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The Bega Valley Shire is located at the south-eastern corner of New South Wales, half way between Australia’s two largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne and three hours drive from the nation’s capital, Canberra.

Our coastal fringe extends from Wallaga Lake in the north to Cape Howe and the Victorian border in the south. Collectively this 225-kilometre section forms the beautiful Sapphire Coast, the heart of Australia’s Coastal Wilderness.

Our community vision explains our collective aspiration that by working together, the Bega Valley Shire community integrates quality of life, enterprising businesses, sustainable development and conservation of the environment.

WE ARE ... BEGA VALLEY

There are over 33,000 people that call Bega Valley home. We have grown at a rate faster than predicted, and will grow by a further 5,500 (14%) over the next 20 years.

We are older in age than average, but we have high levels of independence, with more of us fully owning our own homes, and one in four of us actively volunteering.

Less than a third of us are families with children.

Currently fewer of us have Bachelor level education than average, but more of us are completing year 12 and attending university than ever before. Around half of us work, predominantly in farming, manufacturing, health and social services, retail and tourism, and a significant proportion of us are retired.

While we enjoy lower rent and mortgage costs than average, our lower than average weekly income means affordability is just as important to us as our city counterparts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POPULATION</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>34,095</td>
<td>38,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated population</td>
<td>38,138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median age</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forecast population increase by 2036</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOW WE LIVE %</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Couples with children</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One parent families</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couples without children</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live alone</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group household</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other households</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIVERSITY %</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas born</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language at home other than English</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEALTH &amp; HELPING %</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need assistance with core activities</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRANSPORT &amp; TECHNOLOGY %</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public transport to work</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with internet connection</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOUSING %</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of dwellings</td>
<td>17,570</td>
<td>17,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average household size</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>2.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Live in separate house</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>64.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unoccupied dwellings</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Own home outright</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a mortgage</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households renting</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE $</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly household income</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>1,481</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly mortgage repayments</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median weekly rent</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EDUCATION %</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed university qualification</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed advanced diploma or diploma</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed a trade qualification (certificate)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed year 12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending university</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending TAFE</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLOYMENT %</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workforce participation rate</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total employment</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full time work</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part time work</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORECAST POPULATION CHANGE %</th>
<th>Bega Valley</th>
<th>NSW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age 0 to 17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 18 to 34</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 35 to 59</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age 60 plus</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All figures based on 2016 Census data compiled by .id the population experts: profile.id.com.au/bega-valley
We have a growing economy, with over $1.5 billion annual Gross Regional Product, over $645 million in exports each year and nearly 3,000 local businesses. Our main industries are farming, particularly dairy and the associated cheese manufacturing industry in Bega; commercial fishing, especially in Eden; and tourism along much of the coast. The key industrial precincts are in North Bega, Eden and South Pambula and main retail areas in the town centres of Bega, Eden and Merimbula.

We are a regional centre for schools and higher education institutions. There are currently 18 primary and four high schools which include a mixture of private and public. The University of Wollongong operates a campus in Bega which offers courses in Arts, Commerce, Education, Health and Behavioural Sciences and Business. In addition, vocational courses and trade skills are offered by the TAFE Illawarra campus also in Bega.

Our long stretches of coastline are a tourism draw card. Merimbula, Eden, Bermagui and Tathra are major tourist centres and typically experience a threefold boost in their populations during the peak summer period, with over 150,000 guests checking-in to local accommodation in December alone. On average 880,000 people visit Bega Valley annually spending around $400 million each year, more than half are domestic overnight visitors.

Bega Valley Shire Council manages over $1.45 billion in critical assets that allow visitors and community alike to live, work and play in this beautiful part of the world.
Investment in infrastructure is a key enabler of economic growth, supports the long-term sustainability of a region, and boosts the health and wellbeing of communities.

Bega Valley is full of opportunities to realise these outcomes. In partnership with the community, Bega Valley Shire Council has carefully mapped and scoped a list of strategic infrastructure investment opportunities to:

- Boost our regional strategic advantage – for tourism and liveability
- Stimulate the local economy – for sustainability, employment and innovation
- Enrich our local communities – for wellbeing across generations

We ask the State and Federal Government to invest with us.

**INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES OVERVIEW**

**Regional strategic advantage**
- Improve accessibility to key coastal sites
- Construct coastal paths
- Structural repairs and upgrades to wharves
- Upgrade boat ramps, pontoons and other marine infrastructure
- Upgrade Merimbula Regional Airport
- Develop business and general aviation opportunities at Merimbula Airport
- Upgrade road freight links
- Redevelop the Regional Gallery
- Upgrade regional sporting facilities

**Stimulating the local economy**
- Improve public spaces and landscapes in town centres
- Convert playgrounds into inclusive play spaces
- Upgrade regional service yard facilities
- Construct shared bike/pedestrian paths within towns
- Construct bike tracks connecting communities
- Upgrade and renew timber bridges on Regional Roads
- Improve road safety
- Seal roads that connect communities
- Improve access to car parking
- Reduce landfill and realise economic opportunities from recycling
- Upgrade sewage treatment plants and effluent disposal methods
- Upgrade connections or build additional water supply capacity
- Transform our towns into smart communities

**Enrich local communities**
- Upgrade playgrounds in rural villages
- Improve reticulated water quality
- Upgrade facilities in community halls
- Upgrade regional aquatic facilities
- Redevelop existing facilities into an arts and cultural complex
- Create safe, accessible, user-friendly spaces at Children’s Services facilities
STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT
These projects will help deliver State and Federal strategies:
✔ Regional Development Australia Far South Coast Regional Plan
✔ National Land Freight Strategy
✔ Australia’s Coastal Wilderness Experiences Development Strategy
✔ NSW Premier’s Priorities
✔ NSW 2021
✔ NSW State Infrastructure Strategy
✔ NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan
✔ NSW Freight and Ports Strategy
✔ NSW Southern Regional Transport Plan
✔ Canberra Region Joint Organisation strategic directions
✔ South Coast NSW Destination Management Plan
✔ Far South Coast Regional Boating Plan
✔ South East and Tablelands Regional Plan
✔ Far South Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy
As well as the Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan.

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Port of Eden Wharf
Extension of Eden breakwater wharf to enable cruise ships to berth at the port
$44 million, funded by the Australian and NSW Governments and Bega Valley Shire Council
Attracting additional cruise ships will be a major driver of economic activity and stimulate retail, hospitality and accommodation providers. It also provides increased opportunities for recreational and local commercial fishing.

Merimbula Airport
Extension of runway, upgrade of terminal facilities and ancillary infrastructure
$30 million, funded by the Australian Government and Bega Valley Shire Council
Expansion of services and facilities will make it easier for more people to access the region from Melbourne and Sydney. This will boost tourism and potentially attract new residents to the area, both will benefit the local economy.

Bega Education Network
Continued expansion of the existing training and education network in Bega
Project partners include: TAFE, University of Wollongong (Bega campus) and Australian National University Medical School
Enhanced educational opportunities in the local area will provide affordable training and upskilling opportunities to the local workforce. It also means young people can stay in the region to study and may be a factor in attracting new families to the area.

