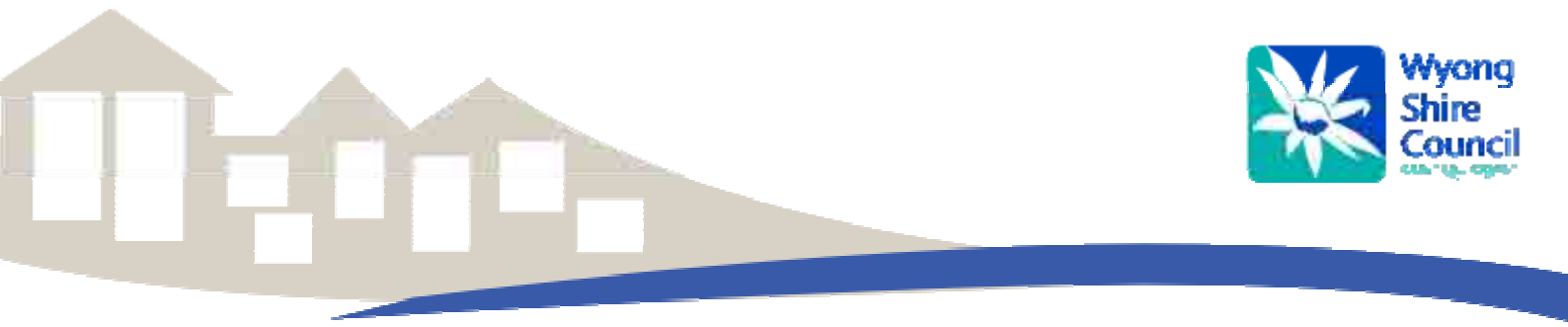


Wyong Shire Council
ORDINARY MEETING

ENCLOSURES

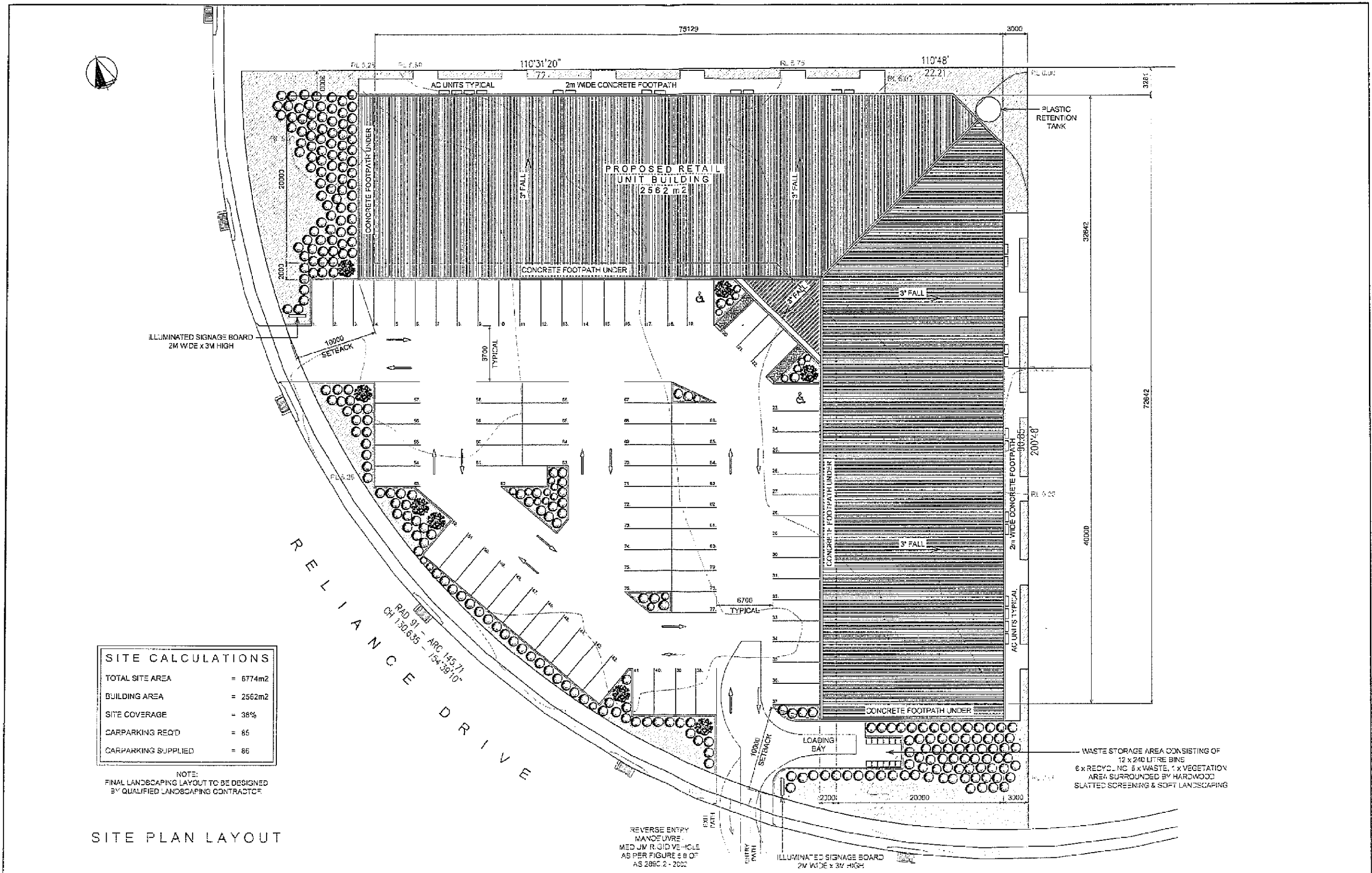
Wednesday, 11 August, 2010



WYONG SHIRE COUNCIL
ENCLOSURES TO THE
ORDINARY MEETING
TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
WYONG CIVIC CENTRE, HELY STREET, WYONG
ON WEDNESDAY, 11 AUGUST 2010 ,
COMMENCING AT 5:00:00 PM

INDEX

2.2	DA/712/2010 - Proposed Large Scale Commercial Development at Tuggerah	
	Attachment 2: Development Plans	3
2.3	Draft Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy	
	Attachment 3: Draft Youth Strategy - Background Report - edited July 2010	12
	Attachment 4: Draft Youth Prospectus	98
	Attachment 5: Draft Youth Engagement Strategy - Young People Toolkit - Edited July 2010	102
	Attachment 6: Draft Youth Engagement Strategy - Practical Toolkit for Community Members and Businesses - Edited July 2010	130
2.4	Draft Contribution Plans for Budgewoi, Ourimbah, Gorokan, San Remo and Southern Lakes Districts.	
	Attachment 1: San Remo Contributions Plan -	154
	Attachment 2: Budgewoi Contributions Plan -	188
	Attachment 3: Gorokan Contributions Plan - doc	216
	Attachment 4: Ourimbah Contributions Plan -	245
	Attachment 5: Southern Lakes Contributions Plan.....	279



SITE CALCULATIONS	
TOTAL SITE AREA	= 6774m ²
BUILDING AREA	= 2562m ²
SITE COVERAGE	= 38%
CARPARKING REQ'D	= 66
CARPARKING SUPPLIED	= 66

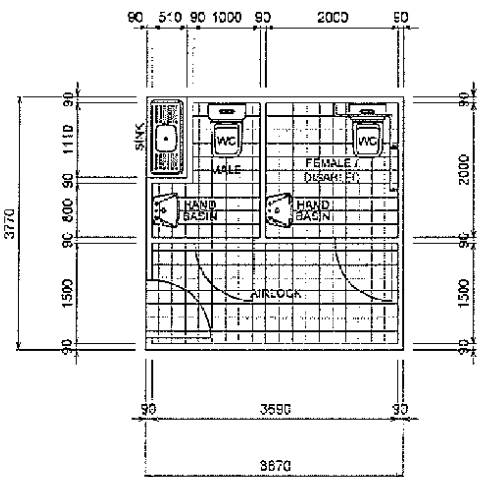
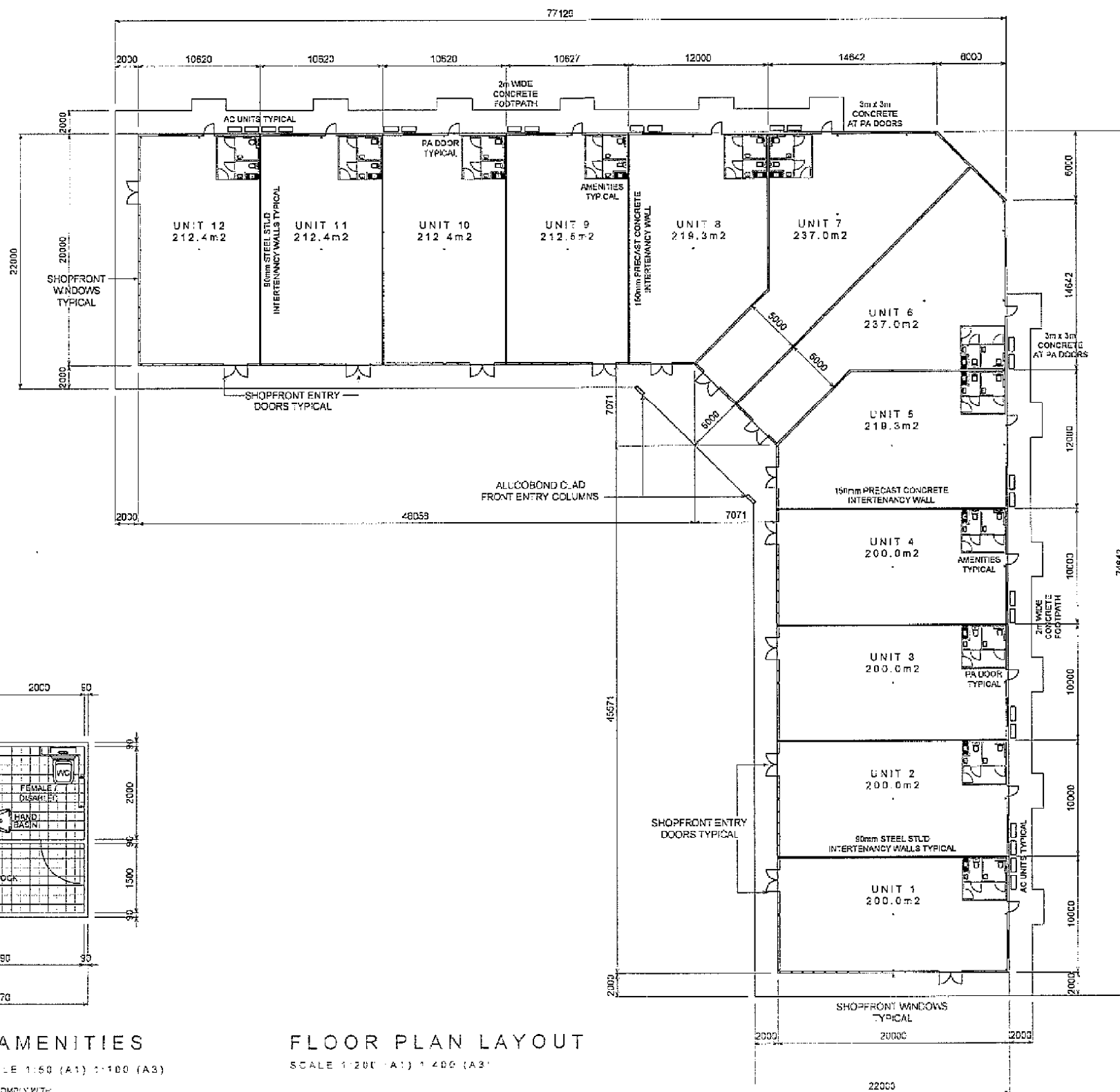
NOTE:
FINAL LANDSCAPING LAYOUT TO BE DESIGNED
BY QUALIFIED LANDSCAPING CONTRACTOR.

SITE PLAN LAYOUT

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C	SIGNAGE BOARDS ADDED	JR	03/05/10
B	TRUCK TURNING ADDED (ONE LOADING BAY REMOVED)	JR	10/05/10
A	TRUCK FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL	JR	02/25/10

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PROPOSED LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL PREMISES - SITE PLAN LAYOUT		DRAWN BY		DATE		SCALE	
GREG BEST		JR	03/03/10	1:200 (A1)	1:400 (A3)		
LOT 307, DP 10077368 RELIANCE DRIVE TUGGERAH		181-DA01		D			



TYPICAL AMENITIES
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FLOOR PLAN LAYOUT
SCALE 1:200 (A1) 1:400 (A3)

ALL DISABLED TOILETS ARE TO COMPLY WITH:
AS 1428.1 DESIGN FOR ACCESS & MOBILITY

NO.	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
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2	ISSUE FOR COU/CCL APPROVAL	JR	03/08/10
3	ISSUE	JR	03/08/10

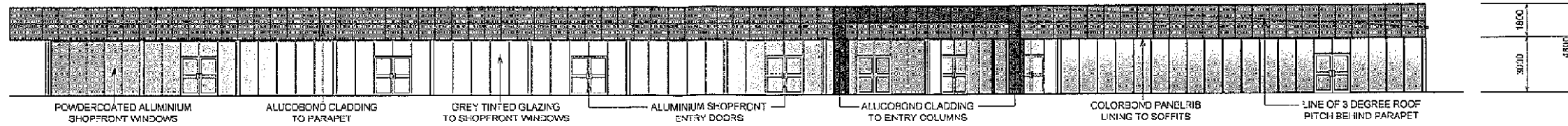
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 ABR 1 533 412 412

**PROPOSED LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL
PREMISES - FLOOR PLAN LAYOUT**

DESIGNER: GREG BEST
 DATE: 03/08/10
 SCALE: 1:200 (A1)
 1:400 (A3)

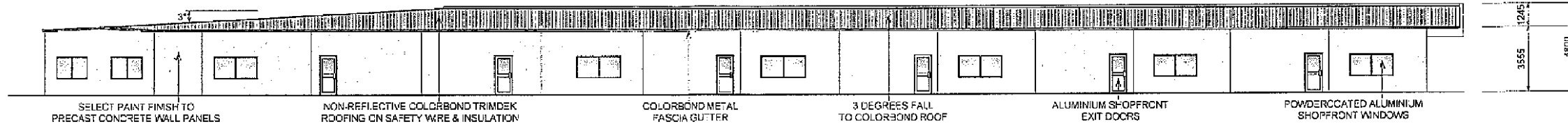
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 TUGGERAH
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 SHEET: B

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 SOFFIT LEVEL RL 3.000
 FLOOR LEVEL FFL 0.000



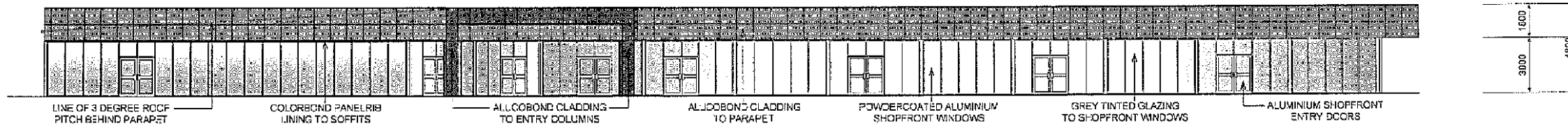
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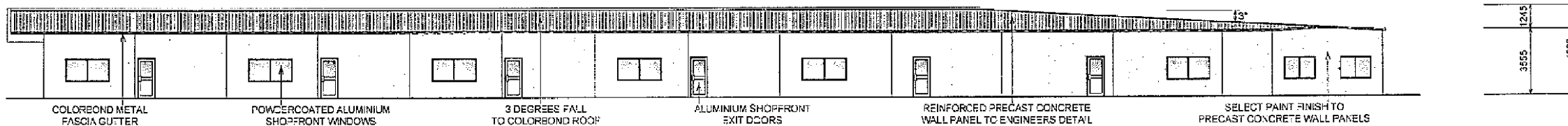
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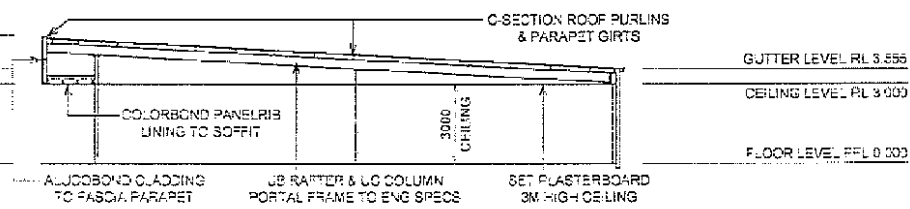
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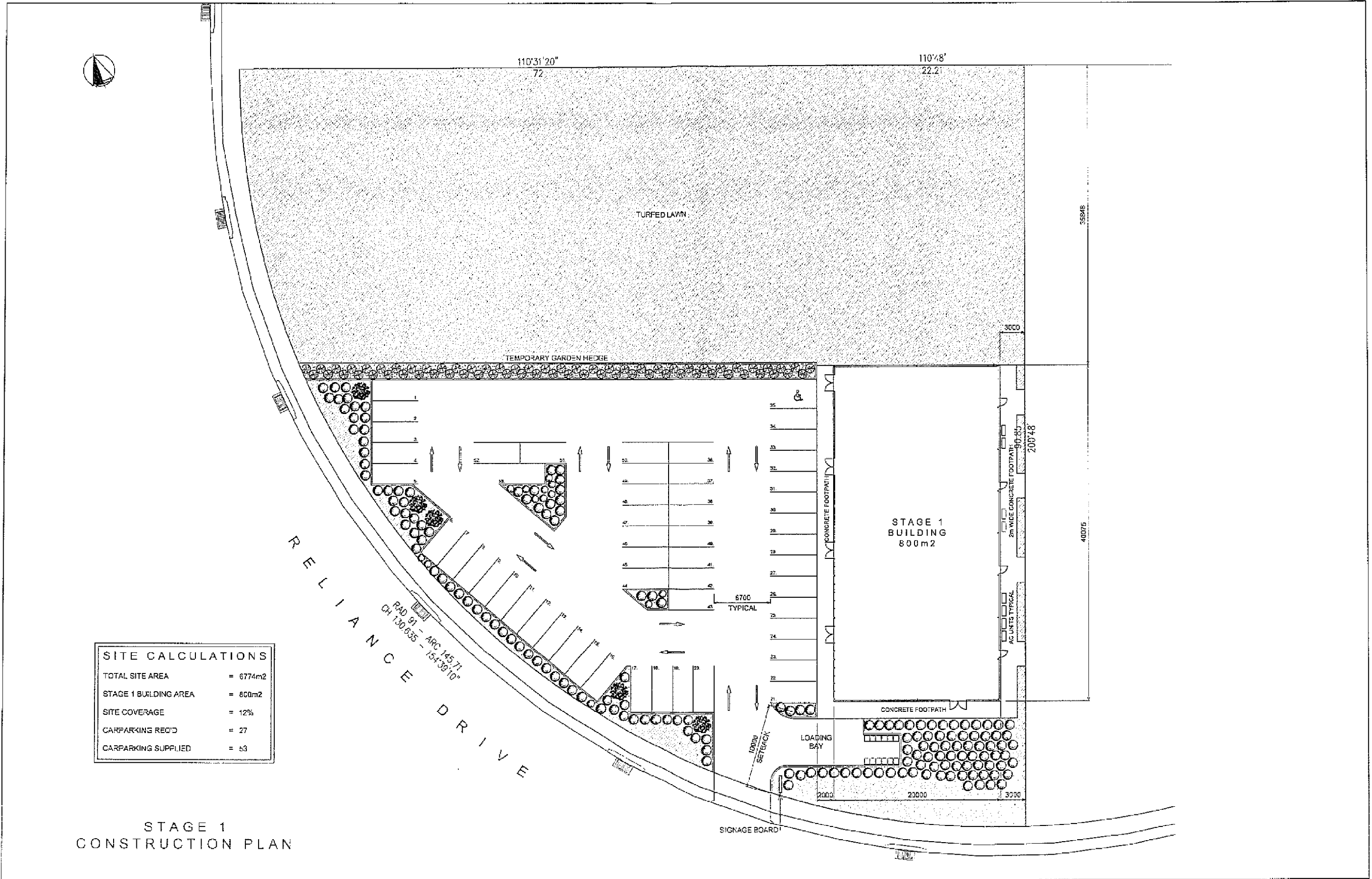
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NO	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
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2	MAJOR AMENDMENTS	JR	16/05/10

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PROPOSED LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL PREMISES - ELEVATIONS & SECTION
 CLIENT: GREG BEST
 PROJECT: LOT 307, DP 10077368 RELIANCE DRIVE TUGGERAH

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03/03/10	1:125 (A1) 1:250 (A2)	
DATE	SCALE	NO



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TOTAL SITE AREA	= 6774m ²
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CARPARKING SUPPLIED	= 53

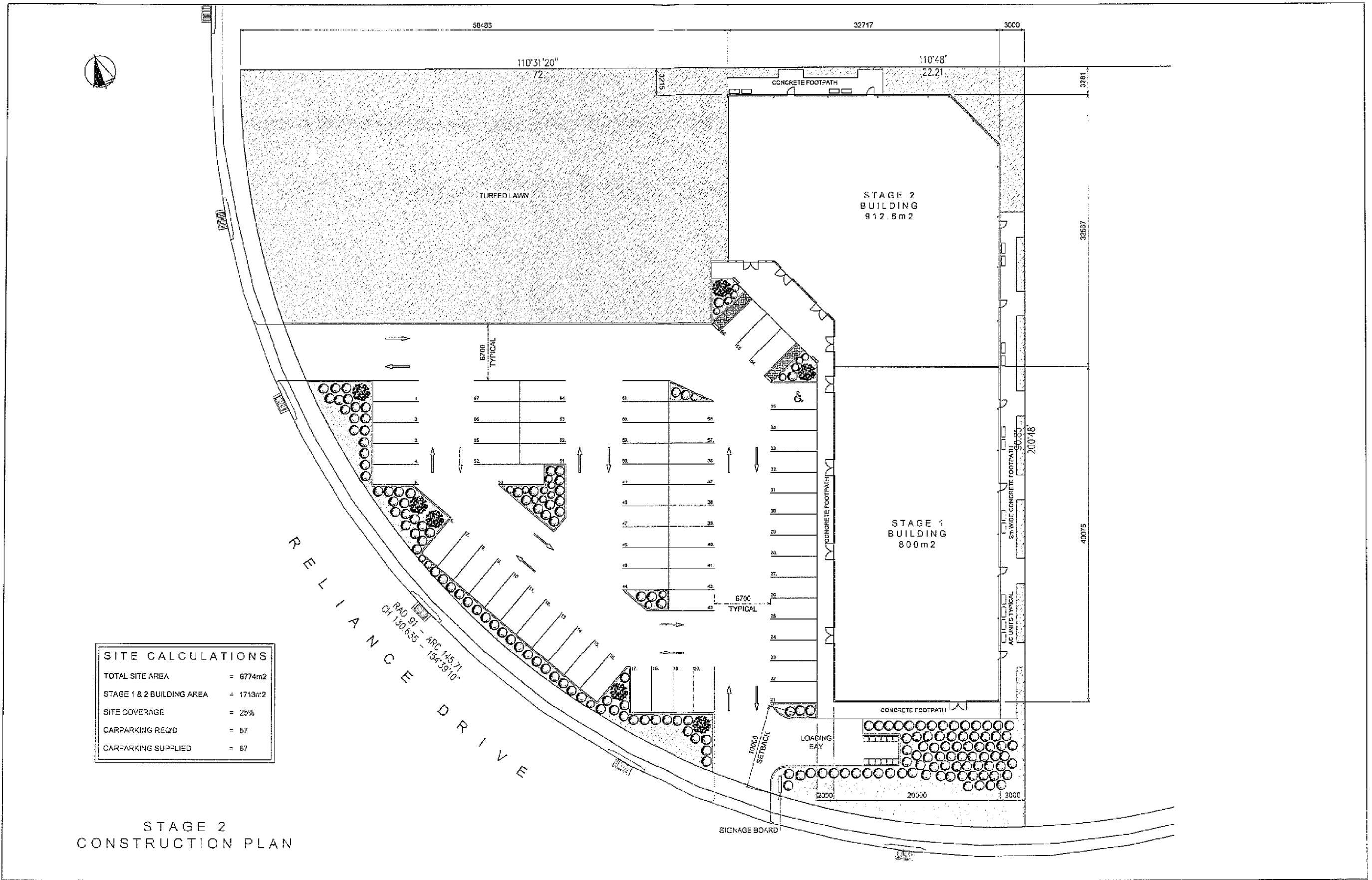
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C	SIGNAGE BOARD ADDED	JR	08/05/10
B	LOADING BAY AMENDED, CARPARKING No's UPDATED	JR	18/05/10
A	ISSUE FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL	JR	03/03/10

