

Community Strategic Plan (2030)

Outcomes 2008-2012



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Introduction

Under Section 428(2) of the Local Government Act 1993, in the year of an ordinary election of councillors, Council is required to report on their achievements in implementing the Community Strategic Plan over the previous four years. That report is required to be presented to the outgoing Council, included in that year's annual report and used to inform the incoming Council in its review of the Community Strategic Plan.

In 2012 the end-of-term reporting requirements do not apply to Group 3 councils, which includes Wyong Shire Council. This is due to implementation of the Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework the transitional, and the Division of Local Government recognising that for many Group 3 councils the Community Strategic Plan will have been prepared and endorsed by Councils just prior to the end-of-term reports being tabled.

Wyong Shire Council's Community Strategic Plan was adopted in June 2011. It built on the previous Shire Strategic Vision 2009 and Community Plan 2008-2012 documents.

While there is no legislated requirement for Council to prepare an end-of-term report, the following high level information has been collated to inform the review of the Community Strategic Plan. It should be noted that this is not a comprehensive report, given the absence of an assessment framework and appropriate method for capturing data from stakeholders including Council, the community, government and non government agencies.

The report lists each of the eight priority objectives and the vision, delivery strategies and outcomes against those objectives.



Objective 1:

Communities will be vibrant, caring and connected with a sense of belonging and pride in their local neighbourhood

Vision

Creation and support of communities where individuals feel closely connected, people know their neighbours, relationships are built within local neighbourhoods, there is participation in the local community, a sense of belongingness and pride in the local area.

Delivery Strategies

Supporting and providing programs to bring the community together, encouraging social interaction, maintaining communication, engaging individuals in volunteering and mentoring, increasing participation and building individual and community capacity.



Outcomes

Community Events

Thousands of residents and visitors participate in annual events such as Kids Day Out, Warnervale Annual Fair, Tuggerah Lakes Mardi Gras, Gathering of the Clans, Australia Day celebrations, Whale Dreamers Festival and Council's Annual Photographic Competition. Annual highlights include NAIDOC Week, Reconciliation Week, International Women's Day, Dad's Day Out, Youth Week and Senior's Week.

The Entrance Community Café

The café is a training venue managed by Council through a social enterprise framework where profits are reinvested into the facility's infrastructure, training or related community projects. The café has enabled a range of partnerships between Local Employment Services Agencies, Registered Training Organisations, business groups, local businesses, non-government organisations, schools, community groups and community members. It is a

recognised community venue hosting programs such as a "Play Café" for young parents; "Café Connections" for new migrants and the local Culturally & Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community; catering services; and the "Sam's Café" support program for the disabled.

Better Futures Program

As a result of a survey in 2009, Better Futures (a NSW Government initiative) provided Council with \$60,000 in funding

for music events and activities for youth between the ages of 9 and 18. The funding supported a range of discos, festivals, event management courses, music lessons and performances. The program extended into 2011 and 2012, with further funding of \$30,000 which helped to engage approximately 2000 young people, including those from minority groups and lower socio-economic backgrounds and areas.

Youth Engagement Strategy

Council adopted a Youth Engagement Strategy in 2010 following engagement with young people. The strategy is designed to increase participation among all ages by strengthening connections between the wider community, business and the Shire's young people to provide opportunities for skills development and improved learning and employment opportunities. Over 1,100 young people, business and community partners were engaged in the process. The strategy has been broadly embraced with more than ten active partnerships including youth leadership and mentoring programs, major event management, social and creative enterprise opportunities.

Community Matching Fund

The Community Matching Fund was introduced in 2012 and supports community groups to create connections through Council matched funding of community run and led projects. The fund requires a community contribution of \$10,000 and can offer a 2 for 1 match, with a maximum Council contribution

of \$75,000 per project. In 2012, 22 funding submissions were received and \$236,241 allocated to various community groups for projects including roof replacements, art and cultural workshops, development of community garden and accessible gardens and a youth driven social enterprise initiative.

Welcome to Wyong Program

The Welcome to Wyong project is a series of programs that provide assistance to new residents of the Shire. To date programs have reached nearly 2000 community members, providing opportunities to connect through themed bus tours, resident engagement days and information kits for new residents.

Youth Week

Youth Week is a national program operating since 2000. Over the past four years numerous events and activities have received funding through a joint initiative of Council and NSW Youth Week, with highlights including a Skate, BMX & Scooter Competition, Wet Wild & Rhythm festival, GOATS (Going Off at the Swamp) festival.

Positive Ageing

Council provides ongoing support for positive ageing initiatives. In 2012, a coffee table book, titled "Splinters and Threads", was released, which contained a collection of stories from local residents detailing how practical arts and crafts fit into their lives during retirement, along with a directory of local craft groups, clubs, guilds, classes and events. Stories are linked by common

threads that highlight the importance of community connections, creativity, lifelong learning, and having fun. Over 800 copies of the book were distributed throughout the region.

