linked to form valley and regional networks.

3. Regional integrated transport plan

This could cover road, rail, air and sea transport and the location, construction, operation and maintenance of the different forms of transport. It will be important to develop regional and sub-regional transport hierarchies.

4. Investigation of innovative transport opportunities

New and innovative approaches to public and community transport, such as the personal public transport system, could be used to support standard approaches to public transport provision in the Northern Rivers.

5. Local transport strategies

Councils could prepare strategies for their local areas which are integrated at a valley or a regional level. Examples are the development of valley road hierarchies with priorities for maintenance and local public transport strategies. There are also opportunities for councils to prepare joint developer contributions plans.

6. Regional telecommunications strategy

Improved communications could be used as a substitute for travel for certain services and facilities. A communications network could also enhance economic development and increase availability of information in our region.

7. **Regional freight and commercial travel strategy**

A freight transport network which better meets the requirements of producers, distributors, retailers and consumers in our region will support economic development initiatives.

Diversity of views and values (1 possible action plan identified):

1. **Conflict management strategy**

A conflict management strategy is being developed for our region. This involves researching the current methods used to settle disputes and working to encourage, through consultation, policies, guidelines and operating procedures to make the management of conflict, including access to a range of alternative dispute resolution techniques, a normal part of planning, development and building approval processes in our region. The very clear benefits which would result from this include:

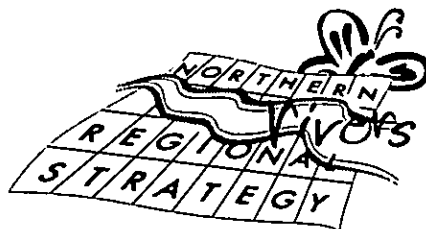
greater responsiveness to local concerns and issues;

providing the opportunity for disputing parties to meet on a face-to-face basis, thus empowering them to resolve their differences in an atmosphere conducive to conciliation;

greater potential for early resolution of conflict;

avoidance of litigation in the Land and Environment Court;

reduced community conflict and improved public confidence in the development assessment process and faster assessment of applications, providing savings for the development industry, residents and councils.



HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

EXHIBITION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

The "Northern Rivers - Framework for a Sustainable Future" is scheduled for a period of public exhibition from late July to late September 1997. A closing date for comments and submissions is 26 September 1997, although it will be possible to receive additional comments until the end of September.

Exhibition

(OVERHEAD 23: EXHIBITION AND CONSULTATION)

The Framework cover has been designed to be used alone as either a brochure or a poster. This allows the poster to be placed on exhibition in shopping centres, community buildings, neighbourhood centres, libraries and on other public notice boards and display areas.

A travelling roadshow will tour some of the key regional centres and this will exhibit the whole Strategic Framework. The roadshow will have displays in Grafton, Yamba, Casino, Lismore, Ballina, Kyogle and Tweed Heads. A program for the dates and times of these displays is in the process of being finalised, however, you can contact Katrina Luckie on (066) 420 635 for more information about this.

Distribution

The Framework is being widely distributed to all local councils, with the assistance of NOROC. State Government agencies, libraries, neighbourhood centres and other educational institutions (such as TAFE colleges, Southern Cross University and schools in the region) will also receive copies. An extensive mailing list including participants from community workshops and all working group members will also be sent copies. The Regional Chamber of Commerce, Australian Business Limited and the North Coast Environment Council will help distribute copies of both the Framework and brochure to business, industry and environmental groups.

Extra copies will be provided for each council to ensure that there are copies available on display boards or at reception for interested community members to be able to read or borrow. The libraries throughout the region are very supportive about displaying the Framework and the poster in public areas.

The brochure will be used as an exclusive insert in the three regional papers - The Northern Star, Daily News and Daily Express - on Wednesday 13 August, 1997.

Publicity

The brochure will be placed in the three regional papers and be accompanied by advertising and editorial. NOROC will co-ordinate the incorporation of editorial in all council newsletters and columns to encourage widespread coverage about the Framework.

Radio or television interviews will be conducted by representatives from each of the partner organisations on a needs basis.

The Strategy Web page will also serve as another area to promote the Framework, the background research, and later the draft strategy, both within and beyond the Northern Rivers region.

Workshops and Presentations

A number of workshops and presentations are planned during the exhibition period. This kit has been developed to assist people in giving presentations to councils, business, industry, environmental or any other special interest groups, for example:

- Lions
- Rotary
- Probus
- Progress Associations
- NSW Farmers Association (7 branches)
- Cane Growers Association
- Dairy Farmers Association
- Chambers of Commerce
- Councils
- Environmental groups
- Planning groups
- Indigenous groups - Land Councils
- Landcare

Other formal meetings include presentations to industry groups, for example, to the Regional Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday 22 July, 1997 and a workshop for industry and business groups is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday 23 September, 1997.

A joint valley committee meeting, involving valley committee members, the NOROC Planning and Environment Committee and the Strategy Management Committee, called The Valley Summit is scheduled for Saturday 23 August, 1997, at Ballina Island Motor Inn from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Community Workshops are planned to be held in each of the valleys:

- Tweed Community Workshop in Murwillumbah **has been rescheduled from Saturday 30 August, 1997 to Saturday 6th September, 1997**
- Clarence Community Workshop, in Grafton on Saturday 13 September, 1997
- Richmond Community Workshop, in Lismore on Saturday 20 September, 1997

WHAT WE WANT FROM THE CONSULTATION

(OVERHEAD 23 - THE FRAMEWORK)

Any comments, no matter how short and simple, or how long and involved, are equally welcomed. If you have time your views on the entire Framework are welcome. Otherwise, comment on whatever you feel you want to.

It would be particularly useful to hear your comments on:

- the suggested vision for the future of the Northern Rivers region;
- the policy statements, which are intended as ways to apply the guiding principles to the important issues in our region;
- the list of results we would like to achieve by 2016;
- the possible action plans, including the schematic structure plan which depicts the possible future patterns of settlement and resource use.

These different components of the Framework have been developed through intensive research and consultation undertaken over the past two years. **At this stage, no priority has been given to any of the results or action plans.**

A questionnaire has been included in the brochure (although there is a more detailed survey on the Strategy web page) to allow people to comment quickly, and to find out:

- whether you support the intent of the suggested vision;
- if you think the guiding principles are likely to help us to find a better way in the Northern Rivers region;
- how you feel about the suggested policies as a means to address some of the key issues;
- if you agree with components of the structure plan.

People may like to comment on specific aspects of the suggested principles, policies, results, action plans, or the schematic structure plan. For example, you may like to identify components that you do or do not agree with and provide suggestions about how to improve them.

With respect to the suggested policies, you may like to comment on whether you think:

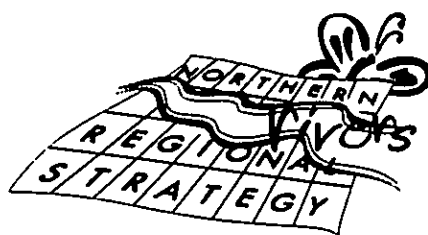
- they provide a basis to start to address the major issues affecting our region;
- they set a clear direction for the results that we would like to see achieved by 2016;
- the policies are consistent with the guiding principles;
- you can provide suggestions about how to improve them.

