



Draft Youth Action Plan

2023-2028

Eurobodalla
Shire Council

Acknowledgment of Country

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. We are on Yuin Country.

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Welcome

On behalf of Eurobodalla Council I am pleased to introduce our Youth Action Plan.

The plan will provide a clear direction to guide Council's work with and for young people aged 12 – 24 who live, work or play in our shire.

Young people play an essential role in society. They are the future leaders, students, workers and parents, and a vibrant cohort much needed in our community.

Over the past few years our shire has experienced extreme conditions that have had lasting impacts on the community. Our youth population has not been left unaffected by this. There is a marked increase in mental health issues, interruptions to education and social norms and a subsequent change in the economic systems that influence employment and training opportunities.

This plan is more than a report outlining Council's future priorities. It represents a whole of Council and whole of community approach, based on feedback from young people and stakeholders, and research on current best practice. Council takes a lead role in developing strategies to engage young people in civic participation activities, and in supporting the services for and with young people and local organisations.

As adults, we understand that adolescence and the transition to adulthood is a time of change, opportunity and challenge, so it is important that our young people are prioritised, and intervention happens early, when support is needed.

However, our youth have been vocal and active. The plan will seek to celebrate and build upon the strength and resilience of our young citizens and support opportunities for leadership and community endeavour.

As the shire continues to evolve, we need to work closely with our youth and the community to ensure we are meeting the current and future needs of our young people, utilising the key priorities of this plan: Safety; Wellbeing; and Opportunity as our guide.

This plan will be a guiding light for our work over the coming years, as we continue to welcome conversations with our community on how we engage and support our shire's youth to thrive.



Mathew Hatcher
Eurobodalla Mayor

Introduction

Eurobodalla is home to a connected community of young people who love the natural landscape and enjoying time with their friends. The Youth Action Plan aims to celebrate the diversity and resilience of Eurobodalla's youth by providing them with opportunities to grow and develop. In response to significant local and global change, there has never been a more appropriate time to help shape the lives of young people for the better.

The purpose of this plan is to outline the measures needed to continue to support young people in Eurobodalla with engaging, relevant and responsive initiatives. These measures will be achieved through the leadership of Council and its Youth Services team, with collaboration and support from service providers, organisations, government, young people and the community.

The objectives of the plan are to:

- build on the existing services delivered to youth, ensuring that they are as enriching and beneficial as possible
- develop new programs, initiatives and partnerships that integrate best-practice thinking for youth development, stimulation and retention
- share program successes with the wider community
- promote a wider social support network of spaces, opportunities and connections for young people and increase their engagement with where they live.

Eurobodalla Council will continue to foster a community in which its youth are free to create, explore, learn, evolve and play. This means tailoring our services to specific cohorts and designing free initiatives that are geographically, socially and thematically diverse. It also means creating youth platforms for leadership and engaging in an active dialogue with youth to shape their world and helping address the challenges that affect their safety and wellbeing.



Context

What makes Eurobodalla a great place to live?

“ We are getting better and new things. ”

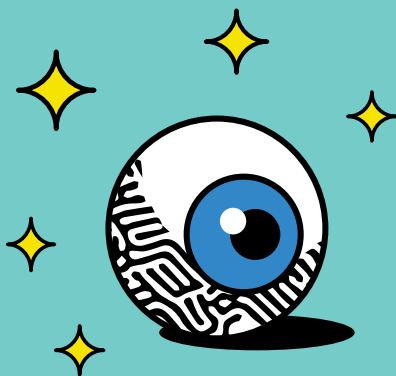
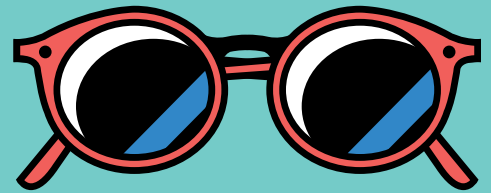


“ It’s a quiet town without many shenanigans, I love the simplicity of it. ”



“ Community, nature,
peacefulness,
slowness, cleanliness. ”

“ The people, the view,
the life. ”



“ The people in the
community,
events and the
lookouts. ”

Strategic context

This plan has been developed with reference to the wider context of plans and strategies in place to support the needs of the community, including direct and indirect goals for young people.

This framework includes strategic planning at the federal, state and local level, as well as direct engagement with youth and youth-led platforms in Eurobodalla. Within the plan, young people are defined as being aged 12-24 years.

Federal context

Federal initiatives including the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition (AYAC), National Youth Policy Framework and Youth Taskforce

NSW context

State initiatives including the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP), Youth Action and the Office for Regional Youth

Eurobodalla context

Strategic planning including Our Eurobodalla 2042, Delivery Program 2022-26 and Operational Plan 2022-23 and other specific plans and strategies

“Within the plan, young people are defined as being aged 12-24.”

Federal context

The National Youth Policy Framework captures a nation-wide snapshot of priorities, goals and services for young people. The Framework specifically responds to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and identifies five main objectives:

- acknowledging the impact of COVID-19 on young Australians
- capturing the voice of young people on policies that affect them
- listening and responding to young people on the issues that matter to them
- outlining the services and programs available to young people
- continuing the journey to work together.



NSW context

The Regional NSW Youth Framework is a key guide for strategic directives in regional NSW. The Framework combines perspectives across agencies and sectors to present a holistic insight into the unique challenges and opportunities for regional youth. The four pillars identified as what young people need to help them to thrive are:

- **Work ready:** prepared for regional jobs of the future
- **Wellbeing:** mentally and physically healthy
- **Connectivity:** able to access services and opportunities easily
- **Community:** connected to and valued by their community.

