

PORT MACQUARIE–HASTINGS

# TOWARDS 2030

Community Strategic Plan



*Building the future together ... step by step*



PORT MACQUARIE  
HASTINGS

# THE PATH TO INTEGRATED PLANNING

2008 Community telephone survey

Towards 2030 Community Forum

Staff and family survey

Online forums PMHC Listening

## Towards 2030 Vision Document

Social planning community survey

Social planning community forums

Community plans

Vision survey and feedback

## Community Strategic Plan

Community Reference Group (CRG)

Stakeholder workshops

Online forums

### Exhibition feedback

Community groups and Government agencies

Review of Council plans and strategies

## DELIVERY PROGRAM 2011 – 2015

RESOURCING STRATEGY · Long-term Financial Plan  
· Workforce Management Strategy  
· Asset Management Strategy

- Social Strategy
- Best Practice Management of Water Supply & Sewerage Guidelines
- State of the Environment
- Urban Growth Management Strategy

ANNUAL  
OPERATIONAL PLAN  
June 2011

# WHY ARE WE DEVELOPING A COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN?

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is an overarching plan that is prepared by Council and the community after they have had important discussions about planning for future challenges.

It will enable Council to coordinate the funding priorities, activities and services that will meet those challenges.

NSW Government legislation recognises that Councils and communities don't exist in isolation and that planning documents must be integrated.

The legislation guidelines indicate the CSP should be based on the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights.

The CSP also needs to consider how social, economic, environmental and civic leadership issues can be addressed.

The CSP is a reference tool for Council, the community, government agencies and other stakeholders. It identifies the community's aspirations for the future and outlines strategies to achieve them. The community owns this plan and it will serve as the primary resource for guiding future councillors on what the community aspires to.

While Council has the role of initiating the plan and coordinating the community input it is not wholly responsible for the implementation. Some of the strategies are the responsibility of individuals and community groups while other partners such as government agencies and businesses will be encouraged to deliver long-term objectives from the plan.

In preparing the CSP Council has been mindful of the key directions of the NSW State Plan and various regional strategies that apply to our area. The CSP, a minimum 10-year plan, will form an important reference point for planning activities at regional and local levels. State agencies preparing their plans for the area will be encouraged to consider the objectives and strategies of our plan.

## What makes up the Community Strategic Plan?

The content of the Community Strategic Plan has been developed as a result of a wide range of community participation activities across the local government area including telephone surveys, forums and community meetings.

### OUR VISION

How the people of the Port Macquarie-Hastings community picture the future

### GUIDING PRINCIPLE

- Ensuring good governance

### FOCUS AREAS

- Planning and providing our infrastructure
- Helping our community prosper
- Looking after our people
- Looking after our environment

The Community Strategic Plan outlines:

- The objective – What are we trying to achieve?
- The strategy – How do we get there?
- The outcome – What will the result be?

# WHERE DOES THIS DOCUMENT FIT?

The Community Strategic Plan is the first step in adopting an integrated approach to Council planning documents.

