



Understanding our **PLACE!**

what you told us...

BACKGROUND

THE PURPOSE
what we will
do with this
information

CHAPTER 1

**WHAT YOU
TOLD US...**
Shire wide

CHAPTER 2

**WHAT YOU
TOLD US...**
by place

CHAPTER 3

**WHAT YOU
TOLD US...**
by age

CHAPTER 4

**RESPONSES
FROM SECTORS**
findings from
identified groups

CHAPTER 5

**CREATING OUR
FUTURE**
what you want
our place to be

CHAPTER 7

**WHERE TO
FROM HERE**
next steps,
creating our CSP



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TO SUM IT UP...

The Understanding Our Place report was prepared in accordance with Phase 1 of Council's adopted Community Engagement Strategy for the upcoming Bega Valley Community Strategic Plan 2040.

Understanding Our Place has been prepared to understand what people currently love about the Bega Valley Shire, what they find challenging, and how they imagine the future. It provides a snapshot in time; to give our community a better understanding of who we are, where we live and the direction we would like to head in by providing insights into the ambitions and issues of our community. Through this consultation, around 2,000 members of our community provided their views, with over 24,500 detailed comments.

Key findings

The feedback shows the things we like best about living in the Bega Valley Shire are our local community and the natural environment. Our major challenges include distance, employment opportunities and lack of public transport, medical and other services.

Some of us want the Shire or the place where we live to stay the same as it is now, but for others the main areas we would like to see changes are: employment opportunities; economic growth and diversification; public transport options; bike paths, roads, parking and footpaths; recreation facilities and spaces; community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns; town planning and land use controls; and Council's decision making and consultation.

Draft Community Ambitions

From the feedback received, draft 'community ambitions' have been developed to reflect our communities' main priorities and aspirations. When finalised and adopted, these community ambitions will form the cornerstones of our next Community Strategic Plan.

The proposed draft community ambitions outlined in this report will be publically exhibited prior to the formal public exhibition of Bega Valley Community Strategic Plan 2040. This will ensure they adequately reflect the desired future ambitions of the community.

*We hope you enjoy reading about
Our Place*

CONTENTS



15 CHAPTER 1
What you told us... Shire Wide



35 CHAPTER 2
What you told us... by Place



59 CHAPTER 3
What you told us... by age

03	TO SUM IT UP...
07	THE PURPOSE
08	BACKGROUND
10	COLLECTING THE RESPONSES
15	WHAT YOU TOLD US - SHIRE WIDE
16	WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE
18	THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE
20	CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE
22	WHAT SETS THE PLACE WE LIVE IN APART FROM OTHERS
24	WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT THE PLACE WE LIVE IN
26	CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE PLACE WE LIVE IN
28	THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN OUR LIVES RIGHT NOW
30	HOW STRONGLY WE FEEL A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY
32	CHANGES THAT WOULD MAKE US FEEL MORE A PART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
35	WHAT YOU TOLD US... BYPLACE
36	THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR PLACES
38	BEGA
40	BERMAGUI, BEAUTY POINT, WALLAGA LAKE, WALLAGA LAKE HEIGHTS