The NSW Strategic Plan for Children and Young People released by the Advocate for Children and Young People (ACYP) includes a strength-based approach to addressing issues that impact young people in order to build on the positive impact of initiatives and solutions.

Underpinning the key commitments are three guiding principles arising from consultation with young people. These guiding principles have strongly influenced Council's Youth Action Plan and are:






- **Voice:** having their voices heard and having adults take them seriously
- **Rights:** ensuring that young people are given the extra protection they need
- **Access:** designing initiatives that promote accessibility for young people.



“...Having their voices heard and having adults take them seriously.”

The Youth Action Plan sits within the Integrated Planning Framework for Eurobodalla Council, which is guided primarily by the identified priorities outlined in our latest Community Strategic Plan, Our Eurobodalla 2042.

The role of Our Eurobodalla 2042 is to reflect the values of the community and guide what Council delivers. The priorities outlined in the Youth Action Plan align closely with the goals identified by the community:

-  **Sustainable**
Our sustainable shire celebrates our natural environment and outdoor lifestyles
-  **Inclusive**
Our community that welcomes, celebrates, and supports everyone.
-  **Thriving**
Our region of vibrant places and spaces
-  **Resilient**
Our connected community through reliable and safe infrastructure networks
-  **Collaborative**
Our engaged community with progressive leadership

The key metric identified in Our Eurobodalla 2042 for measuring the success of youth services is youth disengagement (youth not engaged in either work or study), which has decreased between 2016 and 2021.

Our Eurobodalla 2042 informs Eurobodalla Council's combined Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operational Plan 2022-2023 (DPOP). The DPOP outlines the practical applications of the community's vision and sets out the following actions for Council's Youth Services:

Provide services that meet changing community needs and celebrate our diversity by:

- coordinating Youth Week events

Provide services and strengthen opportunities to retain and attract youth, as supported by the Youth Action Plan by:

- coordinating the Youth Committee and associated projects
- managing Youth Café's and outreach services
- providing the Y Drive project
- providing youth employment opportunities at Council through the apprenticeship and traineeship program
- finalising and adopting the Youth Action Plan.



Actions outlined in the Operational Plan 2022-2023 will be reviewed and updated during each year of the four-year Delivery Program 2022-2026.

The Youth Action Plan intersects with other key strategies produced by Council that guide service delivery for young people in the region. These plans include:

- **Recreation and Open Space Strategy**
Create and maintain public open spaces and sporting facilities that meet youth and community needs and encourage participation in recreation opportunities
- **Disability Inclusion Action Plan**
Continue to deliver on achievements, including accessible promotion of Youth Week events and inclusion of youth living with disability in volunteering and leadership opportunities
- **Aboriginal Action Plan**
Support education and employment opportunities for Aboriginal youth
- **Creative Arts Strategy**
Creating places of practice for youth

- **Library Strategic Plan**
Deliver specific programs for target groups, including youth
- **Recreational Plans and Masterplans**
Batemans Bay Waterfront Masterplan and Activation Strategy Youth Central space to activate hard spaces, Narooma Sport and Leisure Precinct delivery, Hanging Rock, Corrigans and Observation Point reserves and Captain Oldrey Park upgrade
- **Eurobodalla Event Strategy**
Identify and support community events that enhance the local and visitor experience and strengthen local volunteer networks
- **Advancing Eurobodalla Economic Growth and Development Strategy**
Increasing local youth employment, career pathways and skills development within Council and the wider community
- **Eurobodalla Climate Action Plan**
Mitigating climate change and building resilience to provide a more sustainable future for our community
- **Bushfire Recovery Action Plan**
Led by Council, community recovery and support for youth mental health are central to bushfire recovery

“The Youth Action Plan intersects with other key strategies produced by Council that guide service delivery for young people...”

Our region

Eurobodalla is defined by its natural environment, including 143km of coastline, 83 beaches, major waterways, national parks and state forests. The environment has informed much of the region's coastal, rural and Indigenous history, as well as its role as a destination for seasonal tourism.

Eurobodalla stretches from South Durras in the north, to Akolele in the south, and west to Belowra and Merricumbene.

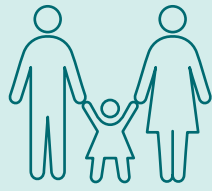
The dhurga speaking people of the Yuin Nation are recognised as the first people of the region and among other Indigenous groups, continue to act as custodians of the area in and around Eurobodalla.

First Nations people continue to have rich customs, culture and connections to local land, wildlife and waterways.

Community profile

Eurobodalla's community is ageing, with lower incomes than the state average, and higher rates of common chronic illnesses. There are proportionally more Indigenous people, and fewer people with a university education. More people in Eurobodalla volunteer when compared with the rest of regional NSW, while most people work in healthcare, community services, retail and hospitality.

