

[Sidebar Title]

# Nambucca Valley Council

## Community Strategic Plan

2022/23-2031/2032



# Nambucca Valley Vision:

*“Living at its best”*

The Nambucca Valley Council

Mission Statement:

*The Nambucca Valley Council will value and protect the natural environment, maintain assets and infrastructure and develop opportunities for the community.*



# Message from the Mayor

The Community Strategic Plan is a ten year strategic plan that has been developed in consultation with the community and focuses on capturing the community’s collective aspirations and achieving our community’s Vision of ‘Living at its Best’.



The Nambucca Valley is a unique and diverse community with a broad range of needs and aspirations. Nambucca Valley Council faces many challenges in trying to meet community needs within limited resources. The Community Strategic Plan is a document that helps us to ensure that we are always working towards meeting those needs.

The Plan guides a number of other shorter term plans. Many of the aspirations of our community cannot be achieved within a short time-frame and certainly not within an annual budget. If there is not a longer term community-based plan to follow it is easy to lose sight of some of the more long term goals. The Plan acknowledges that we need an integrated approach comprising environmental, economic, social and cultural and civic leadership considerations to achieve those goals.

The Plan also serves as a document by which Council and the community can assess the progress that has been made and confirm that we are delivering on key strategic directions identified by the community.

While Council is responsible for leading the Community Strategic Plan, it has been developed with the understanding that it will be delivered as a partnership between Council and other stakeholders such as federal and state agencies, community groups and individuals.

It is important that we recognise that the Community Strategic plan belongs to the community and not Council. It is your plan for the future and we welcome your input. It is only in partnership that we can achieve our Vision “Nambucca Valley – Living at its best.”

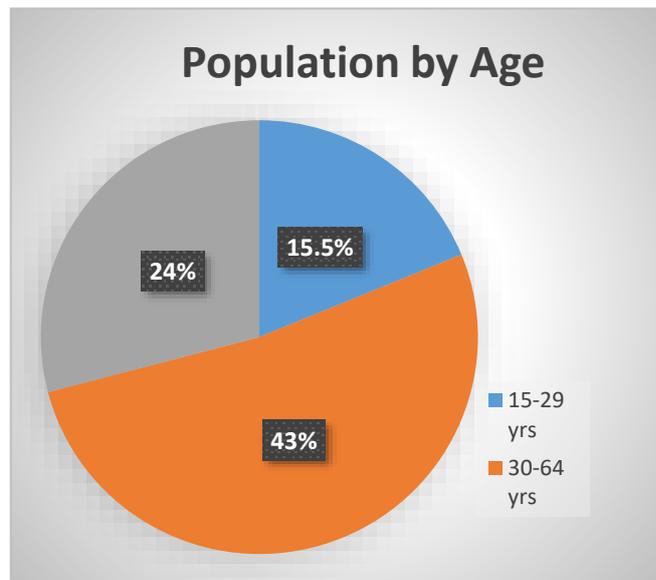
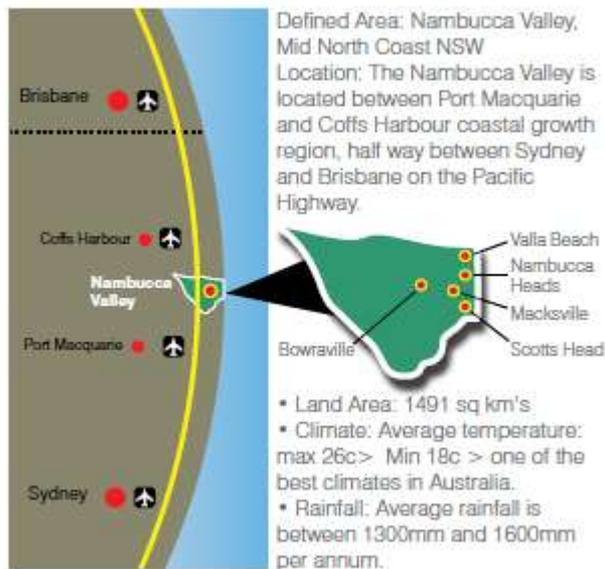
**Rhonda Hoban OAM**  
**Mayor**