85 CHAPTER 4
Responses from identified sector groups



93 CHAPTER 5
Creating our future



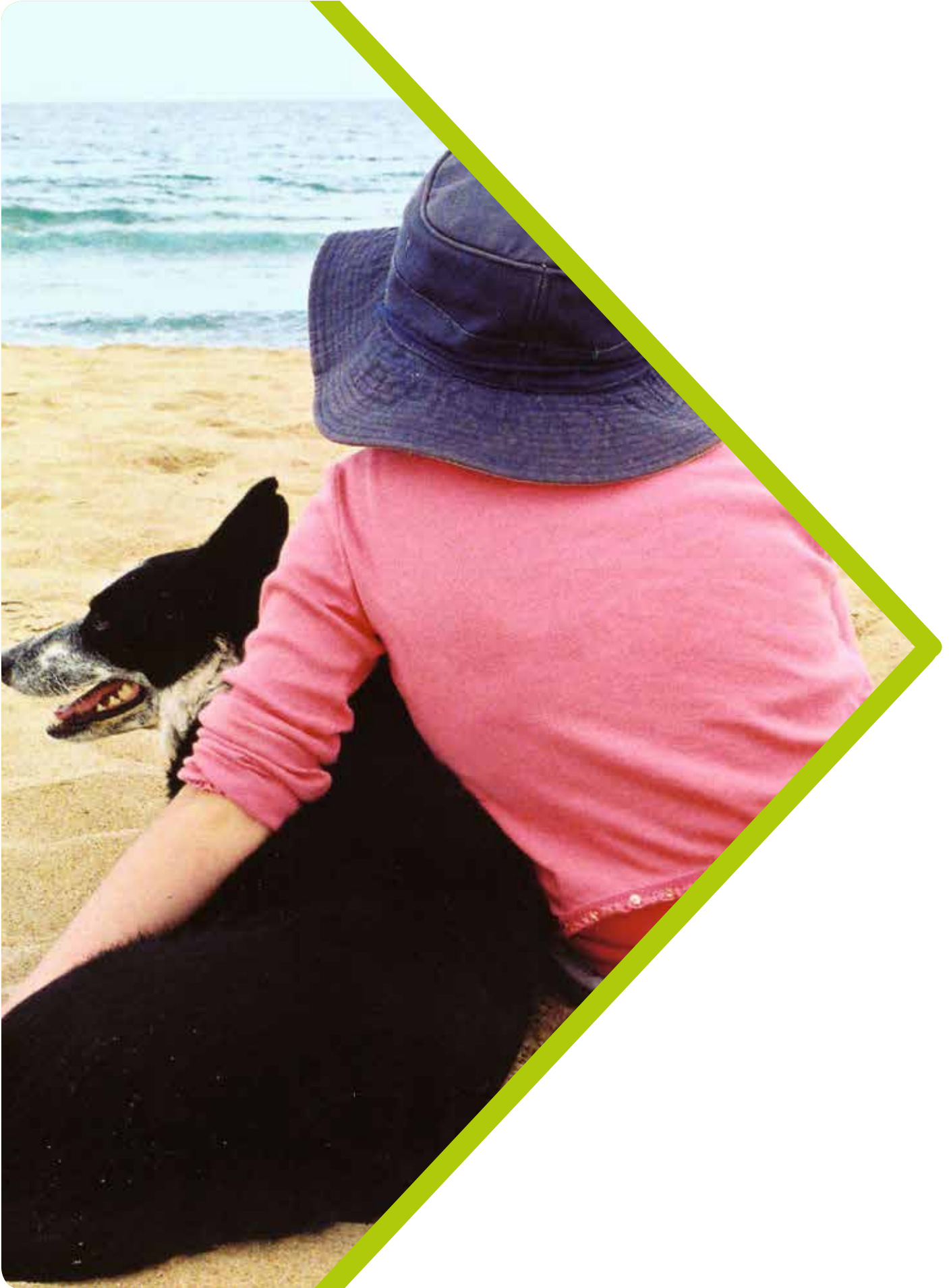
117 CHAPTER 6
Where to from here

> ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The creation of this report is a result of valuable feedback provided by over 2,000 members of our community. These people took the time to detail their views, and entrust their feedback to enable us to develop an understanding of their values, challenges and aspirations. Without the time taken by the community, providing over 24,500 comments, this report, and more importantly the improved understanding of our community gleaned from these responses would not have been possible. We especially thank the members of our community who actively supported and promoted this project throughout their networks.

42	EDEN	62	AGES - WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON	89	PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY
44	MERIMBULA AND BERRAMBOOL	63	...0-12 YEARS	93	CREATING OUR FUTURE
46	PAMBULA, SOUTH PAMBULA AND PAMBULA BEACH	74	...UNDER 18 YEARS	94	THE TYPE OF COMMUNITY WE WANT TO BE A PART OF IN THE FUTURE
48	TATHRA AND KALARU	77	...18 AND 34 YEARS	96	WHAT CHANGES DO WE WANT RIGHT NOW?
50	TURA BEACH AND MIRADOR	78	...35 AND 49 YEARS	117	WHERE TO FROM HERE...
52	RURAL VILLAGES	79	...50 AND 59 YEARS	118	DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN
54	INLAND RURAL AREAS	80	...60 - 69 YEARS	120	DRAFT COMMUNITY AMBITIONS EXPLAINED
56	COASTAL RURAL AREAS	81	... 70 AND OVER	123	OUR NEXT STEPS IN WORKING TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2040
59	WHAT YOU TOLD US...BY AGE	85	RESPONSES FROM IDENTIFIED SECTOR GROUPS		
60	THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AGES	86	ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS		

Thank you to everyone involved, your feedback has been meaningful and is greatly appreciated.



THE PURPOSE...

BACKGROUND

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Understanding Our Place document is to capture:

- what we love about the place where we live and the Bega Valley Shire as a whole
- what challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire
- our future expectations for both the places where we live and the Bega Valley Shire as a whole

- our visions for the type of community we would like to be a part of in the future
- our personal values and how connected to our communities we feel

The information will be used:

- for general information purposes by the people of the Bega Valley Shire
- to inform the upcoming Bega Valley Community Strategic Plan 2040 by identifying

our values, challenges and emerging issues in our area and to understand the future ambitions of our local community

- to inform other government and non-government stakeholders and agencies which have a role in working towards the future of our place and supporting the ambitions of our collective community

HOW THE INFORMATION WAS COLLECTED

1867 people participated in a survey either on paper or online.

The main survey consisted of 18 questions in which 1,553 people participated including attendees at The 2016 Golden Gig Event.

This survey included open ended questions about the whole Bega Valley Shire, the place where you live, personal values as well

as demographic information.

A shorter version of the survey consisting of 11 questions was completed by 62 targeted individuals or groups who completed the survey together.

A youth survey was also designed and sessions were run at high schools with 252 young people aged under 18 participating in a short survey. These shorter surveys included open ended questions about the whole Bega Valley Shire and demographic information.