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 ABN 11 611 682 611

PROPOSED LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL
 PREMISES - STG 1 CONSTRUCTION PLAN
 DRAWN BY: GREG BEST
 DATE: 03/03/10
 SCALE: 1:200 (A1)
 1:400 (A3)
 SITE ADDRESS: LOT 307, DP 10077368 RELIANCE DRIVE TUGGERAH

PROJECT NO:	181-DA04	DATE:	03/03/10	SCALE:	1:200 (A1) 1:400 (A3)
DRAWN BY:	JR	CHECKED BY:	JR	DATE:	03/03/10
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SITE CALCULATIONS	
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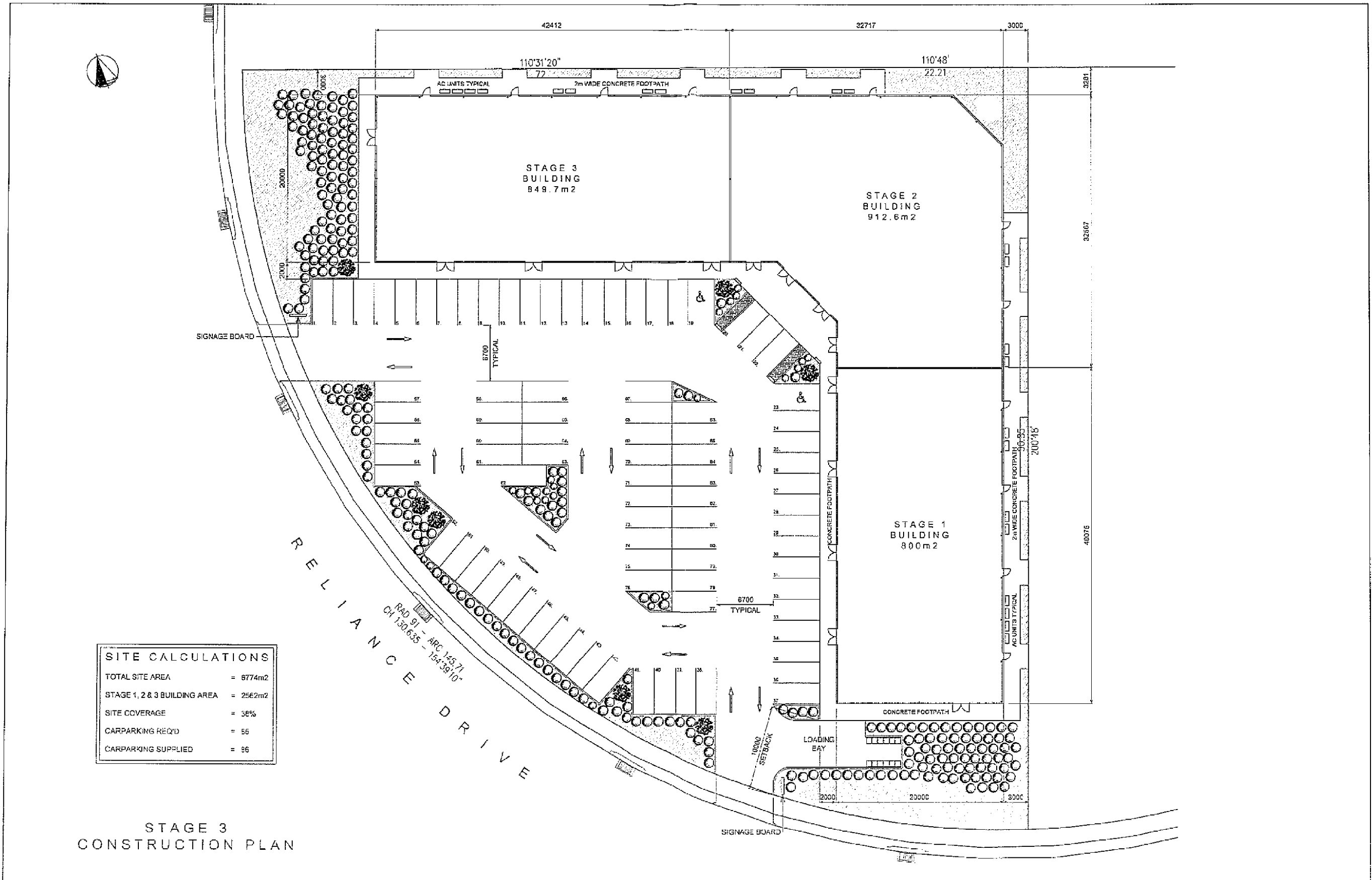
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C	SIGNAGE BOARD ADDED	JR	28/05/10
B	LOADING BAY AMENDED, CARPARKING HAS DATED	JR	18/05/10
A	ISSUE FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL	JR	03/02/10

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 ABR 11 135 883 418

PROPOSED LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL
 PREMISES - STG 2 CONSTRUCTION PLAN
 DRAWN BY: GREG BEST
 DATE: 03/03/10
 SCALE: 1:200 (A1) / 1:400 (A3)

181-DA05 D
 LOT 307, DP 10077368 RELIANCE DRIVE
 TUGGERAH



SITE CALCULATIONS	
TOTAL SITE AREA	= 6774m ²
STAGE 1, 2 & 3 BUILDING AREA	= 2562m ²
SITE COVERAGE	= 38%
CARPARKING REQ'D	= 55
CARPARKING SUPPLIED	= 66

STAGE 3
CONSTRUCTION PLAN

ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	BY	DATE
D	WASTE STORAGE AREA ADDED	JR	03/01/10
C	SIGNAGE BOARDS ADDED	JR	25/01/10
B	LOADING BAY AMENDED, CARPARKING N/S UPDATED	JR	15/05/10
A	SCALE FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL	JR	03/02/10

JR DRAFTING SERVICES 90 Box E088 Tembung NSW 2261 Phone / Fax: 4385 4856 Mobile: 04 7 855 930 Email: jr.drafting@gmail.com ABN 11 818 683 418	PROPOSED LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL PREMISES - STG 3 CONSTRUCTION PLAN DRAWN BY: GREG BEST	CHECKED BY APPROVED ACCESS STANDS BY NOT BE ALL THE OPERATIONS AS SHOWN IN THIS DRAWING. THESE DRAWINGS ARE AS ISSUED TO THE CONTRACTOR AND ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES WITHOUT THE WRITTEN APPROVAL OF JR DRAFTING SERVICES.
	DATE: 03/03/10 SCALE: 1:200 (A1) 1:400 (A3)	DRAWING NO: 181-DA06



SITE LOCALITY PLAN
SCALE: NTS.



SITE PHOTOGRAPH - INDICATIVE PANORAMA VIEW

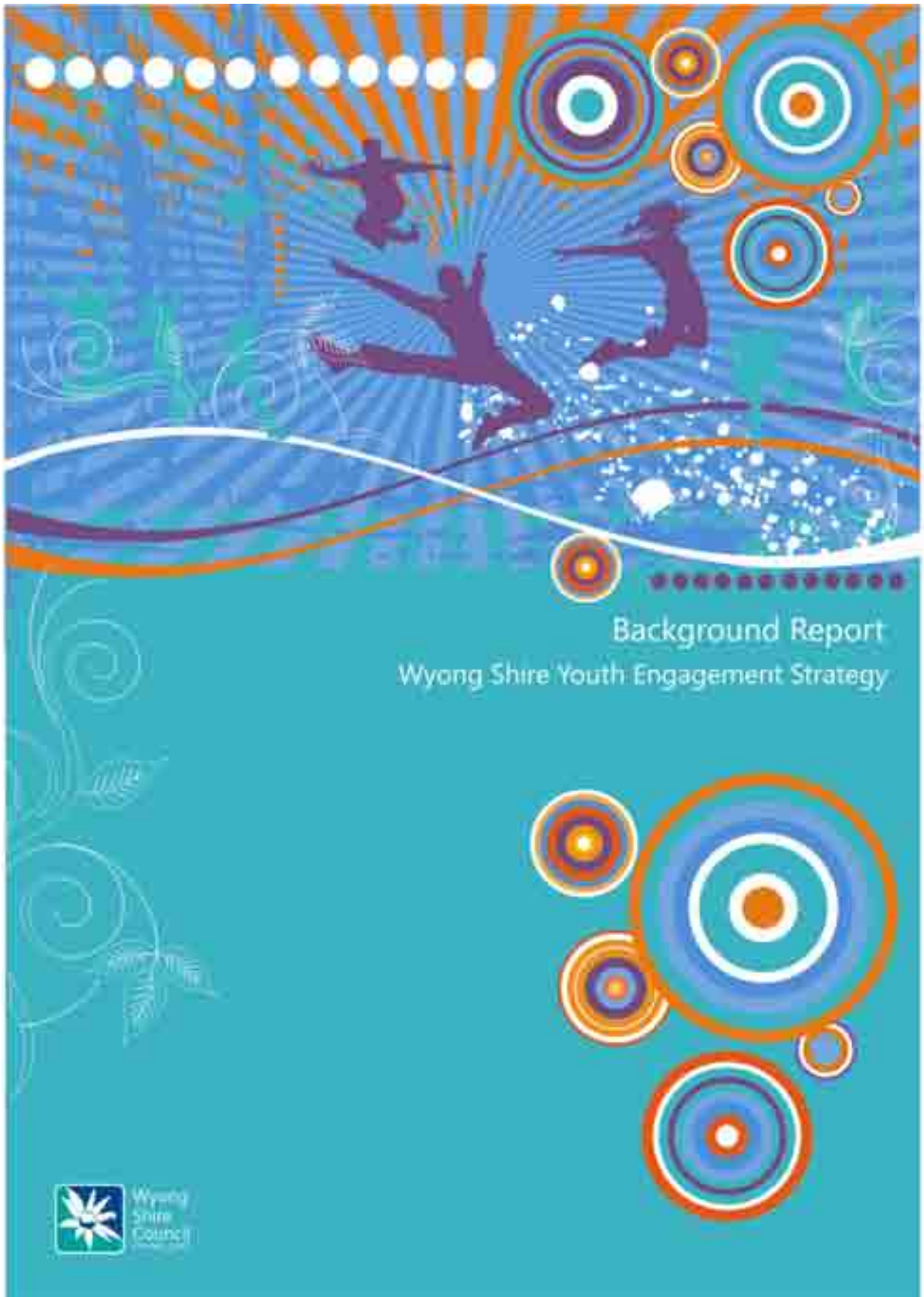
SITE ANALYSIS (LUSH)

-  Existing Canopy species
-  Existing Understorey species
-  Existing Midstorey species
-  Existing access tracks
-  Existing site groundcover (understorey) and grasses (midstorey)



SITE ANALYSIS PLAN
SCALE: 1:500 @ A1.

	<p>RED EYE CONSTRUCTIONS 10/11/2024 10/11/2024 10/11/2024</p>	<p>PROJECT: PROPOSED LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT LOCATION: RELIANCE DRIVE, TUGGERAH</p>	<p>RED EYE CONSTRUCTIONS</p>	<p>PROPOSED LARGE SCALE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT LOT 307 DP 1007368 RELIANCE DRIVE, TUGGERAH</p>	<p>LANDSCAPE BACC DOCUMENTATION LOCALITY PLAN 06/23/2024 DR 1 of 3 A</p>
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Final Draft Background Report – July 2010
Wyong Shire Council 2010
Prepared by: Future Planning Unit
Design by: Alison Pigott
Formatting by: Rose Eliasson
Enquiries: Wyong Shire Council, PO Box 20, WYONG NSW 2259
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Table of Contents

<u>Mayoral Introduction</u>	5
<u>Acknowledgments</u>	6
<u>Executive Summary</u>	7
<u>Chapter 1: Introduction</u>	10
<u>1.1 What is the Youth Strategy?</u>	10
<u>1.2 Why do we need a Youth Strategy?</u>	11
<u>1.3 Who are Young People?</u>	12
<u>1.4 Our Approach</u>	12
<u>1.5 What does the Background Report include?</u>	18
<u>Chapter 2: Developing the Youth Strategy</u>	19
<u>2.1 How did we Develop the Youth Strategy?</u>	19
<u>2.1.1 Project Formulation - Pre-Planning</u>	19
<u>2.1.2 Background, Research and Review</u>	20
<u>2.1.3 Development of Consultation and Engagement Program</u>	20
<u>2.1.4 Engagement Program</u>	21
<u>2.1.5 Analysis</u>	24
<u>2.1.6 Draft to Final Document</u>	25
<u>Chapter 3: The Policy Context</u>	26
<u>3.1 Commonwealth Government</u>	26
<u>3.2 State Government</u>	28
<u>3.3 Local Government</u>	29
<u>3.3.1 How does the Youth Strategy Link to Other Council Plans?</u>	29
<u>3.3.2 Council's Role</u>	32
<u>Chapter 4: Young People in Wyong Shire</u>	34
<u>4.1 Overview of Wyong Shire</u>	34
<u>4.2 Young People as a Demographic</u>	34
<u>4.3 Cultural Diversity</u>	37
<u>4.4 Education</u>	38
<u>4.5 Employment</u>	39
<u>4.6 Income</u>	40
<u>4.7 Family Type/Household Type</u>	42
<u>4.8 Health</u>	43
<u>4.9 Housing</u>	43
<u>4.10 Technology</u>	43
<u>4.11 Sport and Recreation</u>	44

Chapter 5: Key Findings from the Consultations	45
5.1 <u>Current Picture</u>	45
5.1.1 <u>What are young people into?</u>	45
5.1.2 <u>What is working for our young people?</u>	46
5.1.3 <u>How do Young People hear about what is going on and what is the best way to for Young People to get information?</u>	52
5.2 <u>The Future</u>	52
5.2.1 <u>Imagine the Shire in 10 years time. What would it look like?</u>	52
5.2.2 <u>What would you like the Wyong community to be known for?</u>	54
5.2.3 <u>What do you see as young people's place in Wyong Shire in the next 10 years?</u>	55
5.3 <u>The Road Ahead</u>	56
5.3.1 <u>What could Young People do now to make a difference?</u>	56
5.3.2 <u>What could we do to improve the future for Wyong and young people and make a real difference?</u>	57
5.4 <u>Key Priority Areas</u>	57
5.4.1 <u>Strengthening and Connecting our Young People</u>	57
5.4.2 <u>Valuing Young People</u>	59
5.4.3 <u>Involving Young People</u>	60
5.4.4 <u>Learning and Working</u>	61
5.4.5 <u>Young People and Places and Spaces</u>	63
5.4.6 <u>Working Together to Make It Happen</u>	65
References	73
Appendices	75
Appendix A: <u>Engagement Questions for Young People</u>	76
Appendix B: <u>Engagement Questions for Business and Community Groups</u>	77
Appendix C: <u>Who We Talked To – Engagement Sessions</u>	78
Appendix D: <u>Who We Talked To – World Café</u>	80
Appendix E: <u>Youth Services Map</u>	82
Appendix F: <u>List of Youth Service Network</u>	83

Mayoral Introduction

I am pleased to present the Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy, comprising the Background Report, Youth Prospectus and Toolkits.

Young people are an important part of our community, both now and in the future. It is important that their contributions to the community are valued and recognised, and that they are provided with opportunities which support and connect them to family, community, education and employment.

The Youth Engagement Strategy is an excellent example of youth participation. Young people have partnered with Council to play an active and valuable role in the development of this Strategy. Many more young people have been given the opportunity to have their say and are keen to be involved in future projects.

I welcome and endorse the Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy as an outstanding partnership project between Council and members of our community. Through an extensive and innovative community engagement process young people have provided valuable insights into what it is like for them to be a young person in Wyong Shire, what they would like to see in the future and the steps we need to take together to get there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the young people, groups, agencies, businesses and staff that have contributed to developing and endorsing this Strategy. Furthermore I would encourage you to partner with us in the implementation of the Strategy - to make a difference for young people and the community of Wyong Shire.

Cr Bob Graham
Mayor of Wyong Shire

Acknowledgments

The Youth Engagement Strategy has been co-ordinated by Council's Social Planning Team, located within the Future Planning Unit. It has been developed in close partnership with Council's Community Development Team, and an extremely talented and enthusiastic group of young people and youth service provider representatives. These people have worked together as part of the Youth Facilitation Team.

Jordan Purcell-Asburner	Aged 24
Lyndsey Maguire	Aged 17
Nathan O'Brien	Aged 18
Sarah Elrick	Aged 19
Talara Freeman	Aged 20
Allan Ives	Youth Connections
Lauren Fisher	Samaritans Foundation
Sue Fisher	Teacher Gorokan High School
Kerrie Forrest	Senior Social Planner WSC
Belinda McRobie	Social Planner WSC
Stephen Prince	Social/Recreation Planner WSC
Bridget Carroll	Assistant Social Planner WSC
Julie Vaughan	Manager Community Development WSC
Rachel Steel	Youth Programs Worker WSC
Margrete Erling	Community Artist WSC

Michael O'Meara from Mohow Consulting has provided assistance into the approach used by the team and in the development of the Toolkits and Youth Prospectus.

The Youth Engagement Strategy has been developed in consultation with young people and other key stakeholders.

Council would like to thank the young people, businesses, service providers and community members who participated in the consultation processes and shared their stories and perceptions about what it is like for a young person to live in Wyong Shire.

Executive Summary

Young people are an important part of our community. During the community engagement process undertaken for the *Wyong Shire Community Plan* people of all age groups and areas within the Shire identified the need for young people to be a key focus area for the Shire moving forward for the future. The importance of young people and their active participation in the community was reinforced as part of the *Shire Strategic Vision*. The Youth Engagement Strategy is a commitment to actively engage young people in partnering to implement the Shire Strategic Vision.

Young people aged 12-24 years represent 16.8% of the Shire's population (23,950 people) and this group will steadily increase as the Shire's population continues to grow. The number of young people in the Shire is projected to be around 26,300 in 2016 and 29,400 in 2026.

The Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy is all about working towards increasing the status, respect, value and recognition of young people as part of our community.

The Strategy is a culmination of an extensive research and community engagement process incorporating feedback from young people, service providers, business and community groups and current best practice.

The Strategy demonstrates Council's desire to support young people to achieve their goals and aspirations and be active, valued members of the community. The strategy is focused on improving the quality of life and wellbeing of young people who live, work, study and play in Wyong Shire and aims to provide opportunities which support and connect young people to family, community, education and employment.

The Youth Engagement Strategy is based on the underlying principle that young people are an asset in the community and have skills, knowledge, capacities and the desire to be part of creating the future. Young people have been meaningfully and purposefully engaged in developing the Youth Strategy. Young people have played an active and valuable role, partnering with Council staff on a Youth Facilitation Team, to shape and drive the Strategy from inception to implementation. Council valued the skills and experience of these young people as paid professionals.

The team carried out an extensive and innovative engagement process with young people in their own environments. From skate parks, youth centres, refuges and schools, hundreds of young people were provided with opportunities to voice their opinions, have their say and be listened to – these young people provided valuable insights in to what it is like for a young person to live in Wyong Shire and their aspirations for the future. The team also connected with businesses, community groups and agencies. Community input into the development was significant with over 1,000 people participating.

The Strategy provides a framework based on what young people have told us is working in the community for them and what is important to them both now and in the future - and building on this, what would be happening in Wyong if we could do more. The outcome was not only to generate ideas but a desire for young people and partners to be involved in taking these ideas and actions further and partnering in the implementation of the Youth Strategy. We are providing both the framework and tools to achieve this.

The Youth Strategy comprises four reports - Background Report, Youth Prospectus and two Toolkits.

The **Background Report** provides an overview of the Youth Strategy, how it has been developed, the policy context, a profile of young people and documents the key findings from the engagement phase.

The key findings show what young people are into; what is working now in the community for young people; the best way to get information to young people; what young people want the Shire to look like and be known for and what we can do to improve the future for young people and make a real difference.

- Young people are into sport, cultural activities, hanging out, friendships and family;
- Young people like being able to express themselves, meet new friends, have fun, keep healthy, have a sense of belonging, learn new skills and realise their dreams;
- Many things are working for young people in our community. These include shopping centres, skate parks, recreation and sporting facilities and activities, youth centres such as Gravity, the beaches and natural environment, schools, festivals such as G.O.A.T.S, dance and rock eisteddfods, social networking, places to hang out, mentoring and leadership programs.
- The best way to provide information to young people is through a number of mediums - local radio stations (SeaFM, StarFM and 2GO); face to face conversations, noticeboards, flyers and posters at schools, youth centres and shopping centres, Express Advocate, talking at school assemblies and community events. The internet was great for social networking but not the only way for young people to get information.
- In the future young people wanted the Shire to be "*hectic*", meaning active and busy and having "*heaps of stuff to do*". The Shire would be vibrant, modern, colourful and have a positive vibe with more opportunities for performance, dance, music, festival and events. There would be pathways to local education and employment. There would be a focus on the natural environment and greater environmental awareness with the existing character of the Shire retained. Young people would like to see a Shire where there is a real sense of community - welcoming, respectful, caring, friendly, happy, safe - with young people having increased connections to the community. There would be better transport and health services and housing would be affordable.
- In ten years time, some young people saw themselves still living in the Shire - working, studying and/or raising a family. Many young people would be travelling or moved away from the area as they did not see a future for themselves in the Shire.
- Young people recognised that to make a difference they needed to "*get involved*" and "*make connections*". They could do this by talking to people, being a good neighbour, co-operating and working together, volunteering, promoting good things, seeking support and partnerships and raising awareness.
- Many ideas were expressed by young people, service providers and businesses in relation to what we could do to improve the future for young people in the Shire. Six key priority areas have been identified:
 - 1 Strengthening and Connecting Our Young People - strengthening young people's access to community resources and support networks and enhancing connections between young people and their community.
 - 2 Valuing Young People - recognising, celebrating and promoting the efforts and achievements of young people and promoting a positive profile of young people.
 - 3 Involving Young People - establishing and fostering meaningful participation and involvement by young people in the community – working with and "not doing to".
 - 4 Learning and Working - enhance local learning and employment pathways, support youth-led enterprises and equip young people with life skills.

- 5 Young People and Places and Spaces - activating places and spaces, increasing opportunities for young people to participate in sport, recreation, culture and community environment projects, planning and providing for new infrastructure and programs.
- 6 Working Together - building on partnerships with young people, government, business and community groups.

The **Youth Prospectus** invites young people, business, community and government to partner together with Council in building our community. The Prospectus summarises the key initiatives and actions for each of these six priority areas and invites young people and the community to partner with Council to implement the Youth Strategy.

The key priority areas and initiatives are strongly aligned with the priority objectives in our 20 Year Vision for the Shire, other key strategic planning documents for the Shire and the NSW State Plan.

The **Toolkits** provide a practical guide with tips for young people on how to get involved in their community and tips for community groups and businesses on how to engage and support young people.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 What is the Youth Strategy?

As described by a Youth Facilitation Team member:

"The Youth Strategy is a project which incorporates a "for youth by youth concept" though it involves the community as a whole.

It works towards increasing the status, respect, value and recognition of youth as part of the community and also enables young people to have their say in relation to what they desire in the community.

The Youth Strategy enables young people to voice their opinions and to be heard, yet also encourages and provides young people with an opportunity to put their ideas forward."