Shire-wide Settlement Strategy

Council has commenced development of a Settlement Strategy which will establish a framework for land use and development activities that cater for current, projected and visiting population over the next 25 years. The Strategy is being developed in line with the Draft Wyong Local Environmental Plan 2012 and is expected to go on exhibition in 2012. Once adopted, the Settlement Strategy will replace Council's current Residential Development Strategy 2002. The strategy considers specific local, regional and state strategies and issues relating to community, centres and housing, economy and employment, environment, natural hazards, utilities infrastructure and transport.

Social Media

In 2008 Council became one of the first local government organisations in NSW to tap into the social media outlets of Twitter, with over 2,000 followers, and Facebook. These forums have provided for quick and easy distribution of information about Council's services, activities and events and are able to reach a mass audience 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Web Conference

In December 2011 Tuggerah Library hosted an interactive national web conference for children to chat live online with leading Australian Children's author Andy Griffiths. This web conference was an overwhelming success with children from all over Australia participating through the use of technology.

Bridging the Gap

Bridging the Gap is a suite of complimentary programs that concentrate on the holistic development of young indigenous men and women. The project has been recognised both nationally and internationally, with many local government areas interested in hosting events for their own Indigenous communities. Strong community partnerships have been established to deliver the programs including Mingara Recreational Club, Camp Toukley, YMCA, Aboriginal Education Community Groups and DEEWR. The programs include:

Ngura: aims to increase the importance of physical activity and provide current information and education about health issues for Indigenous Australians.

Brotha Yarn Sista Speak: provides young men and women with knowledge and support to help develop their personal attitudes, self esteem, motivation, team work and responsibility, so they may grow as valued members of the community.

Public Art Program

Council's Public Art Policy was developed in 2008 and supports an organisational wide

commitment to the management and integration of contemporary arts practice via planning, community development, environmental management and urban design. It supports the implementation of place-based projects which provide a site specific art and design response to localities, stories and heritage, create distinct places which provide meaningful and unique experiences, and, develop collaborative processes between art and design professionals, artisan groups and residents.

Examples of projects undertaken include Hamlyn Terrace Public Art, Coast to Lake Scenic Walk Public Art Stage 1, Gravity Youth Centre, Canton Beach Interactive Art Play Space and Spring Creek Reserve.

Community Leadership

The Shire has 11 Community Precinct Committees that perform an advisory role to Council through coordinating a local response to issues of concern and providing a vehicle for information to freely flow between Council and the community. There are also Youth Advisory and Seniors Advisory Councils that provide advice and assistance to Council on a variety of matters and provide a scope and direction for activities and events within the Shire in their respective areas. Council has also recently formed a Status of Women Committee.

Volunteer Management Evaluation Review

During 2011 and 2012 Council evaluated the management systems for working with volunteers and held consultation with existing Council volunteers plus other local community leaders with many years volunteering experience. From this review a framework for the management of Council Volunteers has been developed.



Objective 2:

There will be ease of travel within the Shire, and to other regional centres and cities. Travel will be available at all hours and will be safe, clean and affordable

Vision

Availability of affordable, safe and clean transport options to easily travel both within the Shire and to other regional centres and cities.

Delivery Strategies

Improving pathways and advocating state and federal government agencies for the improvement of transport services.



Outcomes

On Road Bicycle and Shared Pathway Strategy

In 2010, Council adopted the above strategy, which provides a framework for the development and coordination of on-road bicycle routes and off-road shared pathways. The Strategy aims to expand the Shire's bicycle and shared pathway network, while encouraging the community to utilise the network for a range of social, transport and recreation reasons.

Implementation of the Road Bicycle and Shared Pathway Strategy

Over the past four years a total of 9.29km of shared pathways have been constructed. Council received funding from the State and Federal Government for many of the projects, which are located in Budgewoi, Long Jetty, Buff Point, Berkeley Vale, Colongra Bay, Killarney Vale, Wilfred Barrett Drive/The Entrance North to Noraville, Mannering Park, Blue Haven, Toukley and Lake Munmorah.

Central Coast Transport Working Group

The Central Coast Transport Working Group holds regular meetings to consider matters affecting our region. Projects include increasing bus servicing arrangements which has seen bus patronage results on Busways for the whole of the Central Coast increasing by 5% and Red Bus Services by 24%.

Central Coast Regional Transport Strategy

The 25 year Strategy was developed by the NSW Government in 2010 to address the Central Coast's transportation network. The strategy details a number of initiatives including rail and bus services, road network upgrades, commuter car parks and greater transportation, such as taxi services, car pooling and ferry services. Transport NSW has been working closely with Wyong and Gosford Councils to implement the initiatives, which include additional buses, investigation of a high speed rail service and a second Sydney Airport.