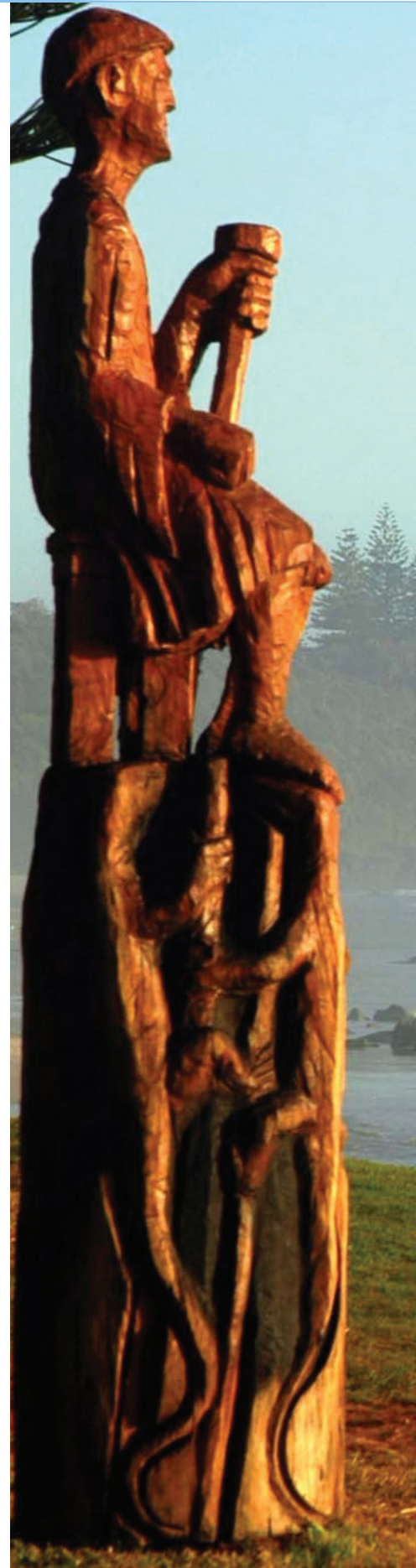
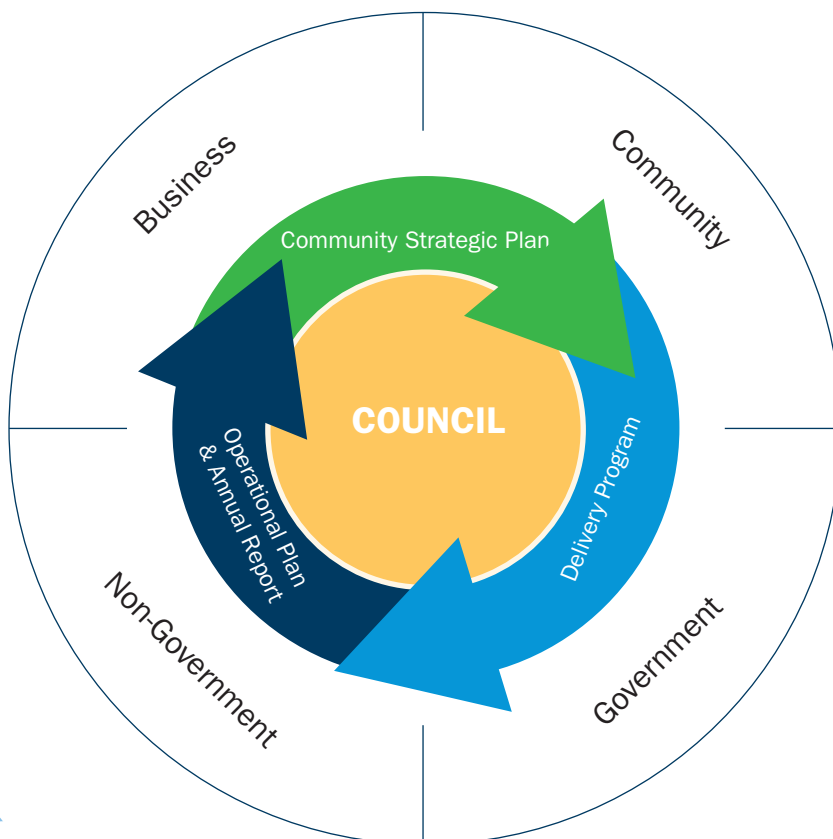
It follows the Towards 2030 Foundations report which is a snapshot of Council services in 2008-2009 and sets the scene of the Integrated Planning process.

‘The path to integrated planning’ on the inside front cover shows how the community has been involved in the development of the CSP to date and what the next steps are in engaging agencies and stakeholders external to Council.

The next step in this planning model is the Four Year Delivery Program. This document outlines all the strategies from the CSP that Council is responsible for delivering. It will also cover how these strategies will be resourced and financed.

The Four Year Delivery Program is designed as the single point of reference for all key activities undertaken during a term of Council.

The final step is the Annual Operational Plan which spells out the details on the individual projects and activities Council will undertake each financial year, to meet the commitments made in the Delivery Program.







## HOW WAS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPED?

The Towards 2030 Community Strategic Plan, was developed following a lengthy community engagement process conducted throughout 2008 and 2009.

The consultation involved two major surveys, a full day community workshop at the Port Macquarie racecourse and over 700 people participating in group workshops throughout the Local Government Area.

The volume and complexity of this consultation required significant time and resource investment, to both conduct and then analyse this work. The value of this work is not only in compiling the Community Strategic Plan but also it has provided the community with a reference point for shaping discussion, decision making and future consultation.

Council was able to report back to the community what was heard during the consultation process through the compilation of two major reports that are available on Council's website.

1. Foundations for 2030 – an overview of information and statistics about the Port Macquarie-Hastings Local Government Area, compiled to reflect the beginnings of the integrated planning journey in 2008.
2. 2009 Consultation Report – an independently commissioned report from BBC Consulting Planners that summarises the feedback and outcomes from the 2009 engagement activities.

