

# COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Eurobodalla  
2042



**EUR**OBODALLA

Eurobodalla recognises Aboriginal people as the original inhabitants and custodians of all land and water in the Eurobodalla and respects their enduring cultural and spiritual connection to it.



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# WELCOME

**We are delighted to share our community's vision for the next 20 years. This Plan presents an inspiring roadmap for Our Eurobodalla to 2042 that captures a clear vision and compelling goals for our residents, businesses, community organisations and many partners and collaborators. It is the key strategic plan that will guide us as we work together to achieve great things for Eurobodalla and its people over the next 20 years.**

Since the first Community Strategic Plan (Plan) was developed in 2011 it has been used by Council to inform decisions and set the agenda for long-term planning of projects, infrastructure and services. Eurobodalla Shire Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining this Plan. Its implementation draws on the continuing partnerships with all levels of government and agencies, non-government organisations, businesses and the community.

With the election of a new council in December 2021, NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting legislation requires that this Plan be reviewed and updated to ensure it reflects the community's priorities.

This updated plan builds on the 2017 Community Strategic Plan, and takes on board the information gathered from consultation activities that took place in 2021. A Community Wellbeing Survey was conducted along with an online engagement tool - Our Eurobodalla, comprising of virtual vision boards, surveys and workshops in a box; in addition to community consultation activities undertaken for other projects.

This Plan emphasises the importance of fostering a thriving economy while protecting and enhancing our natural environment.

It articulates the central role that sustainability, resilience and collaboration will play in strengthening our identity as an inclusive community that is enjoyable for people of all ages and abilities. It also responds to calls for increased connectivity and accessibility – for improving how we get around our region and gain access to quality services, vibrant and inclusive places and spaces that contribute to our connectedness and sense of wellbeing.

Delivering this vision is not something we can achieve in isolation. Shared decision making and effective working partnerships with government agencies, non-government organisations, business and, of course, our community will be critical to our success.

The unique nature of this Plan is that it is a document for the whole community. If we are to succeed in creating the community we have envisioned with this Plan, we need to work together, and everyone is encouraged to play an active role in whatever way we can. This Plan is designed to encourage commitment to our future and a sense of common purpose and responsibility.

This is the Plan for Our Eurobodalla, and we are committed to working with our community to reach our goals.

# INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING FRAMEWORK



All NSW councils are required to develop short, medium- and long-term plans under the NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework. The IPR Framework begins with the community's vision as set out in the Community Strategic Plan. It includes

a suite of integrated plans that identifies goals and strategic actions to achieve the vision. It involves a reporting structure to communicate progress to Council and the community as well as a structured timeline for review to ensure the goals and actions are still relevant.

# WHERE ARE WE NOW?

## Our Story – a snapshot of Eurobodalla in 2022



Eurobodalla is a vibrant community with strong rural and coastal heritage and Indigenous culture. Our local economy is diverse; built around construction, tourism, retail and health industries. Located close to Canberra and Sydney, Eurobodalla offers an alternative to city living.

The Walbanga people of the Yuin Nation are recognised as the first people of our region. The Dhurga speaking Walbanga people have lived in this area for thousands of years and have an enduring custodianship and connection over the land and waterways of the Eurobodalla.

Moruya Shire was formed in 1906 after the first elections on 8 December 1906, with E M Mort elected as the first Shire President. Eurobodalla Shire Council was formed in 1954, and in 2008, Eurobodalla chose its first popularly elected Mayor, Fergus Thomson OAM. The most recent popularly elected Mayor, Mathew Hatcher, was declared December 2021.

With 143km of coastline, 83 beaches, 20 lakes and four major river systems, Eurobodalla is known as the land of many waters. Over three-quarters of our land area is open space, consisting of 10 national parks and 15 state forests.

Eurobodalla's unique and valued natural environment of waterways, coastline and open spaces is both an opportunity and a challenge. The mix of urban and rural land uses is influenced by environmental considerations, and infrastructure constructed during strong subdivision in the 1950's and 60's now requires significant upgrades to meet current standards.