The suggested results are the specific things that we want to achieve by the year 2016. You may like to comment on:

- any of the results you do not agree with and explain why not;
- any results that you do not think are achievable;
- other results which may need to be included.

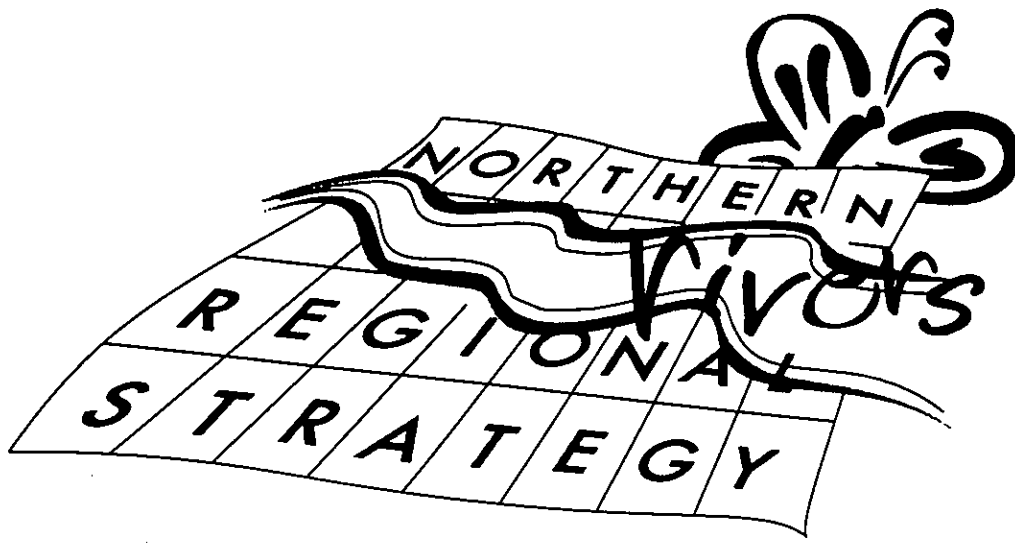
The ways to achieve the specific results have still to be developed in a number of suggested action plans. At this stage, no priority has been given to any of the results or action plans. You may like to indicate:

- whether you think the results provide a basis for developing the action plans;
- actions that need to be included in specific action plans;
- agencies which could be responsible for implementing various components of the action plans.



LIST OF OVERHEADS

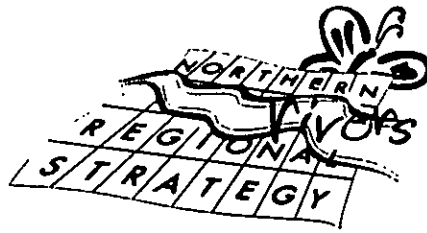
1. Title
2. Management Committee members
3. The Need for a Strategy
4. Map of Region
5. A Partnership
6. Community Workshop No 1: priority issues
7. A Strategic Framework
8. Consultation/Communication
9. Sustainability Diagram
10. Herman Daly: growth vs development
11. Growth or development?
12. The precautionary principle
13. Guiding Principles
14. Sustainable transport
15. Land
16. Daryl Jackson (cities)
17. Agricultural land
18. Growth management
19. A Vision
20. Strategic Framework: possible action plans
21. Strategic Framework: possible action plans
22. Strategic Framework: possible action plans
23. Exhibition and Consultation
24. The Framework - Consultation



NORTHERN RIVERS

A COMMUNITY STRATEGY

**WORKING TOWARDS
SUSTAINABILITY**



THE NORTHERN RIVERS REGIONAL STRATEGY

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ian Campbell (Chair), Assistant Director-General, DUAP

Dr Jim Gallagher, Chair, NOREDO

Cr Niki Gill, Planning and Environment Committee, NOROC

Steve Connelly, NOREDO

Trevor Prior, Regional Manager (Grafton), DUAP

Ian Oelrichs, NOREDO

Maree Faulkner, Executive Officer, NOROC

Paul Amar, Secretary, NOREDO

Cr John Gilbert, Chair, Clarence Valley Committee

Cr Jeff Champion, Chair, Richmond Valley Committee

Cr Max Boyd, Chair, Tweed Valley Committee

John Newman, Department of Transport

Lance Vickery, Roads and Traffic Authority

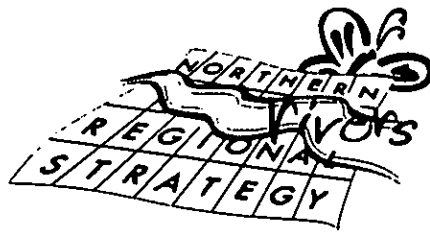
Trevor Wilson, State and Regional Development