- Population 40,129
- Our median age is 54 (39 for NSW)
- Indigenous population 5.6% (nearly double the NSW average)
- Median Indigenous age is 25
- More people with both parents born in Australia
- Lower median income than the rest of NSW
- More people volunteer than in regional NSW
- Higher rates of chronic health conditions
- Key industries are healthcare, community services, retail and hospitality
- More unoccupied dwellings
- Rates of university education are less than half of the state average



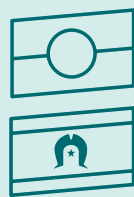
40,129

estimated resident population
of Eurobodalla in 2022



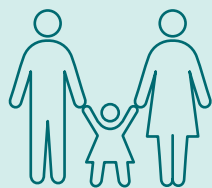
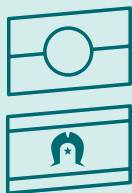
54 years

our median age
(NSW 39 years)



25 years

our median Indigenous age



5.6%

of residents are Indigenous Australians
(NSW 2.9%)



Geographic and social diversity

Eurobodalla is geographically diverse and is made up of numerous small coastal and bushland villages as well as three main population centres: Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma. Some areas, including Mogo, Bodalla, Dalmeny, Wallaga Lake, and outer suburbs of Batemans Bay and Moruya experience higher than average disadvantage and lower than average social outcomes. By comparison, suburbs between Lilli Pilli and Broulee had higher than average incomes and education levels, indicating better social outcomes

Smaller remote villages experience barriers in accessing services and opportunities due to a lack of proximity to main centres. This lack of access disproportionately impacts young people and their exposure to social and cultural activities.



“Smaller remote villages experience barriers in accessing services and opportunities due to a lack of proximity to main centres.”

External impacts

Natural disasters

In 2020, following years of drought, Eurobodalla experienced the devastating impacts of the Currowan, Clyde Mountain and Badja Forest Road fires in the Black Summer bushfires. 79 per cent of Eurobodalla was directly fire-affected in one of the most destructive natural disasters in our history. Over 2,000 buildings, including 500 homes in Eurobodalla were destroyed, numerous other structures were damaged and three lives were tragically lost.

Subsequent flooding from 2020 onwards has had further impact on the natural environment, social wellbeing and economic vitality of Eurobodalla.

The federal and state governments have allocated grant funding to Eurobodalla for disaster recovery to be spent on built form, environmental, social and economic recovery programs. In response to these events, Council also successfully advocated for the opening of a headspace centre in Batemans Bay, to support youth mental health and resilience, as well as providing recovery case management services and community recovery programs.

“Young people have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, with higher barriers to work and study and delayed social development...”

In 2020 the Advocate for Children and Young People released a *Children & Young People’s Experience of Disaster* report outlining the following major impacts of these natural disasters on young people:

- Personal impacts including post-traumatic stress, anxiety, depression and grief over the short and long term, family and peer loss and separation, secondary stressors like domestic and family violence and feeling a lack of influence on the outside world
- Structural impacts including damage to schools and subsequent disruption to achievement and learning, housing displacement, overcrowding, unavailability and unaffordability, land destruction, poor land and water quality, and food insecurity
- Social impacts including loss of employment and heavy workloads, damage to arts and community facilities and inhibited financial access to opportunities

COVID-19

In 2020 the global COVID-19 pandemic resulted in state-wide lockdowns, health risks and disruptions to work, study, travel and social connectivity. The pandemic has had substantial impacts on the local tourism and events sectors and compounded on the pressures caused by natural disasters. In 2021, Micromex community research consultants reported that two thirds of the Eurobodalla community felt affected by the pandemic.

Young people have been heavily impacted by COVID-19, with higher barriers to work and study and delayed social development as a result of gaps in education, social isolation, mental health impacts and greater uncertainty about the future.

“Council also successfully advocated for the opening of a headspace centre in Batemans Bay...”



Youth context

Who are our young people?

Eurobodalla's youth make up 11% of the overall population and live across the region, with higher densities of young people in areas like North Batemans Bay, Nelligen, Mogo and Akolele.

- 12-24 year old population 4,574
- Youth make up 11% of total Eurobodalla population
- Aboriginal youth make up 12% of 15-24 year olds
- 4% of people aged 10-19 years live with a disability
- The median Indigenous age is 25. Nearly half the state average for 20-24 year olds



4%

of people aged 10-19 years live with a disability



12%

of 15-24 year olds are Aboriginal youths



12%

of school leavers in Eurobodalla are entering university

Youth challenges

Despite making up a lower percentage of the population compared with averages for regional NSW, youth in Eurobodalla face similar challenges to other communities across the state, including barriers to transport, education, and social and cultural opportunities. Living within an ageing community can mean young people need to advocate harder for more of a voice, meaningful activities, support from adults and safe spaces.

- In 2019, only around 12% of school leavers in Eurobodalla were entering university (Coordinare, 2022).
- Young peoples' access to work has been impacted in areas of high casualised employment, especially the hospitality and tourism industries (Youth Action, 2022).
- In 2020/2021 Campbell Page Youth Homelessness Services assisted 197 young people aged 12-24 years who presented with homelessness or significant risk of homelessness as one of their primary reasons for seeking assistance.
- According to Micromex surveys, community satisfaction with youth services decreased between 2019 and 2021, a key focus area for Council to address going forward.

Youth cohorts

The audience for Council's youth service delivery in Eurobodalla is defined by two distinct youth cohorts undergoing profound and exciting change – school-aged youth between 12-17 years old, and young adults aged between 18-24 years.

12-17 year olds

Providing enriching development and engagement opportunities for young people aged 12-17 years old includes working with, within and outside of schools to meet needs. Youth in this age bracket need support as they navigate adolescence and undergo cognitive and physiological change, as well as guidance to promote social wellbeing and build skills.

18-24 year olds

A key goal of this plan is to engage directly with 18-24 year olds and implement programs that help to retain, engage and build independence in young people who have left school in Eurobodalla. People in this age group are more likely to relocate from the area for study or work and those who stay reflect a need for more affordable housing, variety in tertiary education and career pathways, and a richer range of social opportunities and events.