In 2022, Eurobodalla's estimated resident population is 40,129. Based on current projections, it is expected to reach more than 45,500 by 2036.

Our population is spread along the coastline, in the regional centre of Batemans Bay, the main towns of Moruya and Narooma and smaller villages and rural areas.

Eurobodalla attracts around 1.2 million visitors annually with higher visitation during the peak holiday seasons. The high seasonal variation in population due to tourism creates both opportunities and challenges for local businesses and Council. This results in a need to provide infrastructure capable of handling peak loadings, paid for by our ratepayers, and a lower ability to collect fees and charges relative to the scale of the infrastructure we require. These characteristics need to be planned for and considered by all levels of government.

Eurobodalla has so much more capacity with the right investment in infrastructure acting as a key driver to improve efficiency, regional and international connectivity and to stimulate greater economic investment.

Recent significant infrastructure investment in the Eurobodalla, by all levels of government, include the Batemans Bay and Nelligen bridge replacements, the construction of the Bay Pavilions and the redevelopment of the Batemans Bay TAFE campus into a Connected Learning Centre.

Further exciting funding announcements include the Moruya bypass, the Eurobodalla Regional Hospital and the Southern Water Supply Storage project. These majors projects will assist to enhance social activity, cultural diversity, healthier and active living, develop a more resilient and self-reliant community, improving the quality of life for our residents and visitors.



**143KM  
OF COASTLINE**

**83  
BEACHES**

**20 LAKES**

**FOUR MAJOR  
RIVER  
SYSTEMS**

**10  
NATIONAL  
PARKS**

**15 STATE  
FORESTS**



**OUR  
EUROBODALLA**

## OUR PEOPLE



## MEDIAN AGE



**54**      **38**      **38**

EUROBODALLA      NSW      AUSTRALIA

## POPULATION AGED 65+

EUROBODALLA 30.4%  
REGIONAL 20.5%  
NSW 18.5%

## OWN/ MORTGAGE

EUROBODALLA 67%  
REGIONAL 64.1%  
NSW 61.1%

## DISABILITY

EUROBODALLA 7.7%  
REGIONAL 6.3%  
NSW 5.4%

## PRIVATE RENT

EUROBODALLA 19.1%  
REGIONAL 21.6%  
NSW 25.3%

## ABORIGINAL + TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER

EUROBODALLA 5.6%  
REGIONAL 5.5%  
NSW 2.9%

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(JUNE 2021)  
EUROBODALLA 8.3%  
REGIONAL 5.4%  
NSW 6.0%

## VOLUNTEER

EUROBODALLA 21.4%  
REGIONAL 20.8%  
NSW 18.1%

## EMPLOYMENT IN HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

(LEADING INDUSTRY IN EUROBODALLA)  
EUROBODALLA 13.8%  
REGIONAL 14.4%  
NSW 12.1%



# OUR ENGAGEMENT

The community of Eurobodalla is called upon to collaborate and provide their views on many matters by different levels of government, business, industry, and community groups, to help shape our shire and improve life for all our people.



This review of the Community Strategic Plan was undertaken in accordance with the Community Engagement Strategy that was approved by Council in May 2021.

The review of this Plan recognised the significant amount of valued community input that has already been gathered to inform important community projects and plans such as the Moruya bypass, Batemans Bay bridge replacement and waterfront activation, Eurobodalla Regional Hospital and the Aboriginal Action Plan. These projects represent many aspects of community life that are valued and sought after in the Eurobodalla.

Since 2011, many conversations have been had with the Eurobodalla community to develop the initial Community Strategic Plan, and to continue updating the Plan. Members of the community have participated in forums, surveys and social media campaigns to communicate their aspirations for the future of the Eurobodalla.

In 2021, surveys were conducted to obtain statistically valid data, 'Our Eurobodalla', a dedicated online platform, was created for the community to learn about the purpose of the plan, read key information about the demographics of our shire, and contribute by communicating their aspirations and priorities for the future. The insights provided have been paired with what we have been told previously, and what has been communicated for other community projects and plans, to create this updated Plan.