Jill Lang, NSW Premier's Department

David Kanaley, Royal Australian Planning Institute

Terry Parkhouse, North Coast Environment Council

Amanda Kenyon, Northern Rivers Regional Development Board



THE NEED FOR A STRATEGY

Loss of economic potential

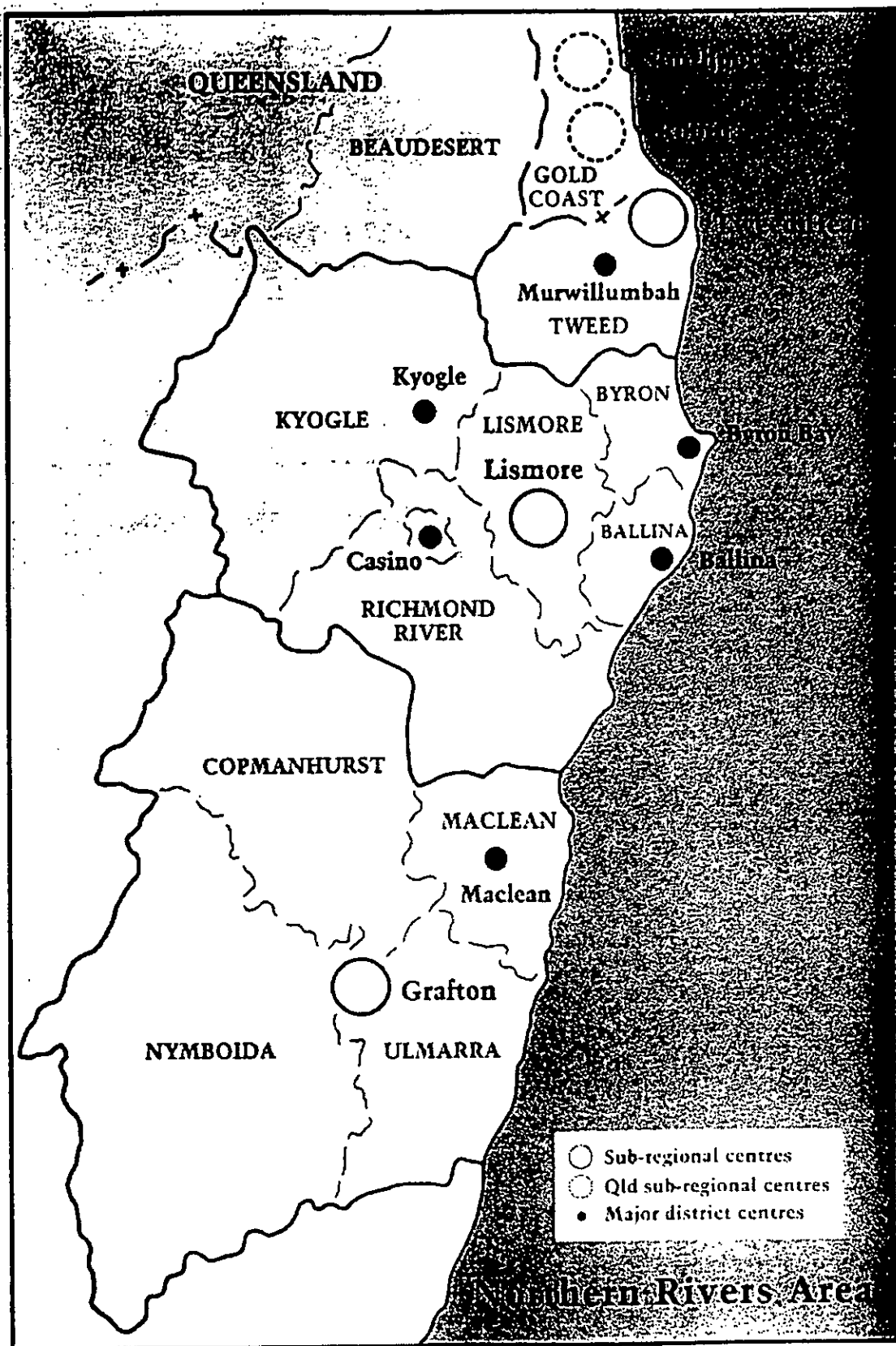
High growth but few jobs

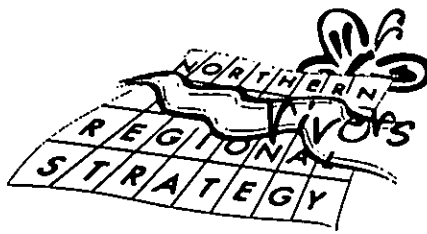
Low income

Declining environmental quality

Social isolation

Conflict over land use

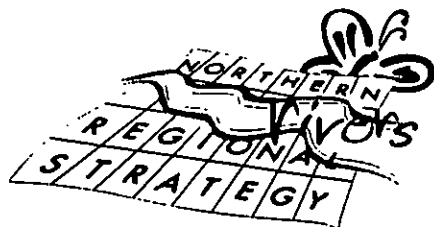




A PARTNERSHIP OF BUSINESS, LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT

FINDING A BETTER WAY TO

INCREASE	REDUCE
Prosperity	Sprawl
Jobs	Conflict
Quality of life	Pollution
Cultural diversity	Loss of farming potential
Environmental quality	Fragmented planning



COMMUNITY WORKSHOP NO 1

BALLINA, AUGUST 1995

PRIORITY ISSUES

INTEGRATED PLANNING

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENT

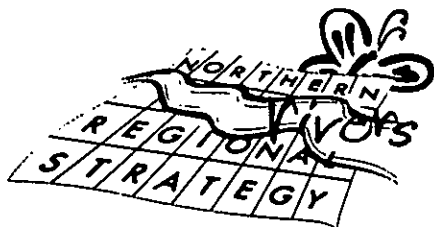
INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORT

WATER

INDUSTRY

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

TOURISM



A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

VISION

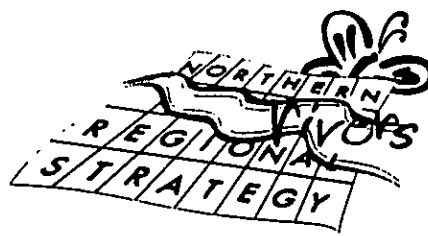
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

POLICIES

RESULTS WE WANT TO ACHIEVE BY 2016

SUGGESTED LIST OF ACTION PLANS

SCHEMATIC STRUCTURE PLAN 2016



CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES AS BASIS OF STRATEGY

APPLYING THE PRINCIPLES IN PRACTICE

Decision Making

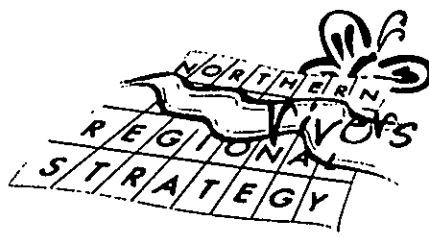
- Stakeholders

Gathering Information

- Technical
expertise
- The community

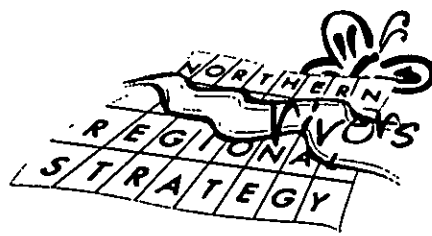
Information Dissemination

- Awareness
- Education



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

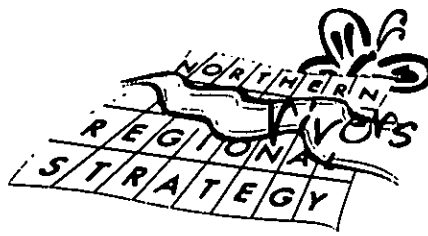




To grow means 'to increase naturally in size through the addition of material through assimilation or accretion'. To develop means 'to expand or realise the potentialities of; bring gradually to a fuller, greater or better state'. In short, growth is a quantitative increase in physical scale while development is a qualitative improvement or unfolding of potentiality. An economy can grow without developing, or develop without growing, or do both, or neither.

Herman Daly

1990



GROWTH OR DEVELOPMENT?

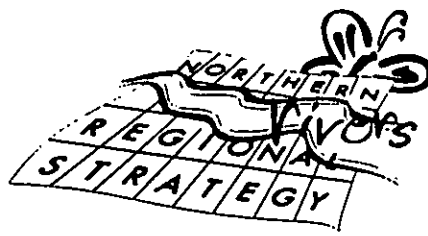
"Economic activity is only a means to welfare, not the thing itself."

Roger Levett

CAG Consultants, UK

"....growth simply means getting bigger while development means getting better."

