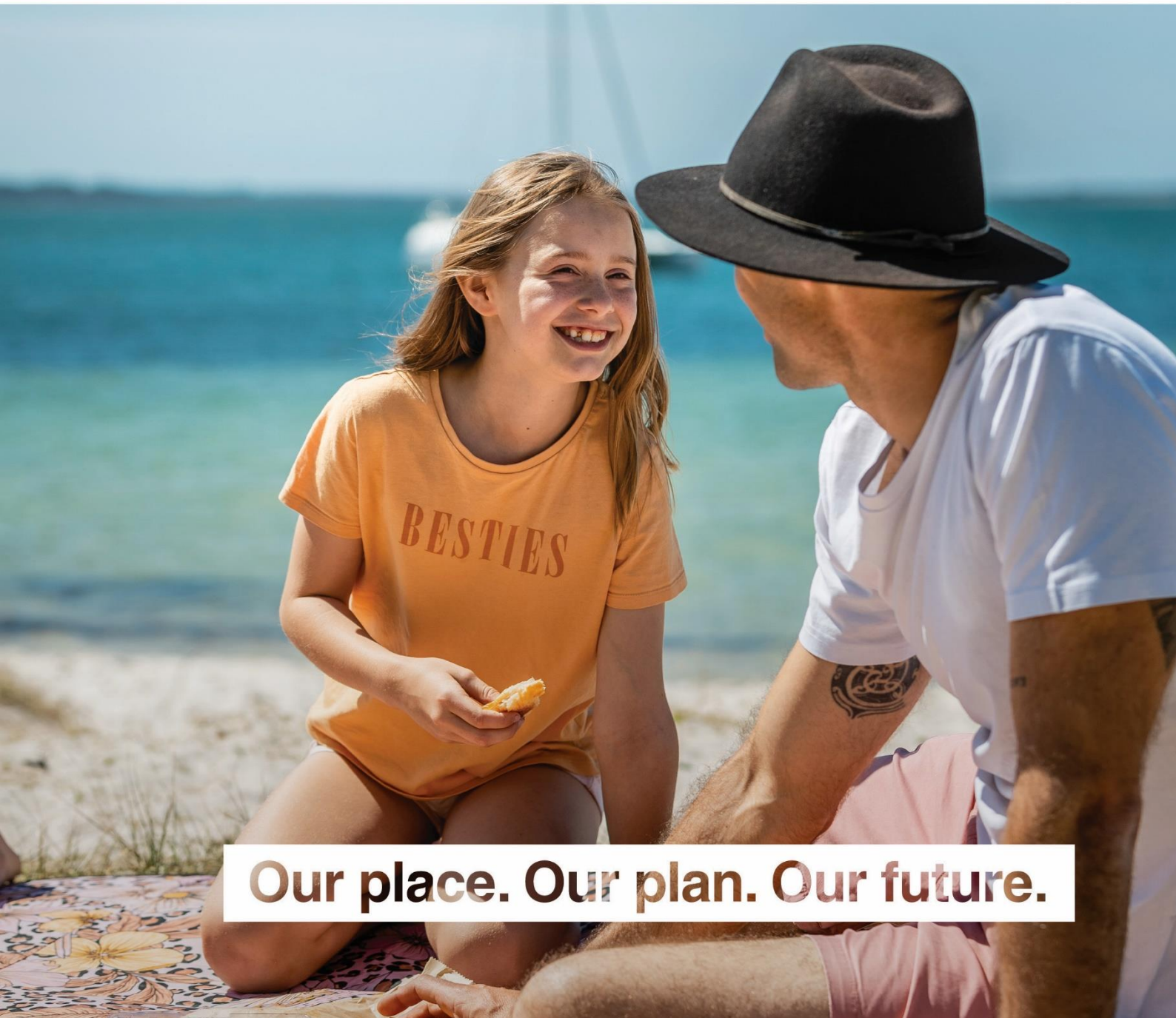




Community Strategic Plan 2022 to 2032



Our place. Our plan. Our future.