Town centres
Improve connectivity and accessibility in the four main town centres
$34 million, Bega Valley Shire Council has funded $10.5 million to date
Improved facilities and design will help these centres support the provision of key services for the community. It may also make them more appealing for visitors travelling along the coastline and draw more tourists to the region.

PROJECTS RECENTLY COMPLETED

South East Regional Hospital
Construction of state-of-the-art hospital providing a wide range of services and treatment
$187 million, funded by the Australian and NSW Governments
Now the largest and most well-equipped hospital in the south-east region of NSW, this is a major drawcard for potential retirees needing access to healthcare services. It has given the region a comparative advantage in the healthcare and social assistance sector and provided the opportunity for additional investment by allied services such as medical research, rehabilitation and support services.

NBN rollout and Wolumla Earth Satellite Station
Construction of broadband network to provide residents with high speed internet services
Funded by NBN Co
The ability for organisations and individuals to work and operate remotely has increased the appeal of the region as a potential place to live. Improved internet access has the potential to drive innovation and business growth, and help industry deliver better services, particularly healthcare and social assistance, finance and insurance, retail and tourism. The reliability and consistency of telecommunications and financial transactions has also improved.

Bega Valley Commemorative Civic Centre
Development of a multi-function community space and performing arts center
$7.25 million, funded by Bega Valley Shire Council
Opportunities now exist to attract conferences, business and tourism expos, large events and performances to the region, boosting visitation and stimulating retail, hospitality and accommodation operations.
OUR INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

Who benefits key

- Community
- Environment
- Culture and Arts
- Recreation and Sport
- Health
- Emergency Services
- People with disabilities
- Seniors
- Children and youth
- Families
- People with prams
- Aboriginal people
- Food Product Manufacturers
- Tourism
- Local businesses/economy
- Regional economy
- Port of Eden
- Airport
- Freight operators
- School bus operators
- Motorists
- Cyclists
- Pedestrians
NATURE BASED RECREATION

- Supporting NSW’s target to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020
- Delivering infrastructure to build more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive regional communities
- Supporting more accessible, liveable and productive towns
- Ensuring our heritage is valued, protected, and enjoyed
- Supporting initiatives that enhance the boating experience in the Far South Coast
- Improving recreational fishing in NSW
Our challenge
The unique coastal environment of the Bega Valley Shire is one of the greatest attractions for residents and visitors, however it can severely restrict people with mobility limitations and in many cases, prevent them from enjoying the natural assets of the coast.

Proposed solution
Bega Valley Shire Council has developed Coastal Accessibility Plans to improve accessibility to Bruce Steer Pool in Bermagui, Short Point in Merimbula and Pambula Beach Reserve at Pambula Beach.

Bruce Steer Pool, Bermagui
Planned improvements include:
- All abilities access from the lower car park to site features and the water’s edge
- Enhanced open space and facilities
- Upgraded toilets and showers
- Improved layout which enhances the intrinsic landscape values of the site
- Wheelchair-friendly pedestrian path linking disabled parking, amenities, picnic facilities and access into the pool
- Improved parking arrangements
- Improved pedestrian connections to the surrounding open space areas

Short Point, Merimbula
Planned improvements include:
- Improved access to facilities and features
- Resting and viewing opportunities
- Picnic facilities
- Improved traffic and parking arrangements
- Restoration and revegetation of the cliff and dune landscapes

Pambula Beach Reserve, Pambula Beach
Planned improvements include:
- Improved pedestrian pathways that link disabled parking, toilets and shower amenities
- Pathway access to the beach
- Improved car parking arrangements
- Turning bay for recreational vehicles
- All abilities children’s play space and adjacent picnic facilities

Merimbula Lake Boardwalk, Merimbula
Council also plans to improve the existing boardwalk to provide a shared path connection from the Merimbula CBD along the foreshore of Merimbula Lake. The upgrade would improve accessibility and include facilities for recreational fishing and water sports.

Outcomes
✔ Accessibility
✔ Activity and inclusiveness
✔ Safety
✔ Vegetation and environment
✔ Visual amenity
✔ Recreational opportunities
✔ Community engagement
✔ Environmental education
✔ Aboriginal and European heritage
✔ Visitor and tourist experience

Who benefits

Progress
Extensive consultation conducted and Coastal Accessibility Plans adopted by Bega Valley Shire Council.

Indicative cost
- Bermagui: $675,000
- Merimbula: $1.13 million
- Pambula Beach: $890,000
- Merimbula Boardwalk: $2.7 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Recreational Fishing Trust Fund
NSW Regional Growth - Environment and Tourism Fund
NSW regional growth: Stronger Country Communities Fund

Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040
Infrastructure Milestone: Coastal Accessibility Plans
Supporting NSW’s target to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020
Our challenge

Many coastal walks feature along the Bega Valley Shire’s 225km coast, from Eurobodalla to Victoria. However, there are inconsistencies and missing links; and safety, accessibility and signage improvements are needed. This prevents access to some of the top tourist attractions, heritage and nature experiences on the Sapphire Coast.

Proposed solution

Improvements to key sections of coastal path, which will be further enhanced by links to The Bundian Way and Light to Light Walk projects already underway, and help to achieve the Great South Coast Walk from the southern fringe of Sydney to just over the Victorian border.

Wallaga Lake to Camel Rock

Design and upgrade the path destroyed by a storm in June 2016 to improve safety and protect Aboriginal heritage. This includes: construction of timber footbridge/boardwalk and connecting pathways, accessible parking and installation of furniture and shelter.

Bermagui to Barraga Bay via Blue Pool and Beares Beach

Provide path connections to the headlands and wayfinding signage to Blue Pool, Beares Beach and Cuttagee.

Tathra Headland

Design and construct an accessible pathway from the Lions Memorial Gardens carpark to the State Heritage listed Tathra Wharf including an accessible whale watching viewing platform.

Tura Beach to Merimbula

Connect the path between Tura Beach and Merimbula, aligning where possible with the Bega Valley Bike Plan connectivity improvements and existing walking tracks in the area.

Outcomes

✔ Accessibility
✔ Aboriginal, European and natural heritage
✔ Visitor and tourist experience
✔ Tourism attraction
✔ Great South Coast Walk connectivity (progress)
✔ Safety

Who benefits

Supporting NSW’s target to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020

Progress

Bega Valley Shire Council has lodged a grant application for Wallaga Lake to Camel Rock walking track.

Indicative cost

- Wallaga Lake to Camel Rock $225,000
- Tathra Headland $1.2 million
- Various segments Camel Rock to Eden $2 million

Targeted funding source

- NSW Active Transport Program
- NSW Regional Growth: Stronger Country Communities Fund
Tathra Wharf Structural Repairs

Our challenge

Tathra Wharf is an iconic and significant heritage asset at the State and local level and managed in accordance with the Tathra Wharf Conservation Management Plan (January 2004). It is an attraction for visitors and much loved by the local community, however it is in urgent need of repair.