Age specific engagement techniques were also used to collect information from 52 pre-school children who drew 'a picture of my favourite day', and 37 groups of primary school children who completed a mind map exercise 'what I love about my place' and 'what could make my place even better'.

Additional information was also collected at community events and meetings with target groups.

HOW WE RAISED AWARENESS WITH THE COMMUNITY

The survey was promoted throughout the Bega Valley Shire by:

- Listening posts in the CBDs of the 4 major town centres and 9 markets throughout the Bega Valley Shire
- 11 town hall drop in sessions in villages throughout the Bega Valley Shire
- Attending community group meetings, events and community services
- Bega Valley Shire Library email contact list and email contact lists of local community and sporting organisations and businesses, and the local TAFE and University of Wollongong campuses
- Advertising on radio, local newspapers, Council's website, Facebook page and Village Newsletter, displays in all local libraries, flyers and posters in shops and town noticeboards

*YOUR PLACE
OUR PLACE
GREAT PLACE*

COLLECTING THE RESPONSES

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

The surveys were designed using a combination of closed-ended questions to get demographic facts and figures and open-ended questions to allow for more detailed answers.

Open ended survey questions were used to give individual

respondents the freedom to answer in their own words, to capture their opinions and draw out as much information as possible.

For each of the open ended questions a sample of the survey responses was reviewed and a series of categories developed. All answers were then categorised based on the wording of the response. Some adjustment of categories took

place during this process.

This process (known as 'coding') was used to make sense of the information collected by highlighting the important messages and findings to enabling it to be counted and analysed.

This document presents the results of this analysis as well as a small selection of the 24,500 detailed comments received.

INFORMATION USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

Results for some places and age groups were combined to ensure that a statistically valid number of responses

was achieved. Similarly, where the number of responses to a particular question by a particular group was too low to provide a statistically valid number of responses the results are not presented in this document.

A number of people who live outside the Bega Valley Shire completed the survey. Results from these individuals have not been included in the information presented in this document.

HOW REPRESENTATIVE ARE THE RESPONSES

Several biases or influences are evident in the results:

- **Demographic:** Women, people who live on rural farms or lifestyle properties and people aged between 12 – 17, 50 – 59, 60 – 69 and 70 – 84 are overrepresented in the survey results. Conversely; men, people who live in urban towns or villages and people aged under 12, between 18 – 24 and between 25 – 34 are under-represented in the results. (Note that sections of this document contain results of targeted consultation with pre-school and primary school children who could not complete a survey).
- **Long and short form surveys:** Because the short form surveys did not ask the

questions relating to the place where you live and personal values the results from these questions are less representative than the other questions in terms of input from youth, Indigenous people and people with disabilities.

- **Level of detail provided:** For example one person may provide a brief answer to a question which was coded into one category, whereas another person may provide a much longer answer which was coded into up to 12 categories. Because of this, results have been ranked according to frequency of ideas rather than the proportion of the population that mention an idea.
- **Open ended questions:** Open ended questions are hard to analyze with electronic methods and each response was manually coded which is a potentially biasing process.

- **Shire versus place:** There are some crossovers between answers people gave for questions about the whole Bega Valley Shire and about their place and also some discrepancies between the place people stated they lived in and the place that their answers referred to.
- **Council:** Although the survey did not ask questions specifically related to the Bega Valley Shire Council, it was conducted and promoted by Council which resulted in a high proportion of answers relating to Council's decision making and people's expectations about the provision of services and facilities by Council.

These biases have not been statistically corrected for and need to be taken into account when using the information in this document.

REPRESENTATION OF RESULTS

RESULTS: URBAN VS. RURAL

There was little difference in the responses between people who live in a town or village compared with people who live on a rural farm or lifestyle property. The exception is what people tend to love most about

the town, village or rural area where they currently live:

Top 3 Urban

- people and community
- local facilities and services
- coast, beach, sea

Top 3 Rural

- people and community
- peace and quiet, open space
- trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains

RESULTS: MEN VS. WOMEN

There was little difference in the responses between men and women; however, the following trends were evident in the results:

- Women tended to mention the lack of availability of medical services more than men as the biggest challenge about living in the Bega Valley Shire
- Men tended to mention changes to Council's decision making and consultation more than women as a new idea or change they would like see in the Bega Valley Shire

RESULTS: LENGTH LIVED IN BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

There was little difference in the responses between people based on how long they have lived in the Bega Valley Shire. The exception is that people who have lived in the Bega Valley Shire for 5 years or less years were generally:

- less likely to mention the biggest challenge about living in the Bega Valley Shire as Council rates, decision making and consultation and lack of public transport than those who have lived in the Shire for longer, and
- more likely to mention economic growth and diversification and better employment opportunities than those that had lived in the Shire for longer as changes they would like to see in the next 20 years

WHAT YOU TOLD US...



WHAT YOU TOLD US... Shire WIDE

I love the valley, Mumbulla Mountain overlooking the valley, its river and beaches.

Surrounded by mountains yet still close to the snow and ocean.

The best part of where I live is the small community and we know everyone and it feels pretty safe.

