

Eurobodalla Shire

Draft Community Strategic Plan 2042

2025 Revision



Acknowledgement of country

Eurobodalla Shire Council 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. Eurobodalla Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land in which we live. Council pays respect to Elders past, present and aspiring. We are on Yuin Country.

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Welcome

We are delighted to share our community's vision for the next 18 years; the Eurobodalla Shire Community Strategic Plan 2042. This Plan presents an inspiring roadmap for our shire as we move towards 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.

Since the first Community Strategic Plan (Plan) was developed over a decade ago, 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 September 2024, 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 2022 Community Strategic Plan, and considers the information gathered from engagement activities that took place in 2024. Your contributions have highlighted the strengths of our region and identified the key challenges we face.

The Eurobodalla community takes pride in its stunning natural environment, relaxed lifestyle, peace and quiet, favourable weather, and strong sense of community. These qualities make our area a unique and wonderful place to live.

However, we also face significant challenges that need to be addressed. Housing availability and affordability are pressing concerns, as is the need for improved infrastructure and better access to health services. Environmental sustainability and stewardship are vital to preserving our beautiful surroundings, while balancing development with the needs of people and the environment.

Priority was placed on housing being available and affordable for all, infrastructure improvements, enhanced health services, environmental preservation, and the development of sport and recreation facilities.

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.

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 plan

About our plan

The Eurobodalla Shire Community Strategic Plan (CSP) documents the aspirations and priorities of our community. It sets out a long-term vision for the region to 2042 and identifies the key priorities and strategies for achieving this.

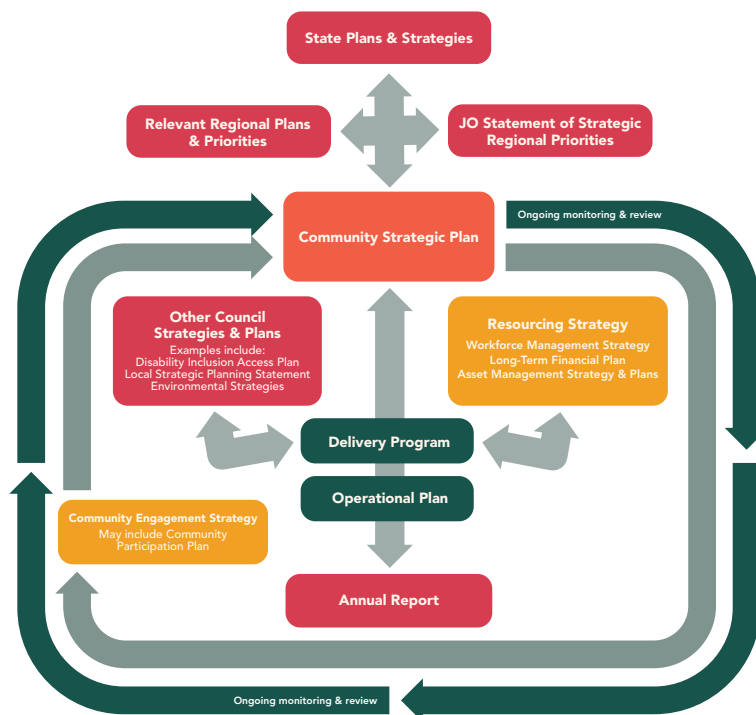
It is the community's plan, not a council plan. Eurobodalla Shire Council is the custodian of the CSP; however, many other external agencies and stakeholders also lead and support the vision and strategic priorities.

Businesses, industry groups, community groups, individuals, service providers and government agencies all have a role to play in reaching our shared vision.

Integrated Planning & Reporting Framework

An integrated approach to planning and reporting is required under the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework set out in the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government General Regulation 2021*.

This framework requires that the Council develop a series of plans, strategies, and reports linked to the community vision and priorities set out in the CSP. The Community Strategic Plan is based on the social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights.



Our Eurobodalla

Eurobodalla is a vibrant community with strong rural and coastal heritage and Indigenous culture. The 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.

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 the land area is open space, consisting of 10 national parks and 15 state forests.

Total population
40,912

SEIFA index*
972

Top industries of employment

- 1** Health care / social assistance
- 2** Construction
- 3** Retail trade
- 4** Accommodation and food services
- 5** Education and training

*Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is score that ranks areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage in terms of people's access to material and social resources, and their ability to participate in society.