A detailed condition assessment in February 2017 identified that over 28% of the over-water piles supporting the wharf have deteriorated significantly and major replacement or repair works are required within the next 12 months. Further, there is a significant risk that major sections of the over-water structure could be lost in a major ocean storm event.

Proposed solution

Scope and cost the repair or replacement of the affected piles in consultation with NSW Office of Environment and Heritage and undertake works as required.

Outcomes

✔ State Heritage preservation
✔ Community pride
✔ Tourism attraction
✔ Major economic benefit

Indicative cost

$3 million

Targeted funding source

NSW Heritage Grants
NSW Public Reserves Management Fund Program

Who benefits

Marine Infrastructure

Upgrade boat ramps, pontoons and other marine infrastructure

Our challenge

Fishing and water recreation is an important part of the Bega Valley lifestyle and supports the tourism economy in coastal towns, many of which are popular for game and other fishing and water-based activities. However, some facilities need replacement and cannot meet the demand of tourists and contemporary uses. For example:

• Quarantine Bay, Eden – timber jetty is nearing the end of its useful life
• Blackfellows Lake, Kalaru – informal gravel ramp, launching area and parking is inadequate
• Bermagui River - flex-mat boat ramp is deteriorated and subsiding, car/trailer parking is inadequate and a pontoon/jetty is needed. Alternative facilities have been closed for environmental reasons causing even greater demand.

Proposed solution

Quarantine Bay Boat Ramp, Eden
Renew and extend the existing finger pontoon jetty to enhance capacity and enable the original stepped timber jetty to be removed.

Blackfellows Lake Boat Ramp, Kalaru
Replace the gravel ramp with a reinforced concrete single-lane boat ramp, widen and seal the access road to provide better access, parking and turning points, and install a finger pontoon jetty and lighting.

Bermagui River Boat Ramp, Bermagui
Replace the existing ramp with a new reinforced concrete double boat ramp, install a finger pontoon jetty, upgrade lighting and seal the parking area.

Other projects

In addition, the following improvements are also proposed:

• Mogareeka boat ramp – pontoon extension
• Pambula/Broadwater boat ramp – pontoon extension and park facilities upgrades

Outcomes

✔ Quality infrastructure
✔ Water recreation capacity
✔ Safety
✔ Environmental protection

Who benefits

Canberra Region

Joint Organisation: Endorsed Priority Infrastructure Project

Bega Valley Shire
Community Strategic Plan 2040
Infrastructure Milestone: Tathra Wharf structure

Supporting NSW’s target to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020
TOWN CENTRE REVITALISATION

✔ Creating jobs, driving economic growth and building stronger regional communities into the future

✔ Delivering infrastructure that supports long term growth benefits to local communities and economies
Our challenge

Business owners and the broader community are unhappy with the presentation and design of the Shire’s main Central Business Districts (CBDs) and surrounds, citing aesthetic and accessibility issues, and a lack of appeal for tourists.

Bega Valley Shire Council has developed Landscape Master Plans for Bega, Bermagui, Eden and Merimbula town centres, and proposed streetscape upgrades in Pambula, Tathra, Bemboka and Cobargo. However, Council has limited financial capacity to implement all the improvements within a reasonable timeframe.

Proposed solution

Implement the approved town centre improvements.

Bega CBD

Planned improvements include:
- Tourism – create CBD gateway signage
- Safety and accessibility – extend concrete paving, pedestrian paths and connectivity, road treatments in pedestrian zones, and install parallel disabled parking bays
- Amenity - tree and garden bed planting, stone and concrete walling
- Design - Improvements to Imlay Street and Chandos Street median

Eden CBD

Planned improvements include:
- Tourism - create CBD gateway signage
- Safety and accessibility – extend concrete paving, pedestrian paths and connectivity, road treatments in pedestrian zones, and install parallel disabled parking bays
- Amenity - tree and garden bed planting, stone and concrete walling
- Design - Improvements to Imlay Street and Chandos Street median

Bermagui CBD

Planned improvements include:
- Tourism – create CBD gateway signage
- Safety and accessibility - extend and upgrade pedestrian pavement, improve Ayres Walkway, create scramble crossings and improve key intersections
- Amenity - tree and garden bed planting, and relocate power underground

Merimbula CBD

Planned improvements include:
- Tourism – create CBD gateway signage
- Safety and accessibility – pedestrian improvements to NAB corner, create shared zone or space on Beach Street and realign parking, install disabled parking and modify key intersections
- Amenity – tree and garden bed planting, install climbing frames for plants and relocate power underground

Pambula, Tathra, Bemboka and Cobargo town centres

Commission and implement Landscape Master Plans to guide the development of the public spaces and landscapes.

Outcomes

✔ Reinvigorated CBD’s
✔ Growth potential
✔ Private asset renewal
✔ Accessibility
✔ Efficient traffic flow
✔ Natural and open space connectivity
✔ Strategic future direction
✔ Unique community character and values

Who benefits

Bega $5 million
Bermagui $5 million
Eden $4m
Merimbula $10 million

Targeted funding source

Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund
NSW Regional Growth: Growing Local Economies Fund

Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040

Infrastructure Milestone: Town Centre Landscapes for Bega, Bermagui, Eden and Merimbula
SPORT AND RECREATION

- Supporting NSW’s target to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020
- Promoting community participation, inclusion and cohesion
- Delivering infrastructure to build more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive regional communities
- Creating spaces and facilities that enable communities to enjoy and take part in sport
### Regional All Ability Playgrounds

**Eden and Bermagui**

**Our challenge**

Playgrounds at Memorial Park and Apex Park, Eden and Apex and Dickenson Parks on the Bermagui foreshore are at the end of their useful lives.

**Proposed solution**

Redevelop the playgrounds into inclusive play spaces like other regional playgrounds in Merimbula and Bega. This involves engaging a specialist designer to develop concept plans, supply and installation of equipment, construction of paths, landscaping, soft-fall and furniture and staged development of the new playgrounds with support from local Chambers of Commerce and Community Groups.

**Outcomes**

- Accessibility and inclusiveness
- Recreation opportunities
- Social and community benefits
- Meeting places

**Who benefits**

- Members
- Children

**Indicative cost**

$400,000 per playground

**Targeted funding source**

- NSW Community Building Partnerships Program
- NSW Regional Growth: Stronger Country Communities Fund
- Service Clubs and Foundations

### Rural Village Playgrounds

**Our challenge**

Many playgrounds in the Bega Valley Shire’s rural villages were installed in the 1990s and are now old, in poor condition and appearance and require replacement in the next 1-5 years. Some equipment has already been decommissioned and some pathways and trees are unsafe.

**Proposed solution**

- **Wyndham: Memorial Park**
  - Design and install new playground equipment, fencing, bench seating, BBQ and shelter.
  - Complement with parkland landscaping including a pathway to connect gazebo and Gordon Street parking area, and upgrades to playground and garden edging.

- **Bemboka: Bicentennial Park**
  - Design and install new playground equipment, renew and extend path to connect to cycle path on Kameruka Street, remove and replace unsafe trees, and review and renew water discharge from Bemboka Pool.