Balancing development with beauty

Lovely neighbours, clean surf beach, great mountain.

Lush farming country surrounded by national parks.

The land of the Yuin nation.

Promote sustainable living encouraging local produce, small business, quality education and tourism.

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE



1,783 people answered this question. From these answers **4,301** ideas were put forward which were allocated into one or more of 20 categories.

OF THESE IDEAS:

- 16% relate to *people and community*
- 15% relate to *coast, beach, sea*
- 10% relate to *views, landscapes, scenery*

you told us...

15.8%	PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY
15.1%	COAST, BEACH, SEA
9.8%	VIEWS, LANDSCAPES, SCENERY
7.3%	TREES, FORESTS, WILDLIFE, WATERWAYS AND MOUNTAINS
7.2%	RELAXED, COASTAL, COUNTRY LIFESTYLE
6.6%	PEACE, QUIET AND OPEN SPACE
4.9%	CLIMATE, WEATHER
4.9%	LOCAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES
4.7%	CLEAN, PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT, FRESH AIR
3.8%	OTHER
3.2%	RECREATION ACTIVITIES
2.8%	BUILDINGS AND STYLE OF DEVELOPMENT

you told us... cont.

2.5%	CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (ARTS, INDIGENOUS)
2.3%	PROXIMITY OF REGIONAL CENTRES
2.0%	NATIONAL PARKS
1.9%	SMALL POPULATION / TOWNS
1.8%	FRIENDS OR FAMILY
1.8%	COUNTRYSIDE, FARMING, ROLLING HILLS
1.0%	FEELING SAFE
0.5%	AFFORDABILITY OF HOUSING OR LIVING

Great climate, kind neighbours, good services, good libraries, feeling of community and a common good, people look out for others and look out after children

Mix of productive farms, bush covered hills and small towns and villages

Environment, rural lifestyle, freedom to move between locations without suffering congested traffic, peaceful interaction with the people living in the valley

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE



1,747 people answered this question. From these answers 2,366 ideas were put forward which were allocated into one or more of 17 categories.

OF THESE IDEAS:

- 13% relate to *distance to services, work and major cities*
- 12% relate to *lack of public transport*
- 11% relate to *lack of employment opportunities*

you told us...

13.4%	DISTANCE TO SERVICES, WORK AND MAJOR CITIES
11.8%	LACK OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT
10.9%	LACK OF EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
9.3%	LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL SERVICES
9.1%	LACK OF AVAILABILITY OF NON-MEDICAL SERVICES
7.4%	OTHER

Poor secondary education options, poor public transport, limited social support services especially health, mental health, family support

When my children were school aged it was travel and distance to participate in activities and the cost of fuel and transport. But in saying that it's a double edged sword, it also protects this area from the destruction of industry and too much development.

you told us... cont.

7.0%	COUNCIL RATES, DECISION MAKING AND CONSULTATION
5.6%	LIMITED SHOPPING CHOICES
5.2%	CONDITION OF ROADS, PARKING AVAILABILITY, LACK OF FOOTPATHS
5.1%	COST OF LIVING
3.3%	COMMUNITY ATTITUDES
3.2%	NONE
2.9%	LACK OF MOBILE PHONE AND INTERNET SERVICES
2.0%	LACK OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY, EVENTS, ARTS
1.8%	ACCESS TO EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITED CHOICES
1.3%	MAINTAINING A BALANCE BETWEEN GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT
0.8%	COST OF HOUSING / RENT AND AVAILABILITY

Dealing with health and ageing problems. Transport services for people unable to drive and still independently living; no community centre offering courses where older people can learn new skills and have social contacts... Being able to remain in home, living independently

Lack of employment, lack of services, not much public art, music and culture

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Bega Valley as a centre of innovation and excellence in science, education and the arts



1,698 people answered this question. From these answers 3,851 ideas were put forward which were allocated into one or more of 21 categories.

OF THESE IDEAS:

- 12% relate to *improved public transport options and bike paths*
- 8% relate to *economic growth and diversification*
- 8% relate to *improved recreation facilities and spaces*

you told us...

12.2%	IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS AND BIKE PATHS
8.0%	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION
7.5%	IMPROVED RECREATION FACILITIES AND SPACES
6.9%	IMPROVED ROADS, PARKING AND FOOTPATHS
6.4%	CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING AND CONSULTATION
6.1%	BETTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
6.0%	IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES, LIBRARIES, WASTE SERVICES AND APPEARANCE OF TOWNS
4.8%	MORE SHOPPING VARIETY AND LOCAL FOOD, MORE / LESS MAJOR RETAILERS
4.4%	BETTER PROTECTION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
4.3%	IMPROVED AVAILABILITY OF GENERAL MEDICAL, HOSPITAL SERVICES AND MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

you told us... cont.