Commuter Parking at Railway Stations

The Tuggerah Railway Station was upgraded (including 500 parking spaces) based on a partnership with the State Government and stakeholders including Council, the Ministry of Transport, Railcorp and the Department of Commerce. Transport NSW also provided additional commuter parking spaces at Ourimbah Railway Station (50 extra spaces) and Wyong Railway Station (200 extra spaces). Discussions have also been held between Council and Transport NSW to raise concerns regarding the adequacy of the proposed Warnervale North bus/rail interchange, including the number of available commuter parking spaces.

Commuter Hubs along the F3 Freeway

Council made a submission on the Draft Central Coast Regional Transport Strategy in December

2010 which included a request for formal commuter carparks at strategic points along the F3 Freeway. The request was also included in a submission on the Draft North Wyong Shire Structure Plan and the NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan Discussion Paper. Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) has commenced work on the Wyong Road/F3 Freeway interchange improvements which include formalising and expanding parking for commuter/car pooling arrangements.

Rail upgrades

CityRail operates 324 services per week on the Central Coast, an increase of 70 services from the previous year. Council has advocated Transport NSW for lifts at Ourimbah Railway Station, Tuggerah Railway Station and Wyee Railway Station.

Road network upgrades

The Government allocated the following funding in the 2012/2013 State Budget:

- \$6 million to complete the F3 Freeway and Wyong Road interchange
- \$4 million for planning to widen the Pacific Highway to four lanes between Lisarow and Ourimbah
- \$3 million for planning the upgrade of the intersection of the Pacific Highway and Wyong Road at Tuggerah
- \$500,000 for planning to upgrade the Pacific Highway at Wyong Town Centre
- A nominal amount to the continued planning/public consultation of the Central Coast Highway through Long Jetty and The Entrance

Council has also advocated the following network improvements:

- a continuation of funding for preparation of a concept design for upgrading the Central Coast Highway through Long Jetty
- upgrades to the Pacific Highway – Ourimbah to Lisarow and Pacific Highway/Wyong Road intersection
- alternative routes/strategies for the Pacific Highway through the Wyong Township
- concept plans for the upgrading of Sparks Road between the F3 Freeway and Pacific Highway and Sparks Road/Entry Road to Warnervale Town Centre intersection.
- an F3 to M2/M7 connection
- an Outer Sydney Orbital transport corridor connecting the M7 to the F3 at Kariong





Objective 3:

Communities will have access to a diverse range of affordable and coordinated facilities, programs and services

Vision

A range of local and regional facilities that support the diverse needs of the community and contribute to its vibrancy, connections and pride, including complementary programs, services and activities that are affordable, financially sustainable and maximise the usage of the facilities.

Delivery Strategies

Development of a network of existing and new facilities at both the local and regional level that provide for the social, arts/ cultural, recreational, leisure and lifelong learning needs of the community.



Outcomes

Hamlyn Terrace Community Centre and Sporting Facility

The \$8.5M facility opened in 2012 as part of a network of facilities to meet the current and future needs of the growing population in Warnervale/Wadalba. The facility comprises a community centre, playground and picnic areas, a shared pathway for walking and cycling, petanque pitches, multi-purpose courts for netball and basketball, sporting ovals with competition standard lighting, cricket practice nets, a

sporting amenities building and associated car parking.

The facility is home to the Woongarra Wildcats Football Club and the centre accommodates Uniting Care Burnside's Warnervale Family and Community Centre programs, is used for playgroups, dance, yoga, martial arts, craft and parenting courses and is available for the community to hire for meetings, events and functions.

Surf Lifesaving Clubs

In 2011, newly built Surf Life Saving Clubs were opened at Soldiers Beach and Shelly beach. Facilities include a new first aid room, lifeguard room, toilets and shower areas, enhanced kiosk area, club storage, kitchen and bar, function rooms and a caretaker's flat. The clubs were built with a number of sustainable features including rainwater tanks, solar hot water, flow-through ventilation and ceiling fans, and heat reflective window glazing.

Toukley Library Refurbishment

During 2011/12 Council refurbished the library at Toukley, supported by funding received from the State Library of NSW. The library now provides a modern service, delivered in a customer focused way through a new community room, shelving of books into categories, more space to house and display books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, CDs and audio books and upgraded facilities including new furniture, carpeting, shelving, computers and improved lighting.

Community Facilities Strategy

The strategy provides for the current operation of community facilities and includes a strategic framework to guide decision making, and ensure the sustainable provision, development and management of facilities over the longer term. Council currently provides a network of 100 community facilities throughout the Shire for the benefit of the community. The aim of the strategy is to position the community facilities asset portfolio to better serve the needs and expectations of the community in the future.