Feedback from relevant State agencies and external organisations has also been incorporated into the Community Strategic Plan.









## OUR VISION







In 2030 the vision of the community is that the people of the Hastings will be:

- Living in a harmonious safe and connected community
- Enjoying participatory local democracy
- Accessing quality infrastructure including roads, waste, water and sewerage management
- Benefiting from quality urban design that encourages use of open spaces and provides easy access between our towns and villages
- Enjoying economic prosperity and having access to quality education and training
- Actively participating in inclusive community activities
- Preserving and protecting our natural habitats

# GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1

## What are we trying to achieve?

A collaborative community that works together and recognises opportunities for community participation in decision making that is defined as ethically, socially and environmentally responsible.

## How do we get there?

- 1.1** Engage the community in decision making by using varied communication channels that are relevant to residents
- 1.2** Create professional development opportunities and networks to support future community leaders
- 1.3** Create strong partnerships between all levels of government and their agencies so that they are effective advocates for the community
- 1.4** Demonstrate conscientious and receptive civic leadership
- 1.5** Implement innovative, fact based business practices

*Without good governance,  
nothing meaningful is achieved*

John, Lake Cathie





# Ensuring Good Governance



## What will the result be?

*We will have:*

- A community that has the opportunity to be involved in decision making
- Open, easy, meaningful, regular and diverse communication between the community and decision makers
- Partnerships and collaborative projects, that meet the communities expectations, needs and challenges
- Knowledgeable, skilled and connected community leaders
- Strong corporate management that is transparent

## FOCUS AREA 2

### What are we trying to achieve?

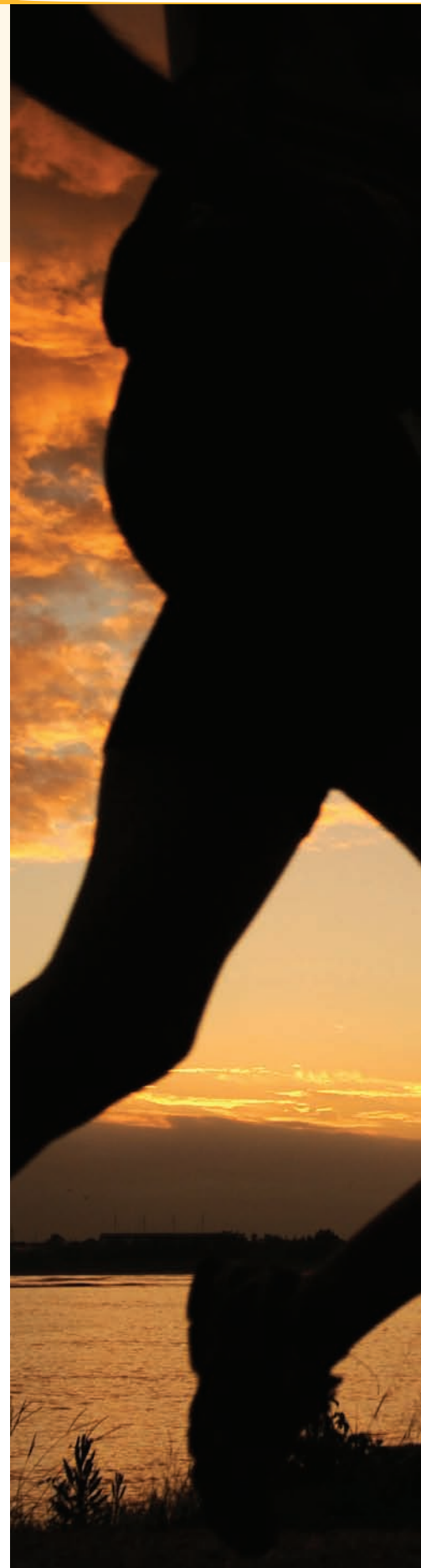
Our social infrastructure and community programs create a healthy, inclusive and vibrant community.