4.1%	ENVIRONMENTAL / POWER / FOOD SUSTAINABILITY
4.0%	CHANGES TO TOWN PLANNING AND LAND USE CONTROLS
3.7%	MORE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
3.3%	MORE DIVERSIFICATION, PROMOTION OF TOURISM
3.1%	IMPROVED NON-COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE / SERVICES (OTHER THAN HEALTH)
3.0%	IMPROVED LOCAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
2.8%	MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND AGED CARE
2.6%	OTHER
2.6%	IMPROVED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
2.2%	CHANGE IN POPULATION SIZE / COMPOSITION, PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES
1.9%	NO CHANGE

Be a hub for research, education, creative industries and new ideas

More bike and walking paths bike lanes on major roads

Beautification of towns and protection of heritage

WHAT SETS THE PLACE WE LIVE IN APART FROM OTHERS



1,341 people answered this question. From these answers **2,907** ideas were put forward which were allocated into one or more of 21 categories. Of these ideas:

OF THESE IDEAS:

- 40% relate to *natural environment*
- 12% relate to *local facilities and services*
- 9% relate to *buildings and style of development*

you told us...

40.5%	NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
12.0%	LOCAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES
9.4%	BUILDING AND STYLE OF DEVELOPMENT
7.2%	PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY
6.2%	PROXIMITY TO TOWNS/SERVICES/ COAST/NATURE
3.6%	PEACE AND QUIET
2.9%	RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND SPORTS FACILITIES
2.8%	SMALL POPULATION / TOWNS
2.6%	OTHER
2.6%	SOIL, FARMLAND AND ROLLING HILLS
1.8%	WHARF / HARBOUR / PORT
1.7%	PARKS

you told us... cont.

1.1%	RELAXED LIFESTYLE, RURAL ATMOSPHERE
1.0%	OPEN SPACE
1.0%	WEATHER AND CLIMATE
0.9%	INDIGENOUS / NON-INDIGENOUS HISTROY
0.9%	CLEAN AND TIDY
0.7%	CENTRAL HUB
0.5%	TOURISM
0.4%	BEGA CHEESE FACTORY
0.4%	NOTHING

Low density living, low traffic, bush and wildlife. Good beaches

Heritage village feel that's been maintained

Its location combining rural land, forests, coastal areas and the village living

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT THE PLACE WE LIVE IN



1,304 people answered this question. From these answers 1,829 ideas were put forward which were allocated into one or more of 20 categories. Of these ideas:

OF THESE IDEAS:

- 21% relate to *people and community*
- 11% relate to *peace, quiet and open space*
- 10% relate to *local facilities and services*

you told us...

21.2%	PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY
11.4%	PEACE, QUIET AND OPEN SPACE
10.4%	LOCAL FACILITIES AND SERVICES
9.6	COAST, BEACH, SEA
8.9	TREES, FORESTS, WILDLIFE, WATERWAYS AND MOUNTAINS
7.7%	VIEWS, LANDSCAPES, SCENERY
6.3%	RELAXED, COASTAL, COUNTRY LIFESTYLE

The way my community works together, the beach and mountains

Being part of the 'Triangle', with Gulaga to the North, Wandella Mountain (Peak alone) to the west and Mumbulla Mountain to the South West

you told us... cont.

3.3%	BUILDINGS AND STYLE OF DEVELOPMENT
3.2%	PROXIMITY OF REGIONAL CENTRES
3.1%	OTHER
2.9%	RECREATION ACTIVITIES
2.7%	CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (ARTS, INDIGENOUS)
1.9%	CLIMATE, WEATHER
1.7%	CLEAN, PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT, FRESH AIR
1.5%	FEELING SAFE
1.2%	COUNTRYSIDE, FARMING, ROLLING HILLS
1.1%	SMALL POPULATION / TOWNS
0.9	NATIONAL PARKS
0.6%	FRIENDS OR FAMILY
0.5%	AFFORDABILITY OF HOUSING OR LIVING

Close to, schools shops, doctors, library and other amenities, - yet far enough away to have a quiet and peaceful relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle

Best of all worlds ... Farm and ocean but with facilities

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE PLACE WE LIVE IN

Better access to data connections. Better roads, walkways and bike tracks. More community consultation re Council projects



1,286 people answered this question. From these answers 1,829 ideas were put forward which were allocated into one or more of 21 categories.

OF THESE IDEAS:

- 15% relate to *improved roads, parking and footpaths*
- 10% relate to *improved recreation facilities and spaces*
- 10% relate to *improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns*

you also told us...

15.1%	IMPROVED ROADS, PARKING AND FOOTPATHS
10.3%	IMPROVED RECREATION FACILITIES AND SPACES
9.6%	IMPROVED COMMUNITY FACILITIES, LIBRARIES, WASTE SERVICES AND APPEARANCE OF TOWNS
8.5%	IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPTIONS AND BIKE PATHS
8.0%	CHANGES TO TOWN PLANNING & LAND USE CONTROLS
7.9%	NO CHANGE
5.7%	MORE SHOPPING VARIETY AND LOCAL FOOD, MORE / LESS MAJOR RETAILERS
5.5%	ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION
3.6%	CHANGES TO COUNCIL'S DECISION MAKING AND CONSULTATION
3.2%	IMPROVED NON-COUNCIL INFRASTRUCTURE / SERVICES (OTHER THAN HEALTH)

you also told us... cont.