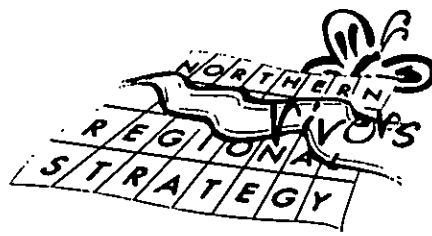
Mathis Wackernagel and William Rees (1996) Our Ecological Footprint: Reducing Human Impact on the Earth



THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

**IF WE LIVE AS IF IT MATTERS, AND IT DOESN'T
MATTER,
THEN IT DOESN'T MATTER**

**IF WE LIVE AS IF IT DOESN'T MATTER, AND IT
MATTERS,
THEN IT MATTERS**



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A healthy environment, a healthy economy

Decisions for the whole community, present and future

Development, not just growth

Caring for our resources

Natural capital is a regional asset

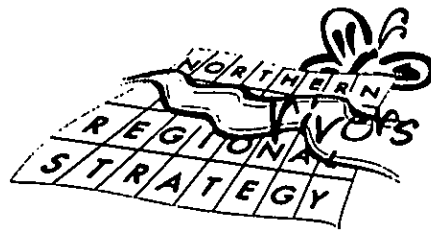
Take responsibility for what we do

Beyond our own backyard

Diversity and efficiency encourage resilience

Acknowledge real costs

Community participation



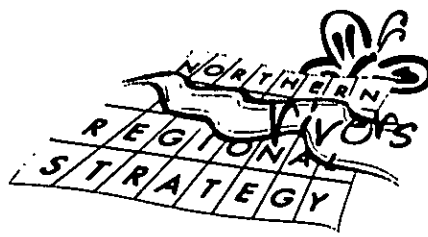
SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

"In moving towards a sustainable transport policy, the important point to realise is that the goal of transport is not mobility but accessibility"

Rafter, 1996 Sustainable Transport Planning and the Dublin Transportation Initiative European Planning Studies, Vol 4, No 2

"For many city dwellers, freedom is the end of the road."

John Arlidge, Guardian Weekly April 27 1997



LAND

"If we do not do the best by our land then it is very difficult to see how we can have a successful future"

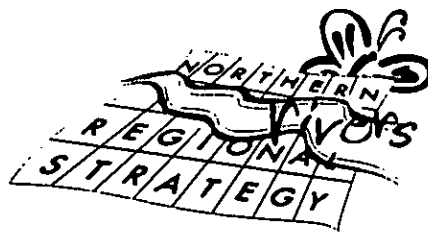
Ian Oelrichs

Deputy Chair, Northern Rivers Regional Strategy

Management Committee

'In Australian conditions there are no difficulties except customs and the idea that, because we bought the land, we can do what we like with it....We don't own the land. We own the exclusive rights to use the land, neither more nor less than that. We are the custodians of the land. The land is not for sale, it belongs to posterity.'

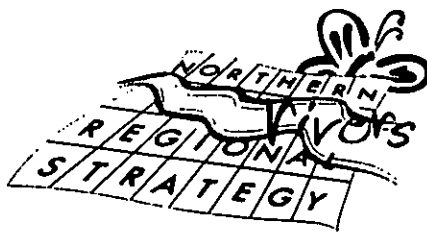
Hugh Robertson, 1945



"Cities are not simple socio-functional mechanisms linking habitats of home, work and recreation via a transportation system. They have also to offer opportunities for life to develop and excel, to be seen as signifiers of culture, as treasure-houses of shared and valued human experience."

Daryl Jackson, architect

paper presented to RAPI convention at Hobart 1994



AGRICULTURAL LAND

'One of the fundamental rules of good planning is that if you have a scarce resource or one which is already performing useful functions, you do not waste it by using it for some purpose which could be located elsewhere!'

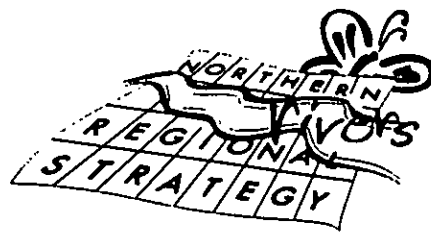
D. Cocks (1992) Use With Care - Managing Australia's Natural Resources in the Twenty First Century NSW University Press

"Good quality land in the NRRS area represents probably no more than 10% of the land area. Most other land is marginal in terms of its ability to sustain a range of intensive uses and is used mainly for beef cattle grazing and natural timber production."

Bob Smith

Future Land Requirements for Agricultural Industries

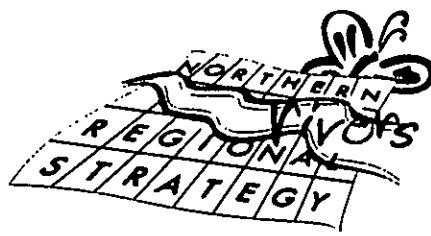
Draft Discussion Paper 18/4/97



GROWTH MANAGEMENT

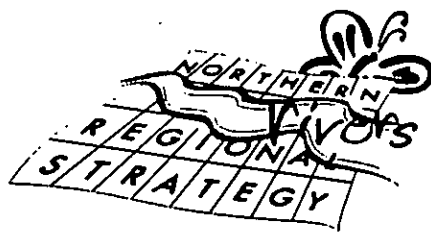
"[a] suitable total for the number of citizens cannot be fixed without considering the land and the neighbouring states. The land must be extensive enough to support a given number of people in modest comfort, and not a foot more is needed."

Plato Laws, Book V



VISION

**A HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS AND SUSTAINABLE
FUTURE FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF THE
NORTHERN RIVERS REGION**



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

POSSIBLE ACTION PLANS

INTEGRATED PLANNING

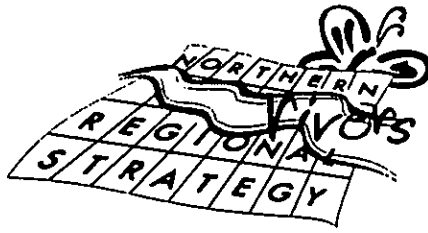
Options for implementation of NRRS
Standardised procedures for residential
release
Finalisation of regional structure plan
Regional SOE reporting

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Urban renewal initiative, South Grafton
Clarence Valley Joint Planning Exercise
Guidelines for sustainable development

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

A transport information system
Regional cycling and walking strategies
Regional integrated transport plan
Investigation of innovative transport
opportunities
Local transport strategies
Regional telecommunications strategy
Regional freight and commercial travel
strategy



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

POSSIBLE ACTION PLANS

ECONOMIC

Industries Futures

DEVELOPMENT

Research on carrying capacity, green accounting and cumulative impact

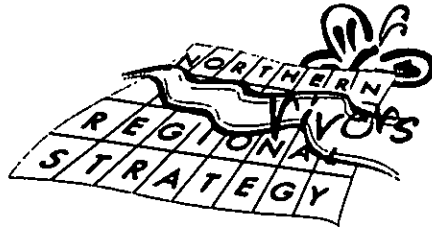
QUALITY OF LIFE

Research program on quality of life indicators and community values

Guidelines to protect regionally important landscapes

DIVERSITY OF VIEWS AND VALUES

Conflict management strategy

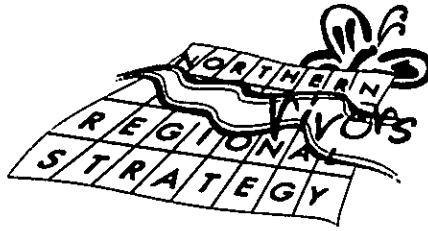


STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

POSSIBLE ACTION PLANS

BIODIVERSITY Environmental management
Regional greenbelt network

NATURAL Agricultural lands review
RESOURCES Protecting extractive and mineral resources