### How do we get there?

- 2.1** Create an environment and culture that allows the Port Macquarie-Hastings community to feel safe
- 2.2** Provide young people with a range of leisure activities and opportunities for personal development
- 2.3** Provide medical and social services for all members of the community
- 2.4** Develop partnerships within the community to build on existing strengths and improve areas of social disadvantage
- 2.5** Create events and activities that promote interaction and education
- 2.6** Provide social and community infrastructure and services
- 2.7** Empower the community to be active and involved in community life
- 2.8** Promote cultural and artistic expression
- 2.9** Promote a healthy lifestyle through education, support networks and facilities

*Bricks & mortar don't  
make a community, people  
make a community*

Beverly, Port Macquarie





# Looking after our people



## What will the result be?

*We will have:*

- Community hubs which provide access to services and social connections
- Services that support an ageing community to live in a way that they desire
- Available and accessible preventative health and medical services
- A safe, caring and connected community
- A healthy and active community that is supported by recreational infrastructure
- A strong community that is able to identify and address social issues
- Community participation in events, programs, festivals and activities

## FOCUS AREA 3

### What are we trying to achieve?

The Port Macquarie-Hastings region is able to thrive through access to a range of educational, employment and business opportunities.

### How do we get there?

- 3.1** Create opportunities for life long learning and skill enhancement with the availability of a broad range of education and training facilities
- 3.2** Promote and support an increase in business capacity in order to generate ongoing economic growth
- 3.3** Expand tourism business opportunities and benefits through collaborative planning and promotion
- 3.4** Maximise innovation and economic competitiveness by providing high quality communication technology throughout the Port Macquarie-Hastings region
- 3.5** Target and encourage business enterprise by providing favourable business conditions including infrastructure and transport options

*It is only when we have  
a strong vibrant economy  
with higher education and  
motivated people that we will be  
able to address the other matters*

Hadyn, Lake Cathie





# Helping our community prosper



## What will the result be?

*We will have:*

- Greater availability of educational opportunities
- Key business sectors are able to benefit from our natural and existing attributes
- Business and industry, training and education facilities sustain our population growth
- Increased employment opportunities
- An environmentally harmonious and prosperous tourism industry
- Widely available communications technology

## FOCUS AREA 4

### What are we trying to achieve?

We understand and manage the impact that the community has on the natural environment.

We protect the environment now and in the future.

### How do we get there?

- 4.1** Protect and restore natural areas
- 4.2** Ensure service infrastructure maximises efficiency and limits environmental impact
- 4.3** Implement total water cycle management practices
- 4.4** Continue to improve waste collection and recycling practices
- 4.5** Provide community access and opportunities to enjoy our natural environment
- 4.6** Create a culture that supports and invests in renewable energy
- 4.7** Increase awareness of and plan for the preservation of local flora and fauna
- 4.8** Plan and take action to minimise impact of natural events and climate change
- 4.9** Manage development outcomes to minimise the impact on the natural environment

*The beauty and  
pristine quality of our  
area is irreplaceable*

Beryl, Port Macquarie





# Looking after our environment



## What will the result be?

*We will have:*

- Accessible and protected waterways, foreshores, beaches and bushlands
- Renewable energy options
- Clean waterways
- An environment that is protected and conserved for future generations
- Development outcomes that are ecologically sustainable and complement our natural environment
- Residents that are environmentally aware
- A community that is prepared for natural events and climate change

## FOCUS AREA 5

### What are we trying to achieve?

Our population growth is supported through public infrastructure, land use and development strategies that create a connected, sustainable and accessible community.

### How do we get there?

- 5.1** Create and maintain integrated transport system that eases access between population centres and services
- 5.2** Ensure transport options are safe, functional and meet access needs across the Local Government Area
- 5.3** Develop and enhance quality open space and recreational facilities
- 5.4** Plan settlements to accommodate a range of compatible land uses and projected population growth

*Connecting footpaths will  
provide safe, people-powered  
connections for young  
and old, healthy exercise with  
no carbon footprint*

Barbara, Port Macquarie





# Planning and providing our infrastructure



## What will the result be?

*We will have:*

- Supported and integrated communities
- Infrastructure provision and maintenance that respects community expectations and needs
- A natural environment that can be accessed by a network of footpaths, cycleways, coastal and hinterland walkways
- Accessible, convenient and affordable public transport
- Employment and population growth that is clustered within urban centres

# HOW WILL PROGRESS BE REPORTED?

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is a living document that will require adjustments and evaluation as the community grows and changes together.

Measuring and assessing the CSP is an ongoing process involving the community, other agencies, business and Council. Ensuring that we test against the Community Strategic Plan will keep us on track to achieve the community vision.

While the CSP is not solely a Council plan and in fact belongs to the whole Port Macquarie-Hastings community, Council does have a certain legislative responsibility to guide and influence its implementation.

Part of that responsibility is to report progress back to the community which will be done through the following methods;

- Quarterly reporting on the implementation of the Operational Plan,
- The Annual Report assessing the achievements of the Operational Plan at the end of each year,
- An “End of Term Report” outlining the achievements in implementing the Four Year Delivery Program.

