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## IN A NUTSHELL:

**NSW CENTRAL COAST, its de-carbonising economy, its delicate environment, its neglected youth, its under-performing school students and their teachers, urgently needs its own CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY.**

On the NSW Central Coast [CC] we are faced with no tertiary choice except a shard or two for the already-privileged. Unlike Wollongong, served well by its multi-disciplinary Wollongong University and Newcastle, served so well by its multi-disciplinary University of Newcastle [UoN], the Central Coast with a similar **and burgeoning** population, has no university of its own ... leaving the local students with limited UoN subject choice in its pseudopodial campuses, and no integrated research supporting the Central Coast economy/environment. It is no surprise to me that our efforts at de-carbonising our economy, addressing indigenous heritage and futures, planning for our environment and responding to the data concerning 'extinction of species' ... is pathetic.

All political parties appear to have been cleverly incorporated into the University of Newcastle's expansionary Business Plan with who-knows-what incentives, but certainly not the interests in mind of the broad Central Coast community of workers, pensioners, youth, and school students & their teachers. Nor do they appear to have any sensitivity to the economic and environmental benefits to be had from a multi-disciplinary, innovative, integrated planning, intellectual centre focussed especially on our region. In contrast, but politically repressed, I know that senior local government officials with experience of local university collaboration with local government strongly [but secretly] support a separate CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY.

The Central Coast needs a multi-disciplinary CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY with specified responsibility for Central Coast data, analysis, research, and policy options concerning our economy, environment, youth, & under-aspiring school students. The Central Coast:

- \* economy needs a multi-disciplinary, innovative, intellectual centre ... a CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY.
- \* environment, species extinction, lakes and lagoons need a CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY.
- \* youth need/deserve a comprehensive Youth Policy that includes a CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY.
- \* school-children      need the motivation, aspiration, and higher expectations that come with a desire to proudly attend their local CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY.
- \* capital, Gosford      especially its CBD will illuminate and pulse with economic activity with a CBD-located CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY [built over the 'free' land owned by NSW Government and currently hosting Gosford Railway Station and associated structures ... in the CBD centre and well-served transport hub..

Just like Newcastle University is good for Newcastle, and Wollongong University is good for Wollongong, so too will Central Coast University be good for our Central Coast. With the NSW Government's bi-partisan decision to form a mega-city from Wollongong to Newcastle, the absence of a real University on the Central Coast is even more stark.

The Central Coast is more than the doctors, lawyers, and business entrepreneurs that the UoN expansions are designed to serve ... it comprises children and their worker parents across the economy: child and aged care, emergency and support services, education and nursing, cleaning and serving, driving & delivering, researching, manufacturing ... an entire community not just a necessary-but-already-privileged section of society looking after itself with the help of a distant university's expansionary business plan.

## BENEFICIARIES:

### 1. SCHOOL CHILDREN

Future university study, and its accompanying lifestyle, is intensely motivating for many school-students, and gives teachers an important additional motivational tool.

Right now, the children of the Central Coast see no CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY [CCU] presence ... no CCU sporting teams, no CCU theatrics, no CCU events, no CCU students walking the streets with youthful joy and belonging.

Unmotivated ... with poor aspirations, schooling outcomes are depressed. Shards of a distant university don't help with this, whereas a real university, a CCU, would.

Central Coast school children, like all kids, look ahead ... and they see a loathsome, time-wasted daily trip to Sydney or Newcastle. Less motivated students learn less, achieve less. Shards won't help. A CCU will.

### 2. TERTIARY-AGE YOUTH

Tertiary-age youth on the Central Coast ... the entire cohort of students who qualify for university entrance, just like the youth in Wollongong, Newcastle, and other regional centres, DESERVE an excellent, local, cross-disciplines, education ... intertwined with a university-associated life-style of participation in high-interest extra-curricula activities: clubs; theatre, art, politics, sport, IT, entrepreneurial exploration ... all with their trackies and T-shirts emblazoned proudly with "CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY". Shards of a distant uni don't help with this. A CCU would.

This is, or should be, a crucial element in a Coast-wide Youth Policy designed to replace boredom and purposelessness, even alienation, with high-interest education, social and extra-curricula engagement.