EXHIBITION AND CONSULTATION

EXHIBITION

Regional centres, councils, libraries

DISTRIBUTION

State and local government, industry, community

PUBLICITY

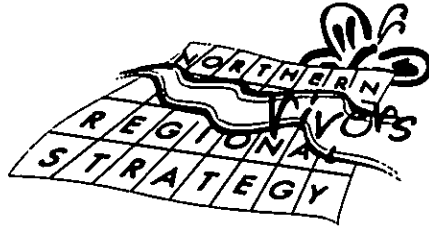
Editorial, inserts, advertising

Radio

World Wide Web

WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS

Council, industry, community



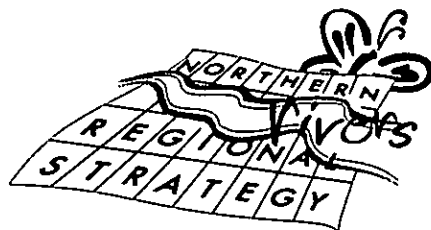
THE FRAMEWORK

CONSULTATION TO

Review policies and results

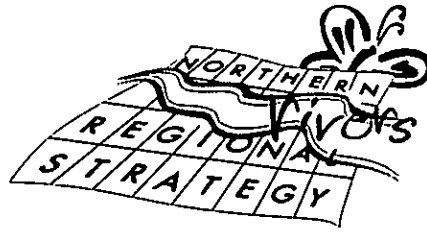
Set priorities

Develop action plans in more detail



LIST OF HANDOUTS

1. What is sustainable development?
2. Sustainable communities in practice
3. Sustainable economic development
4. Quality of life
5. Integration of land use and transport
6. Energy
7. Summary of briefing notes
8. Program of events



WHAT IS 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'?

Sustainable development has become a widely used term since the 1970s to denote development which does not automatically lead to environmental degradation or contribute to social inequality. There are many interpretations of sustainable development.

The World Commission of Environment and Development (1987), in the Brundtland Report, referred to 'sustainable development', which was defined as *'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'* This definition has been interpreted quite differently by various organisations and interests.

'Ecologically Sustainable Development - A Commonwealth Discussion Paper' (1990) states: *'ecologically sustainable development [means] using, conserving and enhancing the community's resources so that ecological processes, on which life depends, are maintained, and the total quality of life, now and in the future, can be increased.'* This definition expands upon the meaning of 'sustainable development' used in the Brundtland Report.

The World Conservation Strategy (1980) states that:

'for development to be sustainable it must take into account of social and ecological factors, as well as economic ones; of the living and non-living resource base; and of the long term as well as the short term advantages and disadvantages of alternative actions.'

The Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Groups, established in Australia in 1989, identified three core objectives for the achievement of sustainable development in Australia. These objectives are:

- *to enhance individual and community well-being and welfare by following a path of economic development that safeguards the welfare of future generations;*
- *to provide for equity within and between generations (i.e. intragenerational and intergenerational equity); and*
- *to protect biological diversity and maintain ecological processes and systems*

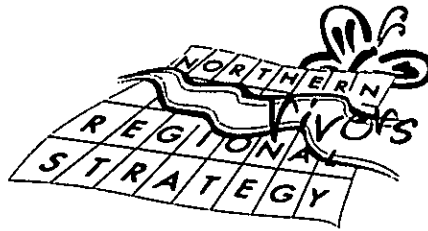
Sustainable development places equal emphasis on the economy, the environment and quality of life. For example:

Economic sustainability is dependent upon a healthy, functioning environment. An economically robust region will be able to provide a high level of environmental management and protection.

Economic sustainability will be easier to achieve in a just and equitable society. Access to goods and services, participation and respect for different values and needs are pre-requisites for social sustainability.

A focus on environmental or social sustainability, while ignoring economic sustainability will not provide long term regional viability.





SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Development, not Growth: World Bank Development Indicators 1997

World Bank president Mr James Wolfensohn has announced that the World Bank has released a new yardstick for measuring success in alleviating poverty and improving people's lives. "[It] starts from the premise that development is about the quality of life," Mr Wolfensohn said. "It places people and poverty reduction first, at the centre of the development agenda where they belong."

World Bank Development Indicators 1997 includes more than 75 tables showing global patterns in everything from education, current account balances and malnutrition to traffic congestion and tax rates.

"This report starts first with the quality of life and the population, it does not start with economics," Wolfensohn pointed out. "This is more than a gimmick. It's about the way we would like to direct this institution."

Financial Review, April 1997

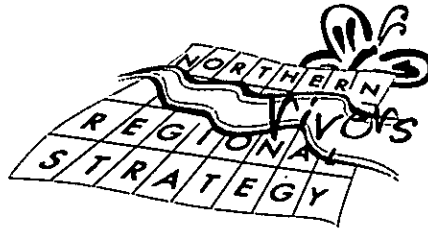
Demand for sustainable products

Wattees New Zealand is planning to have 75% of all vegetables packaged in New Zealand organically grown within the next decade.

Best Practice in Business

DuPont believes that environmental excellence is good business practice and has set itself a target of zero waste, zero releases and zero emissions from all its 200 manufacturing sites in 40 countries. It is introducing new processes which use "waste" products as raw material for other products. For example, old nylon carpet which would otherwise go to landfill is now being used for car parts such as air intake manifolds. The new processes now require less capital and operate at lower cost while approaching the goal of zero waste and emissions: as waste and emissions decrease, business performance increases!

John Foote, Du Pont Australia, 1996



SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES IN PRACTICE

Car-free design in Scotland: a Partnership Between Canmore Housing Association, Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Office

A new architect designed housing development in Edinburgh, Scotland, combines a car-free design with the latest energy saving technology. A landscaped garden will surround more than 100 homes on the site of an old railway goods yard near Edinburgh city centre.

Heating to the 100 homes will be free all year round. Steam from factories will be used to heat homes and water, while solar panels on the roof of each home will provide lighting. Other energy-saving measures mean household bills will be up to 25% below the UK average. Water from sinks and baths will be filtered and purified in reed beds before being used for cleaning; rainwater will be collected to be used in bathrooms and all household waste will be recycled.

There are no roads, car parking spaces or garages. Residents will pay about \$320 to join a council-run car club that will maintain and insure a fleet of vehicles in an on-site garage. They will be able to reserve cars at any time of day or night at an hour's notice and will pay mileage and rental charges for each journey.