If the Eurobodalla Shire consisted of 100 people, there would be:

6

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

14

born overseas

4

speaking languages other than English at home



26

with an individual income less than \$400 per week

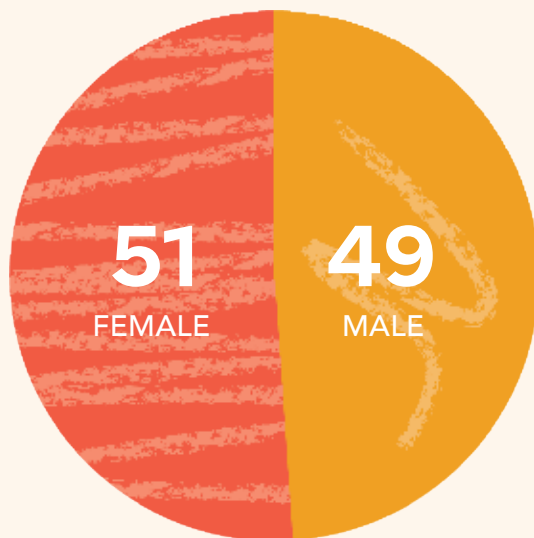


51

that completed higher education

49

that did not complete year 12



19: 0 – 19 years **39:** 20 – 59 years
42: 60+ years



33

living by themselves

67

living in families



2

unemployed and looking for work

17

who volunteer



14

care for someone with a disability

8

have a disability



73

who own, or pay a mortgage on a house

22

who rent



70

who drove to work

3

who walked to work

Source: Profile.id. Economy.id. ABS Census. BOSCAR, NSW Health stats. NSW Population Health Survey.

Community engagement

What we asked

1. How do you feel about the vision in the endorsed CSP?
2. How are we tracking with the existing CSP?
3. What makes your community a great place to live?
4. What do you think are the main challenges facing your community?
5. What have you seen in another area/shire that you think would work well in your community?
6. What is one thing you would like to see achieved in your community in the next ten years?
7. What services or projects do you think Council should be prioritising or lobbying other levels of government for?

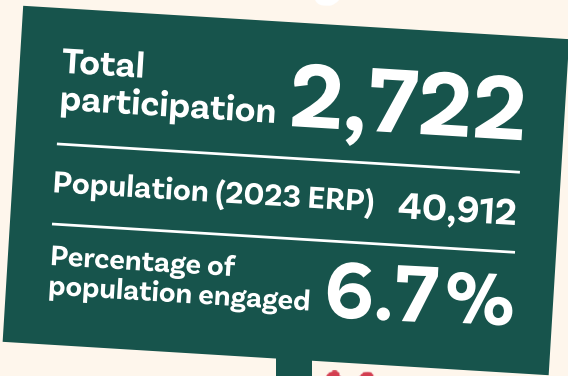
How did you get involved

- **Virtually** – surveys.
- **On paper** – written submissions, drawing sheets.
- **In conversation** – discussion guides, pop-up sessions.

Participation

Over 2,700 people from Eurobodalla Shire participated in the Towards 2042 Stage 1 engagement from 1 February to 15 March 2024.





* The Regional Wellbeing Survey, conducted annually by the University of Canberra, measures the wellbeing and quality of life of people living in rural and regional Australia.

Community engagement

What is important to you

When we asked the Eurobodalla community what makes their area a great place to live, the top five strengths identified were the beautiful natural environment, a relaxed lifestyle, the peace and quiet, the weather and the supportive sense of community. Participants emphasised the beautiful unspoilt beaches, living near the coastline and coastal walks, and the relaxed village atmosphere of the area.

Main challenges

Respondents recognised several challenges facing the Eurobodalla community. Housing availability and affordability emerged as the top concern, with rising home ownership costs and a limited rental market exacerbated by holiday rentals. Council-related issues included concern about financial sustainability, leadership, and community engagement opportunities. Development concern focused on balancing development with the needs of people, the environment and infrastructure. Access to services, particularly health and medical care, was a significant challenge, with difficulties in seeing doctors and specialists, under-resourced hospitals, and inadequate mental health support. Environmental sustainability was highlighted, including concerns about protecting the natural environment, and the growing impact of extreme weather.

Key priorities

People who took part in the engagement indicated they prioritise:

- Housing for all, including affordability, availability, and reducing homelessness, as the top priority.
- Infrastructure improvements, focused on road improvements and highway enhancements.
- Improving health services, by opening a Stage 4 hospital in the shire, improving access to mental health services, and delivering better quality medical care within the shire.
- Environmental preservation and stewardship, including leadership on climate mitigation and adaptation and clear carbon targets.
- Sport and recreation, particularly walking and cycling paths within and connecting towns, dog-friendly spaces, and aquatic and playground upgrades.





Council's role

Council is committed to understanding the community's priorities, concerns and needs in critical services, facilities and programs.

Whilst Eurobodalla Shire Council is the custodian of the Community Strategic Plan, all levels of government, businesses, industry groups, community groups and individuals will share the responsibility for achieving our long-term community goals.

The CSP describes Council's role in the delivery of each priority using the following terms:

Provide

Services, facilities, infrastructure, programs, planning, and engagement.