Youth services

Eurobodalla Council works with external service providers, businesses, community and government to coordinate youth services across Eurobodalla. Council operates and funds established local youth cafés, creating safe and inclusive spaces for young people. They provide a consistent and engaging environment with meals for youth and long-term enrichment through positive relationships and activities.

Council also recruits for and participates in the youth-led Eurobodalla Youth Committee, a coalition comprised of representatives of each of the five secondary schools in Eurobodalla, that has been operating since 2003. The Committee meets monthly during school terms to conduct a formal meeting addressing current issues, events and opportunities.

Council's Community Development and Participation team delivers the Y drive program, a state-wide pilot project which assists young people to safely obtain their learner and provisional licenses. Council also operates the Job Shop, a youth employment project which provides one-on-one support and programs to promote local jobs, training and career development.

Council's Youth Services delivers regular school holiday programs and annual events during Youth Week, including Currents, a battle-of-the-bands project culminating in an all-ages live music event that attracts hundreds of young people. Council also partners with local service providers to advocate for emergent issues, including the Youth Against Domestic Violence Colour Run and mental health awareness initiatives.

To support service delivery, Council seeks grant funding to deliver public activities and events for youth in response to identified needs from the community.

Internal services

Council's role in working with young people is to continue to support their agency and strengthen the capacity of the community to respond to issues that impact their lives, experiences and environment.

Council coordinates the Workers with Youth Network, connecting services across Eurobodalla and advocating collaboratively in response to issues, as well as administering annual youth grants for community programs. Council has an overarching responsibility to work collectively with organisations to add value, reduce duplication and promote meaningful programming.

“Council has an overarching responsibility to work collectively with organisations...”

Youth-friendly spaces

Batemans Bay

- 2 formal outdoor sport and recreation spaces
- skate parks
- cultural facility
- aquatic centre

Bodalla

- formal outdoor sport and recreation space
- cultural facility

Broulee

- formal outdoor sport and recreation space
- skate park

Central Tilba

- Formal outdoor sport and recreation space

Moruya

- formal outdoor sport and recreation space
- skate park
- 2 cultural facilities
- support facilities
- aquatic centres

Mogo

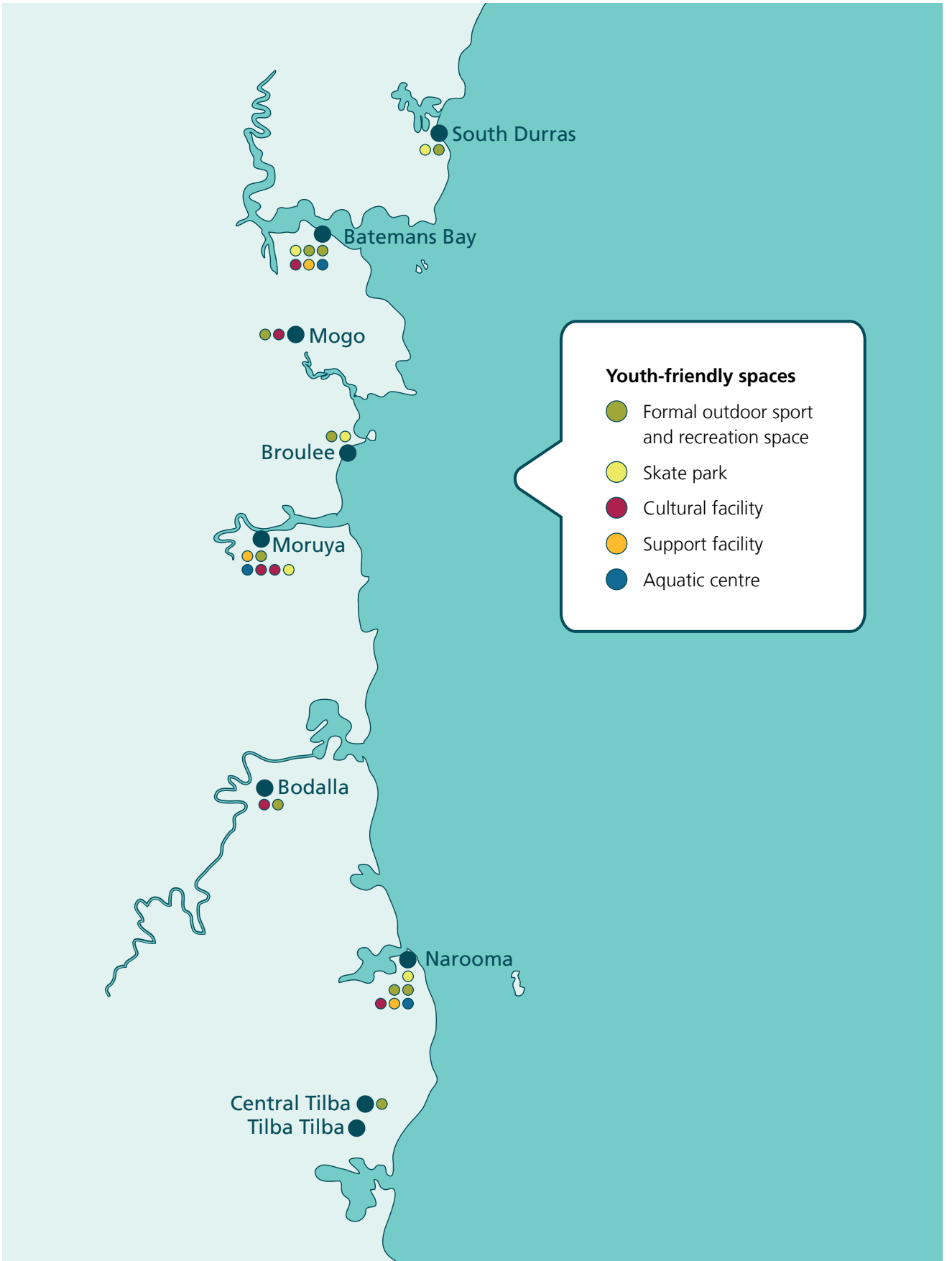
- formal outdoor sport and recreation space
- cultural facility