The Entrance Community Centre

Council transformed the former infant's school site at The Entrance into a modern community centre that provides a dynamic mix of spaces and activities including office accommodation, an art exhibition gallery and workshop, education and training programs, family and children's services,

recreation and leisure, special interest groups, community meeting spaces, a Men's Shed and outdoor areas (playground, café, community art projects, community events, informal spaces). The facility provides a base for community service providers and groups and is used by Horizons Central Coast Family Services, The Benevolent Society, The Smith Family, the Entrance Neighbourhood Centre, Break Thru, Central Coast Watercolour Society, The Entrance Men's Shed, art and craft, church, playgroups, parenting classes, women's support, tai chi, karate, active over 50's exercise, various dance classes and community meetings.

The Art House

Wyong Shire's Performing Arts and Conference Centre, will be a flagship cultural facility for the Central Coast in line with a Regional Cultural Framework, jointly developed by Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils. The Art House has received development approval with detailed design and documentation being undertaken and matching funding being sought from the State and Federal Governments to construct the facility. The centre plan has been developed through consultation with local businesses, arts, government and the community.

Arts Development

Council has approached different levels of Government to attract arts funding to the region for programs and facilities. Funding has been secured for the Wyong Memorial Hall upgrade, Strategic Development funding towards an Arts Programming position, project and position funding for

emerging arts and creative connections programs delivered by Wyong Neighbourhood Centre including the only Aboriginal Arts Officer position on the Central Coast.

Additional funding of 450,000 has been secured for a 2 year regional contemporary arts development program. The Program is informed through an established Stakeholder Reference Group and the projects will be implemented involving emerging artists from the Central Coast.

Regional Cultural Framework

The framework was jointly developed in 2011 by Gosford and Wyong Council's in response to local requests and Arts NSW recommendations for a regional approach to cultural development on the Central Coast. The framework will be developed into a detailed Strategy in 2012 and 2013 through a process of consultation with the cultural sector including businesses, artist groups, non-government organisations, funding bodies and arts education facilities.

Creative Enterprise - Lakeside Art

The enterprise was established in November 2011 and is a community arts partnership between Lakeside Shopping Centre and Council. The program is run through a Social Enterprise Model and currently involves four artist practitioners, who are gaining professional practice and

business development and will be contributing, through workshops and mentoring, to our growing communities' creative capacity and expanding the utilisation of our existing network of community facilities. Over 300 people have participated in art workshops run through Lakeside Art since January 2012, with the artists organising the first Lakeside Art Community Exhibition.

Graffiti & Vandalism Initiatives

In response to an increase in graffiti, Council developed a Graffiti Management Strategy in partnership with Police, business' and the community. The strategy covers a multi-faceted approach to address the issue including a register set up within Council to record all instances of graffiti with information provided to Police to help with prosecutions.

Council currently contributes over \$500K in combating graffiti and vandalism through free graffiti removal kits, funding for community murals, a community graffiti removal trailer, support for Graffiti Action Day, funding for CCTV and perimeter fencing at Blue Haven Community Centre, funding for perimeter lighting, anti graffiti coating and murals at two hotspot locations, two relocatable CCTV cameras and funding of the Warners Education Program across all high schools in the Shire.

Stay Safe at the Beach

The program is a multicultural community event to assist residents not born in Australia to better understand beach and surf safety. The event involves Wyong and Gosford Councils, Northern

Settlement Services, Centrelink, Cancer Council, Multicultural Health, NSW TAFE Gosford and Wyong Campus', Newcastle University, NSW Rock Fishing Association, NSW Rural Fire Service and Star FM. The event is held over 2 days each summer with over 600 Central Coast residents' attending each year. In 2011 and 2012 event organisers were awarded the NSW Water Safety Award for the Water Safety Event of the Year.

Multi Cultural Expo

The Central Coast expo is an annual event designed to assist local residents who are new to Australia to connect with relevant services and organisations. The event was held in 2009, 2010 and 2011 with approximately 40 agencies conducting interactive information stalls providing help and advice on matters such as health, legal services, education, employment, accommodation, community, aged care and disability services.

Harmony Day - World in Wyong Project

The project, conducted in 2010 and 2011, was designed to raise awareness of, and create a positive influence about, the CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) community living in Wyong Shire. Sixteen residents spoke on their previous lives, why they came to Australia, and how their lives are now. The project was broadcast on 92.5 ABC Central Coast and provided listeners with an understanding of the cultural influences and positive attributes that people born overseas bring to our community.



Objective 4:

Areas of natural value in public and private ownership will be enhanced and retained to a high level in the context of ongoing development

Vision

Retain, maintain and enhance areas of natural value by preserving endangered species, ecological communities and biodiversity as well as expanding programs for the restoration of degraded natural areas.

Delivery Strategies

The protection of natural resources, maintenance of natural processes and ecosystems and retention of natural amenity in the face of ongoing development. Initiatives include reducing the Shire's environmental footprint and introducing sustainable practices.