- **Cobargo: Apex Park**
  - Design and install new playground equipment, fencing, picnic tables and BBQ shelter.

- **Mogareeka: Ray Whyman Reserve**
  - Design and install new playground equipment including pirate ship and swing set.

- **Quaama: Memorial Park**
  - Design and install new playground equipment and fencing.

**Outcomes**

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Social and community benefits
- Meeting places
- Greater participation
- Recreation opportunities

**Who benefits**

- Members
- Children

**Indicative cost**

- Wyndham: $94,000
- Bemboka: $92,000
- Cobargo: $75,000
- Mogareeka: $43,000
- Quaama: $75,000

**Targeted funding source**

- NSW Community Building Partnerships Program
- NSW Regional Growth: Stronger Country Communities Fund
Regional Sporting Facilities
Upgrade regional sporting facilities

Our challenge
Site inspections, sporting trend analysis and extensive feedback from user groups and the wider community show demand for upgrades to the Bega and Pambula Sporting Complexes. Community feedback shows:

- 75% feel that the supply/number of sports facilities is inadequate
- 60% said sporting facilities in the area were poor or very poor quality
- 50% think new/upgraded indoor sports centres are needed

A Master Plan has been developed to take advantage of the differences between the two sites and ensure they complement each other to collectively create a regional sporting hub.

Proposed solution
Implement the Master Plans.

Bega Sporting Complex
Remove the existing building and develop a new indoor sports facility that meets sporting code requirements and includes: multi-purpose activity rooms, a canteen, change rooms and amenities suitable for all users. Create viewing areas for both playing fields and develop a multi-age adventure play node. Improve entry and parking, and create better, safer pedestrian links within the site and to the school ovals across Bega Street.

Pambula Sporting Complex
Extend and renovate the existing main clubhouse and construct a multipurpose building for users of the lower area, replacing ad hoc buildings. Add additional basketball/netball courts to improve the youth precinct and create a multi-aged playground. Install two new soccer fields on the lower level with turfed viewing terraces, and create a main equestrian area with ancillary facilities (stalls/stables/storage). Improve vehicle access, parking and pedestrian connectivity.

Outcomes
✔ Sporting diversity
✔ Recreation opportunities
✔ Quality fields and facilities
✔ Shared-use infrastructure
✔ Multi-generational options
✔ Support for aged and less mobile
✔ Membership retention and growth

Who benefits

Progress
Extensive consultation was undertaken to inform the Master Plans which have been adopted by Bega Valley Shire Council.

Indicative costs
Bega Sporting Complex $7.6 million
Valley Fields $109,000
Pambula Sporting Complex $3.9 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Regional Growth: Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund

Canberra Region Joint Organisation: Endorsed Priority Infrastructure Project
Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040
Infrastructure Milestone: Masterplans for Bega and Merimbula Sporting Complexes
Supporting NSW’s target to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020
Redevelopment of Bega War Memorial Pool

Our challenge
Built in 1962, the Bega War memorial Pool is nearing the end of its useful life and no longer meets community needs and expectations. The main pool has a major leak and the pool basins and chemical treatment and filtration plant is due for replacement. Community feedback cites a lack of water space, poor disability access, outdated change rooms and lack of shade, and a desire for a mix of indoor/outdoor water spaces that operate all year.

Proposed solution
Conduct an initial feasibility study to confirm the facility mix, concept design and indicative capital and operating cost for redeveloping the pool. Following this, demolish the existing pool and (pending feasibility study) redevelop the new facility.

Elements to be investigated include:
• An 8 lane, 25m heated indoor pool with disability access ramp
• 15m x 10m heated indoor learn-to-swim/program pool with disability access ramp
• Outdoor leisure water area
• Kiosk, club room, small viewing area
• New change rooms

Outcomes
✔ Year-round recreation
✔ Accessibility
✔ Health benefits
✔ Water safety education

Who benefits

Progress
Bega Valley Shire Council has budgeted $1.5 million to replace the pool structure and is currently discussing options for the re-development.

Indicative cost
$8.5 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Regional Growth: Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund
Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund

Who benefits

Progress
Bega Valley Shire Council has budgeted $1.5 million to replace the pool structure and is currently discussing options for the re-development.

Indicative cost
$8.5 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Regional Growth: Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund
Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund

Who benefits

Progress
Bega Valley Shire Council has budgeted $1.5 million to replace the pool structure and is currently discussing options for the re-development.

Indicative cost
$8.5 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Regional Growth: Regional Sports Infrastructure Fund
Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund
CULTURAL FACILITIES

✓ Delivering infrastructure to enable bold and exciting arts and culture that reflect the state’s rich cultural diversity

✓ Delivering infrastructure to build more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive regional communities
Our challenge
The local community want “more arts and creative spaces and enterprises and a purpose-built art gallery or a bigger, better art gallery” (2016 Shire-wide community consultation). In addition, visitors to the gallery want a modern facility with multiple exhibition spaces, capacity for larger exhibitions, and a design that attracts tourism but also provides opportunities for local artists and craftspeople (2017 gallery visitor survey).

However, the current facility has limited exhibition spaces, low ceilings, limited storage capacity and the environmental control is not to industry standard. There are few available options to create viable income streams.

Proposed solution
Redevelop the Bega Valley Regional Gallery to create a leading tourism facility and solidify the region’s reputation as a vibrant, creative and liveable place.

Planned works include:
• Multi-use exhibition spaces for up to three simultaneous exhibitions, including a local professional artist’s showcase
• Long term loans from the Art Gallery of NSW in line with their Regional NSW and Western Sydney Engagement Plan (2017)
• Onsite cultural interpretation, introduction to Aboriginal history of the region and keeping place for possible local objects and stories
• Workshop spaces for community self-run and outside hire art classes
• An artistic and activity/education program
• Studio space for artists in residence
• Stand-alone hospitality tenancy as an ongoing source of income
• Retail offering that provides economic drivers for local artists, makers and craftspeople
• A venue of architectural merit that attracts visitors in its own right and can be utilised as an income stream for private and corporate functions

Outcomes
✔ Visual culture and local identity
✔ Health, cultural, economic, and social benefits
✔ Aboriginal culture and heritage
✔ Visitation
✔ Cultural tourism
✔ Economic stimulus

Who benefits

Progress
Bega Valley Shire Council has applied for $5 million funding from the NSW Regional Cultural Fund.

Indicative cost
$6.75 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Regional Growth: Regional Cultural Fund
Philanthropic bequests
Our challenge
Bega Valley Shire’s 19 community halls are integral pieces of social infrastructure supporting yoga, dance and fitness classes, art and theatre groups, markets, weddings, parties and community meetings. Many also play key roles in bushfire and emergencies, and one hosts a community kitchen operator. A range of improvements are needed in particular:

**Eden, Kiah, Pambula, Tanja and Wolumla halls**

Inadequate kitchen facilities mean refreshments for functions are often prepared off-site and re-heated at the halls, which is cumbersome and potentially unsafe. The access road to Kiah Hall also requires upgrading.