Narooma

- 2 formal outdoor sport and recreation spaces
- skate park
- cultural facility
- support facility
- aquatic centre

South Durras

- formal outdoor sport and recreation spaces
- skate park



Youth development

Providing strong supports and opportunities for young people requires taking on a youth development lens founded in best-practice principles and theory. This approach includes meeting the key fundamental needs of youth while helping to build on their social, recreational and vocational opportunities, skills and outcomes.

Young people aged between 12-24 undergo significant personal and social change during adolescence as they navigate the path between childhood and adulthood. Key milestones include navigating physical changes and puberty, neurological and psychological changes with limbic system and pre-frontal cortex development, personal, sexual and moral identity, peer and intimate relationships, life skills and social and economic independence (NSW Health, 2014).

Additional factors

Cultural and social contexts can shape expectations of young people during adolescence and, depending on their personal circumstances, can align with or work against their natural developmental stages. The impacts of trauma can drastically influence a young person's development and using a trauma-informed approach is crucial to ensuring the right support.

Interpersonal relationships with parents, teachers and other adults can greatly inform and model emotional regulation, wellbeing and risk management (NSW Health, 2014).

“The impacts of trauma can drastically influence a young person’s development...”

Working with young people

Youth Action's Youth Development in NSW report identifies three key roles for adults helping young people navigate their development and respond to the existing social and cultural influences that have been absorbed throughout life:

- assist individual young people to develop with consideration to their own circumstances and progress
- build a world around the young person that promotes positive change in their circumstances
- enact systemic change that repairs current and future youth disadvantage at a broader social level.

Among the major needs of young people during development, the following four key areas can be addressed by Council and are important arenas for youth to build positive social and personal skills:

- **involvement in positive activities** such as new experiences, hobbies, volunteering, skill-building and having fun
- **connection to peers** including friendships, relationships, social connection and support
- **caring and safe adults** including mentors, community members and role models
- **caring community environment** that promotes youth safety, inclusion, support, bonding, acknowledgement and celebration of young people.



“Build a world around the young person that promotes positive change in their circumstances...”



Engagement context

Integrating the voices of young people into this plan is crucial to the delivery of dynamic, responsive and relevant local programs, and youth needs are central to the ethos of service delivery.

Council is committed to engaging with youth through existing networks, stakeholders and service providers and ensuring the inclusion of a diversity of voices in current and future planning, particularly those experiencing disadvantage.

Engagement for this plan was also conducted with a broad cross section of internal Council staff, as well as with external service providers in the local youth sector through the Workers with Youth Network.

In developing the plan, a range of research methods were employed to investigate and explore social and personal issues faced by young people aged 12 to 24 living in Eurobodalla. To understand a young person's interpretation of the world around them and seek their perspective, quantitative and qualitative methods were used.

In addition to regular ongoing conversations with the Eurobodalla Youth Committee and attendees at the Narooma youth café, input from formalised consultation with 659 young people has been integrated from the following sources:

- Education and employment survey (418 responses)
- Youth community survey (115 responses)
- Youth recovery forums (39 participants)
- Currents youth event survey (36 responses)
- Youth Climate Resilience forum (31 participants)
- Youth Committee (20 participants)

Youth forums

In response to the 2020 Black Summer bushfires, Council hosted three youth recovery forums aimed at understanding the impact of these natural disasters on young people. Key priorities raised included:

- having their voices heard
- education being key for preparedness for future disasters
- co-design and co-creation of programs, requiring a plan with clear objectives and actions
- greater collaboration and coordination of services
- culturally based programs teaching connection, and methods for taking care of country
- mental health support groups and services
- centralised point of information management and sharing relevant to young people.

In 2021, a Youth Climate Resilience Forum was held as a focus group to inform the Eurobodalla Climate Action Plan 2022-2032. The forum sought to understand what young people felt is needed to build resilience against natural disasters. Key areas raised by youth during the forum included education around individual responsibility, use of climate-conscious planning and fire mitigation techniques, and the cessation of native logging.

Eurobodalla Youth Committee

The Eurobodalla Youth Committee was established in 2003 and is a valuable civic platform for youth engagement. The committee provides a dialogue with youth and is consulted on youth programs as well as other projects by Council and the community. Key themes consistently raised by the group include lack of access to transport and housing, a desire for diverse events, activities and opportunities, the need for strong youth voices in the community and access to enriching work and education.

In 2022, the committee was consulted on what they would like to see and do locally in the future. In small groups they were also asked to design an outreach program that considered the logistics of planning, funding and promotion. Key ideas raised included pop-up sport and recreation activities, events promoting work and training support, and community education around diversity in gender and sexuality.

Eurobodalla Pride Working Group

In 2022, Council consulted with the Eurobodalla Pride Working Group to understand how safety, wellbeing and opportunities can be improved for LGBTQIA+ young people. Key ideas included education and allyship among the community and in schools, more support groups and social opportunities, as well as greater inclusion.