Outcomes

Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Plan

Council's Estuary Management Plan was adopted in 2006. Its importance is recognised by State and Federal Government who have provided funding support through the Caring for our Country program. Projects that have been undertaken include stream bank rehabilitation, installation of improved stormwater systems, constructed wetlands and catchment improvements, rehabilitation of significant salt

marsh communities improved recreational amenities and foreshores, water quality monitoring, community education and development of information on estuary programs.

Constructed Wetlands

Stormwater runoff from urban development is a major problem due to its negative effects on downstream environments. To assist in addressing this issue, Council has constructed wetlands and permanent sediment ponds throughout the Shire to provide effective stormwater treatment

devices. Constructed wetlands provide stormwater treatment, create valuable habitat for many plants and animals and contribute to passive recreation by improving the aesthetic and amenity values of public spaces.

Council maintains 24 constructed wetlands with around 44 new constructed wetlands planned as part of the Porters Creek Integrated Water Catchment Management Scheme. Maintenance of the constructed wetlands is ongoing with

Council staff clearing 79.5 cubic metres of rubbish and 108 tonnes of sediment from gross pollutant traps in just 5 months.

Cabbage Tree Harbour

In 2011 Council completed construction of a "toe drainage structure" at Cabbage Tree Harbour, Norah Head. The project was funded equally by Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and was constructed to stabilise the cliff bank, address public safety, and protect against further erosion caused by tides and strong waves.

Chemical Cleanout

The collection was introduced in 1998 and is conducted twice a year in partnership with Gosford City Council and the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage. The service is free and allows residents to take their unwanted household chemicals (such as paints, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, household cleaners, oils and fuels etc) to their respective Council depot, where they will be disposed of safely.

Sustainable Living Workshops

In 2009/10, with funding from the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, six free workshops were provided to the community on a range of sustainability topics including Recycling and Food Waste, Worm Farming and Composting, Introduction to Organic Gardening and

Organic Gardening Advanced and Sustainable Cooking. With 38% of rubbish going to landfill being organic food waste the workshops will help reduce this figure.

Other initiatives include recycling programs for mattresses, fluorescent light globes, tubes and batteries.

Lake Macquarie Improvement Project

In 2009/10 Council completed foreshore restoration works at three locations on Lake Macquarie. These included Lloyd Avenue Reserve, Chain Valley Bay, Vales Point Park, Gwandalan Beach and Summerland Point Reserve, Summerland Point. Works included the construction of shingle beaches to mitigate the erosion of the shoreline and provide enhanced amenity to these locations. The works were the result of a partnership between Wyong Shire and Lake Macquarie City Councils and the State Government.





Objective 5:

There will be a sense of community ownership of the natural environment through direct public involvement with environmental program

Vision

Develop and establish a range of programs and activities that create community involvement and allows the community to appreciate and embrace the natural areas of the Shire.

Delivery Strategies

Greater public access to environmental areas, environmental projects that actively encourage community involvement, and promotion of environmental based activities such as community gardens, adopting a park / nature trail, or a "Green Wyong Shire Program".



Outcomes

Saltwater Creek Rehabilitation

In 2008, Council completed improvements to Saltwater Creek Reserve at Long Jetty, including car parking, boat ramp and playground upgrades. The works were funded through a number of sources including Section 94 contributions, Tuggerah Lake Estuary Program, CDSE, NSW Sport and Recreation, Councillor grants and the Metropolitan GreenSpace programme. Additional works were undertaken in 2009 including rehabilitation