Although Britain's biggest developers have dismissed the car-free concept as unworkable, Canmore Housing Association has already received dozens of requests to reserve homes.

Later this year Camden council in London will vote on whether to copy Edinburgh's example.

The Guardian Weekly, April 1997

Davis, California

Growth management was introduced here in 1974 because rapid growth during the 1960s threatened agricultural land surrounding the town. Primary goals included conservation of prime agricultural land through limited growth and efficient use of energy, open space and water resources. Since then proposed residential projects have to meet certain criteria established by a Periodic Residential Needs Survey.

Building codes were redesigned to reduce energy consumption to 50% of pre-1974 usage.

A tremendous amount of energy is used in the manufacture of building material and in building construction. Davis encourages the use of existing structures. Many older houses have been converted into offices and stores creating aesthetic and community benefit.

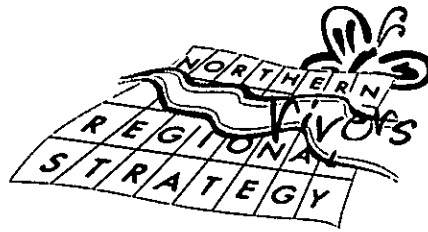
Community planning plays an important role in transport energy savings. By providing a series of small shopping centres instead of a large suburban mall the reduction in the length of frequent trips for groceries and other necessities has been achieved.

There are more than 30,000 bicycles in Davis and 25% of all daily travel is done on two wheels.

Between 1974 and 1980 electrical use in Davis dropped 20% per household and natural gas consumption dropped by 47% per household. All achieved without personal sacrifice or lower standard of living.

Citizen initiative and an enlightened council policy supported by effective regulations have worked together to produce attractive tree lined streets, safe economical transport and homes that are warm in winter and cool in summer. The quality of living of the citizens of Davis has improved.

Community Development Department, Davis, February 1982



QUALITY OF LIFE

Environment and Health

Byron Bailey, professor of medicine at the University of Texas in Galveston, considers that doctors should play a greater role in influencing public policy on the environment, as it is now known that air pollution causes heart attacks and damages the reproductive system, as well as causing more obvious ailments such as asthma and lung disease.

He said the pollution alarm bells went off in the US three years ago after studies showed huge rises in sinus and asthma cases in major cities across the country.

"Asthma admissions to the emergency rooms of major hospitals have risen by 50 to 100 per cent over a 20 year period," Professor Bailey said. "Deaths from asthma have increased to around 5000 a year in the US, when the figure 20 years ago would have been a third of that."

Air pollution influenced blood flow, causing hypertension, cardiac arrhythmias and heart attacks. It could affect the genito-urinary system and either suppress immunity or trigger a hyper-immune response.

And depletion of the ozone layer by pollutants was contributing to an epidemic of melanoma, particularly affecting Australia.

Northern Star, March 8 1997

Evaluating Quality of Life in Canada

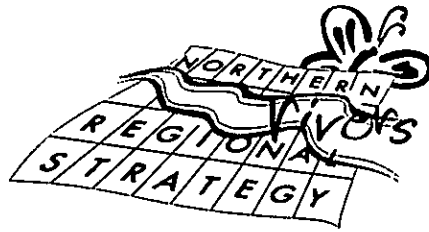
Whistler, Canada, depends on maintaining a high quality of visitor experience as well as a high quality of life for residents. Quality of life and quality of experience in Whistler depend equally on development - the provision of the accommodation, services and facilities that residents and visitors want - and on environmental protection, because an exceptionally good quality environment is the basis for the mountain resort's existence and success.

Whistler currently has a total of about 36,000 developed bed units, a resident population of about 6,800 and visitation of well over a million people per year. Based on present approvals, the community is committed to adding about 17,000 more bed units, which will result in significant growth in the resident population and the volume of visitors. There is pressure to approve even more development, but for the time being the Municipality has adopted a policy which severely limits the approval of development beyond that already committed. The Municipality believes that the community should know much more about how it will change

as it grows from the present level of development to the committed total before significantly raising the ceiling on development.

The resort community can only make sound decisions about its future with knowledge about whether the quality of the residents' life, the quality of visitor experience and the quality of the environment are improving, stable or deteriorating and the reasons why. To this end, the Resort Municipality of Whistler has initiated a comprehensive community and resort monitoring program. The results are communicated annually in a report and public meeting.

Community and Resort Monitoring Program, Whistler, 1995



INTEGRATION OF LAND USE AND TRANSPORT

Transit-oriented development in Stockholm

Stockholm, one of the richest cities in the world, is the only city to show an absolute decline in car use in the 1980s. Use was reduced by 229 kilometres per person despite a growth in transit from 302 to 348 trips per person.

Between 1980 and 1990 the density of the central city, inner city and outer suburbs increased by building urban villages around their rail system in the inner and new outer suburbs. They are all dense, mixed use areas with careful consideration of the design characteristics found in the old areas of inner Stockholm.

Professor Peter Newman, Institute for Science and Technology Policy, Murdoch University, WA, 1997

Gradual introduction of a car-free environment in Copenhagen

“By the 60s American values had begun to catch on - separate isolated homes and everyone driving. The city was suffering so how could we reverse these patterns? We decided to make the public realm so attractive it would drag people back into the streets, whilst making it simultaneously difficult to go there by car” Professor Jan Gehl, 1992.

Such a policy meant that Danes needed to become more urban and less suburban. There was an immediate outcry that such a policy was anti-Dane and destined to failure. But the policy makers continues with this process of undermining car dependence by small amount every year.

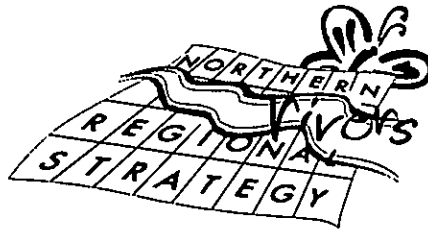
The result has included a reduction in traffic and a growth in the vitality of the city area. Social and recreational activity has tripled in Copenhagen’s major streets.

Each year Copenhagen:

- reduced the central parking area by 3%;
- increased the roadside pedestrian access and facilities;
- introduced attractive landscaping, sculptures and seating into the streets and
- encouraged more buskers, markets, festivals and other street life activities to make the streets more popular.

Danes are now finding that the public realm of the city is so attractive that there is a declining market for single detached homes on the urban fringe - they are apparently "too far away" and "too private"/ They are now building a light rail system in response to the increased demand for travel to the city and between its sub-centres which is being paid for entirely out of the land development opportunities it is creating.

Professor Peter Newman, Institute for Science and Technology Policy, Murdoch University, WA, 1997



ENERGY

Energy Efficiency in NSW

The Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA) was created as an agency of the NSW Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by investing in the commercialisation and use of sustainable energy technologies.

For example, each NSW taxpayer contributes to the \$180 million needed to pay the State Government Building's electricity bill. Through its Energy Smart Buildings Program, SEDA has set out to reduce this bill by 15% in 2001 and 25% by 2005.