Consistently, many engagement participants tell us their quality of life in Eurobodalla is good to excellent, and they highly value the natural environment, lifestyle and community spirit.

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# WHAT MAKES OUR EUROBODALLA A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE

**“FRIENDLY, LANDCARE AND ENVIRONMENT GROUPS, ART AND SPORT FACILITIES, HOSPITALS/ DOCTORS/ DENTISTS”**

**“OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN DIVERSE ACTIVITIES, ARTISTIC TO SPORT AND FITNESS”**

**“IT HAS ACCESS TO THE BEACH AND BIKE TRAILS AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF PLACES TO RIDE”**

**“A BEAUTIFUL AND PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT, FRIENDLY AND CARING COMMUNITY, OUTSTANDING LOCAL PRODUCE, INCLUSIVE AND WELCOMING, WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE”**

**“OPEN SPACES AND BEACHES, LIFE IS SLOWER, PEOPLE SAY HELLO IN THE STREET, FRESH AIR”**

**OUR EUROBODALLA PARTICIPANTS 2021**

# WORKING TO ACHIEVE THIS PLAN

Achieving the vision and goals in this Community Strategic Plan will rely on many people, groups, levels of government and agencies to contribute and collaborate for Our Eurobodalla. No one person or group is solely responsible for our future aspirations. It is achieved by working in partnerships and advocating for the community's goals.

While we work together towards our vision, different contributors may be the leaders, and responsible for, different aspects of community life:

## ● INDIVIDUALS

Residents, rate payers, visitors from all walks of life are crucial to community life. They are responsible for living and demonstrating values, to become informed on matters and to give feedback and be engaged on developing community life.

## ● COMMUNITY, ARTS, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SPORTING GROUPS

These groups represent their special interest areas and provide opportunities for individuals to come together, participate and advocate for their group.

## ● BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY GROUPS

Provide a collective voice for businesses and industries of all shapes and sizes to progress our local economy.

## ● LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Eurobodalla Shire Council is the local government area and the area this Plan covers. The Council is responsible for water supply and sewerage, local and regional roads, footpaths and cycleways, street signage, lighting and parking, stormwater and drainage, waste management including rubbish collection and recycling, recreation facilities including parks, gardens, sports fields and swimming pools, domestic animal regulation, libraries, land and coast care programs, town planning, building approvals and inspections, local boating and marine infrastructure, and services such as childcare and aged care.

## ● NSW GOVERNMENT

Eurobodalla is part of the state electorate area of Bega. The NSW Government is responsible for education and schools, health including hospitals and nursing, emergency services including police, fire and ambulance, major transport including railways, main roads, state marine infrastructure, vehicle registration and public transport, public housing and rental assistance, electricity, mining and agriculture, consumer affairs, prisons, and forests.

## ● AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

The Eurobodalla straddles the Australian Government electorate boundaries of Gilmore to the north and Eden-Monaro to the South. The Australian Government is responsible for broad national efforts such as defence, trade and commerce, census and statistics, postal and telecommunication services, quarantine, foreign policy, currency, taxation, copyright and immigration.