3.2%	CHANGE IN POPULATION SIZE / COMPOSITION, PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES
2.8%	IMPROVED TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
2.7%	MORE DIVERSIFICATION, PROMOTION OF TOURISM
2.6%	MORE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
2.4%	BETTER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
1.8%	BETTER PROTECTION OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
1.6%	MORE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND AGED CARE
1.6%	IMPROVED LOCAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
1.5%	ENVIRONMENTAL / POWER / FOOD SUSTAINABILITY
1.2%	IMPROVED AVAILABILITY OF GENERAL MEDICAL, HOSPITAL SERVICES AND MEDICAL SPECIALISTS
1.1%	OTHER

“Better access for all. Expand roads for safety of bike riders. Employ surf lifesavers in Feb and Mar for tourists and locals safety

Further dog friendly environment, reduce speed limits, encourage cats to be indoor or outdoor caged. Encourage more ideas such as the community plots in Pambula garden

Improve road infrastructure, more beautification programs, preserve local history, improve port facilities

THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN OUR LIVES RIGHT NOW



1,294 people answered this question. From these answers **2,877** ideas were put forward which were allocated into one or more of 12 categories. Of these ideas:

OF THESE IDEAS:

- 21% relate to *family or children*
- 17% relate to *relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle*
- 14% relate to *health*

Age

For age groups less than 60 family or children and relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle were the two most frequently mentioned personal values.

For age groups over 60 health and relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle were the two most frequently mentioned personal values, with family and children the third most frequently mentioned.

Respondents aged less than 25 were more likely to value friends and education than people in other age groups.

Respondents aged between 25 – 34 were more likely to value family or children and jobs than people in other age groups.

Respondents aged between 35 – 49 were more likely to value family or children and education than people in other age groups.

Respondents aged between 60 – 69 were more likely to value health than people in other age groups.

Respondents aged 70 and over were more likely to value health, services and relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle than people in other age groups.

Gender

There was little difference in the responses between men and women.

Length lived in the Bega Valley Shire

There was little difference in the responses people based on how long they have lived in the Bega Valley Shire.

Urban vs. Rural

There was little difference in the responses between people who live in a town or village compared with people who live on a rural farm or lifestyle property.

Where respondents live

90% of places nominated family or children, relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle and health as the three most frequently mentioned personal values.

The exception was the Rural Coast area for which family or children, relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle and the environment were the three most frequently mentioned personal values.

Respondents from Bega were more likely to value jobs than people from other areas.

Respondents from Bermagui and Wallaga Lake area and Merimbula and

Berrambool were more likely to value health than people from other areas.

Respondents from Pambula, Pambula Beach and South Pambula were more likely to value family or children than people from other areas.

Respondents from Tathra and Kalaru were more likely to value relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle than people from other areas.

Respondents from the Rural Coast area were more likely to value environment than people from other areas.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were more likely to value family or children and jobs than non-Aboriginal people.

People with a disability

There was little difference in the responses between people with and without disabilities.

HOW STRONGLY WE FEEL A PART OF OUR COMMUNITY



1,293 people answered this question and the responses were allocated into one of 3 categories. Of these:

OF THESE IDEAS:

- 53% of respondents feel *connected - very connected* to their community
- 40% of respondents feel *neither connected nor disconnected* to their community
- 7% of respondents feel *disconnected - very disconnected* to their community

Age

Respondents aged less than 50 were more likely than the other age groups to feel disconnected - very disconnected to their community.

Respondents aged between 25 - 34 and 35 - 49 were more likely than the other age groups to feel neither connected nor disconnected to their community.

Respondents aged over 60 were more likely than the other age group to feel connected - very connected to their community.

Gender

There was little difference in the responses between men and women.

Length lived in the Bega Valley Shire

Respondents who have lived in the Bega Valley Shire for less than 5 years were more likely than others to feel neither connected nor disconnected to their community.

Respondents who have lived in the Bega Valley Shire for more than 15 years were more likely than others to feel connected - very connected to their community.

Urban vs. Rural

There was little difference in the responses between people who live in a town or village compared with people who live on a rural farm or lifestyle property.

Where respondents live

Respondents from Bega, Tura Beach and Mirador and the Rural Coastal Areas were more likely than people from other areas to feel disconnected - very disconnected to their community.

Respondents from Merimbula and Berrambool, Pambula, Pambula Beach and South Pambula, Tathra and Kalaru, Tura Beach and Mirador and Rural Inland Areas were more likely than people from other areas to feel neither connected nor disconnected to their community.

Respondents from Bermagui and Wallaga Lake area and Rural Villages were more likely than people from other areas to feel connected - very connected to their community.

People with a disability

Respondents with a disability were as likely as those without a disability to feel connected - very connected to their community.

Respondents with a disability were more likely than those without a disability to feel disconnected - very disconnected and less likely to feel neither connected nor disconnected to their community.