## The Elected Council



**L to R: Cr James Angel, David Jones, Martin Ballangarry OAM, Susan Jenvey, Rhonda Hoban OAM (Mayor), Trevor Ballangarry, John Wilson (Deputy Mayor), Ricky Buchanan, Troy Vance**

# Local Government Area Profile



The Nambucca Valley has important scenic and ecological values, including pristine coastal waters; the Gaagal Wanggaan (South Beach), Yarriabini and Dunggir national parks; parts of the New England Plateau; and the Nambucca River and Taylors Arm floodplains.

Macksville is the administrative centre of the Nambucca Valley, providing essential retail, commercial and community services. Housing and jobs are also located at Nambucca Heads, Scotts Head, Valla and Bowraville.

The region has a strong economy based on tourism, agribusiness and manufacturing. Competitive land prices and strong industry networks will create more jobs in a greater range of sectors.

Nambucca has strong links with Coffs Harbour which provides residents access to a variety of higher-order employment, health and education services. Enhanced connectivity as a result of the Pacific Highway upgrade will strengthen this relationship and be an important driver of future growth.

Location	Persons
Nambucca Heads	6,923
Macksville	2,700
Valla Beach	1,250
Bowraville	1,228
Scotts Head	900
Eungai area	670
Hyland Park	453
Rural/non urban	5,610
<b>TOTAL POPULATION</b>	<b>19,734</b>

ABS Census 2016

## Snapshot

- Median Age 51 years
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 7.3%
- Speaks language other than English 2.3%
- Australian Citizen 92.3%

# Guiding Principles – Social Justice



**V-Wall, Nambucca Heads**

The Community Strategic Plan is the highest level plan that a council prepares. The purpose of the Plan is to identify the community’s main priorities and aspirations for the future and to plan strategies to achieve that future.

The Community Strategic Plan addresses four key questions for the community:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to be in ten years-time?
3. How will we get there?
4. How will we know we’ve arrived?

This Community Strategic Plan is based on the Social Justice Principles of equity, access, participation and rights.

## **Equity**

To ensure fair distribution of available resources across society.

## **Access**

Ensure all people have access to goods and services regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, etc.

## **Participation**

Enable people to participate in decisions which affect their lives.

## **Rights**

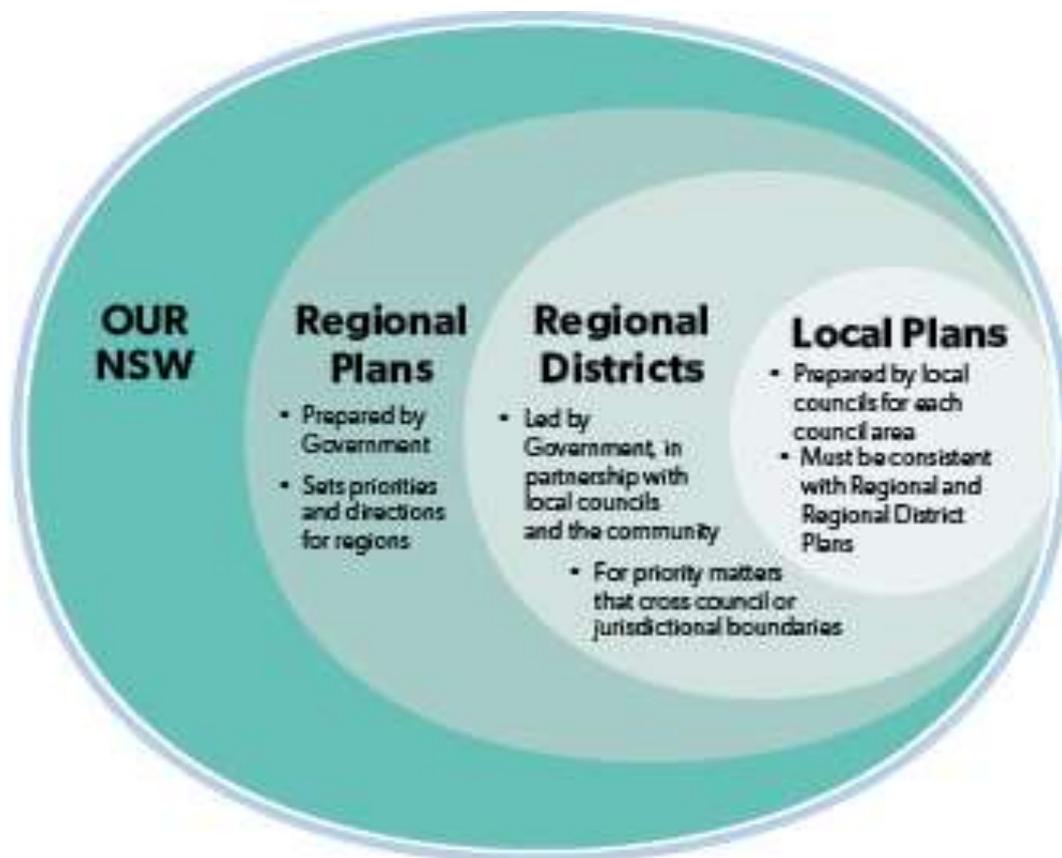
Equal rights should be established and promoted, with opportunities provided for people from diverse backgrounds.