**Other hall projects**

Future kitchen upgrades are also proposed for Murrah, Brogo, Tarraganda, Nethercote and Rock Hall.

Proposed solution

Create fully functional non-domestic kitchens at Eden, Kiah, Pambula, Tanja and Wolumla Halls. This requires removal of existing kitchens; electrical, plumbing and painting works; installation of stainless steel work benches and double sinks and hand basins; new flooring; and new ovens and fridges.

Safely remove the existing roof at the Eden Log Cabin, undertake repairs, and install new roofing and replacement capping, valleys, flashings, guttering and downpipes.

Upgrade access road to Kiah Hall.

Outcomes

- Hall utilisation
- Community social wellbeing
- Food safety
- User health and safety
- User satisfaction
- Event/function attraction
- Local business
- Asset life

Who benefits

- Community
- Health
- Safety
- User satisfaction
- Event/function attraction
- Local business
- Asset life

Progress

Bega Valley Shire Council has started consulting with volunteers, hirers and local communities to design and scope works for the new kitchens. A grant application has been lodged to fund Eden, Kiah, Pambula, Tanja and Wolumla Hall projects.

Indicative cost

Hall upgrades at Eden, Kiah, Pambula, Tanja and Wolumla $178,000

Future kitchen upgrades $35,000 per hall

Targeted funding source

NSW Regional Growth: Stronger Country Communities Fund

Theatre Twyford

Our challenge

The heritage listed Twyford Hall is currently heavily used by the local community for musical productions, performances, antique sales, craft markets and art shows as well as community meetings and events. However, it has difficulty catering for the demand, and Bega Valley Shire has limited ability to cater for larger touring shows as it has no facility with professional raked seating.

Proposed solution

Expand the existing facility into a modern state of the art professional raked theatre and a traditional community hall and meeting room. This will create a vibrant precinct in Merimbula providing a point of difference for cultural tourism.

The project proposed the construction of 200 seat raked theatre, stage area and associated amenities such as a theatre shell, raised stage and orchestra pit with loading dock, under stage and general dressing room areas and toilet facilities, storage, directors box, lighting, foyer and staircase, and audio systems including hearing loop and acoustic materials.

Outcomes

- Community arts
- Social and cultural benefits
- Greater participation
- Professional theatre company attraction
- Regional economic growth
- Tourism attraction

Who benefits

- Community
- Arts
- Social
- Cultural
- Participation
- Professional theatre company
- Regional economic growth
- Tourism

Progress

The project has obtained development consent from Bega Valley Shire Council.

Indicative cost

$7.4 million

Targeted funding source

NSW Regional Growth: Regional Cultural Fund
REGIONAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT

- Supporting NSW’s target to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020
- Creating jobs, driving economic growth and building stronger regional communities into the future
- Delivering infrastructure that supports long term growth benefits to local communities and economies
- Boosting regional airports’ capacity and safety and increasing their ability to attract visitors to regional NSW
Our challenge
Merimbula Regional Airport plays a critical role in the long-term viability and growth for the region and the community. It supports health and emergency services and drives tourism, business, freight, and education. It is also the only form of public transport infrastructure linking the south-east region to Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra within a reasonable travel time.

The Merimbula Airport Masterplan shows that Merimbula Airport may see passenger numbers increase from around 60,000 annually to 105,000 – 220,000 annually by 2030. Bega Valley Shire Council has recently completed or commenced significant upgrades to the airport infrastructure in line with the Merimbula Airport Masterplan, however further upgrades are required.

Proposed solution
Implement further upgrades in line with the Merimbula Airport Masterplan. These include:
- Runway overlay and apron extension
- Arthur Kaine Drive realignment and parking precinct redesign
- Stormwater detention and management
- Lighting and sewer upgrades
- Develop arrivals and departures terminals
- Demolition of old terminal and rebuild connections with new terminals
- General aviation taxiways

Progress
Bega Valley Shire Council has commenced a $6.7 million upgrade to the airport infrastructure with grant funding from the Restart NSW Regional Airports program.

Indicative cost
$20 million

Targeted funding source
Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund
NSW Regional Growth: Growing Local Economies Fund
NSW Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund: Regional Airports Program

Supporting NSW’s target to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020

Outcomes
✔ Regional economic growth
✔ Productivity
✔ Increased visitation
✔ Medical access
✔ Eden Port connectivity
✔ Export opportunities
✔ Emergency response
✔ Commuter flexibility

Who benefits

Regional Airport
Upgrade Merimbula Regional Airport

Our challenge
Airports with excess land not required for future aeronautical infrastructure offer potential opportunities for the economy. Smart commercial use of the land can create revenue to reinvest in the community, deliver economic benefit to the area through construction, procurement and ongoing employment, and create opportunities to leverage synergies between onsite businesses.

Bega Valley Shire Council wants to see available land at Merimbula airport used to develop aviation-related activities and businesses whilst not infringing on the aeronautical requirements of the airport.

Proposed solution
The Merimbula Airport Masterplan 2033 identifies a number of potential development opportunities including:
- New aircraft hangar sites, associated taxiways and internal road access
- New aviation-related lease sites
- Aviation-related businesses that support activities in the precinct and the airport
- Airline support facilities including airline headquarters/base or activities requiring access and parking for aircraft
- Non-aviation related commercial activities
- Incorporation of a visitor information centre that could include an Indigenous Cultural Centre and/or National Parks Centre
- Paid carparking on the existing site and in the adjacent precinct zoned for airport use

Progress
Bega Valley Shire Council is currently developing a new aircraft storage site with 20 new lease sites. It is also exploring the potential for Australian Quarantine Inspection Service for Merimbula Airport in partnership with oyster growers.

Targeted funding source
Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund
NSW Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund: Regional Airports Program

Outcomes
✔ Sustainable critical regional infrastructure
✔ Regional economic growth
✔ Productivity
✔ Local employment

Who benefits

Airport Business Development
Develop business and general aviation opportunities at Merimbula Airport

Regional Airport Development
Upgrade Merimbula Regional Airport

Supporting NSW’s target to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020
TRANSPORT AND ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE

✔ Improving connections between local and regional roads, state highways and key freight hubs

✔ Enhancing freight productivity in country NSW

✔ Making state roads safer and reduce crashes on the road network

✔ Upgrading and replacing bridges to enhance access for local communities and facilitate higher productivity vehicle access

✔ Supporting more accessible, liveable and productive towns

✔ Delivering infrastructure to build more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive regional communities
### Freight Route Upgrades

**Port of Eden Freight Route**

**Our challenge**
The Port of Eden is of regional economic significance and a critical piece of state infrastructure, however freight access is currently directed through the CBD. Not only can the pavement not support long term freight use, these large vehicles compromise the safety and traffic flow, particularly in peak holiday periods. Furthermore, there are opportunities to better integrate with other key freight networks such as the Monaro and Snowy Mountains Highways and Merimbula Airport.