CHANGES THAT WOULD MAKE US FEEL MORE A PART OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



882 people answered this question on the survey. Of these:

OF THESE IDEAS:

- 30% of respondents thought there was *no* change that would make them feel more a part of the local community
- 17% of respondents thought changes that would make them feel more a part of the local community were *up to me*
- 15% of respondents thought *new facilities or services and better publicity of events* would make them feel more a part of the local community

Age

Respondents aged over 60 were more likely than the other age groups to think no changes would make them feel more a part of their community.

Respondents aged between 35 - 49 were more likely than the other age groups to think it is up to me to make changes that would make them feel more a part of their community.

Respondents aged less than 34 were more likely than the other age group to think more community events or activities would make them feel more a part of their community.

Gender

Male respondents were more likely than females to think no changes would make them feel more a part of their community or that changes to Council's attitude and consultation would make them feel more a part of their community.

Female respondents were more likely than males to think new facilities or services and better publicity of events or more community events or activities would make them feel more a part of their community.

Length lived in the Bega Valley Shire

Respondents who have lived in the Bega Valley Shire for less than 5 years were more likely than others to think more community events or activities would make them feel more a part of their community or that it is up to me.

Respondents who have lived in the Bega Valley Shire for between 5 – 10 years were more likely than others to think changes in attitudes or

population would make them feel more a part of their community or that it is up to me.

Respondents who have lived in the Bega Valley Shire for more than 15 years were more likely than the others to think no changes would make them feel more a part of their community.

Urban vs. Rural

Respondents who live in an urban town or village were more likely than those who live on a rural farm or lifestyle property to think no changes would make them feel more a part of their community.

Respondents who live on a rural farm or lifestyle property were more likely than those who live in an urban town or village to it is up to me to make changes that would make them feel more a part of their community.

Where respondents live

Respondents who live in Bermagui and Wallaga Lake area, Eden, Merimbula and Berrambool and Pambula, Pambula Beach and South Pambula were more likely than people from other areas to think no changes would make them feel more a part of their community.

Respondents who live in Rural Villages and Rural Coastal areas were more likely than people from other areas to think it is up to me to make changes that

would make them feel more a part of their community.

Respondents who live in Bermagui and Wallaga Lake Area and Rural Villages were more likely than people from other areas to think new facilities or services and better publicity of events or more community events or activities would make them feel more a part of their community.

Respondents who live in Bega, Tathra and Kalaru, Tura Beach and Mirador and Rural Inland Areas were more likely than people from other areas to think more community events or activities would make them feel more a part of their community.

Respondents who live in Bega were more likely than people from other areas to think changes to Council's attitude and consultation would make them feel more a part of their community.

Respondents who live in Tathra and Kalaru and Tura Beach and Mirador were more likely than people from other areas to think changes in attitudes or population would make them feel more a part of their community.



WHAT YOU TOLD US... BY PLACE

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR PLACES...

*People in **Bega** are more likely than people in other places to:*

- Love people and community most about living in the Bega Valley Shire
- Love local facilities and services most about the place they live in

*People in **Bermagui and the Wallaga Lake area** are more likely than people in other places to:*

- Be challenged by the lack of availability of medical services in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want better protection of the natural environment in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want more affordable housing and aged care and improved availability of health services in the place they live in

*People in **Eden** are more likely than people in other places to:*

- Be challenged by distance to work, services and major cities and limited shopping choices in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want better employment opportunities and more economic growth and tourism in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want changes to Council's decision making and consultation, better community facilities and employment opportunities and more economic growth in the place they live in

*People in **Merimbula and Berrambol** are more likely than people in other places to:*

- Love coast, beach, sea most about living in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want improved roads, parking and footpaths in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want improved roads, parking and footpaths in the place they live in

*People in **Pambula, Pambula Beach and South Pambula** are more likely than people in other places to:*

- Want improved recreation facilities and spaces in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want more shopping variety in the place they live in

People in Rural Inland Areas are more likely than people in other places to:

- Love peace, quiet and open space most about the place they live in
- Be challenged by the condition of roads in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want no change to the place they live in

People in Rural Coastal Areas are more likely than people in other places to:

- Love trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains most about living in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want better environmental protection and more sustainable living in the Bega Valley Shire

People in Rural Villages are more likely than people in other places to:

- Love people and community most about the place they live in

People in Tathra and Kalaru are more likely than people in other places to:

- Love coast, beach, sea most about the place they live in
- Want better public transport options and bike paths in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want improved recreation facilities and spaces, telecommunications services and public transport options and bike paths in the place they live in

People in Tura Beach and Mirador are more likely than people in other places to:

- Love the weather and lifestyle most about living in the Bega Valley Shire
- Be challenged by the lack of availability of non-medical services in the Bega Valley Shire

BEGA



“Hospital, shopping centre, sporting facilities, Bega Council headquarters”

“Good shopping, eateries, parks, walks around the water.”