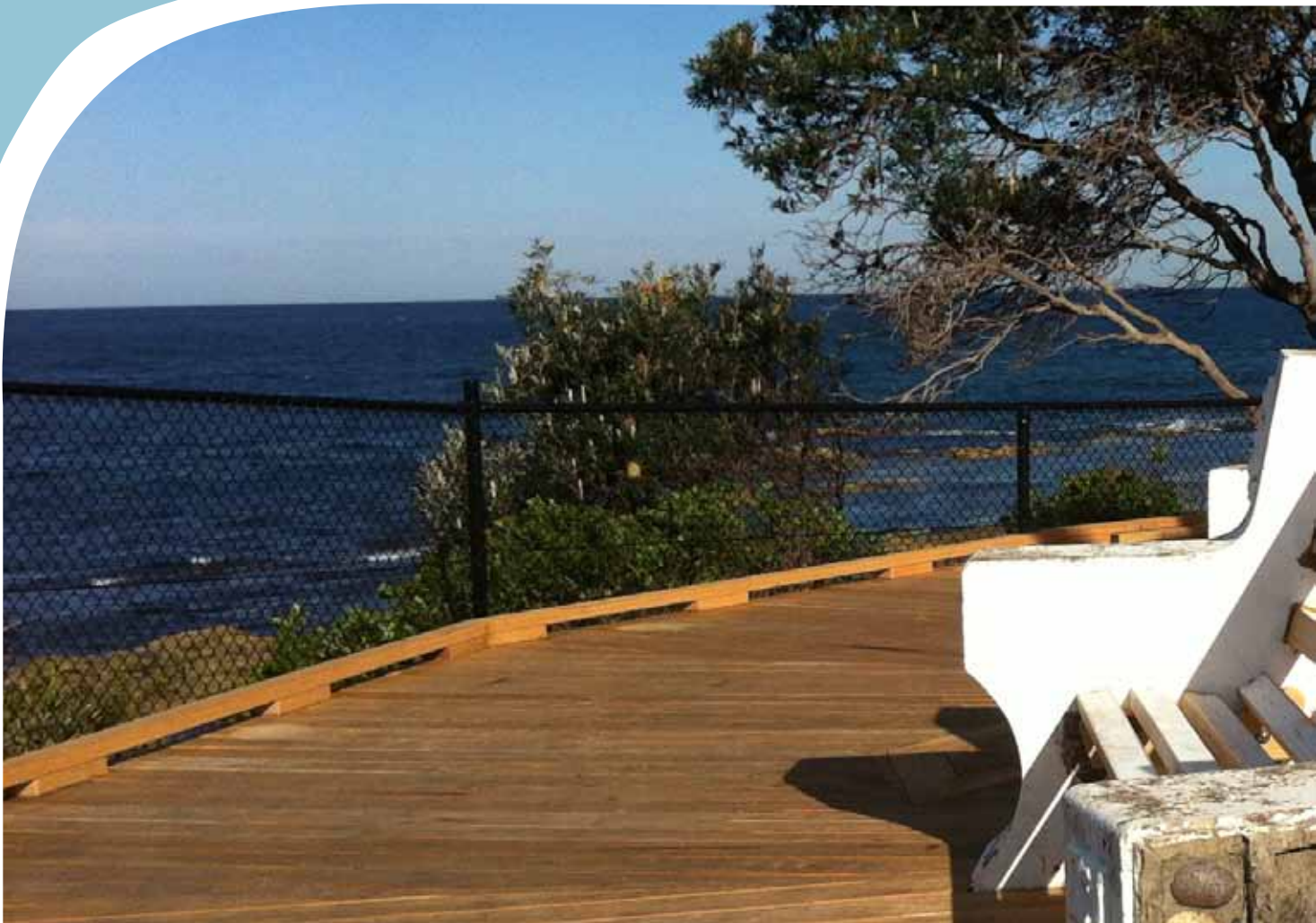
of 650m of creek line, bush regeneration to remove all weed species, plus extensive replanting of native trees and shrubs.

Saltwater Creek Catchment Education

The project focussed on community awareness on the impacts of stormwater and litter/waste on Saltwater Creek. Events included workshops, community information events, a photographic competition and 'catchment crawl' (bus tour).

Additional workshops were coordinated with non-

government organisations and included salt marsh and water watch tours, seagrass workshop, presentation on the history and ecology of Tuggerah Lakes, Platypus Awareness Day, and a forum entitled The Challenges of Tuggerah Lakes and Managing The Entrance Channel. Organisations involved in providing the workshops included the Platypus Awareness and Conservation Team (PACT), Ocean and Coastal Care Initiatives (OCCI), Community



Environment Network (CEN) and WyCare (Wyong Shire's Landcare Network). Approximately 500 people attended the workshops, forums and tours.

Landowner Workshops

In 2012 two Landowner Workshops were held to encourage rural landowners to improve the quality of water flowing into Tuggerah Lakes. The workshops focussed on the management of stream bank vegetation and the Shire's platypus population.

Greening Wyong Strategy

Council is developing a Greening Wyong Strategy to guide and manage tree planting within the

Shire's public places. The strategy is for landowners, developers, general community members, and Council staff who plant trees in public places, such as streets and parks. It will direct a progressive program of tree planting, that will reinforce the existing canopy of the Shire and provide environmental, sociological and aesthetical benefits to public places.

Landcare

In Wyong Shire, Landcare, Bushcare, Coastcare and Dunecare groups work together to restore bushland, dunes, rivers, wetlands and lakes to benefit native plants, animals and fungi. Works have included the active planting of an urban corridor at Bateau Bay, which provides a habitat for the

endangered Swift Parrot and Regent Honeyeater. Over 10,000 trees were planted and in recent years the threatened woodland birds have been seen using this area. There are currently 419 Landcare volunteers registered in the Shire.

Mates of the Lakes Community Projects

As part of the Tuggerah Lakes Estuary Management Plan's Education program, Mates of the Lakes (stage 27) allocated funding to seven community projects including education sessions conducted by Budgewoi Playgroup, a bus tour of Tuggerah Lakes held by Wycare, workshops run by Tuggerah Lakes Community College, a Paint Out event hosted by Toukley Art



Society, the creation of banners by Toukley Greater Vision, the formation of a local water watch group by CEN Community Water Testing and revegetation and maintenance days hosted by CEN Stepping Stones.