**Proposed solution**
Improve freight connections and access to the Port of Eden from Princes Highway by creating a heavy vehicle route to the Port which bypasses the Eden CBD. This includes:

- Upgrading the pavement and surface
- Realigning the Imlay Street/Albert Terrace intersection
- Upgrading pavement and installing a shared pathway in Albert Terrace
- Installing a bus alighting area on the corner Imlay Street/Albert Terrace and improved accessibility infrastructure (e.g. pram ramps)
- Ancillary works including utilities adjustments, landscaping, fencing and kerb

**Outcomes**
- Heavy vehicle accessibility
- Pedestrian and cyclist safety
- Connectivity
- Transport flow
- Visitor experience
- Community pride
- Regional economic growth

**Who benefits**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
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<td>Community pride</td>
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<tr>
<td>✔️</td>
<td>Regional economic growth</td>
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**Progress**
Bega Valley Shire Council has commenced design and survey work and engaged the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council to undertake assessment work on the project site. An application for funding has been lodged under the Fixing Country Roads Program.

**Indicative cost**
$3 million

**Targeted funding source**
Building Better Regions

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Canberra Region Joint Organisation: Endorsed Priority Infrastructure Project

Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040

Infrastructure Milestone: Port of Eden – Princes Highway via Imlay Street road upgrade
Our challenge
In the last five years 15 accidents causing serious injury (7% of the Shire total) have occurred on Mount Darragh Road, including four fatalities. The road is a major freight link for the east-west corridor, a significant tourist road, and links the communities of Wyndham, Burrage, Cathcart and South Pambula to larger centres.

On Pambula beach Road, the road reserve adjacent to Lumen Christi Catholic College is currently being inappropriately used by vehicles impacting the safety of pedestrians and cyclists, and potentially damaging the Shire’s underground services and infrastructure.

Further, in Wolumla, the recreation ground is located on the other side of the Princes Highway to Wolumla village and school, presenting safety concerns for pedestrians, especially school children.

Proposed solution
Improving the safety on these critical roads is essential.

Road Upgrades: Mount Darragh
Install safety measures on four sections of Mount Darragh Road totalling 10.8km, including:
• New and replacement guardrail with motorcycle underrun
• Road feature signs (crest, dip etc.) and curve advisory and speed signs
• Barriers on roadside, curve alignment markers and guideposts with reflectors

Pedestrian Shared Zone: Pambula Beach
Construct a pedestrian shared zone, including curb and guttering and a pedestrian fence, along the south-west side of Pambula Beach Road and the western side of Culgoa Crescent, Pambula Beach in front of Lumen Christi School.

Pedestrian Tunnel: Princes Highway, Wolumla
Design and construct a pedestrian tunnel under the Princes Highway at Wolumla.

Outcomes
✔ Safer roads
✔ Pedestrian and cyclist safety
✔ Community connectivity
✔ Fewer incidents
✔ Recreation opportunities
✔ Health and wellbeing

Who benefits

Progress
Bega Valley Shire Council has applied for funding to complete the works required to Mount Darragh Road and construction of the pedestrian shared zone at Pambula Beach.

Indicative cost
Mt Darragh Road: $605,000
Pambula Beach: $187,000

Targeted funding source
NSW Active Transport Program
NSW Safer Roads Program
Our challenge
Poor pavement and gravel road surfaces are affecting the economy and community, and there is strong support for many key roads to be sealed. These roads generally connect outlying villages to population centres, link to higher order roads, carry significant through-traffic, provide critical access and enable and support economic development. The Towamba Valley in particular is prone to serious flooding events and the current road condition may increase emergency response and evacuation times. Such roads are also limiting heavy vehicle access and transportation of freight in a safe and timely manner. In one case Bega Valley Shire Council has imposed a 15 tonne load limit due to substandard road surface and narrow width in places.

Proposed solution

**West Kameruka Road**
Seal a 7.5km section within the Bega Valley Shire including stabilising and strengthening the underlying pavement and drainage. Pavement strengthening or resealing on the existing sealed sections may also be required.

**Doctor George Mountain Road**
Seal a 11.1km section including stabilising and strengthening the underlying pavement with associated earthworks, drainage and guardrail installation, and construct a wide shoulder marked as a bicycle lane.

**Burrage and Towamba Roads**
Seal a 20.4km section on Towamba road and a 4.6km section on Burrage Road between the Princes Highway and Mount Darragh Road. This includes stabilising pavement, associated earthworks, drainage and installing guardrail.

**Tantawangalo Mountain Road**
Upgrade pavement and seal a 1.6km section including and strengthening the underlying pavement and any associated drainage works.

**Wonboyn Road**
Reseal a 2.5km section including stabilising pavement and resealing a 900m section and any associated drainage works.

**Outcomes**
- ✔ Freight efficiency
- ✔ Emergency response
- ✔ Community connectivity
- ✔ Safer roads
- ✔ Reduced transport costs
- ✔ Clean environment
- ✔ Tourist access
- ✔ Cycling links

Who benefits

**Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040**
Infrastructure Milestone: Road, footpath and cycleway infrastructure

**Progress**
Bega Valley Shire Council has lodged grant applications to fund the West Kameruka, Doctor George Mountain, Tantawangalo Mountain, Burrage and Towamba Road projects.

**Indicative cost**
- West Kameruka Road: $3.5 million
- Doctor George Mountain Road: $5.2 million
- Burrage and Towamba Roads: $10 million
- Tantawangalo Mountain Road: $1.3 million
- Wonboyn Road: $320,000

**Targeted funding source**
NSW Fixing Country Roads: Roads and Bridges Construction Stream
Our challenge
Bega Valley Shire Council own/are responsible for 51 wooden bridges. The bridges have landscape and historic values but also present safety concerns and economic barriers.

Timber bridges on high order tourist and freight routes (Regional Roads) are a priority for replacement as they are critical for safe and effective transportation of goods and services within the Shire.

Most bridges are not wide enough to meet an increase in freight and heavy vehicle demands or have been built with tight bends at either end that create safety issues for users.

Cuttagee Bridge
Heritage listed Cuttagee Bridge is located south of Bermagui on the iconic coastal drive between Tilba and Pambula. The current bridge is single lane which may not be big enough to cater for future increases in traffic demands.

Its timber and steel piers are weathered and rusted, and elements of the deck and handrails require replacement. Recent assessments indicate that major structural works are required within five years.

Other Bridges
Replacement is also required for the following bridges:
- Six Mile Creek Bridge, Mount Darragh Road
- Whipstick Creek Bridge, Mount Darragh Road
- Wapengo Creek Bridge, Tathra Bermagui Road
- Sandy Creek Bridge, Tathra Bermagui Road
- Murrah River Bridge, Tathra Bermagui Road (Local Heritage Listed)
- Brokelos Creek Bridge, Tathra Bermagui Road

Proposed solution
Prepare a conservation management plan for the existing heritage listed bridges.

Replace the bridges with modern equivalents that are fit for purpose and sympathetic to the coastal surroundings, the local heritage value of the existing bridge and all modes of transport. In addition, works may also require road realignment and bridge widening.

Located in an area which is difficult to detour, it is proposed to keep Cuttagee Bridge in use during construction of the new bridge.