(Lyndsey, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)



The Strategy provides a framework based on what young people have told us is working in the community for them and what issues are important both now and in the future. It identifies how Council can work more effectively with both young people and partners to guide youth development that is more responsive and effective in meeting the needs and aspirations of young people in the Shire. Successful implementation of the Strategy will require a whole of Council and whole of community approach. It is not intended that the Youth Strategy duplicate or replicate the work that agencies and community groups are already doing for young people but to provide a strategic direction drawing on the strengths of partners to ensure the development of an integrated approach to youth development and maximising resources.

The project aims to:

- Partner with young people as the key drivers of the strategy inception, development, implementation and ongoing evaluation;
- Influence a culture of young people as partners in shaping their community, not just as recipients of services, programs and activities;
- Establish a framework for best practice in engaging with young people;
- Ensure meaningful participation of young people in their community;
- Showcase some examples of positive actions that are being undertaken by young people, business and community in relation to young people;
- Develop a training resource/toolkit - to ensure that young people are involved in ongoing participation and engagement;
- Provide Council, the community, service providers and local businesses with increased opportunities for building a community that retains, attracts and engages young people with all facets of community life;
- Build a partnership with young people in the community – not to solve problems for them but to understand and learn what already works well and build on this to achieve more of what is working well; and
- Deliver a strategy that identifies key priority areas, initiatives and resources required; and invites young people, Council, Community and Business to partner with each other to bring the Youth Strategy alive.

Wyong Council, is committed to ensuring:

- Young people are listened to and their contributions to the community are valued;
- Diversity of young people is recognised and celebrated;
- Young people are included in decision making processes; and
- Young people have access to information and resources to meet their needs.

The Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy is a culmination of an extensive research and engagement process incorporating feedback from young people, service providers, business and community groups and current best practice.

The Strategy demonstrates Council's desire to support young people to achieve their goals and aspirations and be active, valued members of the community. It is focused on improving the quality of life and wellbeing of young people and aims to provide opportunities which support and connect young people to family, community, education and employment.

The Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy comprises:

- This **Background Document**;
- A **Youth Prospectus** which summarises the priority areas for action and invites you to partner with us to bring the Strategy alive; and
- **Toolkits** for Youth Participation and Engagement. The Toolkits provide practical guides with tips for young people on how to get involved in their community and tips for community groups and businesses on how to engage with and support young people.

1.2 Why do we need a Youth Strategy?

It is important to develop a Youth Strategy for the following reasons:

- Young people are clearly an important part of our local community – they have gifts and abilities that they can utilise now to enhance our community. They are also the future of the Shire and therefore, their personal and social development is important for all of us;
- Young people aged 12 to 24 years make up more than 16% (or 23,950) of Wyong's population. By 2031, young people are expected to comprise 15.8% (or 31,247) of Wyong's population;
- Young people are often portrayed through the media in a negative way, resulting in negative views of the skills and competencies of individuals, in turn under-utilising young people as a resource. This strategy will provide a framework to work with young people and ensure their skills are utilised to their full potential;
- It is important to address the issues that young people may have, and to provide them with a voice. Through this strategy, young people have the opportunity to voice their aspirations and opinions;
- Young people contribute significantly to the community and their contribution enriches the community, and the individuals themselves are empowered when they participate;
- Young people need opportunities to participate in the community and participation is something to value;
- Young people offer valuable and diverse perspectives and opinions, and it is important to listen to these perspectives and opinions; and
- To encourage and provide skills for the wider community to engage and work with young people.

During the consultation and engagement phase undertaken for the *Wyong Shire Community Plan 2008-2013* people of all age groups and areas within the Shire identified the need for young people to be a key focus area for the Shire moving forward for the future.

Development of a Youth Strategy was a key action (Action 6.1.1) to be undertaken during Years 1 and 2 of the implementation of the Community Plan.

The purpose of the Youth Strategy is:

- To give a voice to the majority of young people;
- Provide opportunities to those who want to be involved in decision making;
- To accept young people as valued members of, and contributors to, their community;
- To connect the whole community with young people;
- To raise awareness of what young people go through and deal with;
- To build a positive perception of the capabilities of young people;
- To find new ways to involve more young people;
- To influence true attitudinal and behavioural change in the community;
- Identify people and organisations that are committed to partnering with young people to make a difference in Wyong Shire;
- To enable young people to voice opinions and ideas - to seek partners rather than seek permission for their ideas; and
- To be sustainable - the whole community picks this up and runs with it.

The Youth Strategy will drive the strategic direction of Council's work in relation to young people over the next 4 years.

1.3 Who are Young People?

The term "young people" describes young men and women moving between childhood and adulthood, aged generally between 12 and 24 years.

For the purpose of the Youth Engagement Strategy young people are defined as those aged in this group who live, work, study, play in Wyong Shire, recognising that there are varying needs within this age range. Eleven year olds were also included in the consultations, as by the time the strategy will be implemented, they will be considered youth.

1.4 Our Approach

At the heart of the Youth Strategy are a number of key beliefs or underlying principles. Firstly, the focus on the "half full" part of the glass, that is the assets, strengths, opportunities and capacities of our community rather than focusing on the problems and differences. Young people and community members have the skills, knowledge and desire to create the future within their community and we can achieve a brighter future if we all work together. Secondly, youth participation is integral. Youth participation involves young people being active in decision-making processes on issues that affect them as well as the community showing their respect and trust for young people as part of these processes.

-

Asset Based Community Development

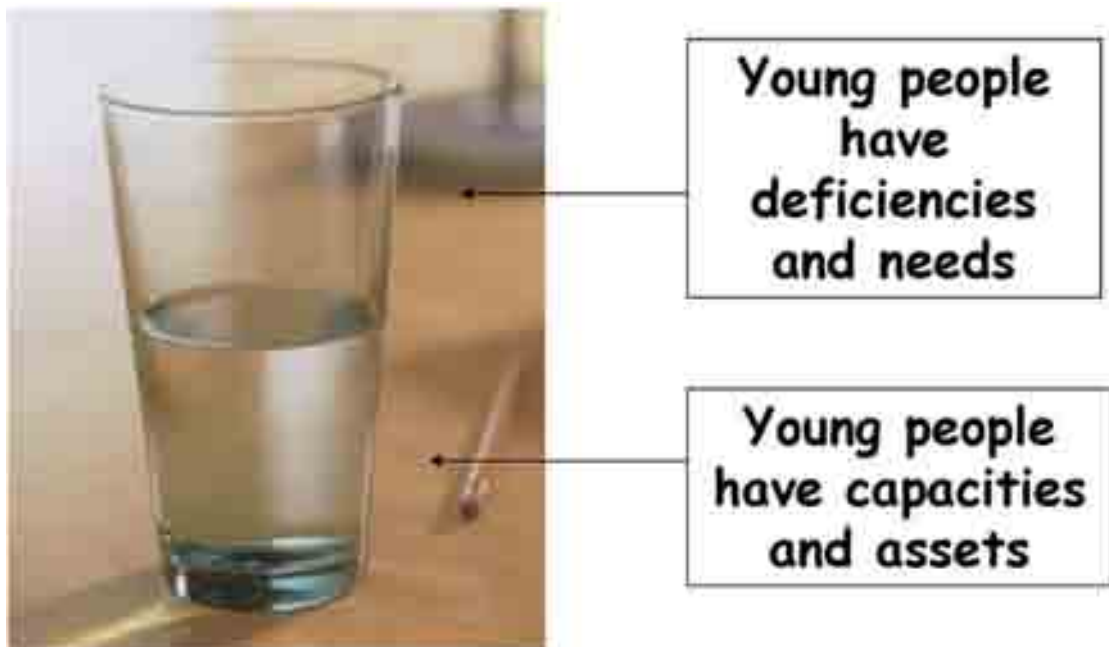
Traditional approaches to community development usually involve top-down or outside-in approaches that are needs based, focused largely on deficiencies in the community.

"All the historical evidence shows significant community building/community development only takes place when people in the local community are committed to investing themselves and their resources in effort. That's why you can't develop communities from the top down or from the outside in." (Kretzmann and McKnight, 1993, 1997)

An alternative approach is asset based community development which involves identifying the capacities of individuals, associations and institutions and mobilising these for development purposes:












"As communities attempt to build a healthy future, they must often struggle against a development perspective that encourages them to see only what happens when they focus solely on what is missing in their community and they know that this approach does not produce positive results. In fact every community has needs, problems and deficiencies; the choice for community groups is whether that is all they want to focus on. Like a glass of water filled to the middle which can be viewed as either half empty or half full, a community can be seen as a half empty place comprised of clients with needs and deficiencies or as a place half full of citizens with capacities and gifts to give." (Kretzmann and McKnight, 1997)

Focussing on a community's assets does not imply that the communities do not have issues or need additional resources from the outside. Rather, Kretzmann argues that issues will be much more effectively used if the local community is itself fully mobilised and invested.



Source: Peter Kenyon (Bank of Ideas)

Shifting the way the Community thinks about Young People

We tell young people what we think they need to know		Young people have the right to have a say in what is important
Problem		Problem Solver
Client		Change Maker
Recipient		Co-Participant
At risk and need to be dealt with		Have assets that can be used to make changes that are best for them
Leaders of tomorrow		Today's leaders
Adult in the making		Citizen today
Too young, nothing to offer		Have so much to contribute as individuals and collectively
Can't vote, don't understand the issues facing society		Have a voice, don't underestimate
Consumers of services		Partners and producers – They can and do give back to the community
Look at what they can't do - Weaknesses		Look at what they can do - Strengths

Source: Peter Kenyon (Bank of Ideas) and Rachel Steel (Wyong Council)

- **Appreciative Inquiry**

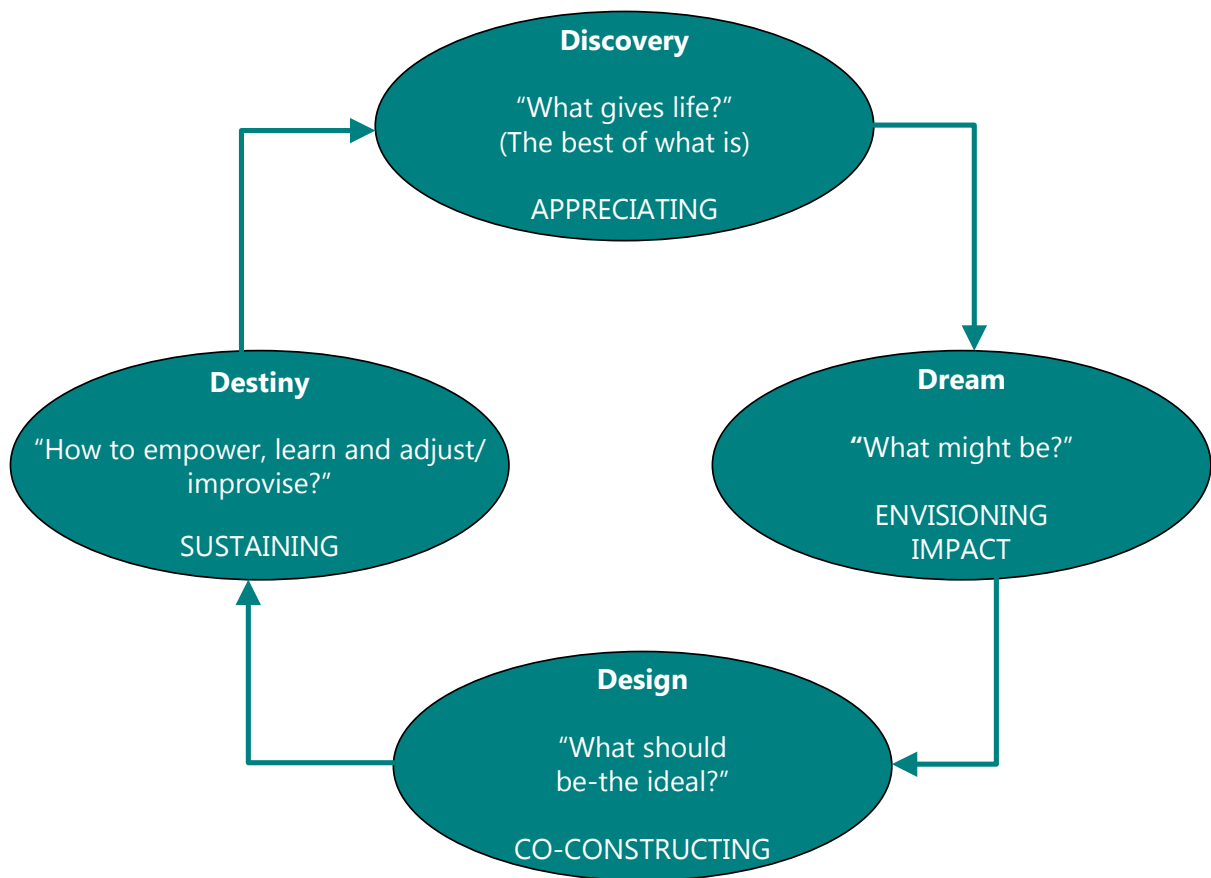
Appreciative inquiry is a simple way to engage young people in what is working in their community. The traditional approach is to look for the problem, do a diagnosis and find a solution. Appreciative inquiry seeks to do more of what is working rather than more of what is not. Our approach with the Youth Engagement Strategy seeks to create an opportunity for each person to share what makes them feel valued, proud, have a sense of belonging and place in Wyong Shire.

The appreciative approach involves collaboration inquiry, based on interviews and affirmative questioning, to collect and celebrate the good news stories of a community - those stories that enhance cultural identity, spirit and vision.

Community members can use their understanding of "the best of what is happening" to construct a vision of what their community might be if they then improve or build on current achievements.

4 Steps to Appreciative Inquiry

The Appreciative Cycle



- **Youth Participation**

Youth participation is a process whereby young people influence and share control and responsibility over decisions, plans and resources which affect them and their world.

"All young people can lead the way in youth participation in both a formal and informal environment, and in a culturally appropriate way. This process is one in which young women and men influence, develop and share control and responsibility over decisions, plans and resources, which affect them and their world."

Youth participation is real when all young people are given the same opportunities, and are treated with equality in their community; when what young people say, think and do is valued and respected and taken seriously; and when the wider community trust the young people, and empower them to fully participate in society."

(International Youth Participation Declaration, which 3 members of the Wyong Youth Facilitation Team helped create in 2007 at the International Conference of Youth Participation and Empowerment, GOA, India).

The principles of effective youth participation are:

- Start with talents, capacities, assets and skills of young people rather than problems or perceived difficulties;
- Involve young people from the start. Services and programs are not gifts to bestow upon young people. They should have a say in what is important to them;
- Young people are seen and treated as partners;
- Young people are allowed to have an idea and are heard;
- Young people are provided with genuine opportunities for training and skills development;
- Encourage and provide young people with opportunities to put their ideas into action;
- Create opportunities for young people to teach and learn; and
- Allow participation by choice.

The Youth Strategy sets out a comprehensive framework to engage with young people in meaningful dialogue. It ensures that their views are heard and implemented, resulting in youth being genuinely involved in the building of their local communities. By doing this Council:

- Enhances young people's understanding about how their local community works;
- Harnesses the expertise that young people wish to offer;
- Enhances young people's sense of belonging;
- Values and respects young people;
- Enhances the way existing and future services, programs and activities are offered to young people; and
- Ensures that young people's perspectives and interests are embedded into the work of Council.

Unique Contribution by Young People:

Fresh perspectives	Great collaborators	Make the dollar stretch
Passionate about issues	Impatience	Attract attention of the media
Best know what other young people think and want		

A key component of our approach to develop the Youth Strategy has been the establishment of the Youth Facilitation Team at the start of the process.

The Youth Facilitation Team comprises of an enthusiastic and talented group of diverse young people who have a track record in participating in youth leadership initiatives in the Shire and youth sector representatives working with Council's Social Planning and Community Development Teams. These young people are partners or "drivers" of the Youth Strategy, shaping the project from inception to implementation. They have played an active role as a youth consultant in the development of the Strategy including the extensive engagement process.

"It was quite revolutionary of Council to take on the challenge of engaging and paying both young people and community members to assist in guiding and developing the Strategy, developing the consultation process, participate in the interviews but more importantly keep Council honest that it was a community strategy." (Julie, Wyong Shire Council)

By taking a partnership approach to consulting and working alongside young people, we have treated them as equal stakeholders in the process and are acknowledging their expertise and knowledge. The team represents a commitment by Council to valuing the leadership skills of these young people as well as providing a mentoring, skills development and learning experience.

"Young people's participation is about more what young people can offer an organisation or program, it is also about equity. It's about creating opportunities so that young people have equitable access to the decision-making processes that affect their lives and communities." (Youth Affairs Council of Victoria, 2004)

"Young people have brought a real diverse range of skills and opinions to the team. I've learnt a lot from them and it has been really rewarding to watch them grow during the project." (Kerrie, Wyong Shire Council)

"The experiences that I have gained (from being part of the team) are definitely going to benefit me in the future." (Lyndsey, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)



A Trusting Team



1.5 What does the Background Report include?

The Background Report is one of three reports that comprise the Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy.

The Background Report includes:

- An overview of the key steps taken to develop the Youth Engagement Strategy;
- An overview of State and Federal government policy context for young people and youth service provision and Council's role including links to other Council plans;
- An overview of Wyong Shire and the demographic characteristics of young people;
- A summary of existing youth service system;
- A discussion of key findings identified from the engagement phase; and
- Identification of Key Priority Areas.

Please refer to the **Youth Prospectus** to see how you can partner with us to bring the Youth Engagement Strategy alive.

To find out more about how you can effectively engage and consult with young people or make your ideas happen see the **Toolkits**. The Toolkits have been developed as a practical guide with lots of tips and leanings for you to apply.

Chapter 2: Developing the Youth Strategy

2.1 How did we Develop the Youth Strategy?

The Youth Engagement Strategy is the culmination of an extensive engagement and research process and has been developed from evidence based research.

The following steps outline the development of the Youth Strategy:

2.1.1 Project Formulation - Pre-Planning

A Core Project Team, comprising two staff from each of Council's Social Planning and Community Development Teams, was established to oversee the development and delivery of the Youth Strategy. As a first step this Core Team invited key staff from other sections of Council, young people and representatives from the youth sector to a workshop (participants were selected by an expression of interest process), facilitated by Michael O'Meara, to scope the parameters of the Strategy - young people were consulted in the pre-planning phase: Why we are doing the Youth Strategy? What is the Youth Strategy going to be? What do we want to achieve? These young people and youth service representatives were invited to become partners in the Youth Strategy from the outset, a concept that was new to all involved, and the Youth Facilitation Team was established. Young people were empowered by being given valuable roles and being treated as equal partners in the process as "youth consultants". Rather than the "us" and "them" ideology it became "us" or the "team". The team provided staff with important information on how and why the Youth Strategy should be done.

"The young people were telling us that they couldn't fathom the concept that Council wanted to have them participate in structuring a strategy and that we were not dictating to them. As the strategy evolved they were influencing and educating us on issues relevant to the community." (Julie, Wyong Shire Council)

"The beginning was a lot different to what I'm used to. We created what we wanted to do." (Talara, 20, Youth Facilitation Team Member)

"I was expecting it to be another youth strategy that old people wrote for young people." (Sue, Gorokan High School)

"The best part of being involved in the Youth Strategy was working in a team – young people were given an equal voice." (Steve, Wyong Shire Council)



2.1.2 Background, Research and Review

This step involved researching youth policy at a National, State and Regional Level, mapping the youth services system of the Central Coast and reviewing relevant statistical data to create a demographic profile on young people in Wyong Shire.

2.1.3 Development of Consultation and Engagement Program

A training and skills development weekend, facilitated by Michael O'Meara, was held with the Youth Facilitation Team. The purpose of this weekend was to further clarify the aim and purpose of the Strategy; provide the team with background and skills in facilitation and appreciative inquiry; and to workshop ideas for how we would undertake the consultation and engagement phase of the Strategy. For example, what did we want to know? What questions were we going to ask? What "trusted" or existing relationships/networks did we have with groups of young people? What resources and support would be required? This weekend was valuable in building up trust and skills amongst the team.

Supporting information was collected to assist in this phase including:

- Information on young people arising from the Community Plan (2008), Youth Advisory Council Survey (2008) and Australian Youth Forum consultation held in Wyong (2008);
- Identification of key networks - where young people come together and what groups exist as well as developed networks that Council staff have within the youth services system (education, business, service providers, community groups); and
- Identification of key events or activities for young people to identify key networks and contacts. For example, the team attended the 'Going Off At The Swamp' (GOATS) Festival held during Youth Week.

From the development weekend a Consultation and Engagement Program was developed by the team.

"What I was expecting to see happen was a consultation process that was really tokenistic or tick-a-box but with this project we had a committed team who designed a process that engaged young people and engaged youth services, other sectors and stakeholders and actually really valued what they were saying and then took this further to build partners to make things happen in the future." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team member)



2.1.4 Engagement Program

An appreciative inquiry approach was used during the engagement phase to engage people on what is working for young people in Wyong Shire and, building on this, what would be happening in Wyong Shire if they could do more. The outcome was not only to generate ideas for achievement of the future but a desire for young people and partners to be involved in taking these ideas and actions further and partnering in the implementation of the Youth Strategy.

"Rather than looking always at the negatives, and that is something we can readily do with young people, we went in with an approach saying our young people do have skills, assets and talents and what are those and how can they influence our Shire into the future." (Julie, Wyong Shire Council)

Essentially there were three steps to the engagement approach:

- The Current Picture - seeking an understanding of what young people are into and what is working for them in their communities, how they hear about what is going on and what is the best way for them to get information.
- The Future - seeking information on what young people would like the Shire to look like and be known for in 10 years time and where they see their place in the future. The questions used as part of this process were to identify how young people can become actively involved in the community.
- The Road Ahead - seeking information on what we need to do, partnerships, prioritising ideas and actions that young people and partners are willing to invest their time and energy.

"If we had gone into this process focusing on what young people need and what the issues are, we would have finished this project with a list of problems and issues. Going into this process and looking at what is working and what's great about young people and all the different assets in the community, we've come out of this process with a whole range of partners and young people that are excited to look at building on these assets and excited to make a difference." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team Member)

A list of questions used for engaging young people and businesses/service providers is included in Appendix A and Appendix B.

"The best part of the process was the actual engagement with the community. I'm a very excited person, I get excited about things that mean something and I guess going out there and actually participating in that and getting people involved and excited was really powerful." (Sarah, 19, Youth Facilitation Team member)

An extensive consultation and engagement program was undertaken by the team during June to August 2009 to develop the Youth Strategy. It was important to seek innovative and appropriate methods to better understand young people's perspectives and the team engaged people with a diversity of ages, abilities, backgrounds and experiences, using the following activities:

"The engagement sessions created a positive feel in the community." (Sue, Gorokan High School)

"What worked well was all sorts of young people had the chance to express their opinions, not just one group or section, and other members of the community had the chance to give some positive input to young people in the community." (Lauren, Samaritans Foundation)

"To hear the passion and interest coming from young people and their level of knowledge about the issues that affect their community was a great learning experience." (Jordan, 24, Facilitation Team Member)

Focus Groups:

During June and July, the team conducted over 50 focus groups with young people, service providers and businesses by bringing the consultations out to these participants and linking in with existing groups and activities. Each focus group took the form of a discussion around the set of questions. From skate parks, youth centres, refuges and accessing young people through schools, hundreds of young people voiced their opinions with many putting up their hand to remain involved as a partner.

"What worked really well was the fact that we actually went out there face to face and connected with groups existing in the community." (Sarah, 19, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"For the consultations we did at schools – they worked well because young people were in their own environment and they felt comfortable." (Lyndsey, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"What was important to me was the fact that people were in their own settings and they were happy. To not have to qualify their opinion but just give it." (Allan, Youth Connections)

Where possible a Council team member partnered with another member of the Youth Facilitation Team to undertake these consultations. This process helped to build relationships amongst the team as well as providing an opportunity to develop skills, share learnings and experiences.

"It worked really well to have young people involved in the consultations." (Lauren, Samaritans Foundation)

"We spoke as young people, like young people being involved - we didn't speak formally to them." (Nathan, 18, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"I hadn't really had a chance to be involved in anything like this before (consultation) - it built up my confidence in talking to people and talking to other young people." (Lyndsey, 19, Youth Facilitation Team member)

A list of participating groups is included in Appendix C.