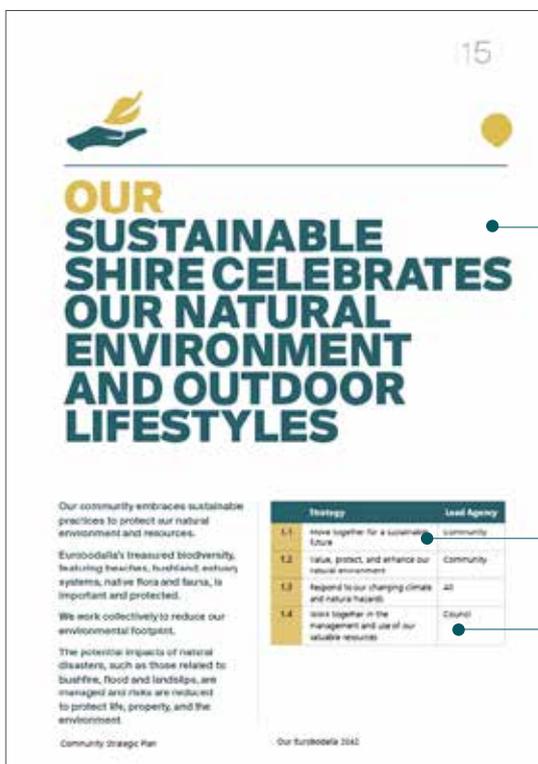
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*Core information used to guide the development of this Plan include demographic profiles, analysis of past performance and projections of future demand. The goals of this Plan have been aligned with the NSW Premier's Priorities, the South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036, The Canberra Joint Region Organisation Strategic Priorities 2021-24, and other relevant state and regional plans.*

*This Plan indicates which contributor is responsible for leading each strategy to achieve our community's vision and goals, but it is important to recognise that all contributors have a role to play in our community.*

# OUR PLAN

How to read the plan



## GOALS

*Where do we want to be in twenty years time?*

These are the community's long-term priorities for Our Eurobodalla. They contribute to achieving the vision and provide insight to what this vision will look like on the ground.



## STRATEGIES

*How will we get there?*

A strategy describes what will be done to achieve our goals and vision. They provide guidance to activities and actions related to this plan and define how we are to achieve the goals.



## PARTNERS

*Who can help?*

Eurobodalla Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing and maintaining this Plan, however, its implementation draws on the formation of, and continuing partnerships with, other organisations and agencies.

These include local, NSW and Australian government agencies, other organisations and community groups that have an important role in delivering the long-term vision and goals. It will be important for strong partnerships to exist between these groups, if we are to achieve our vision.

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# OUR VISION



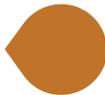
**From our beaches to our bushlands, rivers and mountains... Our Eurobodalla is a place of **inclusive** communities embracing **sustainable** lifestyles. Our future balances our natural assets and **thriving** economy. Our community is resilient and **collaborative**, and this underpins all that we do.**

# OUR GOALS

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**1.**

**Our sustainable shire celebrates our natural environment and outdoor lifestyles**

**2.**

**Our community that welcomes, celebrates, and supports everyone**

**3.**

**Our region of vibrant places and spaces**

**4.**

**Our connected community through reliable and safe infrastructure networks**

**5.**

**Our engaged community with progressive leadership**

The goals and strategies of this Plan have been developed with due consideration to the quadruple bottom line (QBL) of social, environmental, economic and civic leadership issues and are based on the Social Justice Principles of equity, access, participation and rights.



# OUR SUSTAINABLE SHIRE CELEBRATES OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND OUTDOOR LIFESTYLES

Our community embraces sustainable practices to protect our natural environment and resources.

Eurobodalla's treasured biodiversity, featuring beaches, bushland, estuary systems, native flora and fauna, is important and protected.

We work collectively to manage our environmental footprint.

The potential impacts of climate change and natural disasters, such as those related to bushfires, floods and landslips, are managed and risks are reduced to protect life, property, and the environment.

	Strategy	Lead Agency
1.1	Move together for a sustainable future	Community
1.2	Value, protect, and enhance our natural environment	Community
1.3	Respond to our changing climate and natural hazards	All
1.4	Work together in the management and use of our valuable resources	Council



# OUR COMMUNITY WELCOMES, CELEBRATES, AND SUPPORTS EVERYONE

Eurobodalla recognises and respects our heritage and unique culture.

Our community is friendly, diverse and cares for the wellbeing and safety of each other.

There is an abundance of opportunities provided to participate or volunteer in community life for all ages and abilities.

There is access to a diverse range of education facilities and healthcare services.

	Strategy	Lead Agency
2.1	Acknowledge our beginnings, embrace our diversity	Community
2.2	Encourage community spirit and enable healthy lifestyles	NSW Government
2.3	Provide rich learning opportunities and experiences	NSW Government
2.4	Foster a safe community	NSW Government



# OUR REGION OF VIBRANT PLACES AND SPACES

The development of Eurobodalla is responsive, functional and sympathetic to our environment.