Challenges

The following challenges have been considered in revising the Plan.

- **Financial sustainability** – is critical to all of our community to meet day-to-day needs now and in the future. This applies across the spectrum of families, businesses and local government.

This element is integrated throughout various Focus Areas of the Plan including C1, P1 and L2.

- **Climate change and coastal impacts** – continue to be a challenge for every community which is why we must work together to preserve Port Stephens' environment.

This is integrated as part of Strategy E3.1.

- **Community voice** – is an essential part of our rights and democracy. Also critical is capturing a representative voice of the community, which is often difficult. Part of the equation is effectively engaging and communicating with the community.

These elements are integrated as part of the Key Direction/Goal for L3 and as part of Strategy L3.2.

- **Diversity, inclusivity and accessibility** - are part of community wellbeing, with improved wellbeing at the heart of our community life now and in the future.

Community wellbeing is integrated into the C1 Key Direction/Goal and statement for the 'Our Place' Focus area.

- **Housing affordability** – Port Stephens population is expected to increase to 87,933 by 2040 (annualised growth of 0.89%), which translates to an estimated change of 9,245 dwellings. Affordable and sustainable housing are required to meet the diverse needs of our growing community.

Housing affordability is embedded as part of Strategy P3.1.

- **Resilience** – the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and recent natural disasters have highlighted the need to focus on resilience and the ability of the Port Stephens community to prepare, respond and recover from unforeseen events.

Resilience is integrated into Strategy P3.4 and E3.1.

- **Sustainable development** - is an issue that has been raised repeatedly within our community. Balancing development, planning for the future of the community, visitors to the Port Stephens area along with mitigating the impacts on our natural environment are ongoing considerations as part of the Plan.

These elements are integrated as part of Strategy P3.1 and E1.1.



Focus area | Our Community

An accessible and welcoming community respecting diversity, heritage and culture

Our community values **things to do** in their neighbourhoods and a **range of community activities**, including volunteering, gardening, art, community organised events and so on.

Ideal neighbourhoods should offer a **sense of welcome** and have **access to shared community and commercial assets** such as libraries, sports facilities or gyms.

Where do we want to be? (Key directions/Goals)	How will we get there? (Strategies)	Who will help us? (Our Partners)	Council's role
C1 Community wellbeing Improve wellbeing for our diverse community supported by services and facilities	C1.1 Support wellbeing, inclusivity, accessibility and making all feel welcome	NSW Department of Community and Justice, Youth Advisory Panel (YAP), Not for profit organisations, Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALC), Disability Advocacy Groups	
	C1.2 Provide facilities and learning options for children and families	NSW Department of Education	
	C1.3 Provide equitable and safe access to sports, recreational, cultural and leisure activities	Belgravia Leisure, Surf Life Saving NSW, Other private service providers	
	C1.4 Support volunteers to deliver appropriate community service	Volunteers	
C2 Recognised traditions and lifestyles Our community supports the richness of its heritage and culture	C2.1 Recognise and support local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People	Worimi LALC, Karuah LALC	
	C2.2 Support and promote local cultural activities	Destination Port Stephens, Business Port Stephens, Worimi LALC, Karuah LALC	
	C2.3 Recognise and support the heritage of Port Stephens	Heritage Council, NSW Heritage, Local Heritage Groups	



Focus area | Our Place

A liveable and connected place supporting community wellbeing and local economic growth

Our community values neighbourhoods with **locally owned and operated businesses** that provide the community with their daily needs. Neighbourhoods should have easy to access **shared community amenities** like local shops **within walking or cycling distance**. Neighbourhoods should have **well maintained and managed public domain, footpaths, parks, roads** and other public assets.