Late Night @ Westfield Tuggerah:

Westfield Tuggerah is the place to be seen on a Thursday night with hundreds of young people meeting up in the shopping centre. The team set up near the main stage area and engaged young people in conversations.

"A stand out memory was when we went to Westfield on Thursday night where we had about 1,500 young people. We had heard that Westfield Thursday night was pretty busy, but man it was really busy, and this was a real eye opener." (Steve, Wyong Shire Council)

"We had tons and tons of kids there - it was really good and definitely a highlight. It was fun." (Lyndsey, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"As soon as we got down on the floor and put out some big blank pieces of paper, that's all it really took – kids grabbed pens and started writing down their ideas, wanted to see what was going on and wanted to have their say." (Sue, Gorokan High School)

Youth Art:

As part of the focus group sessions, Council's Community Artist captured the voices of young people in art notes. The participant's ideas and responses were sketched onto butcher's paper, directly illustrating the mood of the session in cartoon character drawings. The practice encouraged the engagement of young people more visual rather than literally driven.

Youth Speak DVD Project:

"Hectic & Stuff" was a DVD shot mostly on low-tech, easily accessible digital mediums. The DVD was intended to portray the "raw" uncensored sentiment of a selection of young people engaged through the Youth Strategy.

More than 80 young people contributed to the film across 10 locations within the Shire. These included parks, an ocean pool, a local cinema, schools and education campuses and some local iconic landmarks.

"You can say what you like There are no rules." (Margrete, Wyong Shire Council)

"I was excited by the depth and breadth and diversity of the young people that we worked with and how much they had to give to really enlighten and enhance what we were looking for." (Margrete, Wyong Shire Council)

Both of these activities were linked to the engagement phase of the Shire Strategy Vision (SSV) project and were used to check-in with young people that we were on the right track with the SSV priorities.

World Cafes:

Two ideas forums, utilising the world café technique were held with representatives of services, agencies, organisations and businesses working with young people. Over 55 people were involved in the forums.

The world café is an innovative method of engagement which makes use of an informal "café setting". Participants discuss a topic in small group tables and at regular intervals then move on to another table. The facilitator remains and summarises the previous conversation to the newly arrived participants. By moving participants around the room the conversations at each table are added to and ideas enhanced.

Participants were asked similar questions to those used in the focus groups as well being asked to share an example of a successful project initiative that they had been involved in that included youth participation and one that had made a difference to young people.

A list of participants is included in Appendix D.

Councillor Briefing and Updates:

Regular Councillor Briefings and Councillor Updates were held at key stages of the Youth Strategy process to keep the Councillors informed and supportive of the project.

Engaging the Community

The community has invested significant time and energy into the Youth Strategy:

Focus Groups – 55 focus groups with 732 participants @ 1 hr each = 732 hours

World Café – 55 participants @ 4 hours each = 200 hours

Youth Speak DVD – 80 participants @ 15 minutes each = 20 hours

Late night at Westfield – 250 young people @ 5 minutes each = 20 hours

Total number of community participants = 1,117

Total hours of conversation with the community = 972

Members of the Youth Facilitation Team (youth & youth sectors reps) invested:

2 day weekend workshop x 8 people = 120 hours

19 meetings @ 2 hours each with average 5 people = 190 hours

Average 5 focus groups each @ 3 hours each session x 8 people = 120 hours

Total number of hours invested = 430 hours

Plus significant staff input!

“The fact that Council has made this attempt says a lot about our willingness now to listen to young people and take on board what they are saying and really want to value what they’ve got to say and make some action out of what they have suggested.” (Sue, Gorokan High School)

2.1.5 Analysis

Information from the consultations was recorded and analysed for common themes in relation to each individual questions, and any differences noted between feedback from young people, service providers and businesses and the participants of the World Café forums.

Analysis was qualitative using the technique called ‘grounded theory’. In grounded theory technique, themes are coded, grouped are sifted, with common themes emerging from the analysis until a set of overarching themes are established.

The team discussed the findings in order to bring out the richness of the information and to share their experience of what they heard - the young people in the team were purposefully engaged in a process that will result in outcomes.

"The information we got was really insightful and the kids still feel that it's important." (Sue, Gorokan High School)

"What stood out for me in the consultation phase was the feeling I got when we were in the team meetings and presented this is what we found, this is what young people were saying and this is what the services are saying. And the fact that everyone was pretty much on the same page and the team was able to get all the results together and come up with these brilliant ideas and actions, that just got me so excited and it was like let's do this, this is actually going to work." (Sarah, 19, Youth Facilitation Team Member)

"I was really excited about the fact that young people had so many great ideas and a lot of what we were *concerned about was what young people were already concerned with themselves.*" (Sue, Gorokan High School)

As another layer to Youth Strategy, members of the Youth Facilitation Team were interviewed on film to firstly capture their personal experience as team members and secondly to talk about their key insights and learning of young people in Wyong Shire from the engagement phase.

The fact that the team was involved at all levels of the Youth Strategy from project scoping and planning to implementation has helped to keep the team focused and engaged.

2.1.6 Draft to Final Document

The draft Youth Strategy comprising the Background Report, Youth Prospectus and Toolkits were prepared by the team and presented to a Council Briefing prior to being placed on public exhibition and reported to Council.

The Youth Strategy was placed on public exhibition from 12 May 2010 to 23 June 2010. The Strategy was promoted to young people, the youth sector and community members who participated.

Council carefully considered all comments and feedback, and where appropriate, revised the draft documents accordingly.

The Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy was adopted by Council on xxx 2010.

Chapter 3: The Policy Context

The development of the Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy has been shaped and informed by Commonwealth and State Government policy and best practice research.



3.1 Commonwealth Government

In March 2008 the Minister for Youth announced the creation of the Australian Youth Forum (AYF) as a way for the Government, young people and the youth sector to communicate. The AYF has engaged young people in on-going public debate and sort their input on important issues and practical solutions that affect their lives both through its website and through community forums.

Wyong Shire Council Youth Advisory Council and other young people from the community proactively contributed to this, with Wyong Shire Council hosting a consultation program.

The main issues of concern and importance to young people that have emerged from the consultations include:

- Access to appropriate services;
- Access to recreation and purpose built youth spaces;
- Education and training;

- Environmental sustainability;

- Health and wellbeing;

- Jobs and employment;

- Youth unemployment;

- Meaningful work opportunities;

- Housing affordability;

- Indigenous issues;

- Multi-cultural issues;

- Safe communities;

- Social inclusion;

- Support during transition to independent living;

- Young people taking action in their communities and wider society;

- Family breakdown;

- Mental health;

- Drugs and alcohol;

- Bullying and peer pressure;
- Child abuse and neglect; and
- Regional issues and rural community support.

On 22 October 2009 the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Minister for Youth Kate Ellis launched a nationwide discussion with young people as part of the National Strategy for young Australians.

The Commonwealth Government's vision is for all young people to grow up safe, healthy, happy and resilient and to have the opportunities and skills they need to learn, work, engage in community life and influence decisions that affect them.

The Government's suggested goals for young people are:

- Empowering young people to build their own lives for the future;
- Enabling young people to accept full responsibility of their lives, their actions and their behaviours;
- Building resilience in young people to negotiate the great life challenges that lie ahead; and
- Building a healthier, safe and more productive Australia.

The National Conversation is a chance for young people, the youth sector and the community to help shape the Government's National Strategy for Young Australians through online events, local and national forums and face-to-face discussions.

The National Strategy will guide Government action to support young people and to ensure they have the opportunities and skills needed to make a positive contribution. The focus of the Strategy is on the following seven priorities:

- 1 Empowering young Australian in schools, technical colleges and Universities to shape their own future.
- 2 Providing support to young Australians within their families.
- 3 Supporting young Australians to make a greater contribution to their communities.
- 4 Enabling young Australian to participate safely and confidently on-line.
- 5 Equipping young Australians with the skills and personal networks needed for employment.
- 6 Improving opportunities for early intervention and problem solving.
- 7 Establishing clear cut legal consequences for behaviour that endangers the safety of others.

A new National competition has also been launched to generate innovative ideas about how young people can mobilise and better connect with their local communities. The "challenge" is about supporting and acknowledging young people as active members within their communities and providing them with opportunities to make contributions to fostering more vibrant, creative and cohesive communities. Young people will be supported to engage in their local communities, seeking stronger partnerships with the community, local youth-related organisations and local businesses. The Office for Youth will call for proposals for the Prime Minister's Australian Youth Forum Challenge in 2010 with grants of up to \$15,000 available to put ideas into action.

Source: www.youth.gov.au/

Findings from National and International research show that:

- One of the critical success factors of youth engagement is the support and involvement of people in senior leadership roles;
- A healthy vibrant youth population is a valuable economic and social asset;
- Young people are an under-utilised resource who are interested in contributing;
- There is a need to acknowledge changing contexts of young people and assist them to develop skills to cope with change;
- Young people can support wider society to understand and adapt to changes; and
- There is a need to incorporate youth development approaches.

(City of Whittlesea Youth Plan2030, City of Whittlesea, 2007, p16)

3.2 State Government

In November 2009 the Premier launched the revised State Plan to guide the delivery of services in NSW over the next 10 years. The State Plan's goals, priorities and targets are important for all people in NSW including young people. Of the priorities in the State Plan more than half have relevance to young people. Specific priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people include:

- Make sure children have the skills for learning by school entry;
- Support students to reach their full potential at school – increase levels of attainment;
- Engage students in learning for longer – ensure more students are completing Year 12 or a recognised vocational qualification;
- Improve access to jobs and training to reduce youth unemployment;
- Improve health in the community – childhood overweight and obesity, risk drinking, illicit drug use and smoking; and
- Improve child wellbeing, health and safety.

Other priorities include:

- Increase the number of people using parks;
- Increase the number of people participating in sporting activities;
- Increase the number of people participating in arts and culture activities;
- Increase the number of people engaged in volunteering;
- Increase walking and cycling;
- Improve road safety;
- Improve access to healthcare; and
- Reduce levels of anti-social behaviour, crime and re-offending.

Source: www.more.nsw.gov.au/stateplan

The NSW Youth Action Plan sets out the NSW Government's plans to support young people. The Action Plan has 5 key focus areas:

- Belonging to family and community - young people prosper when they have strong relationships with family and friends and a strong connection with their community;
- Learning and earning - education and training plays a vital role in preparing young people for work and active involvement in the community;
- Feeling good and staying healthy - time of optimal health and for early intervention;
- Engaging in culture, sport and recreation - by doing some type of cultural, sporting or recreational activity young people improve their health and well being, have a stronger sense of pride; and
- Feeling and being safe - this is essential to young people's wellbeing.

"Young people told us they want to belong and be involved in making decisions that affect their lives. Young people are concerned about study, work, health and their future and want opportunities to have fun and get engaged in culture, sport and recreation. Importantly they want to be safe and feel safe."

Source: www.youth.nsw.gov.au

3.3 Local Government

3.3.1 How does the Youth Strategy Link to Other Council Plans?

The Youth Strategy is an Action arising from Council's adopted Community Plan 2008-2013 and is a Key Priority Action in the Shire Strategic Vision; *"encourage and value genuine youth participation in the community."*

The *Wyong Shire Community Plan 2008-2013* is a document that reflects the challenges, aspirations and key social issues facing our community. It is intended as a guiding document for government and non government agencies, community groups and the local community for working together to make Wyong Shire an even better place to live. *"Young People Our Future"* was one of 10 key theme areas identified in the Community Plan. As highlighted, people of all age groups and areas within the Shire mentioned the need for young people to be a key focus area for the Shire moving forward for the future and for increased youth participation hence a priority action was to develop a Youth Strategy.

The extensive consultation undertaken for the Community Plan has been used to inform the development of the Shire Strategic Vision.

20 Year Strategic Vision

The *Shire Strategic Vision (SSV)* is a statement which represents a broad vision of what the community and Council desire Wyong Shire to be like in 20 years time.

The vision identified eight priority objective areas to move the Shire forward. These include:

- 1 *Communities will be vibrant, caring and connected with a sense of belonging and pride in their local area.*
- 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.*
- 3 *Communities will have access to a diverse range of affordable and co-ordinated facilities, programs and services.*
- 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.*
- 5 *There will be a sense of community ownership of the natural environment through direct public involvement with environmental programs.*
- 6 *There will be a strong sustainable business sector and increased local employment built on the Central Coast's business strengths.*
- 7 *Information communication technology will be consistent with world's best practice and adaptive to technological advances across all sectors.*
- 8 *The community will be well educated, innovative and creative. People will obtain full knowledge potential at all stages of life.*

The vision explains how Wyong should look and feel in the future and what Council and community partners need to do to get there. Capturing the vibrancy, energy and contributions of young people will be critical to Wyong Shire achieving and reaping the benefits of the vision

The Youth Strategy is strongly aligned with a number of the key priority objectives and actions of the Shire Strategic Vision (in particular Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8). The Youth Strategy outlines ways Council will assist in the development of our young people so that they can be informed, active and valued members of our community. Findings from the engagement phase of the Youth Strategy and the key priority areas outlined in Chapter 5 clearly complement and are consistent with the key priority objectives of the SSV.

The Youth Strategy is a commitment by Council to actively engage young people in partnering to implement the Shire Strategic Vision.

Wyong Shire Council Management Plan 2009/10

A principle activity in Wyong Shire Council Management Plan 2009/10 is to create a more sustainable community by supporting the community and ensuring it has access to a range of services and facilities. From this activity, a number of strategic targets were identified in relation to young people. One of these was to continue to implement the Community Plan, where young people are one of 10 key theme areas; another is to complete the Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy to ensure the needs of young people are identified and supported.

Community Plan

From the *Wyong Shire Community Plan* (2008), a number of key messages emerged in relation to young people, including:

- The perception of young people: there is a need to promote a positive image of young people, both to the community and through the media;
- Public transport: the provision of reliable public transport is very important as transport is often the catalyst for isolation and exclusion of young people in the community. Current difficulties restricting access to public transport include cost, indirect routes, and safety;
- Education: the need for active engagement in education, training and employment to ensure a successful transition from education to the workforce. Concerns were also raised about the affordability of education (particularly in relation to tertiary education) as a barrier to young people continuing their learning;
- Creating community: young people expressed the importance of community - engaging all people and making connections and linkages across the whole population, especially through intergenerational communication. There is also an emerging trend of using information and communication technologies (ICTs) to connect with and create communities with people, especially among young people;
- Employment: the need to create local work-style and lifestyle opportunities for young people to enable them to stay in the Shire; and
- Entertainment: lack of cultural and entertainment opportunities, including live music venues and local festivals. There is also the need for safe, affordable venues for young people to socialise and meet (formal and informal).

From the Community Plan, a number of focus areas were identified. These include:

- A strategic approach to young people in the Shire;
- A positive image of young people;
- Places and spaces for young people to come together;
- Inclusiveness, youth participation and involvement; and
- Employment and education opportunities.

Cultural Plan

A *Cultural Plan for Wyong Shire* (2005) provides current and long term direction for culture and the arts in the Shire. It identified young people as a priority area of enhancing the culture of the Shire. It highlights the fact that young people are the next generation who will carry on the culture of today. If cultural and artistic skills such as creativity, imagination and experimentation are not nurtured and valued in individuals early years, they have little chance of producing or utilising these skills later in life.

Young people in school education have access to cultural activities through class and extra-curricular programs, such as art, dance, drama and music. Regional cultural events for schools include the opportunity for high school students to take part in a regional art exhibition, and the variety spectacular *Starstruck* annually in Newcastle. Young people enrolled in tertiary education have access to cultural programs including cultural grants, live music at lunch and an annual art competition. National Youth Week provides a focus for youth cultural events each year, and the Central Coast takes advantage of this by providing workshops to develop new skills (such as break dancing) and hold youth festivals, such as *Going Off At The Swamp* (GOATS) which provides young local bands the opportunity to perform in a professional capacity.

The Cultural Plan identifies a specific goal area for young people – *Goal Area 3 Supporting Our Young People*. Some of the actions aim to encourage and highlight the talent of young people. They include:

- The provision of a cultural centre as a focus for community cultural activity and community pride and to nurture youth performing arts activity;
- Involving aboriginal residents, people from non-English speaking backgrounds and young people in community arts projects in parks and public spaces;
- Continue existing resourcing for youth cultural programs;
- Encourage cultural events and promote participation by young people and families;
- Encourage and support community projects that provide opportunities for young people to develop their interests, skills and knowledge in culture and the arts;
- Provide, support and advocate to obtain sustainable funding for youth arts projects; and
- Develop an annual program for performance and event organisation at Gravity Youth Community Park.

Recreation Facilities Strategy

The *Recreation Facilities Strategy* (2009) aims to improve social engagement and community through properly planned, managed and programmed recreation and sporting facilities in the Wyong Shire. The strategy aims to encourage community participation and use of facilities, contributing to the social capital and health of the whole community.

A priority identified in the strategy affecting youth was the need to prepare a revised skate park strategy to guide decisions on development and future programming of existing facilities and place making of new facilities in the Shire. Part of this priority is to provide a major youth and skating facility in the south and north of the Shire in the medium term suitable for competitive and promotional events. Other priorities include co-locating and flexible use of facilities, ensuring youth can still access these facilities; improving public information about and facilities for healthy lifestyles and recreational facilities and activities; and upgrade existing settings and facilities that provide for parallel activities and promote incidental exercise and social interaction by the community.

3.3.2 Council's Role

Council has a key role in supporting, developing and involving young people. Council currently supports the Wyong Shire Youth Advisory Council and provides youth centres at Lake Haven (Gravity), Bateau Bay (PCYC) and Wyong (Oasis). The latter two centres are leased to PCYC and the Salvation Army respectively.

Wyong Shire Youth Advisory Council

Wyong Shire Youth Advisory Council is a group of young people aged 12-18 years from various cultural backgrounds. The council formally meet to discuss how Council's policies and actions affect youth in the Shire and to make Council aware of young people's interest, ideas and recommendations for the Shire. In 2008 the Youth Advisory Council conducted a survey of 650 young people to determine their priorities within their local community. The four core priorities identified from the survey include environment, community, creating a positive view of youth, and local entertainment. Issues that were identified included: concerns about pollution and water conservation; concerns about discrimination, education, community pride and job opportunities; intergenerational communication and the need to create a positive perception of youth and youth participation; creating better transport facilities, and create spaces and events for youth, including local band camps, youth centres and underage night clubs.

Gravity Youth Centre

Gravity Youth Centre has a commitment to the wellbeing of young people and the wider community, while also improving the safety and security of the environment for the community as a whole. A number of youth related services are co-located at Gravity including Wyong Youth Services, Breakthru, Youth Health and the Smith Family.

The centre has been the venue of high quality competitions, attracting some of the Central Coast's best known young skaters. It provides a location where young people can gather and utilise services provided by the centre. Young people have recently developed a community park at the centre to show their sense of community spirit, with the physical construction of the park undertaken by local young people and community members.

Council

The Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy positions Council as a key player or facilitator in positive youth development by attempting to make youth engagement and participation practices central to the way Council addresses the needs of young people. This approach builds on what Council has achieved to date, what young people have said and international best practice. In 2009/10 Council allocated funding in its Management Plan for a permanent Youth Engagement Officer.

Underpinning the direction of the Youth Strategy is a fundamental shift in how Council and youth service providers undertake their work in relation to young people, that is, through engagement strategies that develop partnerships with young people.

Whilst Council has the responsibility of developing and co-ordinating this Youth Strategy, effective implementation requires a whole of community approach with involvement and commitment from young people and all members of the community who have a role to play in influencing the well being of young people in Wyong Shire.

Chapter 4: Young People in Wyong Shire

4.1 Overview of Wyong Shire

Wyong Shire covers approximately 830 square kilometres and forms the northern part of the NSW Central Coast Region. Traditionally a holiday and retirement area, Wyong is now established as a coastal urban fringe area attracting a range of population groups and undergoing many social changes. The 1970s and 1980s was characterised by rapid growth, with the population growing from 47,000 in 1976 to 82,000 in 1986. This level of growth continued during the 1990s reflecting the timing of new land releases and housing development. During the last decade the population has continued to increase but at a slower rate. The estimated resident population of the Shire at June 2009 was 149,382. The Shire's population is projected to grow to around 200,000 by 2031.



4.2 Young People as a Demographic

Nationally, young people aged 12-24 represent one fifth of the Australian population, with 28% of all households containing a young person. In 2006 there were approximately 23,950 young people aged 12-24 living in Wyong Shire representing 16.8% of the total population. Between 2001 and 2006 the number of 12-24 years olds increased by 2,164 or by 10.5%.

It is interesting to note the increase in the numbers of young people 12-24 years, in particular the 18-24 year age group. This group in total has increased by over 2,160 people since 2001. Typically an area may experience out-migration of people aged between 18 and 24 years for work, study or lifestyle reasons. The retention of people in this group may reflect the trend for young people to stay at home longer as a result of increases in the rental and property prices.

The data shows that out-migration is occurring for the next age group, that is, those aged 25-34 years.

"This out-migration is likely to have significant impacts upon many of the labour supply indicators and also impacts upon the levels of innovation present in the labour force, especially when those who are leaving are those with higher education levels." (HVRF, 2006)

Improving both local workforce and lifestyle opportunities for this population group is important to either retain or attract these people back to the Shire.

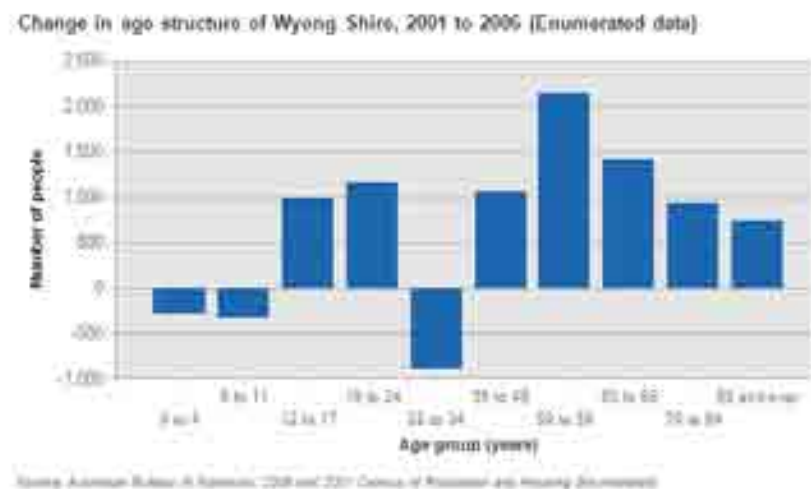


Table 4.1 shows the population distribution and change for young people within the Shire.

Table 4.1: Population Aged 12–24 years within Wyong Shire Change 2001-2006

Small Area	2001		2006		2001-2006	Percent Change %
Wyong LGA	20,543	15.7	22,707	16.5	2,164	10.5
Bateau Bay/Shelly Beach	2,025	16.3	2,194	17.5*	169	8.3
Berkeley Vale - Chittaway - Glennings Valley - Fountaindale	2,316	17.7	2,421	19.0*	105	4.5
Blue Haven	719	15.4	966	16.7*	247	34.4
Budgewoi/Halekulani/Buf Point	1,317	15.2	1,351	16.2	34	2.6
Gorokan	1,080	14.9	1,104	15.6	24	2.2
Gwandalan - Summerland Point	619	13.5	702	14.0	83	13.4
Hamlyn Terrace - Wadalba	329	12.3	617	12.2	288	87.5
Kanwal - Wyongah	848	14.9	969	17.1*	121	14.3
Killarney Vale	1,050	15.5	1,075	16.1	25	2.4
Lake Haven - Charmhaven (part)	986	17.1	998	17.8*	12	1.2
Lake Munmorah - Chain Valley Bay	802	13.7	1,080	16.3	278	34.7
Long Jetty - Blue Bay - Toowoona Bay	949	14.0	821	12.7	-128	-13.5
Manning Park	398	16.1	408	17.3*	10	2.5
Noraville - Norah Head - Canton Beach	734	15.2	715	15.2	-19	-2.6
Ourimbah - Rural South	715	17.2	785	18.6*	70	9.8
Rural West - Mardi	295	16.9	328	17.3*	33	11.2
San Remo - Doyalson	735	16.2	834	18.0*	99	13.5
The Entrance - North Entrance	474	12.4	491	12.8	17	3.6
Toukley	478	11.9	539	13.5	61	12.8
Tuggerah - Mardi - Chittaway Point - Tacoma South	700	15.6	778	16.1	78	11.1
Tuggerawang - Tacoma - Rocky Point	406	17.6	411	19.5*	5	1.2
Tumbi Umbi	782	18.7	986	17.0*	204	26.1
Watanobbi	560	17.4	663	14.1	103	18.4
Woongarah - Warnervale - Charmhaven (part)	569	17.1	872	15.2	303	53.3
Wyong Town	531	16.2	540	16.9	9	1.7

Source: ABS Census 2001, 2006 (Wyong Shire Community Profile - .id Consulting).