We balance growth and economic demands with sustainable practices.

Eurobodalla is welcoming to new industries and innovations whilst supporting our strong established economy.

Our public spaces are activated, engaging and attractive all year round.

	Strategy	Lead Agency
3.1	Balance development between the needs of people, place and productivity	Council
3.2	Support diversified industry and thriving businesses	Industry
3.3	Embrace and value our creative arts	Community
3.4	Celebrate our unique region through inclusive places and spaces	Council



# OUR CONNECTED COMMUNITY THROUGH RELIABLE AND SAFE INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS

Our Eurobodalla is connected through resilient transport and telecommunications links.

Moving through Eurobodalla is seamless via our considered and accessible transport system of local road and pathway networks.

Access to and from the region is supported by effective air, road and marine transport options.

The community can access reliable telephone and internet services to enhance connectivity.

	Strategy	Lead Agency
4.1	Provide integrated and active transport networks to enable a connected and accessible Eurobodalla	Council
4.2	Strengthen linkages through air, road, and marine transport options	NSW Government
4.3	Enhance connectivity through improved telecommunications and power supply	Australian Government



# OUR ENGAGED COMMUNITY WITH PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP

Our Eurobodalla is a collaborative and connected community that recognises our mutual responsibility to work towards our goals, and actively participates and engages to improve our region.

Our leaders act fairly, listen to, and represent our community. They are accountable and transparent in their decision-making process.

	Strategy	Lead Agency
5.1	Acknowledge our shared responsibility through an informed community	All
5.2	Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership	All
5.3	Work together to achieve our collective vision	All

# COMMUNITY INDICATOR AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES



## HOW ARE WE TRACKING?



The Integrated Planning and Reporting framework requires progress in implementing the Community Strategic Plan to be measured and reported to the community. Community indicators and performance measures will help assess progress toward achieving the long-term vision and goals. They are not measures of Council's performance, but a gauge for stakeholders to determine whether the community is moving closer to, or further away from, the vision.

**KEY INDICATORS/  
MEASURES**

Number	Community Indicator	Measure	Desired Trend	Baseline
CI1	Energy Use	Total MWh	Decreasing	174,824 MWh
CI2	Alternative energy use	Number of solar energy installations	Increasing	6,080
CI3	Greenhouse gas emissions	Total greenhouse emissions	Decreasing	438,000 Tonnes
CI4	Electric Vehicles	Number of Electric Vehicles and charging stations	Increasing	*
CI5	Household waste generation	Residual waste materials generated by households per capita and collected by Council	Decreasing	3.5kg/cap/wk
CI6	Household recycling	Recyclable waste generated by households per capita	Increasing	2.2kg/cap/wk
CI7	Household resource recovery	The amount of waste diverted from landfill shown as a percentage of the total domestic waste generated	Increasing	61.77%
CI8	Water consumption	Total water usage for Eurobodalla	Stable or Decreasing	3,567ML
CI9	Quality of Life	Percentage of people self-reporting quality of life living in Eurobodalla as excellent or very good	Increasing	78%
CI10	Appreciation of diversity	People who agree or strongly agree that people coming to live here from other countries enrich Eurobodalla's cultural life	Increasing	70%
CI11	Self-reported health	Percentage of people self-reporting health as excellent or very good	Increasing	44%
CI12	Availability of health services	Percentage of people who experience problems accessing health services	Decreasing	5%
CI13	Feeling part of the community	Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that that their community feels like home	Increasing	73%
CI14	Trust	Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that most people can be trusted	Increasing	61%