Collaborate

Partner with the community, business and industry, other councils, and other tiers of government.

Advocate

Amplify the voice of our community to get the best possible outcomes.

Sustainable Development Goals

In 2015, United Nations Member States, including Australia, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which outlines 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals serve as a global blueprint for peace, prosperity, and sustainability for people and the planet, now and into the future.

As responsible global citizens, we have integrated the principles of the SDGs into the development of this Community Strategic Plan. By aligning our local strategies with these global goals, we ensure that our community not only addresses local priorities but also contributes to the broader vision of sustainable development worldwide.

These are the seventeen SDGs we have considered in the formulation of our strategies:

The goals include:

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and well-being
4. Quality education
5. Gender equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduce inequalities
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and production
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
17. Partnerships for the goals



Plan

The Eurobodalla Shire CSP consists of five themes and strategic objectives:

1. Our community

Eurobodalla welcomes, celebrates and supports everyone.

2. Our economy

We have a strong economy with learning, employment and business opportunities.

3. Our environment

We sustain our shire by balancing growth and protecting our natural environment.

4. Our infrastructure

Our community has reliable and safe infrastructure networks and community facilities.

5. Our civic leadership

We are an engaged community with progressive leadership.

Each theme outlines its strategic objectives, strategies for achieving them, who takes the lead roles for each strategy, and the specific role of Council. A separate section explains the review and reporting process, as well as measures to track progress. The strategies in this Plan have been developed with careful consideration of the quadruple bottom line (QBL) and are grounded in Social Justice Principles.





1. Our community

Eurobodalla welcomes, celebrates and supports everyone.

In 2042, Eurobodalla continues to recognise and respect 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. We can access broad health, medical and community services.

Related Sustainable Development Goals



Strategies		Lead agency	Council's role
1.1	Acknowledge our beginnings, embrace our culture and diversity.	Community	Collaborate
1.2	Celebrate and support people of all ages.	Council	Collaborate Provide
1.3	Foster a safe community.	NSW Government	Advocate
1.4	Promote access to quality health and community services.	NSW Government	Advocate Collaborate



2. Our economy

We have a strong economy with learning, employment and business opportunities.

In 2042, new industries and innovations are welcomed, whilst our strong established economy enjoys ongoing support. The region is recognised as a good place to live, work and visit. We have access to diverse learning and education pathways and education facilities.

Related Sustainable Development Goals



Strategies		Lead agency	Council's role
2.1	Support diversified industry and thriving businesses.	Industry	Collaborate
2.2	Promote vibrant events and tourism to become a top destination.	Community	Collaborate
2.3	Support rich learning opportunities and experiences.	NSW Government	Advocate Provide



3. Our environment

We sustain our shire by balancing growth and protecting our natural environment.

In 2042 we continue to be a community embracing sustainable practices. 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 and take steps to adapt to our changing climate. The growth of Eurobodalla is well managed, functional and considers the natural beauty of our area. There is housing for all.

Related Sustainable Development Goals



Strategies		Lead agency	Council's role
3.1	Value, protect and enhance our natural environment.	Community	Collaborate Provide
3.2	Respond to our changing climate and natural hazards.	All	Advocate Provide
3.3	Balance development between the needs of people, place and productivity.	Council	Advocate Provide



4. Our infrastructure

Our community has reliable and safe infrastructure networks and community facilities.

In 2042, moving around 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 and our community accesses reliable water, sewer, waste, telephone, internet and power services. Our public spaces, streets and community facilities are activated and attractive all year round.

Related Sustainable Development Goals



Strategies		Lead agency	Council's role
4.1	Provide integrated and active transport networks to enable a connected and accessible Eurobodalla.	Council	Provide
4.2	Strengthen linkages through utilities, digital communications, and transport options.	NSW Government Australian Government	Advocate Provide
4.3	Service our community with resilient water, waste, sewerage, and stormwater infrastructure.	Council	Provide
4.4	Ensure community facilities and public spaces are clean, safe and have great amenity.	Council	Provide



Jordan Kosalka Photography

5. Our civic leadership

We are an engaged community with progressive leadership.

In 2042, Eurobodalla is a collaborative and connected community that continues to recognise 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.

Related Sustainable Development Goals



Strategies		Lead agency	Council's role
5.1	Our community is informed and participates in decision making.	All	Collaborate Provide
5.2	Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership.	All	Advocate Collaborate Provide
5.3	Well managed and governed resources, systems and processes.	Council	Provide



Our progress

Working together

This Community Strategic Plan outlines our collective vision for the future. We must work together to guide and implement strategies that move us towards these goals.

Council is proud to act as the custodian of the Community Strategic Plan, ensuring that the aspirations and priorities of our community are meaningfully documented and elevated among our partners.