Growing Up Rural youth panel

During Youth Week in 2021, Council worked with Advocate for Children and Young People to host a panel with local young people to discuss their experience of growing up in a rural area. Key barriers identified by the panel included a lack of representation of diverse youth in the community, poor transport provision and a lack of spaces for youth. The panel identified opportunities for more diverse entertainment and more youth events throughout the year.

Engagement in schools

During 2022, the Employment Projects team surveyed over 400 students across three secondary schools to understand their relationship to local work opportunities and industries. The majority of respondents were interested in visiting local workplaces and working in hands-on, outdoor and active contexts.

Currents Battle of the Bands

In April 2022, attendees at the Currents live music event were surveyed about their experience. Over 80% of respondents agreed that their community felt like home, their health and wellbeing and local education opportunities were good and that diversity enriches our area. Leisure opportunities were considered good with some room for improvement.



“The Eurobodalla Youth Committee was established in 2003 and is a valuable civic platform for youth engagement.”

Youth community survey

In 2022, a survey was conducted to inform the Youth Action Plan and understand local youth and their relationship to place, their values, and what they would like to see in the community.

Who did we hear from?

- A broad demographic representation from all areas of the shire
- 650 young people provided feedback over a range of forums and surveys
- Nearly 80% were aged between 12-17

What mattered the most?

- Connecting with friends and family (65%)
- Having fun things to do (62%)
- Being active and healthy (30%)
- Nature and the environment (25%)
- Feeling safe and looked after (24%)

What did they want to see more of?

- Events with music and dance (51%)
- Creative activities and programs (40%)
- Sports and recreation activities (32%)
- Having young voices heard (26%)
- Access to work and career opportunities (24%)



65%

of survey participants believe connecting with friends and family matter the most

What were their favourite things to do?

- Spend time with friends
- Play sport
- Visit beaches
- Shop in town or visit markets
- Be creative

What made their town a great place to live?

- The beaches
- People and the community
- Friends and family
- Quiet and cleanliness

What did they want to see less of?

- Drug use
- Litter and rubbish
- Violence and bullying
- New businesses that aren't needed

While many young people shared activities they enjoyed, many reflected that there wasn't much for them to do and that they didn't have much of a relationship to where they live. Respondents also stated that they'd like to see more shopping options.

The majority of surveyed young people get information about what is happening locally from social media, as well as from friends, family and school.



51%

Want to see more events with music and dance

Favourite places

When asked about their favourite place in Eurobodalla, young people talked about how much they loved local beaches, sports ovals like Mackay Park, and the new Bay Pavilions Arts and Aquatic Centre.



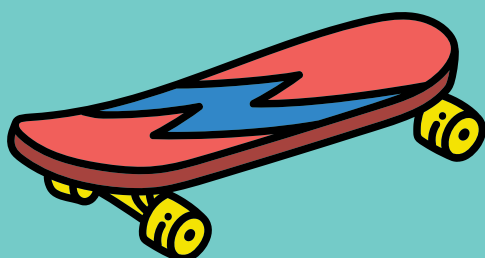
“Local beaches, sports ovals like Mackay Park, and the new Bay Pavilions Arts and Aquatic Centre.”



Outcomes and actions

To me, being young in Eurobodalla means ...

“ I can learn and
explore different
things. ”

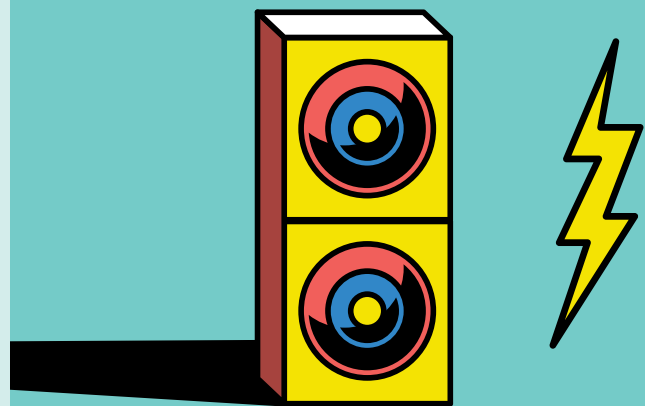


“ I get to grow up
along the coast
to experience the
beaches and lovely
food. ”



“ Enjoying time outdoors and taking advantage of the natural resources provided to you. ”

“ There is less opportunity. ”



“ Enjoying ourselves and being a part of the community. ”

Guiding values

Key values that young people care about emerged during engagement, including what they would like to see more of, and what they like about where they live.

These values help to bring to life the opinions and voice of young people and reflect the role of Eurobodalla's youth in shaping a region where they want to live, work and play.

Young people in Eurobodalla have identified that they value:

- **Exploration**
Exploring the world through joy, entertainment and new experiences
- **Freedom**
Being free to connect with and celebrate the natural landscape
- **Learning**
Having access to opportunities to learn and build local career opportunities
- **Leading**
Having an active voice in youth issues, programs and outcomes

Key priorities

The Youth Action Plan sets out three key priority areas to guide the delivery of youth focused services to the community over the next four years.

These priorities have been created in response to federal and state strategic plans for youth and are based on helping them to holistically meet their needs. Feedback from local young people has further formed the substance of each theme and will continue to guide the execution of each initiative.

Safety

Create, promote and program accessible and youth-friendly spaces

Young people need spaces where they feel ownership, safety and engagement. By working with existing facilities managed by the organisation, local businesses and services, Council will build on the network of youth-friendly spaces and make this region more accessible and exciting for young people. Some examples include continuing to improve on the delivery of the Narooma Youth Café, providing pop-up outreach programs, and bringing youth activities to existing facilities and businesses.