# Guiding Principles – The Big Picture



Macksville River Foreshore

The Community Strategic Plan in the big picture



Council's Community Strategic Plan exists within the context of the NSW State Plan

# Guiding Principles – State Priorities



Upper Taylors Arm

The NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet has identified a number of priorities to represent the government's commitment to making a significant difference to enhance the quality of life of the people of NSW.

- A strong economy
- Highest quality education
- Well connected communities with quality local environments
- Putting the customer at the centre of everything
- Breaking the cycle of disadvantage.

- Bumping up education results
- Increasing the number of Aboriginal young people reaching their learning potential
- Protecting our most vulnerable children
- Increasing permanency for children in out of home care
- Reducing domestic violence reoffending
- Reducing recidivism in the prison population
- Reducing homelessness
- Improving service levels in hospitals
- Improving outpatient and community care
- Towards zero suicides
- Greener public spaces
- Government made easy – “Tell Us Once”
- Better customer service

More specifically to the Nambucca Valley, The **North Coast Regional Plan 2036** “encompasses a vision, goals and actions geared towards delivering greater prosperity in the years ahead for those who live, work and visit this important region”. Available on [www.planning.nsw.gov.au](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au).

The Nambucca Valley has a **Local Strategic Planning Statement** that links local strategic plans to the Regional Plan.

# Guiding Principles – Local Plans



Wallace Lane Murals

## Sub Plans

- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2010)
- Nambucca Flood Risk Management Plan (2017)
- Coastal Zone Management Plan for the Nambucca Valley Coastline
- Strategies for Resilient Coastal Communities (2012)\*
- Local Growth Management Strategy – Rural Residential\*
- Local Growth Management Strategy – Employment Lands\*
- Nambucca LEP (2010)\*
- Nambucca Development Control Plan (2010)
- Heritage Strategy (2015-17)
- Open Space Strategy
- Nambucca Regional Economic Development Strategy

## Other policy or guiding documents

- Nambucca River Masterplan (2010)
- Nambucca Koala Habitat Study (2015)
- Nambucca Vegetation Mapping (2015)
- Dawkins Park Landscape Enhancement Plan (2016)
- Macksville Town Centre Revitalisation Plans (2017)
- Deep Creek Entrance Management Policy

\*State Government Certified

# Community Engagement



## Landcare Community Project

Every three years Council commissions a [Community Satisfaction Survey](#). The most recent was 2021.

These surveys provide an invaluable insight into residents' changing priorities. They are also a score card as to how our community rates the range and quality of services provided by Nambucca Valley Council. The results guide Council as to where best to allocate its scarce resources. High priorities in the 2021 Survey were:

- River Water quality
- Coastal and beach management
- Footpaths and cycle ways
- Services for the elderly
- Environmental monitoring and protection
- Sealed roads
- Stormwater drainage

Council meets twice a month and at each meeting there is a [public forum](#) where residents are invited to address Council on a topic that concerns them. Delegations from the public on items on the Agenda are invited. Councillors ask questions and hot topics of the moment, ongoing concerns, plans and ideas for the future are regularly discussed.

