

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your email dated 13 September 2011 relating to the Central Coast being declared as a region. I can provide the following information:

1. The (State level) Declaration was made in 2010 when the NSW Government set up the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation, which is now an office of the Department of Planning & Infrastructure. Their web site address is <http://www.ccrdc.nsw.gov.au/>. The Central Coast Regional Development Corporation's role will be to create development projects and opportunities on key government land holdings across the Central Coast of NSW.

As the region already had a separate regional strategy (2008 Central Coast Regional Strategy), the 2010 NSW State Government declaration does not have a big impact on the Department's other work. The Central Coast Regional Strategy is a long-term land use plan which identifies where future growth and development should (and should not) go, and a copy can be accessed at <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/StrategicPlanning/Regionalstrategies/CentralCoastRegion/tabid/186/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

The Department of Planning and Infrastructure has separate housing and employment monitoring programs which currently cover the Sydney metropolitan region, including the Central Coast. A decision will have to be made whether these need to be changed so that we look at this region separately in the future.

2. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (Federal) now also recognises this area as a region which should expand the level of statistics and information available for the Central Coast (i.e. some data sets are broken down by regions). This may also have some impact on how this region is treated by other State or Federal Government agencies who use those statistics. This change should result in a more accurate assessment of the Central Coast community's needs and will assist with allocation of funding, services and other Government resources in the future.

Regards,

Melissa Burrows

Administration Officer

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