### 3. THE ECONOMY:      TRANSITION TO RENEWABLES, ENVIRONMENTAL HARMONY, INNOVATION, WEALTH CREATION

For the hard-nosed capitalist, this is probably the most important reason for a multi-disciplinary, innovative, and Central Coast-focussed CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY. Our Central Coast must transition away from Carbon to industries which are benign, or regenerative of Central Coast's delicate environment. This will need Central Coast-focussed data-sets from across the disciplines, collaborative analysis, collective research, integrated thinking and policy options. To be specific, we need to build local industry ... and investigate the feasibilities of:

- \* seaweed & shellfish farming ... a co-op ? [see Greenwave Ocean Farming – the Basics ]
- \* hydrogen R and D and component manufacture
- \* lithium battery research and production
- \* bio-fuel production
- \* battery development and component manufacture
- \* off-shore generators ... wind/tide/wave [scientist and entrepreneur ready to talk to you]
- \* on-shore generators and batteries – solar/wind
- \* on-shore sea-food farming
- \* regenerative agriculture ... including collaborating with indigenous land management  
[see 2020 Millard Report to Victorian Parliament]
- \* a multi-disciplinary, CC-focussed, CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY built on free land in the CBD centre, and unifying the CBD and waterfront areas
- \* a fenced, feral-free, mega-sanctuary, of abutting National Parks west of Sydney's M1/M31 ... from Dharug NP, through Blue Mountains, to Nattai NP ... with an attached Sanctuary Research Centre located at CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY
- \* component R & D, and manufacture ... electric cars, motorcycles, scooters, trucks, air & watercraft

- \* renewables infrastructure ... component manufacture and distribution
- \* light aircraft - 1200m Warnervale runway + assoc enterprises: sport; emergency; training; tourism
- \* indigenous grass-seeds & yam farming & produce [see Millard Report 2020 ... & Pascoe, Dark Emu]
- \* a plethora of art-craft-heritage start-up industries driven by ...
  - ... a Central Coast Cultural Centre ... and ...
  - ... a very quick NBN capacity
- \* low-cost food halls linked to local food-producers [co-op[s]]
- \* creation of European-style piazzas ... public spaces, Sydney sandstone façade structure
- \* re-wiring the Central Coast
- \* an expanded “caring” industry comprising highly trained providers of: aged care; child care; veterans; those with a disability; victims of violence; health & hospitals
- \* ... and many others that will come from a multi-disciplinary intellectual centre with a specific brief to attend to these matters of economy, environment, social and equality issues

#### 4. ENVIRONMENT –ECONOMY – EXTINCTIONS

The Central Coast is replete with environmental complexities: rivers, creeks, lagoons, lakes, bays, escarpments, indigenous art and sacred places, national parks, open spaces, beaches ... and all this is being assaulted in various ways that require LOCAL research and local action. Shards ... medical, legal, entrepreneurial shards won't help. A CCU will.

The Victorian Government is now fencing off the entire 60,000 hectares of Wilson's Promontory and eradicating feral cats and foxes behind the feral-proof fence. Australian Wildlife Conservancy with 30 years experience of fenced, feral-free sanctuaries, tell us that species extinctions MUST have feral-free sanctuaries as a central part of the solution. Sydney Basin is surrounded by abutting National Parks. They're infested with cats and foxes which kill millions of our native animals. They could be feral-free, fenced, managed scientifically, even attached to an Extinctions Research Centre in our new CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY.

#### “INSURMOUNTABLE” DIFFICULTIES ???

Cost of land ... I'm told by those who support \$368 billion nuclear submarines, \$240 billion tax cuts to the already wealthy, & those who pay no taxes choosing to stash their private \$billions in the Cayman Islands, that a multi-disciplinary CCU is “too costly”.

Because we want integrated planning, NOT an ad hoc mess [that is currently being smudged onto the Central Coast community], we need to think about a number of issues simultaneously.

Those issues are:

- \* site[s] ... and cost
- \* public transport ... and cost
- \* desirable effects on local economy ... and cost.
- \* student amenity and student accommodation ... and cost.

Conclusions:

- \* imagine a UTS-style building, cut it in half, call one half “Sciences” and the other half “Humanities”
- \* use the free NSW Govt-owned land in, and around, Wyong and Gosford Stations, to place the Science Tower [Wyong] and the Humanities Tower [Gosford] above each train station
- \* Transport hubs, train and buses servicing the hinterland, exist right now at Gosford and Wyong Stations
- \* Existing train line joins Gosford and Ourimbah and Wyong Stations [an estimated 15 minute, direct trip]
- \* On top of the Gosford Tower, give 4 or 5 stories to a Gosford Cultural Centre.
- \* CBDs effervesce with economic activity, including a plethora of innovative start-ups
- \* Legislate for the CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY to give primacy in its R and D to matters of concern to the wealth & health of the Central Coast

\* Legislate for the CENTRAL COAST UNIVERSITY to require **all** degrees to include [say 5-10%] 'essential' studies of Central Coast heritage, and enviro-econo-social imperatives.

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Bio: SVP/Dep Pres, NSW Teachers' Federation [1974-78]; President, Australian Teachers' Union [1978-79, 83-85]; Commissioner, Commonwealth Schools Commission [1983-88]; Councillor, Commonwealth Curriculum Councillor; Chair, ACTU Education Committee [1983-86]; Chief Education Officer-Equity Programs/Distance Ed-NSW Dept of Education [1990-2005]

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