* Denotes a higher proportion of 12-24 year olds than the Shire average.

The most significant increases in growth of young people aged 12-24 years were in the small areas of Hamlyn Terrace/Wadalba (46.7%), Woongarra/Warnervale/Charmhaven (34.7%) and Lake Munmorah/Chain Valley Bay (25.7%).

The small area of Blue Haven experienced a significant decline in the numbers of young people between 2001 and 2006 of - 247 people (-34.4%). The small area to experience the next most significant decline was Long Jetty/Blue Bay/Toowoyn Bay with a decrease of 128 people or 15.6%.

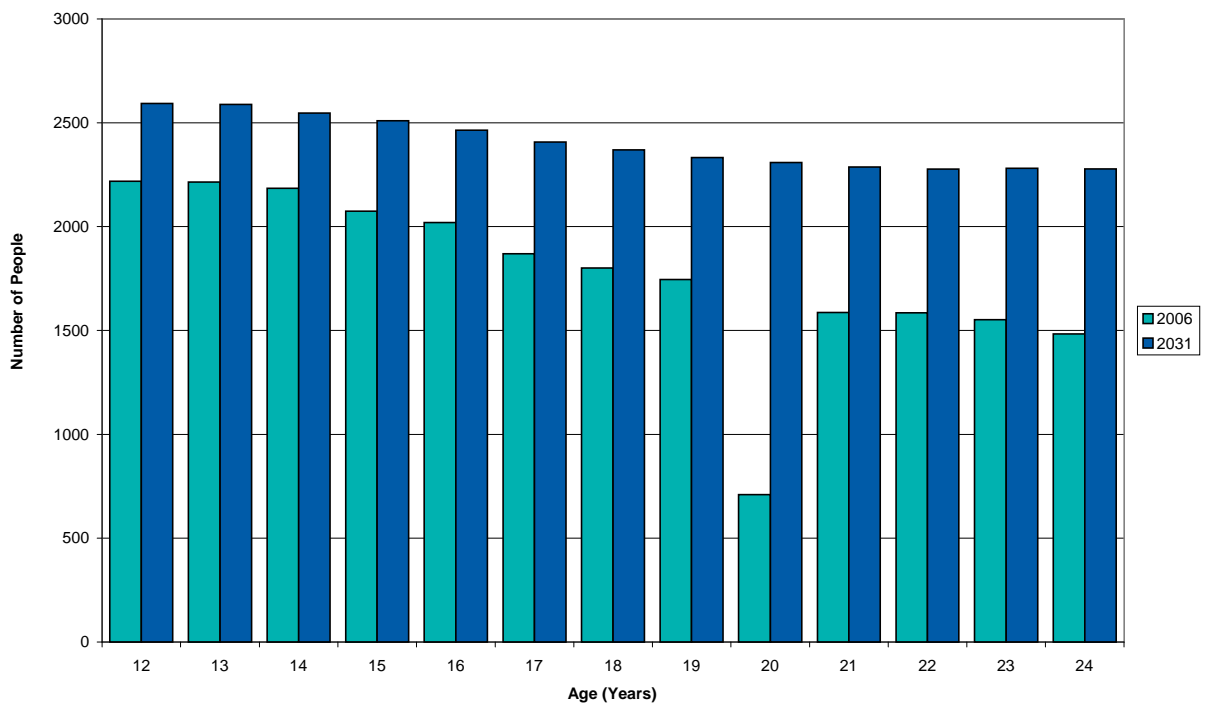
The population projections prepared for the Shire predicts that the numbers of young people aged 12-24 will steadily increase as follows:

Table 4.2: Population Projections Ages 12–24 years

Year	Population Aged 12 – 24
2011	25,140
2016	26,298
2021	27,565
2026	29,365
2031	31,247

Source: Wyong Shire Population Projections- .id Consulting.

Figure 1: Population change in young people 2006-2031



In terms of Social Planning Districts, the projected population of young people in the future is as follows:

Table 4.3: Projected Youth Population by Social Planning District

Social Planning District	2009	2031	Total Difference 2009-2031	% Difference
Gorokan	3,221	3,644	423	13.1
Northern Lakes	2,338	2,403	65	2.8
Ourimbah - Rural South	874	863	-11	-1.3
Rural West	319	316	-3	-0.9
San Remo - Budgewoi	3,391	3,597	206	6.1
Southern Lakes	4,581	4,337	-244	-5.3
The Entrance	4,028	4,743	715	17.8
Toukley	1,367	1,613	246	18.0
Warnervale - Wadalba	1,950	5,964	4,104	205.9
Wyang	2,675	3,767	1,902	71.1

Source: *Wyang Shire Population Projections- .id Consulting*

The Warnervale/Wadalba Social Planning District will see the most significant increases in population of young people aged 12–24 years with a 205.9% (4,104) increase from 2009 to 2031. This growth is consistent with the projected total population growth of this area as the main urban release area in the Shire and the Central Coast. The Wyong Social Planning District will also have a significant increase in the proportion of young people 71.1% or 1,902 young people.

The Social Planning Districts that will experience a decline in numbers of young people between 2009 and 2031 are Southern Lakes -5.3% (244 people), Rural West -0.9% (3 people) and Ourimbah -1.3% (11 people).

4.3 Cultural Diversity

Nationally, indigenous people account for 3.6% of all 15-19 year olds and 2.8% of all young people aged 20-24 years. In 2006 the indigenous population of Wyong Shire was 3,800 representing 2.8% of the population. The Shire has a higher proportion of indigenous people in comparison to NSW (2.1%). The indigenous population has increased by 1,235 persons or 48% since 2001 due to a combination of actual population increase and more persons identifying themselves as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

In 2006, there were 1,045 young people who identified as being from an Indigenous background, representing 4.8% of the total population of young people in the Shire.

Nationwide, one in five young people were born overseas - mostly in Asia (6.6%) or Europe (2.6%). One in five speak a language other than English at home - mostly an Asian language (10%) or another European language (4%). In NSW, 11.9% of the population was born overseas and 4.3% (5,800 persons) were from a non-English speaking background, compared with 23.8% and 16.8% respectively.

The majority of young people (92.7%) living in Wyong Shire stated that they were born in the Oceania region. The next largest proportion of young people stated that they were born in North West Europe 1.1% or 252 people, followed by South East Asia 0.5% or 110 people, and the Americas 0.3% or 62 people.

The Shire is characterised by diversity in terms of birthplace with a number of different countries represented in small groups.



2.5% of the Shire's population speak a language other than English and English not well or not well at all. Nearly 94% of young people living in Wyong Shire speak English as their first language. Of the 6.3% of young people in the Shire with English as their second language, 2.1% or 463 people spoke English very well, with only 0.1% or 21 people stating that they did not speak English well.

4.4 Education

Young people's future outcomes are strongly related to their education. Nationally, around 63% of young people aged 12-24 years are in some form of education (43% secondary school, 20% tertiary and 6% in VET). The proportion of young people who have completed year 12 has been increasing over time. In 2008, approximately 84% of 20-24 year olds had completed year 12 (or equivalent), with young women were more likely than young men to have studied to this level. For those young people who have left school, two-thirds have achieved Year 12, VET qualifications or a university degree.

Table 4.4 shows apparent school retention rates for government schools in the Wyong Shire and NSW. In 2007 the apparent retention rate from year 7 to year 12 (defined as the proportion of students who started year 7 and have continued to year 12) was 44.3% in Wyong Shire, 20% lower than the State apparent rate (65.66%). In 2008, the school retention rates for students in Wyong Shire have decreased slightly from the previous year as shown below.

Apparent retention rates from Year 7 to Year 10 and from Year 10 to Year 12 are also significantly below the apparent retention rates for NSW.

Table 4.4: Apparent School Retention Rates

Year	Wyong LGA Retention Rate (%)	State Retention Rate (%)
	7-12	7-12
2003	47.66	66.70
2004	48.45	67.48
2005	44.78	67.17
2006	47.83	66.37
2007	44.30	65.66
2008	44.09	67.60

Source: Department of Education and Training, Planning and Innovation, Data Collection Unit.

At the 2006 Census, the majority of young people in Wyong Shire (77.5%) did not indicate they received further training after school. However, the majority of those who complete further training completed a certificate qualification (10%). It is also interesting to note that more females than males receive further education (16.1% and 13.0% respectively), with more females receiving a Bachelor qualification than males (255 and 111 respectively).

4.5 Employment

Nationally, almost half of teenagers 15-19 years and two in three young adults are employed. Employment is often on a part-time basis or casual basis because of the combination of paid work and study.

Employment and unemployment is a major concern for young people in Wyong Shire. The *Wyong Shire Community Plan 2008-2013* identified the need for a provision of local jobs on the Central Coast to enable young people to stay here rather than migrating to Sydney, Newcastle or even further away. The top industry that young people in Wyong Shire are currently employed is the retail industry (15.5%), with more females in the industry than males (18.3% and 12.8% respectively). The second most popular industry for males to work in is the construction industry (7.7%), with health and community services being the second most popular industry for females (3.9%). The top 3 occupations for young men aged 15-24 are tradespersons and related workers (13.0%), labourers and related workers (8.1%) and elementary clerical, sales and service workers (6.4%). For young women, the top occupations are elementary clerical, sales and service workers (15.5%), intermediate clerical, sales and service workers (10.6%) and associate professionals (3.5%). There is little reference of professionals, and managers because of the additional time in training that is required for these positions.

Nationally, 6.6% of 15-19 year olds and 5.8% of 20-24 year olds were unemployed at the time of the 2006 Census. In Wyong Shire, unemployment rates at the 2006 Census for young people aged 15-19 years were 20.2% and for 20-24 years 11.0%. These rates were significantly higher than comparative rates for Gosford City and Sydney Statistical Division as well as state and national rates. Between 2001 and 2006 the unemployment rate for 15-19 year old has remained stable, whilst there has been a slight improvement in the unemployment rate for 20-24 years olds.

Table 4.5: Youth Unemployment, 2006

	15-19 years	20-24 years	15-24 years
Wyong	20.2%	11.0%	15.3%
Gosford	15.3%	9.0%	11.9%
Sydney SD	14.3%	8.3%	10.4%
NSW	15.1%	9.3%	11.5%
Australia	13.1%	8.3%	10.3%

Source: ABS Census, 2006.

Nationally, the latest seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 11.9% for 15-24 year olds (ABS, 2009). The current registered youth unemployment rate for 15-24 years old for the Central Coast is 15.4% (ABS October 2009).

Recent media and parliamentary reports have quoted a youth unemployment rate of 42% on the Central Coast. This figure has been checked with both the ABS and Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

DEEWR has confirmed that this statistic is not the unemployment rate but a rate of the number of young people seeking full-time work as a proportion of the total number of young people in full-time work plus those seeking full-time work. Note, in this statistic, those young people seeking work may already be in "work" but still be able to be registered and receiving the Centrelink allowance which brings this groups into the count used by DEEWR in their data.



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4.6 Income

Young people's income is most directly affected by whether they engage in paid work and/or study. Those studying and working earn about half of what their counterparts earn in full-time work. The level of personal income will steadily increase between 15 and 24 years of age, with parents being the main source of income for 72% of young people. However, nationally, young women's income has been found to be significantly less than young men's. At 24 years of age, women have almost peaked in their earning capacity, while men's earnings increase considerably as they get older. On average, young men earn only 60% of the average adult male income; whereas young women are already earning 84% of the average adult female wage.

In 2006 the median weekly individual income for persons aged over 15 years in Wyong Shire was \$381 in comparison to \$461 for NSW and the median weekly household income was \$770 in comparison to \$1,036 for NSW.

In terms of weekly household income the greatest proportion of residents in Wyong earned \$500-\$649 per week (13.3%), this was followed by a weekly income of \$1,000-\$1,199 (10.2%) and a weekly income of \$250-\$349 (9.8%). The Shire has a significantly lower income profile in comparison to NSW. This can be shown by the higher proportion of households on low incomes (less than \$500 per week), 25.9% compared to 20.1%, and a lower proportion of households in the high income range of \$1,400 and above per week, 20.4% compared to 31%.

The lower than State average income levels can be explained by several factors:

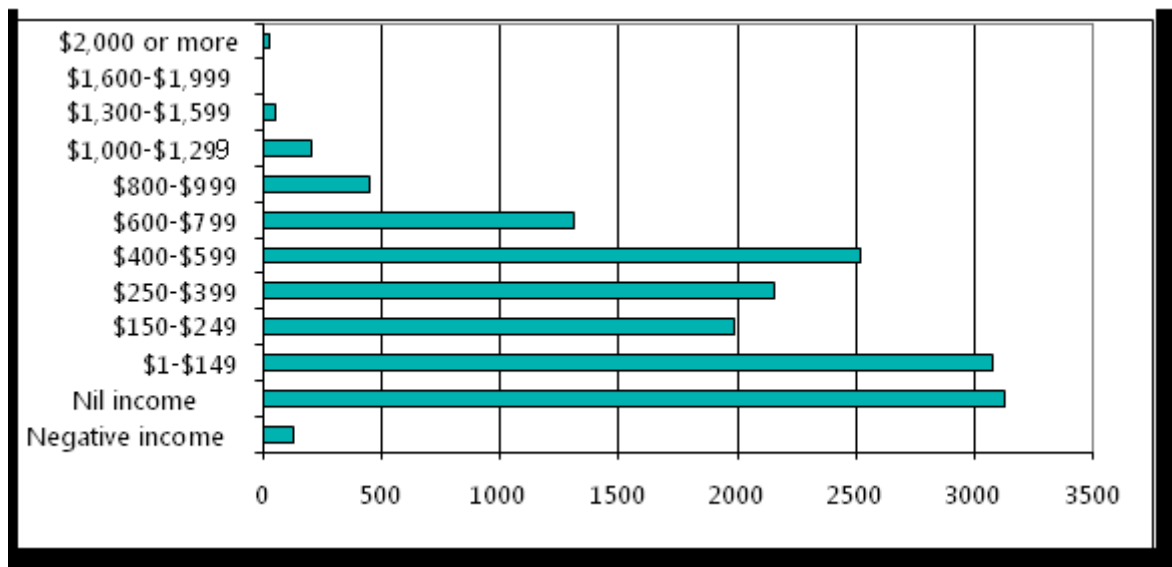
- A lower proportion of the working age population (those aged between 15 and 64 years);
- A higher proportion of older people, mostly retirees;
- The state of the economy with a lower proportion of employees in higher income occupations, a higher proportion of part-time and casual employment and higher unemployment rates; and
- Lower levels of education attainment.

For young people 13.5% (or 3,129 people) of the population aged 12-24 years do not receive any income at all, closely followed by 13.3% (3,072 people) who earn between \$1-\$149 per week. In this income bracket, young people aged 16, 17 and 18 more frequently earn this amount than any other age bracket.

Approximately 11% (2,518 people) of young people earn between \$400-\$599 per week. In this income bracket, young people aged from 20-23 more frequently earn this amount than other ages.

The majority of weekly individual income for young people aged 12-24 is concentrated at the lower end of the scale (Nil income to \$600-\$799 per week). The proportion of young people earning \$800-\$999 drops significantly to 1.9%, and declines further as income increases. There is only 0.1% or 31 young people earning \$2,000 or more per week.

Figure 2: Weekly Individual Income of Young People



Source: ABS Census 2006.

4.7 Family Type/Household Type

Nationally, two in three 12-19 year olds live at home with two parents (66%), and a further 20% live with one parent. Less than one third of 20-24 year olds live at home with two parents, with a further 10% living with a lone parent. Most young people (79%) remain in the parental home at least until they are 24.

At the 2006 Census there were 38,035 families in Wyong Shire. Table 4.6 shows the mix of families in the Shire.

Table 4.6: Family Type, Wyong Shire

	Number	2006 %	NSW %	Number	2001 %	NSW %	Change 2001-2006
Couple Families with Child(ren) 15 years and under	11,050	29.1	31.4	11,407	30.9	33.0	-57
Couple with Child(ren) over 15 years	4,599	12.1	14.8	4,014	11.2	14.9	585
Total Couples with Child(ren)	15,649	41.1	46.2	15,121	42.1	47.8	528
One Parent Families with Child(ren) 15 years and under	4,640	12.2	8.7	4,318	12.0	8.6	322
One Parent Families with Child(ren) 15 years and over	2,827	7.4	7.4	2,325	6.5	6.8	502
Total One Parent Families	7,467	19.6	16.1	6,643	18.5	15.5	824
Couples without Child(ren)	14,511	38.2	36.0	13,712	38.2	34.9	799
Other Families	406	1.1	1.7	443	1.2	1.8	-37
Total Families	38,033	100.0	100.0	35,919	100.0	100.0	2,144

Source: ABS Census 2001, 2006 (Wyong Shire Community Profile - .id Consulting)

Analysis of the family type compared to NSW shows that there was a smaller proportion of couple families with child(ren), a larger proportion of couple families without children and a higher proportion of one parent families. Overall 41.1% of total families were couple families with child(ren), 38.1% were couple families without children and 19.6% were one parent families, compared with 46.2%, 36% and 16.1% from NSW respectively.

The largest changes in family types between 2001 and 2006 were:

- Couples without child(ren) (+799);
- Couples with child(ren) over 15 years (+585);
- One parent families with child(ren) over 15 years (+502); and
- One parent families with child(ren) 15 years and under (+322).

4.8 Health

Nationally, the majority of young people are in good physical and mental health. Some key statistics are as follows:

- Almost a quarter of young people are either overweight or obese.
- Less than half engage in the moderate or rigorous exercise recommended.
- 1 in 4 young people 16-24 years has a mental disorder in a given year.
- 1 in 3 of all young people experience moderate to high psychological distress.
- Suicide is the leading cause of death in young people, 8 in every 100,000 people committed suicide in 2007.
- 1 in 10 young people have a disability.

4.9 Housing

Wyong Shire has a high proportion of home ownership with 81% of dwellings fully owned, or being purchased. Only 13.9% of dwellings are rented. In terms of dwelling type, 89.2% of dwellings are separate homes, 5.1% semi-detached and 4.3% of dwellings are flats/apartments. The Shire is characterised by a lack of low cost rental properties and a lack of diversity of housing types.

In August 2006 Coast Shelter reported that on average 400 children on the Central Coast are without a home each night. This figure was estimated from the level of demand they have for their services. From July 2004 to June 2005 Coastal Shelter provided accommodation to 500 men, women and children. An additional 2,277 people were turned away in this period due to lack of beds and other reasons. Coast Shelter provides about half of the homeless accommodation in the region.

4.10 Technology

Young people are adept at keeping up with changes in technology. National statistics report:

- Young people aged 8-17 years watched approximately two hours of television each day.
- In 2007, nine out of ten Australian families had an internet connection and 75% had broadband.
- Young people aged 8-17 years spent an average 1 hour 15 mins online each day.
- Young women are more likely to use the internet for communications and young men are more likely to play computer games.
- In 2007, nine out of ten 17 years olds used a mobile phone.

At the 2006 Census, 52.6% of households in Wyong Shire were connected to the internet, with 30.8% having broadband connectivity and 21.3% having a dial-up connection. 41% of households were not connected to the internet. In comparison to other areas, Wyong Shire has the lowest proportion of households with an internet connection of all local government areas in the Sydney Statistical Division.

4.11 Sport and Recreation

Sport and recreation plays an important part in the lives of young people within the Shire. Participation in sport and recreation activities has a positive impact on the physical health of young people and provides opportunities and settings for social interaction, sharing common interests and enhancing a sense of community (ABS, 2006, 6).

While there is no specific research which identifies youth participation in sport and recreation activities for people aged 12-24 years, a recent 2009 ABS survey identified that over 1.1 million children aged 5-14 years regularly participate in organised sport (excluding dancing) outside of school hours (ABS, 2009).

Similar research undertaken during 2009 identified that over 1.8 million young people aged 15-24 years regularly participated in physical activity for exercise, recreation and sport over the previous 12-month period (ERASS, 2009, 61).

Participation in organised sporting activities by young people within Wyong Shire is extremely high. This includes sports such as football (soccer), rugby league, netball, rugby union and cricket. Over 15,000 young people aged 5-16 years use Council sportsgrounds for winter and summer sport annually (WSC, 2010). Actual participation is likely to be much higher as these figures do not include activities such as surf lifesaving, swimming and other non-field based sports.

Chapter 5: Key Findings from the Consultations

5.1 Current Picture

5.1.1 What are young people into?

Young people are into lots of things, including:

- Hanging out with friends and socialising, "chillaxing".
- Music - listening, performing, attending live gigs.
- Sport and recreation (both structured and unstructured or informal activities).
- Beaches.
- Surfing and body boarding.
- Skating.
- Bikes and scooters.
- Shopping.
- Arts - creative, dance, performance.
- Entertainment - Blue Light Discos.
- Parties.
- Reading.
- IT and social networking.
- Games such as Nintendo, xbox, wii and playstation.
- Movies.
- Mobile phones.
- School.
- Animals.
- Family.
- Part-time work and local jobs.



"Cultural things such as drama, performance and art." (Sarah, 19, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"Young people enjoyed public spaces where everyone could go - not just young people, not just old people." (Sarah, 19, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"Young people loved sport - both organised sport and unstructured activities, places to hang out and friendships - they highly value their social networks." (Kerrie, Wyong Shire Council)

"A sense of belonging and the relationships that young people can build with each other and with the community it's especially important for young people to feel part of that community and be accepted." (Lauren, Samaritans Foundation)

"Friends and family, young people need this support and security." (Lyndsey, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)

Young people like doing these things because:

- It's a way to meet new friends.
- It's sociable - hang out with friends.
- It's healthy.
- It's fun.
- Free or can afford it.
- Easy to get to.
- To get fit/keep active.
- Something to do and look forward to.
- Time out, relaxing.
- To fit in and be accepted, to have a sense of belonging.
- For the adventure *"thrill, the rush, the adrenalin, challenge, wow factor"*.
- They love doing it and they are good at it.
- They like winning.
- Sense of accomplishment and self improvement/learn new skills.
- Teamwork.
- Sense of hope.
- Freedom, independence and expression.
- Family support and role models.
- To realise their dreams.



"Being able to express themselves in whatever way they chose was important to young people." (Margrete, Wyong Shire Council)

"Having the ability to express themselves whether it was a place where they can go and sing and perform and dance or just be listened to." (Steve, Wyong Shire Council)

"Family and sense of community are very important to young people. To feel that sense, kind of gives you purpose and meaning." (Sarah, 19, Youth Facilitation Team member)

5.1.2 What is working for our young people?

There are lots of things (facilities, services and activities) already working in our community for young people. Most popular responses included:

- Shopping centres Westfield Tuggerah, Lake Haven, Bay Village and Erina Fair. Westfield Tuggerah was frequently mentioned because it was *"big, open, safe, had food, shops, movies and transport"*.
- Skate parks (public and SLAM factory at Tuggerah).
- Sporting and recreation facilities including sportsgrounds, parks, playgrounds, picnic areas, water front park at The Entrance.
- Sporting activities, clubs and teams (eg. Central Coast Mariners).
- Youth Centres including Gravity, Oasis, PCYC and drop-in.
- Libraries (Tuggerah, Lake Haven).
-

- Beaches *"the beach is mad"*.
- Natural environment (beaches, lakes, bushland).
- Band nights. Concerts and events for Under 18s (such as Blue Light Disco).
- Dancing and rock eisteddfods.
- Festivals and events such as GOATS and Youth Week.
- IT and social networking, technology.
- Church groups.
- Schools and TAFE, vocational training.
- Part-time jobs.
- Mentoring programs.
- Partnerships.