Sustainable Business Program

The program involved working with local businesses regarding the Pioneer Dairy wetland and issues associated with stormwater, water, waste and energy management. A partnership was formed with Regional Development Australia, State-wide Business Training and the NSW Department of Education and Training – State Training Services to initiate Green Skills, a new training program to provide business' with comprehensive

sustainability management practices and tools to develop sustainability frameworks. To support this, State-wide Business Training has developed a training program specifically for the Central Coast Region so local business can receive accredited training in the development, integration and promotion of sustainable policies and procedures to implement in their workplace.

Blue Planet Website

The website provides practical tools, resources and local information for students regarding a range of environmental and water related topics. The information relates directly to years 7 to 12 NSW school syllabus for Science (including Biology, Earth and Environmental Science,

Chemistry and Senior Science), Geography, Marine Studies and agriculture.

Water Education for Pre-schools

The Little Green Steps pre-school program educates the Early Childhood Sector on the importance of saving water. The program includes school site visits, water audits, tips and tricks and educates young children about the importance of sustainable water use.



Water Education for Primary Schools

Watertight is delivered in all primary schools across the Central Coast through a one day excursion. The primary school environmental awards program is also operated within the Wyong Shire with up to 25 schools participating each year.

The Entrance Community Garden

The establishment of a community garden was prompted and promoted by residents, and has been embraced by community organisations, the local school and pre-schools. A shared garden space has been provided, creating community connections between residents while providing education opportunities and intergenerational interaction. Partnerships have been established between residents, The Entrance Men's Shed and community groups to drive the initiative, with Break thru People Solutions conducting a horticulture course at the Centre assisting with the construction of phase one garden beds and landscaping.

Community Gardens are also located at Gwandalan / Summerland Point, Berkeley Vale and San Remo.

The Entrance Coast to Lake Walk

In 2011 the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation was allocated \$800,000 from the NSW State Government for the development of a scenic walk around The Entrance Peninsula. The aim of the project is to promote The Entrance Peninsula as a key visitor destination through highlighting and promoting the key natural settings available within the area. The route utilises beaches, the lake foreshore and the local street network and traverses from Memorial Park to The Entrance Surf Life Saving Club.



Hargrove Beach
Conservancy
Mike Stone



Objective 6:

There will be a strong sustainable business sector and increased local employment built on the Central Coast's business strengths

Vision

Create a strong business sector that withstands financial downturn, and ensures local businesses achieve sustained growth and local jobs are available for the community.

Delivery Strategies

Creating business and industry partnerships, promoting the region for its unique advantages, and continuing to support major developments that encourage sustainable growth.



Outcomes

Iconic Development Sites

Council identified 28 iconic development sites throughout the Shire to facilitate and encourage economic growth. The sites have the potential to provide a significant economic benefit to the community, stimulate further development and provide a significant public domain benefit. The sites are located throughout the Shire and include The Entrance, Wyong, Long Jetty, Toukley, Kanwal, Lake Haven and Warnervale.

A draft Development Control Plan has been prepared which provides guidance in the preparation of concepts and master plans for each of the iconic development sites. Council staff continue to work with the landowners and developers to prepare development proposals and concept plans, and help to address any key issues that may arise.

A number of these sites have progressed through the Iconic Development Site process and development concepts and planning proposals have been presented to Council which will result in significant investment

in the Shire and the creation of a substantial numbers of permanent jobs for the Shire's residents.

Regional Development Australia (RDA)

RDA, a state government initiative, is a network of committees run by local leaders who work with all levels of government, business and community groups to support the development of the region. Regional Development Australia Central Coast (RDACC) was

created in July 2009 to accommodate the Gosford and Wyong areas and helps co-ordinate and encourage investment in the region by working with businesses, community groups, and Council. A number of key strategies and plans have been developed to support this, including:

- Regional Plan
- Regional Economic Development and Employment Strategy (REDES)
- Digital Economy Strategy

Central Coast Regional Plan

The plan, developed from a number of sources including Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils' Community Strategic Plans, is aligned to the Central Coast Regional Strategy (2007 – 2031) and describes the region, its attributes and challenges, and its environmental, economic and social objectives and actions. The plan is key to ensuring all levels of government understand the region needs, aspirations and priorities and is used to secure partners and funding.

Regional Economic Development and Employment Strategy (REDES)

The REDES is a long term strategy for achieving sustainable economic growth on the Central Coast. The REDES has a long term projection of 2031, but has an immediate focus over the next 5 years to create a positive environment for investment, improve the skills system, strengthen business, encourage innovation, and develop new infrastructure.

The strategies include attracting and supporting businesses, improving the training and skills development opportunities, increasing research, knowledge and innovation, ensuring appropriate planning processes and land supplies, planning for regional economic centres, providing new infrastructure and marketing the region as an attractive business location.