Outcomes
- Critical freight assets replaced
- Transport safety and efficiency
- Reduced transport costs

Who benefits

Progress
Bega Valley Shire Council has proactively replaced high risk structures in poor condition over the last decade through loan funding support from its infrastructure fund and the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development Bridges Renewal Program.

Indicative cost
- Cuttagee Bridge: $6 million
- Six Mile Creek Bridge: $5 million
- Whipstick Creek Bridge: $1 million
- Wapengo Creek Bridge: $6 million
- Sandy Creek Bridge: $4 million
- Murrah River Bridge: $3 million
- Brokelos Creek Bridge: $1 million

Targeted funding source
- Australian Government Bridges Renewal Program
- NSW Bridges for the Bush program
Our challenge
The provision of active transport opportunities is a priority of both the NSW Government and Bega Valley Shire Council. There is strong local community demand for bike paths linking towns and villages in the Bega Valley Shire, in particular between Bega and Tathra, to improve safety for existing riders and enable more people to travel between the centres by bike.

Proposed solution
Design and construct bike tracks linking population centres. This will be a combination of concrete shared paths, road crossings and bike tracks.

The Bega Valley Bike Plan identifies the following key connections required:
- Kalaru to Tathra (funded, commencing 2017/18)
- Kalaru to Bega
- Bermagui to Wallaga Lake
- Tura Beach to Merimbula
- Merimbula to South Pambula
- South Pambula to Eden

Outcomes
✓ Community health and safety
✓ Sustainable transport
✓ Liveability
✓ Accessibility
✓ Tourism attraction
✓ Local economic benefits

Who benefits

Progress
The 4.6km section of the bike track from Kalaru to Tathra has been funded by the NSW Government and Bega Valley Shire Council will commence design and construction in the 2017/18 financial year.

Indicative cost
- Kalaru to Tathra: $3 million
- Kalaru to Bega: $6 million

Targeted funding source
- NSW Active Transport Program
- NSW Regional Growth: Stronger Country Communities Fund

Member for Bega Andrew Constance ministerial announcement (Bega to Tathra bike path funding)

“This will not only better connect two of our great communities it will also provide another fantastic tourism driver and give the region a further economic boost.”

“The $3 million will be provided to Bega Valley Council to work with the community and stakeholders to plan and construct this vital piece of infrastructure in our region.”
Our challenge
The provision of active transport opportunities is a priority of both the NSW Government and Bega Valley Shire Council. Shared paths provide all-access, shared-use walkway, for use by pedestrians, joggers, parents with prams, cyclists, disabled and mobility devices.

Shared paths are required to make our towns more access friendly places for all residents and visitors to the area.

Proposed solution

Merimbula Estuary Access Trail
Design and construct a 1.7km all-access shared-use walkway/cycle trail adjacent to Lake Street Merimbula, from Rotary Park to Merimbula Wharf via Bar Beach.

The project will connect the existing cycle paths that begin at Pambula Beach, through Pambula, beside Arthur Kaine Drive and Merimbula Airport, and through the CBD of Merimbula to Spencer Park and Lake Street.

Project Partner: Bureau of Accessible Tourism

Bermagui Bridge
Design and construct a shared path on the existing Bermagui Bridge by widening the existing path to 2.5m, adding a barrier and narrowing the current vehicle lane widths.

Who benefits

✔ Pedestrian and cyclist safety
✔ Liveability
✔ Accessibility
✔ Sustainable transport options
✔ Aboriginal, European and natural heritage
✔ Tourism attraction
✔ Local economic benefits

Progress

Funding of $2 million has been approved for the design and construction of Merimbula Estuary Access Trail by the NSW Government with the support of MP State Member for Bega - Andrew Constance.

Indicative cost
$2.1 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Active Transport Program
NSW Regional Growth: Stronger Country Communities Fund

Member for Bega Andrew Constance ministerial announcement: shared path to Merimbula Wharf funding

“This will not only better connect two key destinations in Merimbula, it will also provide another fantastic tourism driver and give the region a further economic boost.”

“By targeting investment into improved cycling and walking facilities, the NSW Government is supporting more liveable and accessible communities.”
WATER, SEWER AND WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Ensuring infrastructure meets contemporary standards for water security, public health, environmental and safety outcomes
- Delivering infrastructure that supports long term growth benefits to local communities and economies
- Promoting waste avoidance, resource recovery and waste management
Our challenge
Bega Valley Shire is working towards the NSW Environmental Protection Authority Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery targets. This requires the following action:

- Reduce recycling system cost and provide infrastructure that favours recycling over landfill
- Enhance the range of materials acceptable through kerbside recycling
- Reduce the amount of recyclable material being disposed of to landfill from commercial and industrial sources
- Extend the lifespan of the Central Waste Facility which is filling faster than predicted

Proposed solution
Design and construct a specialised plant to receive, separate and prepare recyclable materials for sale to end-user manufacturers. This may include:

- Processing kerbside collected co-mingled recycling, and commercial recycling
- Local processing of glass for engineering applications
- A facility for collection and processing of problem waste types including mattresses and e-waste
- The option to receive waste for sorting/processing from outside the Bega Valley Shire
- An opportunity to generate revenue via the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)
- An increase in the types of materials able to be recycled i.e. soft plastics and polystyrene.

Outcomes
✓ Greater resource recovery
✓ Landfill asset life
✓ Benefits retained locally
✓ Less carbon miles
✓ Reduced waste disposal
✓ Local employment
✓ Community group opportunities
✓ Commercial return
✓ Innovation

Who benefits

Progress
Concept design and preliminary budget is complete, detailed design and approval framework investigation underway.

Indicative cost
$10 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Environmental Trust

Our challenge
Bega Valley Shire Council needs to upgrade its water treatment plants at Bemboka, Brogo/Bermagui, Merimbula-Eden (Yellow Pinch) and Bega-Tathra. This is needed to:

- Eliminate potential surface water contamination from adjoining land uses and improve water quality
- Reduce the need for precautionary boil water notices
- Address high iron content in the water causing problems for sensitive water users (including Bega Regional Hospital) and amenity issues for customers due to water discolouration

Proposed solution
Design and construct four new water treatment plants to improve the supply of potable water to numerous towns and communities within the Bega Valley Shire. This involves investigating raw water quality, processes and refinement options; concept design of preferred treatment option; and plant construction.

Outcomes
✓ Water quality
✓ Public health
✓ Reputation and community pride

Who benefits

Progress
Bemboka: Detailed design finalised and construction scheduled to commence in the 2017/18 financial year
Brogo-Bermagui: Water treatment options being investigated and tender for the design and construction commencing in 2017/2018
Bega-Tathra: Planning commenced

Indicative cost
Bemboka: $4 million
Brogo-Bermagui: $11 million
Yellow Pinch: $15-20 million
Bega-Tathra: $12-18 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Safe and Secure Water Program

Canberra Region
Joint Organisation: Endorsed Priority Infrastructure Project

Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040
Infrastructure Milestone: Water treatment facilities
Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant

Our challenge
Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant does not meet NSW environmental objectives and the NSW Environmental Protection Authority has imposed a Pollution Reduction Program to improve environmental outcomes.