Another opportunity for public participation in the process of Local Government is during the public exhibition stage of the Council's regulatory planning and reporting documents.

The Nambucca Valley is also represented at [community forums](#) in partnership with State and Federal agencies responsible for delivery services ranging from health, youth, Indigenous affairs, social justice and regional development.

These conversations and others like them will need to continue so all people of the Nambucca Valley can inform decisions that shape their future. The Nambucca Valley Council is committed to making sure this happens.

Council's [Community Engagement Strategy](#) can be found on its website at <https://nambucca.nsw.gov.au/files/CS-01---POLICY---Community-Engagement-Strategy.pdf>.

# Our Planning Framework



**Warrell Creek**

## [The Community Engagement Strategy](#)

Details how Council engages with the community and other stakeholders. It also outlines how Council will regularly engage with the community to determine the community's needs and aspirations for the future of the Nambucca Valley.

## [Community Strategic Plan 2032](#)

The overarching, visionary document in Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.

## [Delivery Program 2022/2023-2025/2026 and Annual Operational Plan](#)

The Delivery Program is the main reference point for all projects, services and activities undertaken by a Council during its election term. It allows Council to determine what is achievable over the next 4 years, what the priorities are and where service reviews are planned. An Operational Plan (otherwise known as the budget) is prepared and adopted each year; and identifies how projects, programs and activities will be funded.

## [Resourcing Strategy](#)

This includes the Long-Term Financial Plan, a Workforce Management Plan and asset management plans showing how Council will effectively manage its finances, the sustainability of its workforce and the cost of providing and maintaining community assets.

# Community Aspirations - Outline



River Flats, North Macksville

The Community Strategic Plan is based on four key themes which reflect the aspirations of our community. Each theme has a number of strategies that will help us achieve our goals:

## Theme 1: Caring for our Community

- A well informed Community that is involved in making decisions about its future.
- Sustainable management of the Nambucca Valley's environmental, social and financial capital.
- The Nambucca Valley is a safe and healthy place to live.

## Theme 2: Caring for our Environment

- Development in the Nambucca Valley will protect the environment and enhance the social and economic wellbeing of its people.
- Nambucca Valley residents will responsibly manage their waste; reusing, reducing and recycling where possible.
- The Nambucca Valley Community will value, enhance and protect the natural environment.

## Theme 3: Living Well

- The social cohesion of the Nambucca Valley Communities will be underpinned by a wide range of cultural, sporting and recreational opportunities.

- The Valley's residents respect and value for the Valley's Indigenous Culture and heritage.
- All Valley residents feel part of the Nambucca community regardless of their personal background or circumstances.

## Theme 4: Promoting Prosperity

- The Valley's infrastructure will reliably support the needs of the community and facilitate a prosperous economy and promote future economic growth.
- The people of the Nambucca Valley will enjoy meaningful and rewarding local employment opportunities.

# Theme 1: Caring for our Community



Shelley Beach Nambucca Heads

## Objective

Our Community will be a safe healthy place to live where everyone is valued.

## Civic Leadership and administration

### Citizen Engagement

Council engages the community in the process of open government and public participation is encouraged not only in policy development and major decisions, but in the day to day operations of the Council.

### Sustainable Delivery of Services

Council delivers services that reflect the priorities of the community and makes best use of the available resources.

## Risk Management

Council will identify and manage risks likely to have a material impact on the organisation's ability to achieve its mission and objectives.

## Sustainable Energy Use

Nambucca Valley Council will provide community leadership in sustainable energy use.

## Public Order and safety

### Community Safety

The Nambucca Valley shall foster communities where people feel safe and secure.