Council's commitment in responding to this plan is reflected in the Delivery Program, which translates strategic objectives into actionable plans over a four-year term, aligning with the Council election cycle.

Review

To ensure accountability and transparency, the plan is reviewed every four years in line with the Council term. This regular review allows the plan to adapt to changing circumstances and emerging community needs.

Reporting

Reporting on our progress is a key component of this process.

Council will prepare the State of the Shire Report in the year in which an ordinary election of councillors is held. This Report outlines the implementation and effectiveness of the Community Strategic Plan in achieving its objectives, and will be presented and endorsed to the second meeting of a newly elected Council.

Measures

The following tables outline the measures for determining whether the objectives of this plan are being achieved. 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.



Measure	Source	Baseline	Desired trend
Community			
Personal Wellbeing Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	73.6	Increase
Community Wellbeing Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	5.6	Increase
Sense of Belonging Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	5.5	Increase
Median Household Income (weekly)	ABS Census 2021	\$1129	Increase
Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage (IRSED)	ABS SEIFA 2021	985	Increase
Equity and Inclusion Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	3.5	Increase
Percentage of children developmentally vulnerable on 1 or more domains	Australian Early Development Census 2021	28.5%	Decrease
Life expectancy at birth for all persons	Health Stats NSW 2020	82.8 years	Increase
Persons with a long-term health condition as a percentage of total population	ABS Census 2021	69.2%	Decrease
Persons with a mental health condition as a percentage of total population	ABS Census 2021	10.6%	Decrease
Voluntary Work for an organisation (all persons)	ABS Census 2021	17.4%	Increase
General Psychological Distress	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	10.6	Decrease
Crime and Safety Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	3.5	Increase
Mortgage costs >30% of income	Profile ID	16.4%	Decrease
Rent costs >30% of income	Profile ID	40.7%	Decrease
Access to general health services	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	4.0	Increase
Access to specialist health services	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	2.6	Increase
Access to mental health services	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	2.3	Increase

Eurobodalla Shire

Measure	Source	Baseline	Desired trend
Our Economy			
Gross regional product as a % of total State Gross Regional Product 2024	Profile ID 2024	0.3	Increase
Total GST registered businesses 2023	Profile ID 2024	3333	-
Net change of GST registered businesses as a % of total businesses 2023	Profile ID 2024	-1.0	Increase
Total tourism sales as a percentage of NSW's total tourism sales 2022-23	Profile ID 2024	0.4%	Stabilise
Percentage of persons ages 15-64 years with a non-school qualification at Certificate III or above	ABS Census 2021	56.7%	Increase
Persons with no non-school qualifications	ABS Census 2021	37.0%	Decrease
Quality of local schools	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	5.2	Increase
Total unemployed looking for work	ABS Small Area Labour Markets 2024	4.1%	Decrease
Environmental			
Landscape and Aesthetics Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	6.2	Stabilise
Perceived Environmental Health Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	3.7	Stabilise
CO2e emissions per capita	Snapshot Climate - Australian Emissions Profiles 2021-22	9.07 tonnes	Stabilise
Average Development Application lodgement time	NSW Planning Portal 2023-24	29 days	Decrease
Average assessment days for Development Applications	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	96 days	Decrease



Measure	Source	Baseline	Desired trend
Infrastructure			
Road length per capita	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	25.1 kms	-
Quality of local roads	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	4.0	Decrease
Access to public transport	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	2.3	Increase
Mains breaks per 100 kms – Water and sewer	NSW Water 2022-23	15.04 per 100 kms of main	Decrease
Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Total water and sewer	NSW Water 2022-23	5362 CO2eq	Decrease
Recycling Rate	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	57.7	Stabilise
Access to Telecommunications Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	3.9	Increase
Number of public halls	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	18	-
Number of public libraries	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	4	-
Open public space	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	1133.4 ha	-
Number of public swimming pools (including tidal and rock pools)	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	4	-
Civic leadership			
Operating Performance Ratio	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	5.1	Stabilise
Average residential rate	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	\$1131.78	-
Typical residential bill for usage of water and sewerage	NSW Water	\$1836.18	-
Infrastructure backlog ratio	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	8.8	Decrease
Community Leadership and Collaboration Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	4.4	Increase
Elected Female Councillors	OLG Your Council Report 2022-23	33	Increase
Having a Say and Being Heard Index	UoC Regional Wellbeing Survey 2021	3.8	Increase

Acknowledgements

The Eurobodalla Shire Community Strategic Plan 2022-2042 has been developed in partnership with the Eurobodalla community, Eurobodalla Shire Council, the Canberra Region Joint Organisation, and Projectura.

Eurobodalla Shire Council wish to thank the community members who gave their time and thoughts during the engagement process to inform the strategy.