"The natural surroundings... beaches, mountains, rivers... we have such a beautiful setting and the young people said we just love this place." (Steve, Wyong Shire Council)

"The skate parks and all the recreational and social activities stood out and were valued and appreciated." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"Sporting groups and teams for being with friends, access to sporting fields and ovals where they can go and kick back with their dad or friends." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"Loud and clear we heard that sports activities are working, that the facilities are fantastic, and not only are they saying that they are fantastic, but they are well maintained. Obviously, a very loud theme was we want more of, and more diversity and in more locations. But overall, really happy with sports activities and facilities." (Rachel, Wyong Shire Council)

"Young people have told us that there are a number of places to hang out. They like to get together with their friends whether that be at the shopping centres, beaches or youth centres." (Julie, Wyong Shire Council)

"Westfield Tuggerah is a place that young people love to hang out and feel part of." (Lauren, Samaritans Foundation)

"I think what's working in Wyong Shire is the youth groups and things like Oasis and Gravity. I think it helps a lot of the kids, like ones that don't go to school. Brings the school and community together and helps with friendships." (Lyndsey, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"For young people that are in schools, education was working for them. For young people who are not at school youth centres are working for them." (Talara, 20, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"Young people love being part of a community." (Lauren, Samaritans Foundation)

The following SHOWCASES are an example of projects that are working in the community for and with young people. They are a few examples of many. Most of these projects were identified as part of the World Café forums.

SHOWCASE: "GOATS Festival" (San Remo Neighbourhood Centre)

The Going Off At the Swamp (GOATS) San Remo Neighbourhood Centre Festival is a family festival held at San Remo annually for the past 12 years. Approximately 15,000 people attend this event which showcases the talents of young people through music and the arts and is supported by youth services and community groups as part of youth week. It is a festival that is focussed on youth, but provided in the context of a family and local environment. Over 40 bands and performers across 3 stages have the opportunity to perform to a live audience in a drug and alcohol free environment. The festival is unique in nature as it is one of the few events that support youth culture while giving families and the wider community the opportunity to be part of that success. Youth of all music genres and all levels of talent perform, creating self-confidence and skills in the young people. In conjunction with the music, schools participate in an art competition as part of the festival.

Young people are not only performers at the festival, but are also part of the organising committee, responsible for the process and delivery of the event. GOATS is more than an event, it is a training ground for young people, a social connector, a mentor project, a motivational tool, a support network, a community creativity pool and one of the most successful examples of community collaboration.

The GOATS Festival is so successful for a number of reasons. The inclusion of young people in the organisation and event management of the festival, and the respect for the ability of young people to make decisions and carry out roles, for example MC'ing, stage management and risk assessment is crucial to its success. As a result, it is one of the biggest youth events on the Central Coast. Throughout the festival, more experienced bands mentor younger bands - from loaning equipment to sharing ideas - ensuring both the success of the festival and the creation of community between young people.

As a result of these key elements, the number of attendees has increased, with young people acquiring new skills and creating a platform to showcase talent, increasing the confidence in young people's existing skills as an artist, performer and in event management. There is a very positive engagement of the whole community, highlighting the positive contribution young people make to the community and creating an opportunity for social interaction for parents and friends to support young people at the event. Young people and families are also supported by the youth service network and organisations with numerous interactive stalls.

The event is sustainable because of the passion of the young people, and the organising committee of volunteers, with the event being appreciated by both young people and the wider community. Throughout the year there is ongoing community engagement, with the community completely supporting the event. The festival is run and delivered by volunteers, with an overall coordinator and the support of Youth Workers who give experience to event management students at University and TAFE. There is also sustainable funding, although the organisers have to apply for it each year. The GOATS Festival includes the whole community, and creates a space for young people to develop their talents and show a positive outlook to the community of what young people can achieve.

The focus on celebrating the musical, cultural and artistic strengths of young people is enhanced by the cooperation, direction and support by community members. The process crosses all generational boundaries and backgrounds and is a culmination of hundreds of individuals and groups coming together to show what a community is capable of when inspired by common goals.

The GOATS Festival gives opportunities to young people, including:

- Space to develop their talents;
- The opportunity to increase the skills of young people and the community;
- Building upon the relationships within the community;
- Real event management experience for young people interested in pursuing this as a career;
- Providing local bands and artists exposure and performance opportunities and experience;
- A great social event for young people; and
- Information about the various services available to them on the Central Coast.



SHOWCASE: Student2Student Program (Smith Family)

This program involves high school students partnering with primary school students who read to them over the phone for 20 minutes 2-3 times a week, two terms per year. It works by matching students who need to improve their reading with peer mentors, who are specially trained to help develop literacy skills in others. Through this program, young people feel proud of the difference they are making to younger children by improving their reading ability. Young people participating in the program receive and develop leadership skills.

SHOWCASE: The Leadership Success Program (Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College – Berkeley Vale Campus)

The program was developed four years ago and is aimed at developing leadership skills in year 9-10 students. It involves two terms of training, where participants are involved with organising SRC events, school sporting tournaments, drug awareness, AFL clinics, etc inside and outside of school hours. They congratulate and reward the efforts of other students.

This program increases the confidence of the young people involved and encourages young people to continue at the school (because of the program). It has resulted in young people helping others as volunteers.

SHOWCASE: Max Potential Program

Max Potential is a 22-week personal leadership development program for young adults promoted through the Club industry. Through the program, students are encouraged and mentored to build their leadership skills. Each student receives 8 one-on-one sessions with a mentor, where the student explores their ability to achieve their description of success. They also have the opportunity to design and implement their own community service project. These projects range in scope from addressing the homelessness on the Central Coast, to restoring a playground for children in their area, setting up a drama production for their nursing home, providing a homework club for junior students, anti-smoking campaign and protecting the local marine environment.

The community service project selected is determined by what the young person feels passionate about in their community. The students increase their confidence, increase their leadership capacity, and are self-driven and motivated to make positive changes in and for their community.



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SHOWCASE: Fairhaven Services

Fairhaven Services ensures there are opportunities on the Central Coast for people with intellectual disabilities to contribute to their community by providing employment training, in conjunction with accommodation and care. Part of the employment training is dedicated to young people in years 10 to 12, providing them with local employment for one day per week, and exposing them to relevant training and a real work environment. As a result of this service, young people increase their self respect, and instil a sense of control while obtaining skills for life. An important aspect of this training is transport training, where young people learn how to independently travel from home to their workplace.

SHOWCASE: Young Parents Group (Burnside)

The young parents group provides a safe place for young people to learn parenting skills, which they can then take back to their community. It provides a space where young parents can be mentored, and be accepted. It helps to increase the confidence of young parents, and decrease the stigma associated with being a young parent. Young people build their confidence and self esteem by determining the activities for the group, while also being supported while they build relationships between parents, children, grandparents and volunteers.

SHOWCASE: Youth Health Clinics at Gravity Youth Centre

The Youth Health Clinic operates from the Gravity Youth Centre as a partnership between Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Service, Wyong Youth Services and the medical community. It is staffed by local GPs on a weekly roster during school terms. Young people aged 14-18 can access primary health care as a free service, with nurse follow-up 1 week after treatment. The clinic creates an ease of access for young people, especially disadvantaged youth (eg. homeless young people). Young people can drop in free of charge, confidentiality is ensured and the doctors are "youth friendly". The clinic allows GPs to connect young people with specialist services (eg. mental health) as required. Research shows that if an individual goes to the clinic 6+ times, they are more likely to go back to school, leading to improved educational outcomes.

SHOWCASE: Youth Access Protocol – Lake Haven Shopping Complex

The Youth Access Protocol was established in 2006/07 to address the increase of anti-social behaviour at Lake Haven Shopping Centre. It provides advice as to what the expected behaviour is of young people attending the shopping complex. Young people identified what was fair and reasonable in developing the set of expected behaviours. The broad level of consultation with community has been a successful part of this project. Outcomes include a decrease in the levels of anti-social behaviour within the first 12 months. This has since stabilised.

SHOWCASE: Career and Transition Program (Northlakes High School)

New career path launched (L Davies, *Express Advocate*, June 2009)

Northlakes High School launched its career and transition excellence award program in May 2009. The program recognises year 10-12 students who actively seek to increase their employability skills through taking part in a variety of vocational based activities.

SHOWCASE: Jopuka Productions

Stand out performers (L. Davies, *Express Advocate*, 14/10/2009, p62)

Jopuka Productions is a group of 17 performers aged between 10-19 years who use art, music and drama to express themselves. They are now looking to expand their group, encouraging more young people to express themselves through artistic expression. The artistic director, Joshua Aspinall (16) has decided to write his own story and present it through theatre after he was involved in the youth leadership program 'Max Potential'.

SHOWCASE: Youth Connections Industry Link

Tune in for cook-off fun (A. Buckland, *Express Advocate*, 9/9/2009, p31)

Youth Connections Industry Link, which works with young people on the Central Coast to help them reach their full potential, provided entertainment in the Central Coast Cook-off pavilion at Australian Springtime Flora Festival. The cook-off involved 10 Central Coast schools, helped by Youth Connections and chefs from 8 Central Coast restaurants. The event not only helps the students find their way around a kitchen in a pressure cooker environment, but it will also give hospitality students credit towards their HSC.

5.1.3 How do Young People hear about what is going on and what is the best way to for Young People to get information?

Young people hear about what is going on through a variety of media including:

- Internet – Facebook, Myspace, pop-ups, bebo, twitter.
- Text messaging.
- Local radio stations, the most popular being SeaFM, StarFM, and 2GO.
- Word of mouth from family and friends.
- Central Coast Express Advocate.
- School.
- TV.
- Noticeboards, posters, pamphlets.
- Advertising on buses and at the movies.
- Youth Centres.

Young people offered a number of suggestions for the best way to contact them. Their ideas included:

- Local radio stations.
- Face to face conversations.
- Personal letters *"I would like to get real postal mail"*.
- Come and talk at the school assemblies - *"we don't read the school newsletter"*.
- Noticeboards, flyers and posters at schools, youth centres and shopping centres (eg. in Supre, City Beach).
- Youth page in the local newspaper.
- Fun days and community events.
- T-shirts.
- Silicone wrist bands.

There was a mixed response to the effectiveness of the internet. The internet was great for social networking but not necessarily the only way for young people to get information.

5.2 The Future

5.2.1 Imagine the Shire in 10 years time. What would it look like?

Young people wanted the Shire to be *"hectic"*, meaning active and busy and having *"heaps of stuff to do"*. They wanted to see more shops; bigger and better skate parks with skate and scooter competitions and clinics; adventure activities such as Tree Tops; an indoor sports centre; more aquatic centres; activities on the lakes; exercise equipment at the beaches; more youth and community centres; connected youth services; and better places to hang. These facilities would be of high quality, well maintained and promoted. These places and activities would be easily accessible and connected via bicycle and shared pathways and a better public transport system (affordable via an all day youth ticket, more frequent and reliable).

"More community friendly places for everyone and more accessible transport to get from one side of the Shire to the other." (Lauren, Samaritans Foundation)

The Shire would also be vibrant, modern, colourful, revitalised and have a positive vibe with places and spaces for performance, music, dance and art and access to more cafes and restaurants. Young people would like to see regular community events, craft markets, concerts, festivals and parades including outdoor live music concerts and outdoor movies. Places would be enhanced with public art, live sites and lighting at night.

Local education and employment opportunities were also important. Young people would like to see pathways to education and employment opportunities with more vocational courses offered at school, bigger University and TAFE Colleges offering a greater range of courses and additional mentoring programs and work experience opportunities. There would be business growth and development and more local jobs that were well paid and offered career advancement.

"If we could have more local employment or link young people to local employment which is currently there but they don't know about - this would make such a big difference." (Steve, Wyong Shire Council)

"Young people could then grow up and stay here." (Young people from engagement sessions)

The natural environment and future sustainability of the Shire was really important to young people. Young people would like to see a Shire that had clean beaches and lakes, more bushland, trees, open spaces, natural areas and animal reserves. There is much greater environmental awareness.

"Young people have an in-depth understanding of the natural environment, the issues we are facing in the future and the role that communities can play." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"There's big concern and excitement about what the Shire can be doing environmentally and that was as diverse as animal care to composting to setting up community gardens to even keeping our local facilities clean and by clean we mean no litter, maintained, that kind of thing." (Rachel, Wyong Shire Council)



The Shire is not overdeveloped, its character has been retained - it is still a place to relax and has a laid back feel. Young people are involved in planning.

"Young people were so invested in their future and they genuinely care for the environment and for what the Shire would look like in years to come, both for themselves as they grew older and for their children and future generations." (Julie, Wyong Shire Council)

"It is where we grow up and live - the look and feel of the Coast is important." (Talara, 20, Youth Facilitation Team member)

Young people would like to see a Shire where there is a real sense of community. People are welcomed, respected and there is an acceptance of different cultures. People take pride in the community, it is a friendly place where people are happy, safe and know their neighbours and have intergenerational relationships. Young people have increased connections and are connected to the community.

"Young people wanted to feel part of their community and have a sense of belonging." (Kerrie, Wyong Shire Council)

"What I would like to see: A community where young people are capable, they have a sense of identity, they fit into their community, they are able to easily access information and services. They are able to live the life they want to live and make their dreams a reality. In the future, young people will be engaged and connected in a positive community. Young people are looking for that sense of community and belonging." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"What is important to young people are the opportunities and avenues to go down to make things happen - the opportunity to be part of things." (Allan, Youth Connections)

"Young people were so willing to build relationships with older members of the community - they didn't want to be seen or treated any differently." (Sue, Gorokan High School)

Housing is affordable and it is easy to find rental and student accommodation. Better health services are also available.

"Young people are not much different to adults, we all want the same thing." (Nathan, 18, Youth Facilitation Team member)

5.2.2 What would you like the Wyong community to be known for?

Following from above, young people would like the Wyong community to be known for:

-
- *"The place to be - it has it all."*
- *"Always something to do."*
- Constant fun and activity.
- A great place for kids and families.
- Being active - both in sport and community life.
- Arts, culture and performance.
- Cafes and restaurants.
- Connected, caring, trusting, friendly and safe.
- Being youth friendly.
- It's coastal and easy going lifestyle.
- Clean and healthy environment.
- Ecofriendly and environmentally sustainable.
- Surfing and its beaches and lakes.
- Being a great holiday destination.
- *"More than just The Entrance."*
-



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- Having a great University.
- Jobs opportunities and infrastructure.
- "A place that gives young people a go."
- Innovation.
- Sustainable transport options.
- "Not being Sydney."
- A healthy and desirable place to live, work and play.

5.2.3 What do you see as young people's place in Wyong Shire in the next 10 years?

When asked this question, some young people saw themselves still living in the Shire and either working or studying or raising a family. Some said that they would be contributing to the community in some way. Many other young people indicated that they would be off travelling or would have moved away from the area. They did not see a future for themselves in the Shire.

"I'll be living somewhere else." (Many young people from engagement sessions)

Representatives from services and businesses provided a number of differing responses. They saw young people as being connected as partners, connected with opportunities for local education and employment, informed and knowledgeable about resources in the community and having a reason to stay or a reason to come back.

"All young people are going to want to go out and explore the world but if they feel that they have a place that has meaning to them there is a great chance that they will come back or even reminisce about what a great youth they had in Wyong." (Margrete, Wyong Shire Council)

They saw young people as being valued members of society, contributing and participating in the community, taking responsibility, making decisions, involved in planning and development and being proud of their community.

"It is important that young people are empowered today so that they can lead tomorrow as well as right now." (Sarah, 19, Youth Facilitation Team member)

Young people would be safe and supported in families and other networks. They would be living in safe and affordable accommodation.

"Young people are our future and I think that Council and the community as a whole really needs to be focussing on more opportunities to empower young people and to really recognise them as an asset in the community, to value that asset and build that asset." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team member)

5.3 The Road Ahead

5.3.1 What could Young People do now to make a difference?

Young people recognised that they should "get involved" and "make connections" if they wanted to make a difference. They could also "show respect", "talk to people", "be a good neighbour", "co-operate and work together", "volunteer", "promote the good things", "seek sponsorship" and "raise awareness". We need "more community spirit" and "skills, training and resources for people who want to make a difference".

"Young people could become more involved in the community or what they are passionate about." (Nathan, 18, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"Young people could make a difference if they have a true voice and they actually have courage to stand up and say what they think." (Margrete, Wyong Shire Council)

"To make a difference now I think young people should be joining as much as they can and getting involved in as much as they can. It is a lot easier to get involved in things at this age rather than later on and opportunities are literally handed to you at this age whereas you have to search for them when you get a bit older." (Lyndsey, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"If young people believe in themselves that would make a real difference. They have a lot of ideas but do not know where to go to enact these ideas or who to talk to. We could help young people put these in motion." (Steve, Wyong Shire Council)

"Don't let go of their dreams. Believe in that and don't take no for an answer. If you get a shut door, try another avenue. There's just so many ways of participating in community that I think it's about taking a chance on yourself as well and have a go. Whether you are doing that as an individual or a group of friends, or you're a youth worker or a teacher or Council or whoever, take a chance, you've got nothing to lose." (Rachel, Wyong Shire Council)

"Young people need to come on board and put their ideas into practice and work with us to make this happen. They need to get out there and get active because we cannot do this alone. I have no doubt that the youth of today can make a difference." (Julie, Wyong Shire Council)

"Put their hand up and volunteer to be part of things happening in the community." (Sue, Gorokan High School)

"Connect more with their community and just get involved in some of the things that Council is offering and the youth centres and make a difference that way." (Talara, 20, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"Having a positive attitude about what a great place we live in, what a great Shire it is so that it promotes that to other young people in the area." (Sue, Gorokan High School)



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5.3.2 What could we do to improve the future for Wyong and young people and make a real difference?

Many ideas were expressed by young people, service providers and businesses in relation to what we could do to improve the future for young people in Wyong Shire.

These were able to be grouped according to the following six key priority areas:

- Strengthening and connecting our young people.
- Valuing young people.
- Involving young people.
- Learning and working.
- Young people and places and spaces.
- Working together.

5.4 Key Priority Areas

5.4.1 Strengthening and Connecting our Young People

There are many facilities, services and programs in Wyong Shire that are valued by young people. However, it became evident during the consultations, that many young people did not know what opportunities were available in the Shire or beyond - what was on, what they could do or even how they could get there. Information needs to be relevant, accessible and youth friendly to enable young people to be able to be active participants in the community. We also need to recognise that young people are a diverse group and information needs to be presented via a range of mediums. As highlighted in the section above, young people offered a number of suggestions for the best way to get information.



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"The biggest difference we could make is to link young people to what is already out there and what is existing - so many young people that we spoke to did not know what was out there." (Steve, Wyong Shire Council)

"To improve the future for Wyong and young people I would probably help young people with what opportunities are out there and let them know what's going on. To spread those sorts of things is important and there are a lot of opportunities that kids aren't aware of and there are a lot of things out there - it's whether they know or not." (Lyndsey, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"A lot of school students did not have a connection to the wider community whereas young people who attended youth centres were more engaged. That's something that we need to work on." (Talara, 20, Youth Facilitation Team member)

One of the best ways to improve the well being of young people and their resilience is to promote a sense of attachment to the community. Young people prosper when they have a strong connection to their community and when they have strong relationships with family and friends.

It is important to enhance or strengthen the connections between young people and their community, including intergenerational relationships. By increasing access to support networks and community resources young people can develop a sense of belonging and increase the contributions they can make to the community.

"The feeling of belonging is important to young people." (Kerrie, Wyong Shire Council)

It is also important to foster a supportive environment for young people. Encouraging and enabling young people to be involved with family, and the community, has many positive benefits.

"A sense of belonging and a sense of community and some more opportunities would help young people feel that their future was more viable in the Shire." (Lauren, Samaritans Foundation)

"Leadership, mentoring and creating opportunities for young people through intergenerational relationships with other people is important." (Margrete, Wyong Shire Council)

"This is not just about older generations sharing their knowledge with young people – it's a two way process. Young people have so much to share with business and older generations." (Rachel, Wyong Shire Council)

"We need to tap into the fact that young people aren't really anti community and anti family as much as we think they are – kids are hungry for it. To me what's really important is community and it's the only thing that you can pass on to the next generation – we need to instil the sense and importance of community." (Allan, Youth Connections)

Public transport was consistently raised by young people in terms cost, time taken and infrequency of services. The lack of a good public transport service in the Shire impacts on the ability of young people to access, facilities and services, recreation, leisure, employment and education.

Ideas and resources are being sought that will have outcomes including:

- Increasing young people and community member's knowledge and access to existing local activities, opportunities and services via information and communication that is youth friendly and appropriate;
- Facilitating access to community, recreational, educational, cultural and natural resources;
- Improving young people's access to each other as well as intergenerational and social opportunities that promote relationships, getting to know your neighbours and being part of a trusted and caring community;
- Fostering and encouraging community pride, respect and a personal sense of belonging and purpose; and
- Young people are connected to support networks and are supported in families.

Refer to Key Initiatives 1, 2 and 3.

5.4.2 Valuing Young People

Everyday young people are involved in making a difference in the lives of their families, friends, schools and/or communities in some way. This contribution by young people is something to value but often it is unrecognised. Recognising, celebrating and promoting the efforts and achievements of young people would make a real difference to the way they are seen in the community.



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"When young people feel valued and are seen as important then they will be valued and important and it will create a future where young people feel like they can achieve." (Sarah, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)

Promoting a positive profile of young people will also assist to increase youth participation. There was a strong feeling by young people that local media portrayal of young people was unbalanced, focusing on youth issues and problems. Positive stories were mainly related to achievements of individuals in terms of academic, sporting or cultural achievements rather than being representative of the broader positive youth culture and the majority of youth in the Shire.

There was a strong desire and willingness by young people work together to challenge these negative perceptions and stereotypes and create a positive change in the community.

"To improve the future I believe we need to have a positive image of young people and to encourage them. The media has a role to play in this and could step up and really encourage and empower people in the community to see young people as a positive." (Sarah, 19, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"It will be important to reframe perceptions in the wider community and for people to see young people as assets, as solutions and leaders of today." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"Don't underestimate the power of a dream, don't underestimate the power of a group of enthusiastic young people, they bring so much skill and untapped leadership skills and qualities and these are often hidden behind the long hair, a hat or a hood." (Rachel, Wyong Shire Council)

Ideas and resources are being sought that will have outcomes including:

- Recognising and/or valuing the diverse achievements of young people;
- Promoting achievements through youth friendly media; and
- Whole of community appreciating and accepting the individuality of young people

Refer to Key Initiative 4.

5.4.3 Involving Young People

The consultation process identified common trends in terms of establishing and fostering meaningful participation and involvement by young people in the community.

Young people have strong views about the way their community is developed and they want to participate in shaping the future of their community. They need to be provided with real opportunities to do this through formal planning, leadership and decision making processes and actions.



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"Provide opportunities for young people to have their say and input and give them some ownership over things that are happening in the community." (Sue, Gorokan High School)

"The most important thing we could do to make a positive difference is to focus on empowerment projects for young people. They have all the tools to make a difference but often lack the authority or self belief that they are actually allowed to do that, that they are able to do that." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"For young people to have a positive future I think it's important to have those opportunities again but to not push but encourage kids to join them and put their hands up for things." (Lyndsey, 17, Youth Facilitation Team member)

Meaningful youth participation involves recognising, supporting and nurturing the talents, skills and abilities of young people and providing real opportunities to be involved in processes, projects and programs and in decisions in areas that affect their lives. It also involves partnerships and genuine engagement between adults and young people - "a do with" not "do to" approach.

"I think if we empower young people, let them make decisions let them have a voice that would make a positive future for young people... create the programs, the events that they would like to see happen, make some decisions about employment, transport, performance rather than adults telling them what to do." (Steve, Wyong Shire Council)

"Young people's participation needs to be real. They need to have a genuine opportunity to participate as the individuals they are because they have a lot to offer." (Julie, Wyong Shire Council)

"Youth participation has to be genuine. Keep it real, keep it realistic and keep it relevant. It can't be tokenistic. It can't be tick a box." (Rachel, Wyong Shire Council)

Youth involvement requires support by way of resourcing, mentoring, advocacy and acknowledgement. It is about working with young people to develop their skills, knowledge, confidence and abilities to be actively involved in the community.