Council also has in place a number of community engagement practices that will be used to assess the community's satisfaction with the progress on the CSP strategies.

These practices include;

- Ongoing surveys and workshops conducted with the Community Reference Group,
- Rural consultation program including the establishment of ‘Council Information Hubs’ throughout the Local Government Area,
- Council in the Community meetings,
- Community organisation speaking program where Council representatives are regularly presenting to relevant organisations,
- Listening to the Community meetings which create direct access to Council's senior management,
- Online discussion forums,
- Biennial community telephone survey.





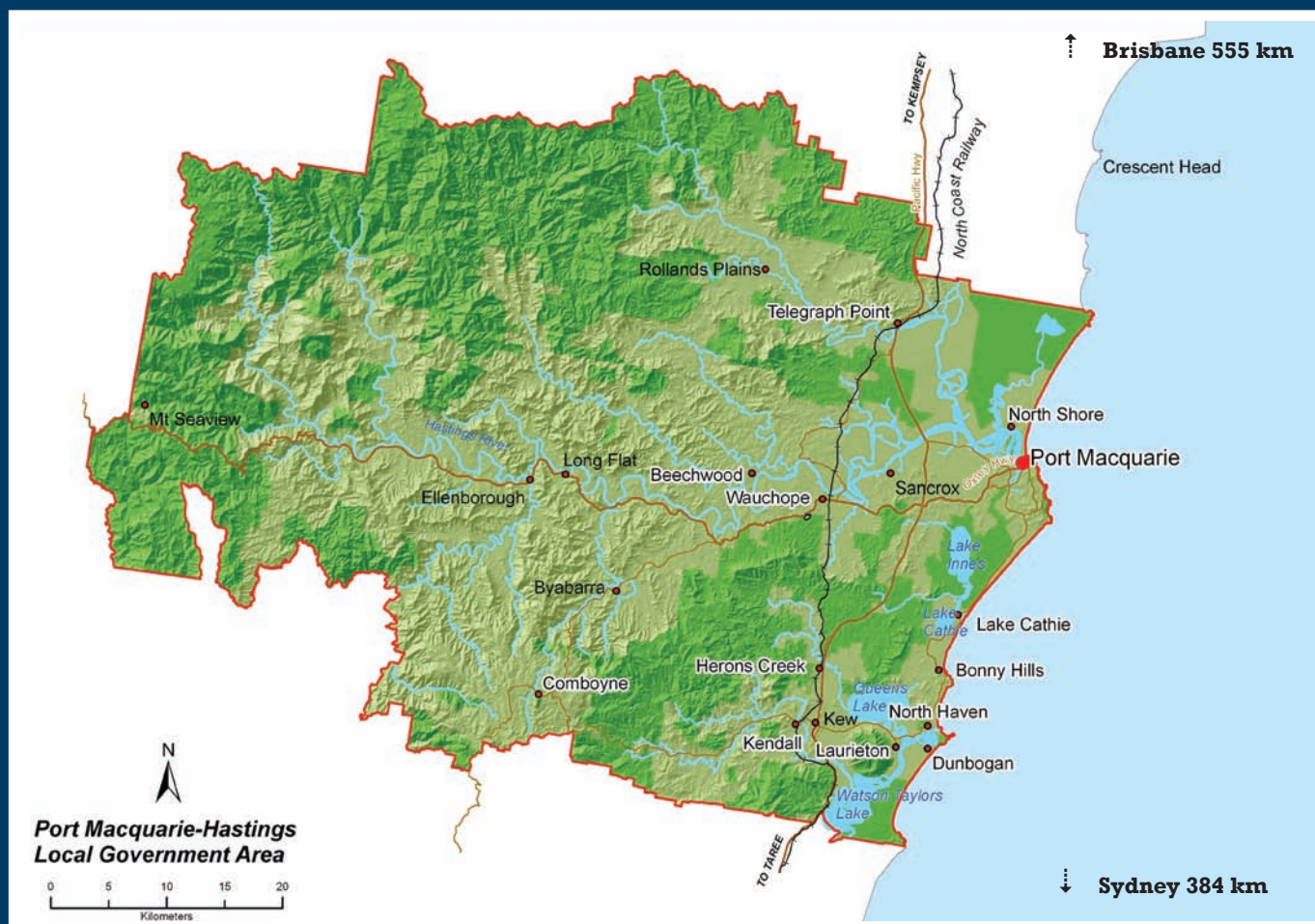












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