Where do we want to be? (Key directions/Goals)	How will we get there? (Strategies)	Who will help us? (Our Partners)	Council's role
<p>P1 Strong economy, vibrant local businesses, active investment</p> <p>Our community has an adaptable, sustainable and diverse economy</p>	<p>P1.1 Support sustainable local business development, visitation and events</p>	<p>Destination Port Stephens, Destination NSW, Business Port Stephens, Economic Development Advisory Panel</p>	
<p>P2 Infrastructure and facilities</p> <p>Our community's infrastructure and facilities are safe, convenient, reliable and environmentally sustainable</p>	<p>P2.1 Deliver and maintain sustainable community infrastructure</p>	<p>Police, Transport for NSW, Crown Lands, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Maritime, Other Councils</p>	
	<p>P2.2 Create useable links and connections within towns and centres</p>	<p>Transport for NSW</p>	
<p>P3 Thriving and safe place to live</p> <p>Our community supports a healthy, happy and safe place</p>	<p>P3.1 Provide land use plans, tools and advice that sustainably support the community</p>	<p>DPE, NSW Fair Trading, Rural Fire Service, Environment Protection Authority, Department of Defence, Police, Environment Energy and Science, Transport for NSW, Hunter Water, Department of Primary Industries</p>	
	<p>P3.2 Enhance public safety, health and liveability through the use of Council's regulatory controls and services</p>	<p>DPIE, NSW Fair Trading, Rural Fire Service, Environment Protection Authority, Department of Defence, Police, NSW Environment Energy and</p>	



Focus area | Our Environment

Port Stephens environment is clean, green, protected and enhanced

Port Stephens community aspires to neighbourhoods that feature **unique natural elements**, views, landscapes or vegetation.

Our Council and residents must **protect and maintain the connection to nature** offered by the area by promoting sustainable **behaviours in the community**.

Where do we want to be? (Key directions/Goals)	How will we get there? (Strategies)	Who will help us? (Our Partners)	Council's role
E1 Ecosystem function Our community has healthy and dynamic environmental systems that support biodiversity conservation	E1.1 Protect and enhance our local natural and built environment	Department of Planning and Environment, DPI, Local Land Services, National Parks and Wildlife, Crown Land, Hunter Water	
	E1.2 Provide education programs about our local natural environment	Department of Planning and Environment, Marine Parks, Local Land Services, Crown Lands, National Parks and Wildlife, Worimi LALC and Karuah LALC	
E2 Environmental sustainability Our community uses resources sustainably, efficiently and equitably	E2.1 Support renewable energy and alternative fuel use	NSW State Government, Ausgrid	
	E2.2 Support resource recycling and reduction of waste	SUEZ, Hunter Joint Organisations	
	E2.3 Support urban greening initiatives	DPE, Volunteers	









Focus area | Our Council

Port Stephens Council leads, manages and delivers valued community services in a responsible way

Our community values a Council that aims to deliver **on community wellbeing**.

The community should have a Council that **delivers on what they say they're going to do**. Neighbourhoods should have assets that are maintained to an acceptable standard and the community should be satisfied with the level of service provided.

Our community should have a Council with engaged employees, that's **financially sustainable**, has an **appropriate risk maturity** and has the right practices and governance in place

Where do we want to be? (Key directions/Goals)	How will we get there? (Strategies)	Who will help us? (Our Partners)	Council's role
L1 Governance Our Council's leadership is based on trust and values of Respect, Integrity, Teamwork, Excellence and Safety (RITES)	L1.1 Develop and encourage the capabilities and aspirations of Council's workforce	Office of Local Government, Unions	 
	L1.2 Provide strong leadership, advocacy role and government relations	State and Federal Government departments, Hunter Councils, Elected members	 
	L1.3 Provide a strong ethical governance structure and systems for Council	Office of Local Government, Safe Work, Ombudsman Office	 
L2 Financial Management Our Council is financially sustainable to meet community needs	L2.1 Maintain financial sustainability	Office of Local Government, State and Federal Government, Local Government Professionals NSW, Audit Office of NSW, Section 355 Committees, Property Advisory Panel IPART	  
L3 Communication and engagement	L3.1 Provide a customer-first organisation	State government departments, Elected members	