**KEY INDICATORS/  
MEASURES**

Number	Community Indicator	Measure	Desired Trend	Baseline
CI15	<b>Social support</b>	Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that when they need someone to help them out they can usually find someone	Increasing	71%
CI16	<b>Volunteering</b>	Percentage of people who have volunteered as a member of a community organisation or group in the past 12 months	Increasing	38%
CI17	<b>Early childhood development</b>	Percentage of children in first year of school who are developmentally vulnerable on two domains according to the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)	Decreasing	11.40%
CI18	<b>Education Qualification</b>	People with no post-school qualifications	Decreasing	*
CI19	<b>Youth engagement</b>	Disengaged youth (aged 15-24 not employed or in education)	Decreasing	*
CI20	<b>Socio-economic status</b>	Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage	Decreasing	*
CI21	<b>Perceptions of safety</b>	Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree they feel safe in their own home at night	Increasing	92%
CI22	<b>Road safety</b>	Annual average of:	Decreasing	
		Fatal crashes		3.8
		Crashes resulting in serious injury		24.4
		Crashes resulting in moderate injury		41.8
		Crashes resulting in minor injury		11.2
CI23	<b>Crime</b>	Number of offences based on 17 major offences	Decreasing	1,530
CI24	<b>Illicit drug use</b>	Number of offences	Decreasing	358
CI25	<b>Economic growth</b>	Gross Domestic Product	Increasing	\$1,684m
CI26	<b>Employment</b>	Labour force unemployment rate	Decreasing	*

## KEY INDICATORS/ MEASURES

Number	Community Indicator	Measure	Desired Trend	Baseline
CI27	Business	Number of GST registered businesses	Stable or Increasing	3,031
CI28	Property development activity	Number of development applications submitted	Stable or Increasing	634/year
CI30	Housing Affordability	Housing stress	Decreasing	*
CI31	Events participation	Percentage of residents who attended a festival and or a community event in the last 12 months	Increasing	47%
CI32	Active transport	Number of people who rode or walked to work on census day	Increasing	*
CI33	Internet access	Households with an internet connection	Increasing	*
CI34	Mobile phone coverage	Number of mobile phone towers	Increasing	*
CI35	Voting turnout	Local Government election turnout	Increasing	83.28%

Note: \* baseline data will be included once the 2021 Census results have been released (expected June 2022).



*The Community Indicators will be routinely reviewed to maintain statistical reliability and appropriateness. The value of additions, exclusions and modifications to the original set of measures will also be assessed based on how they help us evaluate progress. New Indicators and Measures for areas that become strategically important can also be considered as part of the review process.*

*Effective measuring and monitoring will enable us to understand our current level of wellbeing, track change over time and inform planning and decision making to ensure that we are creating conditions for achieving the shared vision for our Eurobodalla.*

# PLANNING IN PARTNERSHIP

Aligning relevant strategies will create synergy that contributes to successful outcomes. Many of the goals outlined in this plan align with the priorities of the Premier’s Priorities, South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036, the Canberra Region Joint Organisation Strategic Priorities 2021-2024 and the Tilba District Strategic Plan.

Detail on how key priorities and plans align to the goals in this Community Strategic Plan is outlined in the following table:

Source	Activity	CSP Link				
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>Premier Priorities</b>						
	A strong economy					
	Highest quality education					
	Well-connected communities with quality local environments					
	Putting customer at the centre of everything we do					
	Breaking the cycle of disadvantage					
<b>South East and Tablelands Regional Plan 2036</b>						
	A connected and prosperous economy					
	A diverse environment interconnected by biodiversity corridors					
	Healthy and connected communities					
	Environmentally sustainable housing choices					

Source	Activity	CSP Link				
		1	2	3	4	5
<b>Canberra Region Joint Organisation Strategic Priorities 2021-2024</b>						
	A resilient and informed community that is connected, capable and confident					
	A healthy and productive environment that is protected for future generations					
	A strong voice that advocates for shared priorities and transformational projects					
	A thriving economy with diverse opportunities and supporting infrastructure					
<b>Tilba District Strategic Plan</b>						
	Prepare, Protect and Preserve					
	History and Culture					
	Community and Connectedness					
	Economic Growth					

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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**Councillors** See contact details on our website,  
and on Council's Noticeboard page in local papers

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