Sustainable Energy Development Authority

Initiatives in energy efficiency by Armidale Council

Armidale Council adopted an action plan in 1994 which included the following energy saving initiatives:

- interest free loans for insulation of new and existing homes
- an energy efficient display home in a new subdivision
- a mandatory requirement for home insulation as a precursor to the introduction of energy auditing through a Home Energy Rating software system
- solar radiation rating for new allotments

Steven Gowe, Director of Planning, Armidale Council, 1997

Solar Hot Water - More Where That Came From

Coal-fired power stations make 93 per cent of the electricity in NSW and 99 per cent in Victoria. This helps win Australia the silver medal for the highest per capita greenhouse gas-emitting country in the OECD.

Yet Australia has the technical and natural resources to lead the world in alternative energy. Even in southern regions such as Tasmania and Victoria, we can generate at least 65 per cent of our hot water needs from the sun. The figure rises to 95 per cent in places like Darwin.

Only 5 per cent of Australian homes use solar water heaters, even though we have a much higher average number of sunlight hours per year than, say, Denmark, where half the houses use them.

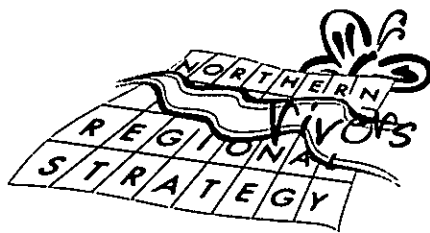
Tasmania, Western Australia and NSW all have wind-power programs, South Australia has a massive solar street-lighting plan under way and Queensland had the first solar-powered home to feed excess power back into the grid.

Alan T. Gray, The Republican, March 1997

Vehicles Account for Half the World's Oil Use

There are 680 million vehicles on the planet, increasing at a rate of more than one every second, or one new car for every two babies born.

Greenpeace International, 1996



THE NORTHERN RIVERS REGIONAL STRATEGY

A CO-OPERATIVE APPROACH

The Northern Rivers Regional Strategy, covering the area from Grafton to Tweed Heads, is a joint initiative of the Northern Rivers Regional Development Organisation (NOREDO), the Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Councils (NOROC) and the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (DUAP).

Other participating organisations include:

- Australian Business Limited
- Northern Rivers Regional Development Board
- State and Regional Development
- Department of Transport
- Roads and Traffic Authority
- North Coast Environment Council
- Royal Australian Planning Institute
- Premiers Department Regional Co-ordination Program
- NSW Agriculture
- Department of Housing

The Strategy is overseen by a management committee, three local government-based valley committees (who also have representatives on the management committee), an advisory committee and a project team.

THE NEED FOR A STRATEGY

Is to respond to some of the most important issues confronting the region, which have been confirmed through discussions with the valley committees and community workshops. The key issues are:

- the region is experiencing **loss of economic potential** through the loss of farming land and the loss and degradation of other natural resources;
- the region is experiencing very **rapid population growth, which is exceeding jobs growth**. Consequently, the unemployment rate is relatively high;
- **incomes** in the region are **significantly lower** than for NSW as a whole;
- the **quality of the natural environment**, which is one of the major reasons for attracting new residents, is declining through pollution and sedimentation of waterways, land degradation and loss of native species of plants and animals;
- the dispersed settlement pattern of the region, combined with few public transport services, result in **social isolation**, particularly for old, young and disabled people; and
- **conflict** over land use in the region was a major reason for initiating the NRRS.

THE AIM OF THE STRATEGY

The Northern Rivers Regional Strategy aims to manage the development of the region so that the natural advantages and lifestyle of the Northern Rivers are maintained. The development of the Strategy is underpinned by principles of sustainable development.

The Strategy has a planning horizon of about 20 years, to 2016.

WHAT MAKES THE NRRS DIFFERENT?

It is the first time in the region that a planning strategy has been developed as a partnership of business, local and State government.

The partnership approach means that the disciplines of land use planning, economic development and environmental management can be fully integrated.

It is the first strategy in the region to use sustainability principles as its foundation.

It has involved probably the most extensive consultation undertaken yet as part of a planning exercise in the region.

HOW THE STRATEGY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED

A futures workshop (Community Workshop No 1), held in Ballina in August 1995, provided the basis for the development of the Strategy.

The workshop results were consolidated into six key issue areas, for which discussion papers were prepared:

- sustainable development
- economic viability of the region
- landscape, lifestyle and the environment
- current and future land use patterns
- accessibility, communications and transport
- resource utilisation and management

Some issues, identified by the management committee or through the discussion papers, have required more detailed investigation before ways to address them could be found.

All the discussion papers and research findings have been circulated to the management committee, valley committees and working groups.

WHY A FRAMEWORK

The region has now spent 18 months researching the issues and obtaining the views of as wide a range of people as possible. It will take some time longer to resolve all the issues and gain full agreement on all the actions we will take as part of the Strategy.

The NRRS Framework document is attempting to do no more than make a suggestion as to what such a Strategy might contain, what the broad direction for the future might be and to seek comment.

CONSULTATION TO DATE

Development of the Strategy to date has involved extensive consultation with State and local government, business, community and professional organisations and the general public.

Six working groups were established to review the six key issues discussion papers and other research and investigation projects.

In addition, key business and agricultural industry groups are being consulted on a review of agricultural land and industries futures in the region. Other groups and government departments have been consulted on an ad hoc basis.

Consultation has also included a newsletter, a photographic competition for young people, two community workshops, an information stand at the Nimbin Expo at Easter 1997 and Primex in Casino in June, ABC radio coverage through Stuart White's fortnightly environmental management program and feature articles and advertisements in the press.

State and Federal members have been briefed on the progress of the Strategy.

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

The term 'sustainable development' has been used since the 1970s to denote development which does not automatically lead to environmental degradation and which does not lead to large inequities in society.

The terms 'sustainable development', 'ecologically sustainable development' and, sometimes, 'economically sustainable development' have been used interchangeably as interpretations of the challenge to reconcile our social and economic development with maintenance of a healthy, functioning biophysical environment, upon which all life depends.

Sustainable development is a process rather than an end result. It means adopting a set of principles to guide our actions towards the outcomes we want: long term economic viability, social harmony and a healthy and attractive natural environment.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY PRINCIPLES

In order to maintain our quality of life in the Northern Rivers, we must live within the carrying capacity of the region's resource base and its supporting ecosystems. The Northern Rivers Regional Strategy has adopted the principles of sustainable development to demonstrate that we acknowledge that the social and economic well-being of the region depends on the continued health of the natural environment. We intend to follow a path of social and economic development which maintains the integrity of the ecosystems on which we depend.

Sustainable development was the highest priority for the region (after integrated planning) identified at the futures workshop (Community Workshop No1) held at Ballina in August 1995.

The management committee, valley committees, working groups and the Community Workshop No 2, held in Ballina in April 1997, have all endorsed sustainability principles as the foundation for the Northern Rivers Regional Strategy.