"We need to give young people more authority and representation. Every board, every management committee of any organisation whether a youth service provider, an education provider, an employment service provider, a business, a corporation should really look to having representation of young people - often we can lose the link between the service provided and the people that are consuming that service. Young people have an amazing ability for creativity and insight." (Jordan, 24, Youth Facilitation Team member)

Ideas and resources are being sought that will have outcomes including:

- Increased opportunities to involve young people in shaping the look, feel, culture and environments of their community;
- Improved access to local, national and international leadership and learning opportunities;
- A youth led resource team that assists young people to initiate or participate in community projects in the way they want to do;
- Schools and their curriculums are connected with local community planning activities and opening avenues for community partnerships;
- Young people have opportunities for realistic youth participation and decision making in areas that affect their lives; and
- Adults are motivated and resourced to seek out, accept and value the involvement of young people.

Refer to Key Initiatives 5 and 6.

5.4.4 Learning and Working

Active engagement in education, employment and training is vital in helping young people to make a successful transition from education to the workforce. Research has shown that young people who complete Year 12 or an equivalent certificate are more likely to be employed and in turn have higher personal incomes. Positive learning experiences are also linked to good health and wellbeing among young people as well as active involvement in the community.



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There is a strong desire from both young people and the business community to retain young people, enhance local learning and employment pathways and support youth led enterprises. This requires enhanced collaboration between government, business, community and education providers.

"Job opportunities and employment is important keeping young people on the Coast." (Talara, 20, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"There needs to be an investment in the retention of young people. A lot of young people once they reach their 20s are leaving the Shire - we need to retain these young people through investing in education and employment and in community. If they do decide to travel then we actually have something for them to come back to." (Kerrie, Wyong Shire Council)

For some young people the education curriculum fails to engage them and there is a need to cater for diverse learning styles. It is acknowledged that many schools and organisations in the Shire are now providing a range of options through Vocational Education and Training. Cost was also identified as a barrier for some young people to continue their education. There was also a strong feeling that the range of courses and programs at Ourimbah Campus could be expanded to limit the number of people moving away to study.

"We need to keep our education up to date with the training and the jobs." (Rachel, Wyong Shire Council)

The business community indicated that they were keen to support young people. However, they often did not know how to access information in relation to employer incentive schemes, apprenticeships, traineeships and the like. Likewise young people are not fully aware of the opportunities available to them. It will be important to promote local vocational, training and employment opportunities.

"Businesses were keen to make connections with young people and involve them through mentoring and local business development." (Kerrie, Wyong Shire Council)

"Further there are employers who want to get young people on board but don't know how to go about it." (Steve, Wyong Shire Council)

It is also important for young people to be equipped with life skills and supported in their learning and working through access to affordable housing and transport.

"Cheaper transport would enable young people to see more of what's out there in relation to industry and the social side of things." (Allan, Youth Connections)

Ideas and resources are being sought that have outcomes including:

- Strong two-way relationship between business community and young people;
- School, Vocational Training and University curriculum connected to the creation of a strong local economy;
- Community networks and mentors for young people seeking local jobs and careers;
- Places where young people and business can come together to connect employment needs with young people's skills and interests;
- Development of creative industries connecting young people's passions such as music, sound and the arts to professional work experience, training and employment;
- Developing a self employment culture and related local training and youth friendly support networks;
- Holistic and flexible pathways and transitions from school to work and training in partnership with existing employment services and youth service providers;
- Young people are equipped with life skills;
- Access to affordable and secure housing that supports transition from home to independent living;
-

- Access to affordable and appropriately timetabled transport to and from learning and work opportunities; and
- Pathways and learning environments that respect the diversity of young people, their needs, aspirations, family and community commitments.

Refer to Key Initiatives 7 and 8.

5.4.5 Young People and Places and Spaces

Young people value and make use of many community, cultural and recreation places and spaces in the community. Young people reported loving the natural assets, the beaches and lakes, bushland, parks and open spaces as well as recreation, youth and community facilities and shopping centres.

These spaces are used for formal and informal activities – for young people to come together for a range of purposes.



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Young people want to activate existing spaces so they are more inviting, vibrant, accessible, safe and respectful. They could also provide opportunities to showcase the interests, skills and talents of young people in culture, music and the arts. They also wanted these spaces to promote social interaction and participation for all age groups, not just youth specific spaces.

“Shared spaces where everyone feels welcome.” (Sarah, 19, Youth Facilitation Team member)

Sport, recreation and leisure were a stand out topic in discussions with young people about what they liked to do. These ranged from structured team sports to unstructured activities - skating, surfing and hanging out with friends are popular activities.

Young people expressed a desire for more facilities such as skate parks, an indoor sports centre, aquatic centres, exercise equipment at beaches, water-based activities on the lakes, bicycle and shared pathways, waterslides and a theme park. Having regular or annual programs of activities and events at these facilities to promote exercise, skill development and social interaction is considered important eg. skate, surfing and body boarding competitions.

Participating in sporting, recreational and cultural activities has a number of health and wellbeing benefits for young people. Research has identified a wide range of sport-induced health benefits including improving cardiovascular health, assisting in the development of strength and balance and maintaining a healthy weight (ABS 2006, 5). Higher levels of self-esteem, goal setting ability, focus and the development of social, physical and intellectual skills that are useful in a wide variety of settings are also recognised benefits of sports participation.

Sporting, recreational and cultural activities provide opportunities and settings for social interaction and the sharing of common interests, creating a sense of community and contributing to community wellbeing. Participation in these activities also provides opportunities for young people to do things with their families and connect with other members of the community.

Young people expressed an interest in a range of artistic and cultural activities including performance, dance, music, drawing, writing and painting. They would like to see a Cultural Centre developed in Shire as well as outdoor performance spaces.

Young people were particularly interested in local events, festivals, concerts, live bands, markets, fetes etc and would like to see more of these things happening in the Shire. These could provide an opportunity for young people to showcase their skills and talents and well as providing leadership and event management opportunities, eg. organising and staging their own music events. Support and promotion would be required to assist these types of youth initiated activities.

Young people would like to be involved in the planning, design and construction of new infrastructure and there is a need for improved engagement processes.

"Young people wanted more events, more activities going on that they could engage with that offered diversity of expression, eg. music festivals, arts festivals, sporting festivals that give them an opportunity to showcase what skills they have." (Margrete, Wyong Shire Council)

Young people love to hang out in shopping centres, particularly Westfield Tuggerah. These places were accessible and attractive for young people to meet. Opportunities exist to enhance the positive relationships and partnerships between shopping centres and young people by providing youth friendly space, activities and events in the centres.

Young people really care about the natural environment and showed a willingness and desire to be involved in a range of sustainable community environment projects.

"Promote the activities of the outdoors, then everyone can be involved whether they want to be totally avid about it or whether they just want to see it and enjoy it." (Allan, Youth Connections)

Ideas and resources are being sought that have outcomes including:

- Spaces and places are alive, support interaction and mixing of ages, cultures and lifestyles and social, recreational and cultural activities;
- Wyong Shire - "known as the place to be", "it has it all", "its on the map";
- Facilitating access to a range of social, recreation and cultural facilities, activities and programs for young people;
- Young people maintain a healthy and active lifestyle;
- Young people are environmentally aware and are engaged in a range of sustainable environmental community projects;
- Young people are involved in the planning, development and construction of places and spaces.

Refer to Key Initiatives 9 and 10.

5.4.6 Working Together to Make It Happen

It is important to bring together the resources of government and the community to meet the hopes, dreams and goals of young people in the Shire. It will be critical to build on the partnerships and goodwill that currently exists within the community and with businesses and service providers to work together. There is a real need to improve the co-ordination of existing resources, programs and services. The Youth Engagement Strategy provides strategic direction for this to happen.



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"There is a lot of goodwill amongst Council, service providers, the business community and young people to work collaboratively. We have an important facilitation and support role to play in enabling those opportunities to happen and in letting young people know that we are here to assist and to work with them." (Kerrie, Wyong Shire Council)

"I would like to see the Youth Strategy taken up in the community via partnerships and via continued opportunities for young people to participate." (Kerrie, Wyong Shire Council)

"There are significant benefits in engaging and working with young people and the community and Council are merely one partner in the process." (Julie, Wyong Shire Council)

The Youth Strategy is based on an underlying principle of youth participation. The development of the Strategy is a great example of empowerment, purposeful engagement and inclusiveness of young people. Implementation of the Youth Engagement Strategy via the Youth Prospectus continues to embrace this youth engagement and partnership approach.

Ideas and resources are being sought to achieve outcomes including:

- Enhanced partnerships and collaborative approaches; and
- Establish a locally owned resource base for the Youth Prospectus.

Refer to Key Initiatives 12 and 13.

The **Youth Prospectus** summarises the key initiatives and actions for each of these six priority areas and invites businesses, community members, government and non-government agencies to come on board as a partner to bring the Youth Engagement Strategy alive. Young people will be directly involved as a key partner in the delivery of the identified initiatives and actions.

"Continue to work with young people." (Nathan, 18, Youth Facilitation Team member)

"We need to connect with young people and we need to listen and we need to learn together because they have a lot to offer and they're willing to learn but we need to do it in partnership." (Julie, Wyong Shire Council)

The following tables detail a set of key initiatives and potential ideas and examples of projects (as a starting point) that can achieve the outcomes for the priority areas. Other ideas and actions are welcome.

The **Toolkits** have been developed as practical guides with tips for young people on how to get involved in making positive stuff happen in the community and tips for community groups and businesses on how to engage with young people and how to support young people's aspirations.

"Young people often feel that they are inept or lack the confidence to do something with their suggestions. This is what is good about the Youth Strategy because it is a partnership – so we can work with young people to give them the skills to feel more confident." (Sue, Gorokan High School)

"A lot of people were really supportive of young people and wanted to be involved with young people but didn't know how to communicate with them or make the connections. We could facilitate opportunities to build up these connections." (Sue, Gorokan High School)

"We are here to help, show support and leadership." (Talara, 20, Youth Facilitation Team member)

Priority Area: Strengthening and Connecting Our Young People

Examples of projects that can achieve these key initiatives:	
<p>1 Strengthen young people's access to community activities, resources and support networks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a youth friendly communication and information campaign that promotes services and upcoming events through school, media, public spaces and community events. Support/resource/manage a co-ordinated single youth "networked" website for the Shire that is continually updated and linked to appropriate social networking mediums (eg. facebook, myspace, twitter and text messaging). Develop and manage a youth info and events calendars, eg. pocket calendar, website, poster, sms, bluetooth etc. Weekly positive youth news, stories, initiatives and what's on in the local newspaper, TV and radio promoting youth stuff and what's on. Positive promotion of what you can do at facilities and public spaces (not what you can't do). Youth specific events and community events that are youth friendly, eg. music festivals, bus explorer trip, 'Wyong amazing race challenge'. Establish a Youth Ticket for public transport.
<p>2 Promote programs and activities that strengthen relationships between young people and their communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage new and existing cultural and other community events that promote participation by young people and their families, eg. Gathering of the Clans, GOATS, Warnervale Fair, etc. Implement programs and activities that build a sense of community, link and connect groups. Young people have a key role in Council's Welcoming New resident's initiatives, including the Welcome Bus - Facilitate and promote volunteer opportunities for young people. Promote intergenerational opportunities, eg. Story Share, links to existing Men's sheds, Knittwits@Tuggerah Library, Living Library etc. Promote positive images of families and healthy relationships to instill the importance of family values and behaviours, eg. care, respect, love, trust.
<p>3 Create opportunities for youth based initiatives that promote a sense of pride, community and belonging in community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young people promote what they love about living in Wyong through website, photo galleries, out + about guides, idea sessions. Develop a Youth Participation Grant where small grants are provided to individuals for projects and initiatives that promote and develop community pride and enhance the skills and development of young people. Implement or resource strategies to enhance neighbourhood connections and a sense of belonging, eg. street parties, neighbourhood events, community gardens, etc.

Priority Area: Valuing Young People

Key Initiatives:

4 Recognise, celebrate and promote the efforts and achievements of young people.

Examples of projects that can achieve these key initiatives:

- Develop a Youth Recognition Program to reward actions and achievements of young people.
- Utilise existing programs and events such as National Youth day, Lions Youth of the Year, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Youth Week, Australia Day etc to recognise the significant contribution of young people.
- Optimise opportunities for Youth ambassadors to play an active role in community activities and events.
- Use Council email address Youth.Stuff@wyong.nsw.gov.au as a venue for the community to share achievements and positive youth stories.
- Promote and showcase the positive contributions that young people are making in the community through youth friendly media, schools, youth and community centres, static and interactive displays in shopping centres and public spaces.
- Develop a MOU with local media on balanced reporting of youth stories and avenues for young people to have their say.
- Work in partnership to run events and activities that showcase the skills, talents and abilities of young people, eg. Youth Week.

Priority Area: Involving Young People

Key Initiatives: Examples of projects that can achieve these key initiatives:	
<p>5 Provide opportunities for leadership and decision making activities for young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and promote a W-young Action Team (WAT) to replace Wyong Shire Youth Advisory Council. • Provide real opportunities for youth participation and leadership on appropriate Council and community projects, programs, boards and committees. • Support and motivate community and business groups to develop their capacity to involve young people on boards and committees. • Review and connect local youth leadership programs to develop a shire-model of best practice in partnership with existing programs. • Establish an exchange program and scholarship fund to support young people to participate in leadership opportunities, eg. Schoolies alternatives. • Identify and promote opportunities (local, national and international) for young people to engage in leadership initiatives.
<p>6 Resource and support active participation of young people in community projects, activities and initiatives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate and provide assistance to young people to organise and run their own music and cultural events (eg. live sites, outdoor cinemas, street performance), access resources and venues. • Develop a Youth Participation Grant to assist young people in developing and undertaking community projects, activities and initiatives. • Develop a training program on the Toolkits to assist community groups and businesses to effectively work with, empower and engage with young people. • Develop a Youth Friendly Accreditation Program for organisations, community groups, youth services, business and government to obtain youth friendly status. • Partner with education institutions to compliment/add value to the existing education curriculum to connect young people with local community issues and activities, eg. environmental programs such as Blue Planet.

Priority Area: Learning and Working

Examples of projects that can achieve these key initiatives:	
<p>7 Further develop and enhance learning and employment pathways for young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a collaborative model of youth mentor programs (eg. training, life skills) under a newly formed umbrella organisation (similar to Newcastle model). • Facilitate partnerships and linkages with government, business, community and education providers to seek avenues for programs which develop and improve the education and skill base of young people. • Establish a shared vision for education, employment and training pathways in conjunction with local employer's and young people's aspirations. • Promote the availability and benefits of apprenticeships and traineeships to young people. • Promote the benefits and business incentives available to local employers to support and employ young people. • Continue to offer pathways into Council employment for young people (including traineeships, apprenticeships and work experience placements). Encourage other employers to do the same. • Continue to expand and promote the WSC scholarship program to assist young people access tertiary education opportunities in the region. • Plan and advocate for improved public transport opportunities that meet the needs of young people accessing education and employment.
<p>8 Support and resource youth based ventures and enterprises that can lead to local employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with the North Wyong Shire Youth Arts Strategy to develop employment opportunities in arts, music and cultural/creative industries. • Establish and support a social enterprise providing pre-employment readiness training and real work experience for young people, eg. a youth café. • Establish and support a Wyong Youth Enterprise Service (YES) (based on Broken Hill model). • Develop a youth journalism cadetship program (linked to Key Initiative 1).

Priority Area: Young People and Places and Spaces

Examples of projects that can achieve these key initiatives:	
<p>9 Provide new and activate existing places and spaces (to be vibrant, safe, accessible, and promote social interaction and participation).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring spaces and places to life through feature lighting, outdoor cinemas, markets, street performance, dance, music and art. • Provide venues for young people to showcase arts, cultural and musical talents of young people. • Encourage and support community projects that provide opportunities for young people to develop their interests, skills and knowledge in culture and the arts. • Provide for a range of cultural, sport and recreation programs and activities for young people, eg. skate comps, surfing comps, youth week activities, bands, talent quests, art festivals and organised sport. • Enhance the role and relevance of libraries and community centres for young people through the provision of books, magazines, DVDs, internet access, play station games, holiday activities, etc. • Enhance positive relationships between shopping centres and young people by providing youth friendly spaces, activities and events in these centres.
<p>10 Promote opportunities for healthy and active lifestyles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement strategies identified in Wyong Recreation Facilities Strategy and On-road Bicycle and Shared Pathway Strategy to support and promote programs for active lifestyles and provide upgraded and new facilities, eg. a major youth and skate facility in south and north of the Shire, an indoor sports facility, improved facilities at beaches, lake foreshores and parks. • Continue to develop environmental education programs and activities that involve young people, eg. Blue Planet website, Sustainability Street, environmental tours, tree planting days, etc. • Work in partnership with local environmental groups to support and enhance programs and promote opportunities for young people to actively participate in community based environmental initiatives.
<p>11 Involve young people in the planning, design and construction of places and spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that appropriate participation/consultation strategies are implemented to attract a broad range of young people's input into the planning, design and implementation of places and spaces, eg. skate parks, playgrounds, community centres. • Provide opportunities for young people to be involved in planning and construction of new infrastructure and incorporate training and employment where this can be offered, eg. Gravity Youth Park.

Priority Area: Working Together

Examples of projects that can achieve these key initiatives:	
<p>12 Enhance opportunities to work with and for young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop/support a collaborative approach to co-ordinate youth planning, government planning and funding. • Co-ordinate project planning and program development and implementation amongst youth service providers. • Establish a Wyong Youth Foundation to assist fund the implementation of the Strategy. • Utilise existing Council networks and resources to engage and consult with young people. • Advocate with and for young people on relevant issues.
<p>13 Measure the impact and success of the Youth Strategy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain a comprehensive data set on youth statistics and quality of life indicators to enhance planning and advocacy. • Monitor the implementation of the Youth Strategy making sure what is being undertaken is real and relevant to young people and the community. • Promote the achievements of the Youth Engagement Strategy.

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Appendices

Appendix A Engagement Questions for Young People

Appendix B Engagement Questions for Business and Community Groups

Appendix C Who We Talked To – Engagement Sessions

Appendix D Who We Talked To – World Cafe

Appendix E Youth Services Map

Appendix F List of Youth Services



Appendix A: Engagement Questions for Young People

Youth Engagement Questions

Background

The Youth Engagement Strategy is a project which incorporates a 'for youth, by youth' concept, though involves the community as a whole.

It works towards increasing the status, respect, value and recognition of youth as part of a community, and also enables youth to have their say in relation to what they desire in their community.

The Youth Strategy enables youth to voice their opinions and to be heard, yet also encourages and provides young people with an opportunity to put their ideas into action.

1 The Current Picture

- What are you into?
- What keeps you into this? (eg. friends, free, fun?)
- What's working in the community for young people?
- Why is this a good thing?
- How do you hear about what's going on?
- What is the best way for you to get information ? (eg. text, email, facebook, etc.)

2 Vision

- Imagine the Shire in 10 years time. What would it look like?
- What would you like the Wyong community to be known for?
- What do you see as your place in Wyong Shire in the next 10 years?

3 The Road Ahead

- What do we need to do to get there? (To the vision). (List/share ideas and actions).
- Who could help?
- Prioritise the ideas which will make the biggest impact.
- Prioritise the ideas and actions you are willing to invest your time and energy into? (Write name next to idea).

4 Wrap Up

- Ideas sheet.
- Team contact information.
- Time line for project delivery.

Appendix B: Engagement Questions for Business and Community Groups

Business/Services Engagement Questions

Background

The Youth Engagement Strategy is a project which incorporates a 'for youth, by youth' concept, though involves the community as a whole.

It works towards increasing the status, respect, value and recognition of youth as part of a community, and also enables youth to have their say in relation to what they desire in their community.

The Youth Strategy enables youth to voice their opinions and to be heard, yet also encourages and provides young people with an opportunity to put their ideas into action.

1 The Current Picture

- What do you think young people are into?
- What keeps young people interested in this? (eg. friends, free, fun?)
- What's working in the community for young people?
- Why is this a good thing?
- How do you connect and interact with young people?
- How do young people connect and interact with you?
- Is this working?

2 Vision

- Imagine the Shire in 10 years time. What would it look like?
- What would you like the Wyong community to be known for?
- What do you see as young people's place in Wyong Shire in the next 10 years?

3 The Road Ahead

- What do we need to do to get there? (To the vision). (List/share ideas and actions).
- Who could help?
- Prioritise the ideas which you think will make the biggest impact for young people.
- Prioritise the ideas and actions you are willing to invest your time and energy into? (Write name next to idea).

4 Wrap Up

- Ideas sheet
- Team contact information
- Time line for project delivery.