### Companion Animal Welfare

Companion Animals will be proactively managed to ensure the community's safety and high standard of animal welfare

## Public Health

### Safe Food

Nambucca Valley Council will guard against illness caused by unhealthy food by promoting and enforcing food hygiene Standards.

### Clean Water

Council will ensure Nambucca waterways will not be contaminated by on-site sewerage systems. This will be achieved by an efficient monitoring regime and effective enforcement of the current Standards.

### Personal Health and Wellbeing

Council will seek to improve the overall health and wellbeing of the community by supporting public health initiatives, and advocating for improved aged care and health services.

# Theme 2: Caring for our Environment



**Nambucca River Estuary**

## **Objective**

Our community values our natural environment and seeks a safe, liveable, sustainable built environment that is adaptive to change.

## **Well Planned Communities**

### **Well Planned Communities**

The Nambucca Valley aspires to a community that minimises its environmental footprint and social costs while maximising the economic and social wellbeing of its residents.

### **Housing**

Housing across the Nambucca Valley provides choice to its residents.

## **Building Regulation**

### **Safe Buildings and Pools -**

Building and swimming certification will be achieved in an accurate and timely manner. An effective risk based compliance program for fire and pool safety will be maintained.

### **Environmental Services and community amenities**

**Waste Management** - The natural environment will be protected through ensuring cost effective and environmentally responsible management of solid waste.

**Street Cleaning** - Regular street cleaning will minimise the presence of litter and reduce contaminants in storm water run-off.

### **Environmental Protection -**

Council will seek to protect our natural environment by strategically managing operations and development and regulating activities which have environmental impacts.

**Biodiversity** - The biodiversity of the Nambucca Valley will be protected and enhanced.

**Cemeteries** - Well maintained cemeteries shall be provided across the Valley.

# Theme 3: Living Well



V-Wall, Nambucca Heads

## Objective

We will support one another for the wellbeing of our community.

## Recreation and Culture

### Cultural Activities

Nambucca Valley Council will actively support cultural services, the arts and the preservation of our local heritage.

### Meeting Places

Meeting places will be provided across the Valley to support an inclusive community.

### Recreational Activities

The Nambucca Valley will have a variety of safe and well maintained sporting fields, recreational areas and facilities to meet the needs of all age groups in the community.

## Community support and education

### Connected Community

Council will seek to foster a community that is mutually self-supporting and proud of its identity and will regularly engage with segments of the community across the Valley.

### Engaged Youth

Nambucca will foster the social well-being of the Valley's youth by prioritising and supporting their needs.

### Healthy Ageing

The Nambucca community will seek to support healthy ageing both physical and psychological.

### Cultural Diversity

The Nambucca Valley will promote an understanding and respect for the Valley's Indigenous Culture and heritage.

# Theme 4: Promoting Prosperity



**Phillip Hughes Bridge over the Nambucca River at Macksville**

## **Objective**

Promote, support and plan opportunities for new and existing businesses to sustain a vibrant local economy.

## **Local Economy**

### **Economic Activity and Employment**

Nambucca Valley Council will foster local employment opportunities and economic self-sufficiency through promotion, lobbying and direct action.

### **Private Transport Accessibility**

Nambucca Valley Residents will be able to get where they need to go in a way that is safe, efficient and affordable.

### **Public Transport**

Nambucca Valley Council will lobby for the maintenance and improvement of public transport services provided by private bus companies, community transport and the North Coast rail line.

### **Water Management**

Council will work with the community to ensure the water resources of the Nambucca Valley are used in a sustainable way.

### **Sewerage Services**

Council has adopted an Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan to document the capital works and renewals required to ensure the Sewage Infrastructure meets the current and future demands.

# Acknowledgments



**Scotts Head**

The Nambucca Valley Council is located within the Gumbaynggirr Nations.

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the land and Elders past and present.

Nambucca Valley Council thanks the people of the Nambucca Valley who have contributed their time, thoughts and ideas to the creation of the Community Strategic Plan.

## **Photography:**

Rob Cleary – Seen Australia (used with permission)

Tony Vidler – Air Vids (Permission requested)

## Acronyms

ABS Australian Bureau of Statistics  
LEP Local Environment Plan

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