The implementation of the REDES is a cross-agency collaboration between all levels of government and other organisations.

InvestCentralCoast.com.au

In 2012 investcentralcoast.com.au, was launched to draw new business owners and investors to the region. The website is a joint initiative between RDACC, Trade and Investment NSW, NSW Business Chamber Central Coast, and Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils. It showcases the key features, benefits and opportunities that the Central Coast has to offer for small and large business owners and investors. It is hoped that the community and existing businesses will promote and encourage the use of the website and help assist in the future growth of the region.







Objective 7:

Information communication technology will be consistent with the world's best practice and adaptive to technological advances across all sectors

Vision

Support the regions growth and ensure businesses and residents are technologically connected and have access to hi-speed networks.

Delivery Strategies

Building the regions broadband network and ensuring residences, businesses, and education institutions are linked to fibre-optic telecommunication networks.



Outcomes

National Broadband Network

In 2011 the federal government and NBN Co announced that the Central Coast would be one of the first locations in Australia to access the National Broadband Network (NBN). The announcement came after a joint effort between the RDACC, Central Coast Tourism, education sectors, the business community, and Gosford City and Wyong Shire Councils in lobbying for one of the top spots for rollout. Work has commenced on the two

initial rollout locations at Gosford and Long Jetty and is expected to service more than 22,000 premises in the Gosford and Wyong area. Once completed, construction will progressively expand to the neighbouring suburbs until the entire Central Coast is connected. In the long term, it is expected to transform the Central Coast by providing faster internet and telephone connection. The NBN will improve productivity among local businesses and provide greater connectivity for the community.



Objective 8:

The community will be well educated, innovative and creative. People will attain full knowledge potential at all stages of life

Vision

Encourage people and give them the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and skills throughout all stages of their life. Innovation and creativity will be nurtured and supported by an educated community. As a result, residents will value lifelong learning and communities will be strengthened. A culture of learning will lead to improving income opportunities from a skilled local workforce and the attraction of business, social cohesion, cultural understanding and active participation improving the social, economic and cultural life of the community.



Strategies

Improving community views and behaviours regarding the value of ongoing education, providing a range of lifelong learning and educational opportunities that are easy to access and affordable, maintaining a committed network of education providers, community, business and government agencies

Outcomes

National Year of Reading 2012

The National Year of Reading was celebrated by promoting literacy and reading, to inspire lifetime learning and a love of reading in our Shire, which has some of the lowest literacy levels in NSW. Council's libraries hosted a number of literacy based activities including creative writing workshops, new book clubs, and literacy discussion groups.

Living Library Program

The program was introduced in 2009 to support communities by bringing people from diverse backgrounds and lifestyles together in conversation. The concept involves selecting a "Living Book" (or person) you would like to meet for a 15-20 minute chat. The Living Library is a successful program that supports and celebrates achievements and diversity, and encourages community members from all walks of life to share their stories and experiences.

Community College

Both the Tuggerah Lakes and Central Coast Community Colleges are not for profit organisations that provide adult learners with quality, current and diverse learning opportunities to increase personal and professional skills. The colleges provide a range of courses including information technology, children's services, recreation and wellbeing, home and lifestyle, professional development, performing arts, language and culture and visual arts and crafts. Statistics for Tuggerah Lakes Community College show over 28,000 enrolments between 2008 and 2010.

Links to Learning Program

Lake Haven Library in partnership Break Thru, a local registered training organisation, delivers routine literacy sessions as part of the 'Links to Learning' program. The program is funded by the Department of Education and Communities for young people aged 16 to 24 years who are early school leavers and willing to complete a Certificate in Work Preparation. The Program aims to make a positive difference in the community by reducing the Shire's poor literacy levels.

Care and Education Partnership

In 2011 Council established a partnership with the State Training Service (STS) and TAFE Central Coast to deliver a tailored care and education program to 15 community members. Overall thirteen candidates successfully graduated with seven receiving employment for a 12 month Child Care Traineeship at Council's Care and Education Centres. The program was a success, and Council will be seeking to funding to provide more training in the future.

Learning Community Strategy

The strategy represents a commitment by Council to engage and work in partnership with our community to better understand the key opportunities and challenges of learning in Wyong Shire; to inspire and motivate the community to embrace learning in all forms across all life stages; achieve improved learning outcomes and to focus on developing Wyong Shire as a 'Learning Community'. The Strategy reflects the vast range of community and stakeholder experiences and knowledge of learning in Wyong Shire with over 400 people directly involved in its development.

Opportunities include promoting a culture of learning, advocating for investment in learning and education, facilitating accessible learning opportunities, establishing partnerships and better linkages between sectors, bringing people together to connect and learn through informal programs and activities, and providing places within the Shire to support learning.







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