Appendix C: Who We Talked To – Engagement Sessions

	Organisation	Date	Number of Participants
	Young People		
1	Samaritans - Refuge	02-Jun-2009	5
2	Workwise Links to learning - Males	02-Jun-2009	7
3	Workwise Links to learning - Females	03-Jun-2009	7
4	Samaritans Drop In - The Cottage	04-Jun-2009	6
5	Lake Haven Skate Park	05-Jun-2009	10
6	Workwise Arts/Drama Group	11-Jun-2009	9
7	Oasis - Drop In	11-Jun-2009	4
8	Samaritans Drop In - The Entrance Skate Park	12-Jun-2009	4
9	Toukley - Gorokan Baptist Church - Youth	12-Jun-2009	13
10	Wyong Youth Services	12-Jun-2009	13
11	Berkeley Vale High	16-Jun-2009	20
12	Mannering Park Primary	16-Jun-2009	30
13	Toukley - Gorokan Baptist Church - Older Youth	16-Jun-2009	12
14	LINKS Service - Gwandalan Community Centre	18-Jun-2009	15
15	LINKS Service - Blue Haven Community Centre	19-Jun-2009	12
16	Centre Care Gravity - Mum's group	23-Jun-2009	4
17	Gorokan High School - Session 1	24-Jun-2009	27
18	Gorokan High School - Session 2	24-Jun-2009	25
19	Gorokan High School - Session 3	24-Jun-2009	23
20	Gorokan High School - Session 4	24-Jun-2009	30
21	Gorokan High School - Session 5	24-Jun-2009	25
22	Gorokan High School - Session 6	24-Jun-2009	25
23	Gorokan High School - Session 7	24-Jun-2009	18
24	Tumbi High School	02-Jul-2009	7
25	The Entrance High School	02-Jul-2009	6
26	St Peter's College Year 7	02-Jul-2009	16
27	St Peter's College Year 8	02-Jul-2009	14
28	St Peter's College Year 9	02-Jul-2009	13
29	St Peter's College Year 10	02-Jul-2009	9

	Organisation	Date	Number of Participants
30	St Peter's College Year 11	02-Jul-2009	17
31	St Peter's College Year 12	02-Jul-2009	13
32	Pathways Youth Accommodation	06-Jul-2009	5
33	Budgewoi Buff Point Girl Guides	08-Jul-2009	3
34	Toukley Primary School Year 5-6	09-Jul-2009	29
35	Toukley Primary School Year 5-6	09-Jul-2009	26
36	Wadalba High School Year 9	09-Jul-2009	25
37	Wadalba High School Year 9	09-Jul-2009	25
38	Breakthru	19-Jul-2009	9
39	Lake Haven Library - Muse Group	22-Jul-2009	4
40	Ourimbah Campus	22-Jul-2009	50
41	Church Unlimited - Charmhaven	04-Aug-2009	15
42	Chain Valley Bay Drop In	04-Aug-2009	14
43	Westfield's Tuggerah - Thursday night	06-Aug-2009	250
44	Pathways Youth Accommodation	06-Jul-2009	5
	Business Community		
45	Wyong Chamber of Commerce	23-Jun-2009	3
46	Toukley Chamber of Commerce	30-Jun-2009	30
47	Westfield's Centre Management	08-Jul-2009	3
48	Wyong Chamber of Commerce	22-Jul-2009	3
49	LJ Hooker Wyong		2
	Service Providers		
50	Burnside Staff	25-Jun-2009	6
51	Bus ways	26-Jul-2009	2
52	TAFE Teachers and Directors	02-Jul-2009	10
	Community Organisations		
53	Ourimbah RSL	16-Jun-2009	12
54	Gwandalan Lions Club	29-Jun-2009	6
55	Wyong Shire Council Seniors Council	23-Jul-2009	8
56	World Café Workshop 1	29-Jul-2009	28
57	World Café Workshop 2	31-Jul-2009	28

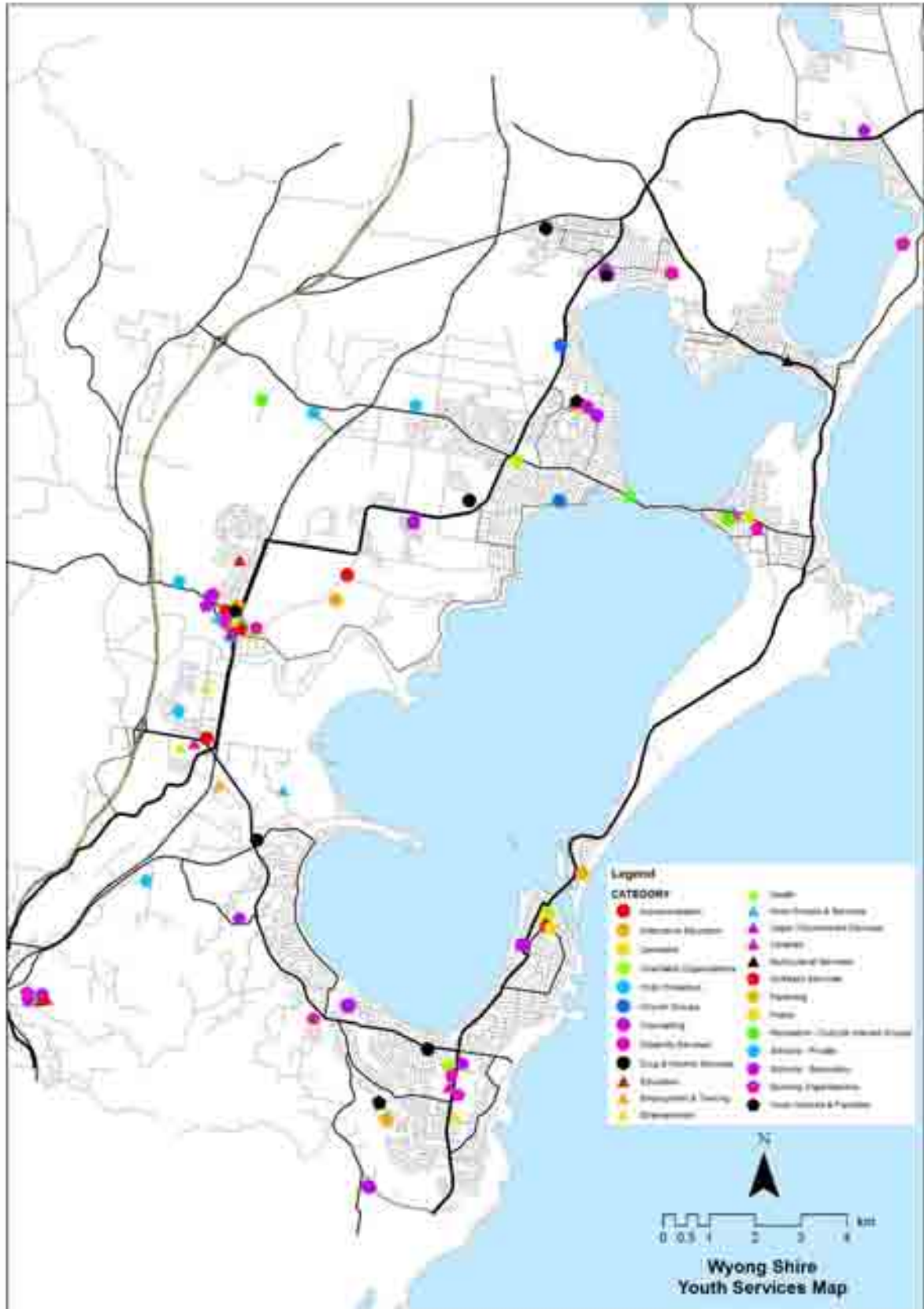
Appendix D: Who We Talked To – World Café

List of People who Attended – Name and Organisation

Name	Organisation
Wayne McKechnie	Male Youth SAPP Worker Bungree Aboriginal Association
Michelle Smith	Female Youth SAPP Worker Bungree Aboriginal Association
Tracey Young Co-Coordinator	Co-ordinator, Children's Court Assistance Scheme
Sandra Sturgess	Community Development Worker Central Coast Community Women's Health Centre – Northern Branch
Graham Lane	Manager, Central Coast Youth Health Services Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service (NSCCAHS)
Deborah Swan	Cultural and Heritage Officer Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council
Shana Calvert	Child Protection Worker Department of Community Services
Maryann Housham	Grandparents Co-ordinator Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal medical Centre
Vivian Cain	Aboriginal Family Health Worker Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Medical Centre
John Lenton	Project Co-ordinator ET Australia's Links to Learning
Grant Cawley	Factory Manager Fairhaven Services
Ian McDonald	Intake Job Centre Australia Wyong
Nikki Szabo	Trainer/Consultant Job Centre Australia and Feeniks
Matthew Nelson	Youth Worker Salvation Army Oasis Youth centre
Patricia Parperis	Seniors Advisory Council Wyong Shire Council
Louise Rennie	Wyong Shire Council
Bruce Pyke	Seniors Advisory Council Wyong Shire Council
Val Lambert Youth Coordinator	Youth Co-ordinator Wyong Youth Service
Mal Smith	Northern Regional Manager Youth Connections

Name	Organisation
Michelle Ellise	Aboriginal Youth Health Worker Youth Health NSCCAHS
Kate Keogh Outreach Worker	Outreach Worker Youth Health Services NSCCAHS
Fiona Duignan	Area Drug and Alcohol Service
Christine Burge	Break Thru
Paula Jarman	Benevolent Society
Miley Nixon	Bungaree
Angie Knighton	Centrecare Broken Bay
Dan Hadson	Centrelink
Lorna Dooner	Department of Housing
Adam Burke	Job Centre Australia
Warren Manners	Job Centre Australia
Ewen Williams	Juvenile Justice
Mike Cochrane	Manager Lake Haven Shopping Centre
Corrina Peck	Links Youth Service
Margot Castles	Community Connector Northern Lakes Family Centre
Matt Sawyer	NSW Sport and Recreation
Lynda Pitty	Smith Family
Carlie Reed	Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College
Taryn Hall	Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College
Lachlan James	Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College
Mitchell Ferrington	Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College
Madalyn Ward	Wyong Neighbourhood Centre
Kerrie Forrest	Youth Facilitation Team
Margrete Erling	Youth Facilitation Team
Sarah Elrick	Youth Facilitation Team
Lauren Fisher	Youth Facilitation Team
Talara Feeman	Youth Facilitation Team
Stephen Prince	Youth Facilitation Team
Rachel Steel	Youth Facilitation Team
Julie Vaughan	Youth Facilitation Team
Jordan Purcell	Youth Facilitation Team

Appendix E: Youth Services Map



Appendix F: List of Youth Service Network

Category	Service
Accommodation	Department of Housing Wyong Local Office
Accommodation	Katakudu Women's Housing Program
Accommodation	Pathways - Adolescent & Family Support Unit
Accommodation	Wesley Mission Central Coast
Accommodation	Elandra Women's & Children's Service
Centrelink	Lake Haven Centrelink
Centrelink	The Entrance Centrelink
Centrelink	Wyong Centrelink
Charitable Organisations	The "Food for Thought" Shop
Charitable Organisations	Samaritans
Charitable Organisations	St Vincent de Paul Society - The Entrance
Charitable Organisations	St Vincent de Paul Society - Wyong
Charitable Organisations	The Smith Family - Shop
Child Protection	Centacare
Child Protection	Department of Community Services - Wyong
Church Groups	Auslife Youth for Christ Inc – Central Coast Region
Church Groups	Baptist Church Toukley-Gorokan
Church Groups	Church Unlimited
Church Groups	Tuggerah lakes Christian Fellowship
Counselling	Adolescent and Family Counselling
Counselling	Central Coast Campus - Student Support Unit
Counselling	San Remo Neighbourhood Centre
Counselling	The Entrance Neighbourhood Centre
Counselling	Wyong Neighbourhood Centre
Counselling	Wyong TAFE - Counselling Unit
Counselling	Department of Education & Training - School Counselling Services - Tumby Umbi High School
Counselling	Department of Education & Training - School Counselling Services - Wadalba Community School
Counselling	St Vincent de Paul - Louise House
Disability Services	Camp Breakaway Inc
Disability Services	Hunter Institute of Technology Wyong Campus - Disabilities Service
Disability Services	Job Centre Australia
Drug & Alcohol Services	AI-Anon/Alateen Family Group
Drug & Alcohol Services	Needle Syringe Program - Long Jetty Hospital
Drug & Alcohol Services	Needle Syringe Program - Wyong Hospital
Drug & Alcohol Services	The Salvation Army - Selah
Education	Central Coast Campus - Ourimbah
Education	Central Coast Community College
Education	Learning for Life - The Smith Family - Gravity Youth Centre
Education	Learning for Life - The Smith Family - Wyong Public School
Education	TAFE - Wyong Campus
Employment & Training	Central Coast Group Training
Employment & Training	Hunter Institute of Technology - Wyong Campus

Employment & Training	The Salvation Army Employment Plus - Wyong
Employment & Training	Workwise - Helping Early leavers Program (HELP) - Gravity Youth Centre
Employment & Training	Workwise - Offices - Old Primary School - Wyong
Employment & Training	Workwise - Offices - Gravity Youth Centre
Entertainment	Bateau Bay Tenpin Bowl
Entertainment	The Entrance Cinema
Entertainment	Grater Union Tuggerah
Entertainment	Lake haven Recreation Centre & Health Club
Entertainment	Wyong Olympic Pool
Entertainment	Slam Factory Indoor Skate Park
Health	Community Health Centre - Toukley
Health	Northern Central Coast Women's Health Centre - Rose Cottage, Wyong
Health	Youth Health Service
Koori Groups & Services	Central Coast Health - Aboriginal Youth Health Worker
Koori Groups & Services	Darkinjung Land Council
Koori Groups & Services	Bungree Aboriginal Association
Koori Groups & Services	Department of Education, Employment & Workplace Relations
Koori Groups & Services	Eleanor Duncan Aboriginal Health Services
Koori Groups & Services	Gibalee Centre - Wollotuka School of Aboriginal Studies
Koori Groups & Services	The Glen Ngaimpe Aboriginal Corporation
Legal/Government Services	Central Coast Tenants' Advice & Advocacy Service
Legal/Government Services	Children's Court Assistance Scheme - Central Coast Community Legal Centre
Legal/Government Services	Chamber Magistrate - Wyong Courthouse
Legal/Government Services	Community Aid Panel - Wyong Police Station
Libraries	Bateau Bay Library
Libraries	Lake Haven Branch library & Council Service's Centre
Libraries	The Entrance Library & Council Service's Centre
Libraries	Toukley Library
Libraries	Tuggerah Library Information Centre
Multicultural Services	Australian German Friendship & Welfare Society Inc
Outreach Services	Samaritans Outreach Team (SORT)
Outreach Services	St Vincent de Paul - Call Centre
Parenting	Wyong Young Mum's Group
Police	Wyong Police Station
Police	The Entrance Police Station
Police	Toukley Police Station
Police	Youth Liaison Officer
Recreation/Cultural Interest Groups	OC Central Coast Wing - Australian Air League Boys
Recreation/Cultural Interest Groups	Toukley & Districts Art Society
Recreation/Cultural Interest Groups	Wyong Musical Theatre Company Inc
Schools - Secondary	Gorokan High School
Schools - Secondary	Lake Munmorah High School
Schools - Secondary	Northlakes High School
Schools - Secondary	TAFE - Central Coast Campus
Schools - Secondary	TAFE - Wyong Campus
Schools - Secondary	Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College - Berkley Vale Campus
Schools - Secondary	Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College - The Entrance Campus

Schools - Secondary	Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College - Tumby Umbi Campus
Schools - Secondary	Wyong High School
Schools - Secondary	Wadalba High School
Schools - Private	Central Coast Rudolph Steiner School
Schools - Private	Lakes Grammar - Anglican School
Schools - Private	McKillop Catholic School
Schools - Private	St Peters Catholic College
Schools - Private	Wyong Christian Community High School
Alternative Education	Glenvale - North Entrance
Alternative Education	Hopetown
Alternative Education	Oasis Alternative School Program
Alternative Education	Tuggerah Lakes Alternative learning Centre
Sporting Organisations	Bateau Bay PCYC
Sporting Organisations	Central Coast Women's Hockey Club
Sporting Organisations	Lake Haven Recreation Centre
Sporting Organisations	Mingara Recreation Club Ltd
Sporting Organisations	Netball Association Inc - Wyong District
Sporting Organisations	NSW Department of Sport & Recreation
Sporting Organisations	NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service - Munmorah State Recreation Area
Sporting Organisations	NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service - Wyrabalong National Park
Sporting Organisations	The Entrance Basketball Association Inc
Sporting Organisations	The Shed - Oasis Youth Centre
Sporting Organisations	Toukley Aquatic Centre
Youth Centres & Facilities	Links Youth Services
Youth Centres & Facilities	Oasis Youth Centre
Youth Centres & Facilities	Samaritans Youth Services - Central Coast
Youth Centres & Facilities	The Cottage
Youth Centres & Facilities	Wyong Youth Services



From the consultations young people identified the following six priority areas:

- Strengthening and Connecting Our Young People
- Valuing Young People
- Involving Young People
- Learning and Working
- Young People and Places and Spaces
- Working Together

As a starting point a set of key initiatives and suggested actions have been developed, to achieve the outcomes for each of these priority areas.

See inside for more details. New ideas and actions are also welcome!!



Interested and want to know more?

Contact Wyong Shire Council's Youth Engagement Officer on 0408 161 347 or send an email to Youth.Stuff@wyong.nsw.gov.au

View the other documents in the Youth Engagement Strategy www.wyong.nsw.gov.au

The **Background Report** shows the process we went through, and the key findings from talking to over 1,000 people about young people in our community.

There are two **Toolkits for Youth Participation and Engagement**. The Toolkits provide practical guides for young people on how to get involved in the community and tips for community groups and businesses on how to empower, engage with and support young people.



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Wyong Shire Youth Prospectus

Invest in our Young People

An opportunity to make a difference!



Part of the Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy



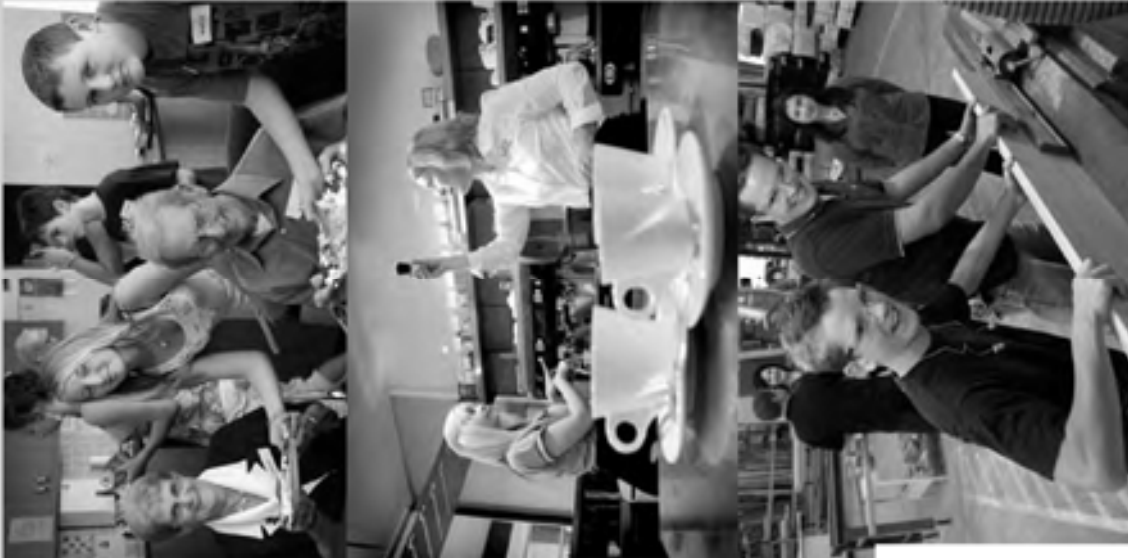
What is the Youth Partnership Program?

The Youth Partnership Program (YPP) is a new program developed to enable your local business, government agency or community group to partner and champion young people in ways that will make a real difference to the future of our community.

Developed by young people, the YPP is an innovative way to support young people to achieve their goals and aspirations, and to be active, valued members of the community.

An integral part of Wyong Shire Council's Youth Engagement Strategy, this exciting program provides practical opportunities for you to help support and connect young people to community, education and employment.

The YPP invites you to partner with us to bring the Wyong Shire Youth Engagement Strategy alive!



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How Can I Make a Difference?

We encourage you to make a difference by resourcing, supporting and partnering with us. You can:

- Become a project partner/champion.
- Provide financial sponsorship for specific actions or projects.
- Form a collaborative partnership and provide human resources.
- Undertake the delivery of specific actions as part of your current program with existing resources.

Benefits of the Youth Partnership Program include:

- The opportunity to engage and empower young people.
- The opportunity to be a partner in our cutting edge Youth Partnership Program.
- Promotion of your business, agency, group for its contribution and partnership.
- The opportunity to make a real difference to the lives of young people in Wyong Shire.

If you like one of the suggested actions in the Prospectus, have a different idea on how you would like to get involved or just want some more information, give us a call. Wyong Shire Council has appointed a Youth Engagement Officer to work with you to implement the Youth Partnership Program.

This is your opportunity to get involved in a project that you are passionate about!



How do we know what young people really want?

The Youth Partnership Program is based on what young people have told us is working in the community for them and what is important to them both now and in the future – and building on this, what would be happening in Wyong if we could do more.

During 2009, Wyong Shire Council undertook a new and innovative process to develop a Youth Strategy "by young people for young people". This approach has been recognised nationally as an excellent example of youth participation.

The team carried out an extensive and innovative engagement process with young people in their own environments. From skate parks, youth centres, refuges and schools, hundreds of young people were provided with opportunities to voice their opinions, have their say and be listened to the team also connected with businesses, community groups and agencies. Community input into the development was significant. Over 60 consultations, conversations and events took place involving more than 1,000 people!

Conversations identified:

- What young people value in their community
- The services, activities and facilities they use and enjoy
- The future they want for Wyong Shire
- Their ideas for improving what is already here
- And how to go about it

From the process hundreds of young people put their hand up to remain involved as a partner.



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Young people wanted the Shire to be "hectic, meaning active and busy and having "heaps of stuff to do". The Shire would be vibrant, modern, colourful and have a positive vibe with more opportunities for performance, dance, music, festival and events. There would be pathways to local education and employment. There would be a focus on the natural environment and greater environmental awareness with the existing character of the Shire retained.

Young people would like to see a Shire where there is a real sense of community – welcoming, respectful, caring, friendly, happy, safe – with young people having increased connections to the community. There would be better transport and health services and housing would be affordable.



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Priority Areas

1. Strengthening and connecting our young people

There is a strong desire by young people and community members in Wyong Shire to increase knowledge of and access to what already exists for young people in the community. Young people want to feel part of their community and have a sense of belonging. We are seeking ideas and resources that will produce outcomes like:

- Strengthening young people's access to community activities, resources and support networks.
- Providing activities that strengthen relationships between young people and their communities and activities that provide a sense of pride, community and belonging in community.

You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Weekly positive youth news and events on or in the local council, TV, radio and a youth arts and events calendar.
- Local project participation by young people, their families and enhance neighbourhood connections, intergenerational and with older opportunities.
- A Youth Ticket for public transport.
- A Youth Festival. Grant where small grants are provided for initiatives that provide community pride and enhance the role of young people.

2. Valuing young people

Young people in Wyong Shire are involved in making a difference in the lives of their families, friends, schools and/or community. While not all young people need to be recognised publicly, they do want, and need, to be valued as important members of the community.

We are seeking ideas and resources that will produce outcomes like:

- Recognising, valuing and celebrating the efforts and diverse achievements of young people and their families and communities through youth awards.

You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Youth Recognition Program.
- Youth ambassadors playing an active role in community action and events.
- Presenting the positive contributions that young people make to their communities through public displays, youth and community service and interactive displays in shopping centres and public spaces.
- Prizes and awards that showcase the skills, talents and abilities of young people (e.g. Youth Icons).

3. Involving young people

Young people have the opportunity to participate in shaping their community but are not provided with the opportunity. We are seeking ideas and resources that will produce outcomes like:

- Increasing opportunities to involve young people in shaping the look, feel, culture and environments of their community.
- Building opportunities for leadership and decision making opportunities for young people and their families.
- Encouraging and supporting the active participation of young people in community projects, activities and initiatives.

You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Youth leadership programs.
- Council and community projects, programs, events and committees.
- Exchange programs and exchange lead to support young people to gain valuable work experience (e.g. Schoolies alternatives).
- Involving young people to organise and run their own events and cultural events (e.g. live arts, outdoor games, and street performance), access resources and create activities and their contribution to local community events and activities.

4. Learning and working

Many young people leave school early or leave Wyong Shire in search of higher education and potential broader career options elsewhere. There is strong desire from both young people and our local business community to tap into local talent and expand their career pathways.

We are seeking ideas and resources that produce outcomes like:

- Developing and enhancing learning and employment pathways for young people.
- Sponsoring and endorsing youth based ventures and initiatives that can lead to local employment.
- Connecting employment needs with young people's skills and interests, and
- Encouraging young people with the skills.

You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Developing and promoting pathways into local employment for young people through work experience programs, internships and apprenticeships.
- Providing the tools to all young people available to local employers to employ young people.
- Providing public information and publicising opportunities that meet the needs of young people seeking education and employment.
- A social enterprise providing training and real work experience for young people (e.g. a youth cafe).

5. Young people and places and spaces

Young people value and make use of the many community, cultural and recreation places and spaces in their community. They want to activate existing spaces into vibrant, welcoming, safe, colourful and respectful spaces that support the education and living of all age groups. Young people also want to see actions that our environment and built-up environment.

We are seeking ideas and resources that produce outcomes like:

- Designing and activating existing places and spaces such as schools, clubs, accessible, and public social spaces and participation in healthy and active lifestyles.
- Bringing young people in the planning, design and construction of places and spaces and
- Involving young people in a range of sustainable environmental community projects.

You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Designing spaces and places built through better lighting, landscaping, murals, murals, street performance, events, music and art.
- Ventures to showcase arts, cultural and musical talents of young people.
- Cultural, recreation and leisure programs, e.g. skate parks, tennis, basketball, art projects.
- Designing and activating existing places and spaces through projects by providing youth friendly spaces and shopping centres by providing youth friendly spaces and activities.
- Environmental education programs and activities that build young people's.

6. Working together to make it happen

It is important to bring together the resources of government and community to meet the needs, dreams and goals of young people. We need to build on the partnerships and projects that already exist within the community and improve the coordination of existing resources, programs and services.

We are seeking ideas and resources to produce outcomes like:

- Identifying opportunities to work with and for young people.
- Establishing partnerships and collaborative opportunities.
- Establishing a youth council resource base for the Youth Protection and
- Measuring the impact and success of the Youth Engagement Strategy.

You could help sponsor, create or be involved in:

- Working collaboratively to coordinate youth planning, government planning and funding.
- Co-ordinating project planning, program development and implementation through youth ambassadors.
- A Youth Council for young people to assist with the implementation of the Strategy.
- Comprehensive data sets of youth outcomes and quality of the indicators to enhance planning and delivery.
- Promoting the achievements of the Youth Engagement Strategy.