“The Youth Action Plan sets out three key priority areas to guide the delivery of youth focused services to the community...”

Wellbeing

Support the health and wellbeing of young people

Health and wellbeing are at the foundation of youth service delivery, and local youth experiencing disadvantage are in particular need of support. Working with local health services as well as social, educational and employment supports will help to meet the needs of young people, while regular programming will enrich overall social and emotional wellbeing. Some examples include partnering with service providers for events, hosting more opportunities for direct conversations between services and youth and delivering multi-layered social and recreational programs.

Opportunity

Provide opportunities for all young people to play, explore, develop and lead

All young people should have access to opportunities for fun, learning and leadership. By providing free interactive activities, programs and events, Council will ensure that youth are engaged. Through the integration of young people in the planning and execution of youth services, Council will provide a powerful platform for youth to have their voices heard. Some examples include tailored school holiday programs, youth roles in major events and support for youth platforms like LGBTQIA+ groups.



Delivering outcomes

The actions outlined in this plan respond to the values and priorities underpinning the delivery of Council's services for young people.

Each action is arranged according to how it will be delivered.

Action

The task or activity that needs to be done to reach one or more goals.

Responsibility

Responsibility for each action is assigned to a Council team(s) or service provider.

Role

The role of Council's Youth Services.

Status

Explains if the task or activity is already established, changing or evolving, or a new action being introduced.

How will each action be achieved?

In order to maximise resources, coordinate the promotion of services and create a cohesive network of youth-oriented activities in Eurobodalla, the role of Council against each action is divided between four categories:

Deliver

Council will primarily plan, fund, promote and deliver the action.

Partner

Council will partner in conjunction with other organisations to plan, fund, promote and/or deliver the action.

Support

Council will support another organisation's activity and provide input to its delivery.

Promote

Council will distribute details of another organisation's activity or event and promote participation.

What will continue and what will be new?

Council has established existing youth programs, including the Youth Café and legacy events, Workers with Youth Network, Y Drive and the Eurobodalla Youth Committee, which will continue to be delivered over the next four years.

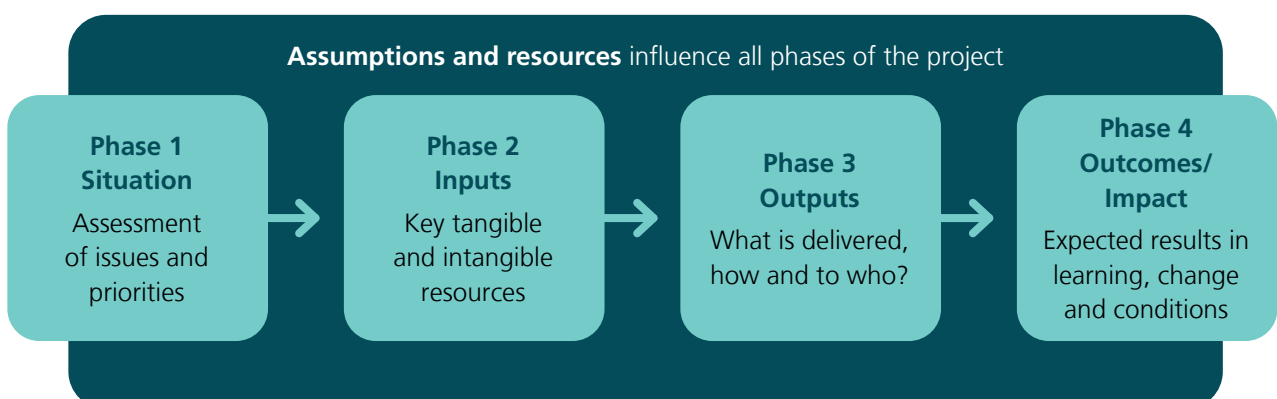
Council will continue to actively interact with young people and provide connection, advocacy and promotion via social media platforms. In order to build community capacity and promote youth development, some established programs will evolve to provide added value. In addition to existing programs, new programs will commence to meet the changing needs of the youth community.

How will we measure the success of our actions?

In order to measure the success of our initiatives, we will continue to record attendance and satisfaction at events and participation as key metrics. We will also continue to gain feedback from participants according to how well each initiative was designed, promoted and executed. We will also actively target geographically diverse populations and provide socially diverse opportunities across all programs. Success in grant applications and awards or other achievements are also valuable markers of achievement.

Each planned initiative by Council's Youth Services will align to the Theory of Change model of program delivery, which requires that a project responds to an identified need in the community, and that each stage responds to the relevant resources and assumptions that may impact it. This evidence-based approach will help to ensure that Council services consistently meet long term youth development goals of capacity building and positive impact.

Theory of Change program development model



1. Safety

Create, promote and program accessible and youth-friendly spaces

Our Eurobodalla themes: Thriving / Resilient



Action 1.0 Conduct the weekly Youth Café in Narooma (open 40 times annually)

Responsibility Council's Youth Services
Role Deliver
Status Established
Reporting Ongoing

Action 1.1 Advocate for and promote safe and accessible transport options

Responsibility Council's Youth Services
Role Promote
Status Established
Reporting Ongoing

Action 1.2 Manage and deliver the Y Drive program to assist youth in learning to drive

Responsibility Council's Y Drive
Role Deliver
Status Established
Reporting Ongoing

Action 1.3 Work with existing Council facilities including libraries, community spaces and recreation facilities to encourage youth participation

Responsibility Council's Youth Services
Role Support
Status Evolving
Reporting Ongoing



Action 1.4 Promote events, programs and services and engage with youth via social media platforms

Responsibility Council’s Youth Services
Role Deliver
Status Evolving
Reporting Ongoing

Action 1.5 Work with community partners, schools and businesses to facilitate youth-friendly programs and events

Responsibility Council’s Youth Services
Role Support
Status Evolving
Reporting Ongoing

Action 1.6 Deliver youth outreach programs targeted to specific youth communities across Eurobodalla

Responsibility Council’s Youth Services
Role Deliver
Status Commencing
Reporting Year 1, ongoing



“Create, promote and program accessible and youth-friendly spaces.”