The application of sustainability principles in the Northern Rivers region will involve the resolution of some key issues, including:

- distinguishing between economic growth and economic development;
- identifying the real costs of development and activities; and,
- determining some sort of carrying capacity for the region, i.e. what are its available resources and assimilation capacities.

What we are aiming towards in the Northern Rivers region is best practice in planning and development. Sustainability principles are a guide to achieving best practice.

STRATEGY PRINCIPLES

We require a set of guiding principles to help us achieve best practice in our region and attain the vision of the future expressed in the NRRS Framework document. The Strategy guiding principles have been derived from sustainability principles developed for Australia's National Strategy on Ecologically Sustainable Development.

They are:

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT MEANS A HEALTHY ECONOMY

DECISIONS SHOULD BE MADE WHICH BENEFIT THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN ARE ABLE TO ENJOY WHAT WE HAVE

DEVELOPMENT MEANS MORE THAN JUST ECONOMIC GROWTH

WE SHOULD CARE FOR OUR REGION'S RESOURCES

OUR NATURAL CAPITAL IS PART OF OUR REGION'S ASSETS

WE SHOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT WE DO

WE SHOULD LOOK BEYOND OUR OWN BACKYARD

DIVERSITY AND EFFICIENCY ENCOURAGE RESILIENCE

WE SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE REAL COSTS OF WHAT WE DO

THE COMMUNITY HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN DECISION MAKING

WHAT'S IN THE FRAMEWORK

The main components of the NRRS Framework document are:

A suggested **VISION** for the region. The vision is intended to be a clear, concise expression of how we would like the region to be in the year 2016: the ideal state of the region. There is no set time frame but it is **long term**.

A set of **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**, based on sustainability principles, to provide the overall direction for the NRRS and establish best practice in the region.

Suggested **POLICIES** apply the guiding principles to the important issues in the region as a way to work towards the vision. They translate the Framework's direction into something more immediately useful.

A list of **RESULTS**, which are specific and measurable things we would like to see achieved by 2016. They can be **short, medium or long term** and they will apply at the **regional, valley and local level**.

POSSIBLE ACTION PLANS are suggested ways to achieve the results we want to see. The final action plans will detail who does what and when.

A **SCHEMATIC STRUCTURE PLAN** seeks to identify the desired future character of our region as it will be about the year 2016. It builds on the functional hierarchy defined in the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning's North Coast Urban Planning Strategy to more clearly define:

- the form and character of settlement
- major regional corridors
- major regional ports
- important regional greenbelts
- important regional agricultural lands
- industrial areas of regional importance
- extractive industry sites of regional importance

IMPORTANT ISSUES

The following issues were identified at the futures workshop in Ballina (Community Workshop No 1) and have been raised in discussion papers and subsequent consultations. Some issues are now the subject of research projects being undertaken as part of the development of the NRRS. Other issues, although no less important, will require more long term investigation.

Issues under investigation

- Protection of agricultural land
- Protection of extractive resources
- Growth management and building sustainable communities
- Creating appropriate employment in the region through sustainable economic development
- Better protection of biodiversity and the natural environment
- Fostering cultural diversity while reducing conflict
- Quality of life

Issues requiring investigation in the future

- Transport and the integration of land use and transport planning
- Monitoring the State of the Environment (SOE)
- Research on carrying capacity, green accounting and cumulative impact
- Improved resource management
- Research on community values and participation

EXHIBITION AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

The "Northern Rivers - Framework for a Sustainable Future" will be on public exhibition from late July to late September 1997. A closing date for comments and submissions is 26 September 1997, although it will be possible to receive additional comments until the end of September.

The Framework cover has been designed to be used alone as either a brochure or a poster. The poster will be placed on exhibition in shopping centres, community buildings, neighbourhood centres, libraries and on other public notice boards and display areas.

A travelling roadshow will tour some of the key regional centres and this will exhibit the whole Strategic Framework. Dates and venues for this exhibition are listed below:

- Lismore Shopping Square Mon 18, Tues 19 August 1997
- Grafton Shoppingworld Wed 20, Thurs 21 August 1997
- Casino Shopping Plaza Thurs 28, Fri 29 August 1997
- Tweed City Mall Wed 3, Thurs 4 September 1997
- Ballina Fair Mon 8, Tues 9 September 1997
- Byron Council Chambers, Mullumbimby Mon 15 to Fri 19 September 1997

The Framework is being widely distributed to all local councils, State Government agencies, libraries, neighbourhood centres and other educational institutions, participants from community workshops and all working group members.

Extra copies will be provided for each council to ensure that there are copies available on display boards or at reception for interested community members to be able to read or borrow.

The brochure will be used as an exclusive insert in the three regional papers - The Northern Star, Daily News and Daily Express - on Wednesday 13 August, 1997.

Radio or television interviews will be conducted by representatives from each of the partner organisations on a needs basis.

The Strategy Web page will also serve as another area to promote the Framework, the background research, and later the draft strategy, both within and beyond the Northern Rivers region.

Workshops and Presentations

A number of workshops and presentations are planned during the exhibition period, including presentations to industry groups, for example, to the Regional Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday 22 July, 1997 and a workshop for industry tentatively scheduled for Tuesday 23 September, 1997.

A joint valley committee meeting, involving valley committee members, the NOROC Planning and Environment Committee and the Strategy management committee, called The Valley Summit, is scheduled for Saturday 23 August, 1997, at Ballina Island Motor Inn from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Community Workshops are planned to be held in each of the valleys:

- Tweed Community Workshop in Murwillumbah has been **rescheduled** from Saturday 30 August, 1997 to Saturday 6th September, 1997
- Clarence Community Workshop, in Grafton on Saturday 13 September, 1997
- Richmond Community Workshop, in Lismore on Saturday 20 September, 1997

A joint project of the Northern Rivers Regional Economic Board (NOREDO), Northern Rivers Regional Organisation of Council (NOROC) and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning

WHAT WE WANT FROM THE CONSULTATION

Any comments, no matter how short and simple, or how long and involved, are equally welcomed. If you have time your views on the entire Framework are welcome. Otherwise, comment on whatever you feel you want to.

It would be particularly useful to hear your comments on:

- the suggested vision for the future of the Northern Rivers region;
- the policy statements, which are intended as ways to apply the guiding principles to the important issues in our region;
- the list of results we would like to achieve by 2016;
- the possible action plans, including the schematic structure plan which depicts the possible future patterns of settlement and resource use.

These different components of the Framework have been developed through intensive research and consultation undertaken over the past two years. **At this stage, no priority has been given to any of the results or action plans.**

A questionnaire has been included in the brochure (although there is a more detailed survey on the Strategy web page) to allow people to comment quickly, and to find out:

- whether you support the intent of the suggested vision;
- if you think the guiding principles are likely to help us to find a better way in the Northern Rivers region;
- how you feel about the suggested policies as a means to address some of the key issues;
- if you agree with components of the structure plan.