Current nutrient concentrations and disinfection levels of effluent have potential local environmental and public health impacts, and the beach face ocean outfall fails to meet community expectations. The dunal exfiltration ponds are also limited by groundwater level impacts and long-term sustainability issues.

Proposed solution
Upgrade the Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant and construct a deep water ocean outfall transfer pipe from that plant with a submerged diffuser.

The modification needed to the existing sewage treatment plant has not been finalised but may involve:
- Alum and caustic dosing facilities for phosphorous reduction and pH correction
- Chlorine disinfection system
- Ultraviolet (UV) light disinfection system
- Pumps and pipeline for a deep water ocean outfall
- Multiport diffuser to mix and dilute at the discharge point for a deep water ocean outfall
- Transfer pipework, tank storages, irrigation pipework, sprinklers and controls for reuse at Pambula

Outcomes
✔ Effluent quality
✔ Public health
✔ Water quality
✔ Enhanced recreation
✔ Reputation and community pride
✔ Groundwater quality
✔ Sustainable sewage disposal

Who benefits

Progress
The project has been declared State Significant Infrastructure and the Secretary’s Environmental Assessment Requirements have been issued by the Minister for Planning. The concept design and Environmental Impact Assessment have commenced.

Indicative cost
$32 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Regional Growth: Growing Local Economies Fund
NSW Safe and Secure Water Program

Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan 2040
Infrastructure Milestone: Merimbula Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade and Ocean Outfall project

Eden Water Security

Our challenge
Significant long-term growth is projected in the Eden area. Eden’s water supply resilience and redundancy is achieved through a piped connection from the north. This connection may not be adequately sized to provide all the required supply if other sources are compromised, or if a Water Treatment Plant is not built in Eden.

Proposed solution
Investigate water security for the region and undertake required upgrade. A water security project may include local treatment or major trunk infrastructure upgrade, or both.

Outcomes
✔ Secure water supply

Who benefits

Progress
Initial modelling shows a significant capital expenditure requirement.

Indicative cost
$2–10 million

Targeted funding source
NSW Safe and Secure Water Program
Delivering infrastructure that supports long-term growth benefits to local communities and economies.
Our challenge
Increased resident population and visitor numbers has increased congestion and made it more difficult for motorists to locate available parking in and around the Bega Valley Shire’s town centres and villages.

Bega Valley Shire Council is responsible for ensuring our roads are appropriately lit, but currently our residential streets are lit with low quality, yellow lighting which consumes a lot of energy and is expensive.

Proposed solution

Smart Parking Technology
Introduce smart parking technology in Merimbula and Bega to maximise user accessibility.
This may include:
• In-ground parking sensors to identify whether car parking is occupied
• Electronic signs or a mobile phone app that send car parking occupancy information to travellers in advance to help them decide which direction to proceed.

Replace Street Lights
Partner with Canberra Region Joint Organisation to participate in the Southern Light Project to:
• Replace street lights with LEDs that produce high quality white light and cost 50% less to run and maintain
• Introduce smart controls technologies to improve services levels and operating regimes

Outcomes
✔ Liveability
✔ Accessible towns
✔ Safer roads
✔ Pedestrian and cyclist safety
✔ Traffic flow
✔ Energy savings

Who benefits

Progress
Through membership of the Canberra Region Joint Organisation, Bega Valley Shire Council is collaborating with project partners to develop a model for implementation of the Southern Lights Project.

Indicative cost
Replace street light heads with LED $700,000

Targeted funding source
Australian Government Smart Cities and Suburbs Program
NSW Regional Growth: Growing Local Economies Fund
Delivering infrastructure to build more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive regional communities
Our challenge

Infrastructure issues at Bandara Children’s Services in Bega are causing safety, health and service challenges, and capital works are required to unlock opportunities for growth and development. Key issues include:

- Extensive flood damage causing health risks due to mould
- Disintegrating grass presenting respiratory risks for children
- Design of the babies room offers little privacy and impedes staff ability to supervise children
- Insufficient storage
- Children have been injured on damaged parts of an old wire fence
- Works are required to fulfil compliance requirements under the Children (Education and Care Services National Law Application) Act 2010

Bega Valley Shire Council is the sole provider of early childhood education and care services in Eden via Eden Preschool and Eden Child Care Centre. The operation of the two services within one block of each other creates inefficiencies including:

- Duplication of asset management activities and costs
- Duplication of operational and administrative activities
- The need for additional staffing to cover legislated child to staff ratios across two sites
- Scheduling difficulties for staff who may work across both sites, particularly in cases of emergency
- Inconvenience to parents who may use both services

Proposed solution

Bandara Children’s Services

Undertake flood remediation work, rejuvenate outdoor spaces, improve the babies room, construct an external storage shed and replace the existing perimeter fence.

Eden Preschool and Eden Child Care Centre

Co-locate the two services by constructing a new educational room at Eden Child Care Centre to house Eden Preschool.

Outcomes

✔ Service efficiencies
✔ Convenience to families
✔ Child and family satisfaction
✔ Health and safety
✔ Visual amenity
✔ Staff environment
✔ Health, wellbeing and learning
✔ New play spaces
✔ Flood risk mitigation
✔ Reputation and trust
✔ Enrolments
✔ Accessibility

Who benefits

Progress

A grant application to fund the Bandara Children’s Services project has been lodged with the NSW Government Stronger Country Communities Fund

Indicative cost

Bandara $164,000
Eden Child Care Centre $300,000

Targeted funding source

Commonwealth Department of Education and Training: Community Child Care Fund
Children’s Services reserves
NSW Regional Growth: Stronger Country Communities Fund.
Creating jobs, driving economic growth and building stronger regional communities into the future

Delivering infrastructure that supports long term growth benefits to local communities and economies.
Our challenge
Bega Saleyards, owned by Council, turns over approximately 26,500 head of cattle annually, with a total value of $24 million. It is currently ranked 18th by cattle throughput in NSW and services the area from Genoa and Winger River in Victoria, to Batemans Bay, Bombala, Delegate and Nimmitabel in NSW.

Recent investigations found the saleyards are operating inefficiently and recommended a number of improvements including installation of soft flooring and health facilities for sick or injured livestock.

In addition, upgrades may be required to meet future regulations by the Environmental Protection Authority and changing animal welfare requirements by the Department of Primary Industries.

Proposed solution
Conduct a detailed feasibility and gap analysis investigation to determine the current state of the Saleyard facility and likely upgrade costs, then upgrade the facilities as identified.

Outcomes
✔ Regional economic benefit
✔ Cattle industry growth
✔ Local employment

Who benefits

Progress
Bega Valley Shire Council has resolved to investigate various operating models for the Bega Saleyards. This investigation is due to be presented to Bega Valley Shire Council before the end of the 2017–18 financial year.

Targeted funding source
Australian Government Building Better Regions Fund
NSW Regional Growth: Growing Local Economies Fund
Public, Private Partnerships may be an option depending on the operating model.