2. Wellbeing

Support the health and wellbeing of young people

Our Eurobodalla themes: Sustainable / Inclusive



Action 2.0 **Coordinate, maintain and work actively with the Workers with Youth Network to support and promote local service delivery and stakeholders**

Responsibility Council's Youth Services, Local service providers

Role Partner

Status Established

Reporting Ongoing

Action 2.1 **Collaborate with stakeholders and not-for-profit providers to deliver health and wellbeing initiatives**

Responsibility Council's Youth Services, Local stakeholders

Role Partner

Status Established

Reporting Year 1, ongoing

Action 2.2 **Advocate for new services, programs and funding for youth wellbeing initiatives**

Responsibility Local service providers

Role Partner

Status Evolving

Reporting Year 1, ongoing



Action 2.3 Deliver inclusive programs and advocate for diverse communities including LGBTQIA+, Indigenous and culturally and linguistically diverse, homeless and socially isolated youth

Responsibility Council's Youth Services, Local service providers

Role Deliver

Status Evolving

Reporting Ongoing

Action 2.4 Promote a lively culture of events and activities for young people

Responsibility Local businesses, Local stakeholders

Role Promote

Status Evolving

Reporting Ongoing

Action 2.5 Engage school students in mentoring and skill development opportunities aimed at instilling the resources and networks to allow them to deliver community sustainability projects

Responsibility Council's Environmental Services

Role Support

Status Commencing

Reporting Year 1, ongoing

Action 2.6 Support student Pride Working Groups and promote positive change in our community

Responsibility Council's Youth Services

Role Partner

Status Commencing

Reporting Ongoing

Action 2.7 Design and deliver programs directly for 18-24 year olds to promote social wellbeing, cohesion and retention

Responsibility Council's Youth Services

Role Deliver

Status Commencing

Reporting Year 1, ongoing

3. Opportunity

Provide opportunities for all young people to play, explore, develop and lead

Our Eurobodalla themes: Thriving / Collaborative



Action 3.0 Deliver major free events in conjunction with the Youth Committee for Youth Week and other celebratory occasions (2 per year)

Responsibility Council's Youth Services, Community Development
Role Deliver
Status Established
Reporting Ongoing

Action 3.1 Deliver small free programs in conjunction with school holidays themed around creativity, being active, exploring new skills and being social (3 per year)

Responsibility Council's Youth Services
Role Deliver
Status Established
Reporting Ongoing

Action 3.2 Coordinate the Youth Committee (8 meetings per year) and provide opportunities for civic leadership and engagement

Responsibility Council's Youth Services
Role Deliver
Status Established
Reporting Ongoing

Action 3.3 Promote work opportunities and provide career and training support through the Job Shop and Employment Projects

Responsibility Council's Employment Projects
Role Deliver
Status Established
Reporting Years 1 and 2

**Action 3.4 Administer Council's annual Youth Grants program****Responsibility** Council's Youth Services**Role** Deliver**Status** Established**Reporting** Ongoing

Action 3.5 Integrate youth participation and upskilling in the organisation and execution of events and programs**Responsibility** Council's Youth Services**Role** Deliver**Status** Evolving**Reporting** Ongoing

Action 3.6 Engage with internal teams within Council to support youth input in the planning and delivery of community programs, recreation/social spaces and services**Responsibility** Council's Youth Services, Council team/divisions**Role** Support**Status** Evolving**Reporting** Ongoing

Action 3.7 Partner with service providers to deliver collaborative youth forums and scheduled, meaningful consultation to evaluate programs and guide future planning**Responsibility** Council's Youth Services, Local service providers**Role** Partner**Status** Commencing**Reporting** Year 1, ongoing

Action 3.8 Support young people to advocate for their needs**Responsibility** Council's Youth Services**Role** Support**Status** Commencing**Reporting** Ongoing

References

All statistics quoted are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Census 2021, unless otherwise stated.

This plan has been prepared by Eurobodalla Shire Council's Youth Services team, with assistance from Juliet Grimm.

External Resources

- Advocate for Children and Young People, *Children and Young People's Experience of Disaster*, 2020
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- NSW Health, *Youth Health Resource Kit*, 2014.
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Eurobodalla Shire Council plans and strategies

- Aboriginal Action Plan 2020-2024, 2020
- Advancing Eurobodalla Economic Development Strategy 2019-2028, 2019
- Batemans Bay Waterfront Masterplan and Activation Strategy, 2020
- Bushfire Recovery Action Plan, 2020
- Disability Inclusion Action Plan, 2022
- Delivery Program 2022-2026 and Operation Plan 2022-2023, 2022
- Eurobodalla Climate Action Plan 2022-2032, 2022.
- Eurobodalla Creative Arts Strategy, 2019
- Eurobodalla Event Strategy 2019-2024, 2019
- Eurobodalla Library Strategic Plan 2020-2025, 2020
- Our Eurobodalla 2042, 2022
- Recreation and Open Space Strategy, 2018