Heritage buildings, rural buildings, small houses, not McMansions”

“The rolling green paddocks surrounding a vibrant town”

“Many varied schools and educational options”

“Bega River and Cheese Factory Dairy”



WHAT SETS **BEGA** APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- local facilities and services
- central hub
- buildings and style of development
- soil, farmland and rolling hills
- Bega Cheese factory

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- views, landscapes, scenery

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of employment opportunities
- lack of public transport

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- economic growth and diversification

- improved recreation facilities and spaces

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT BEGA

- local facilities and services
- people and community
- peace and quiet, open space

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN BEGA

- improved recreation facilities and spaces
- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- changes to town planning and land use controls

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR BEGA

“Regular informal meetings for women, particularly new comers to get to know each other roofing over Ayres walkway. Opening of movie theatre“

“Better sports fields, better nursing staff at the hospital , better access to specialists. Police boys club or like for young teenagers“

“It would benefit the town to have further development. Housing and Industrial to provide more opportunities to the local people and economy. However, I believe this should all be carried out in a way that

enhances the true beauty of our area as that is what draws tourism and keeps the locals local“

“More good quality low-cost medium-density housing in walking distance to town“

“Would love to see a community garden / education centre / community hub near the centre of town“

“Yes, new arcade gaming for kids + adults. More science and educational places for people, more choice and things to do“

BERMAGUI, BEAUTY POINT, WALLAGA LAKE WALLAGA LAKE HEIGHTS



“Fisherman’s wharf, blue pool, ease of parking, Main Street overlooking main beach and surf club”

“The birds, the Wallaga Bridge, the mountains, room to see the view, low rise buildings”

“Small shops - local flavour”

“quaint mix of historical and modern buildings nestled between headlands and rivers”

“Its location combining rural land, forests, coastal areas and the village living”



WHAT SETS **BERMGUI AND WALLAGA LAKE** AREA APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- local facilities and services
- buildings and style of development
- wharf/harbour/port

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- views, landscapes, scenery

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of public transport
- lack of availability of medical services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- improved recreation facilities and spaces
- better employment opportunities

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT THE BERMAGUI AND WALLAGA LAKE AREA

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- local facilities and services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN THE BERMAGUI 7 WALLAGA LAKE AREA

- improved recreation facilities and spaces
- improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns
- improved public transport options and bike paths

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR BERMAGUI AND WALLAGA LAKE AREA

"Better connection to Wallaga Lake... maybe community garden, mural, theatre, dance etc. projects?"

"Bridging the gap between isolated Wallaga Lake Aboriginal community and educating the racism of our white settlers. A youth centre would be amazing for our local teens"

"Focus on dealing with our own energy needs and waste management i.e. Get away from the out of sight out of mind mentality"

"More bike paths. Investment in the townscape and facilities. Main Street revamp. Controlling overdevelopment"

"More seating, shade, community artwork, possibility of alternative energy solutions"

"Music festival in town for the community. Some kind of Arts centre that artists/ musicians can access for support, up skilling and workshops"

EDEN



*“Wharf,
beaches,
walks,
community
pride, spirit”*

*“Historic buildings,
village style shopping
centre”*

*“Shore-based whaling history
and museum”*

*“its beauty and its indigenous
history”*

*“The port with fishing boats and ships
visiting”*

*“beautiful harbour, many nearby
pristine beaches, wilderness walks”*

WHAT SETS EDEN APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- wharf/harboUr/port
- buildings and style of development
- indigenous / non-indigenous history

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- coast, beach, sea
- views, landscapes, scenery
- people and community

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of public transport
- limited shopping choices

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- economic growth and diversification
- better employment opportunities

- improved public transport options and bike paths

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT EDEN

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- local facilities and services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN EDEN

- economic growth and diversification
- improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns
- improved non-Council infrastructure / services (excluding health)

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR EDEN

“Improve the library and look at school exchanges with interstate schools”

“Keeping the area a small secret but a place where everyone wants to be, more modern cafes, shops and gourmet super markets. More adventure tours (treetop walks, ziplines, paragliding) these will enhance our community and attract young people’s adrenaline needs”

“Less rules so small businesses can be dynamic and set up interesting spaces to provide a unique environment. Maintain low level development”

“Not enough activities for young people that aren’t sport. Lots of teenagers hanging

around lost for things to do. A family space where children and adults can spend time - like somewhere to hire for a birthday party - community centre”

“Off peak free camping. Access to more bushland track that have been closed”

“Public recycle bins + a youth night club would be great. More jobs”

“We need a safe harbour and marina desperately. This will stimulate the economy and provide employment opportunities”

“We need to listen to Aboriginal people more in order for us to learn more about this place and how to live in it”

MERIMBULA BERRAMBOOL



“Lake and beaches, tourist facilities, restaurants and shopping”

“Its beauty, its size, its friendliness, the convenience, the airport”

“Easy walking access to all facilities”

“Seaside park at Fishpen”

“On street shopping not closed in, keeps the village feeling alive, tracks around the lake, outdoor cafes. Picture show man”

“Unspoilt beaches and bushland. No high-rise or densely populated areas”

WHAT SETS MERIMBULA AND BERRAMBOOL APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- local facilities and services
- buildings and style of development

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- coast, beach, sea
- people and community
- views, landscapes, scenery

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of public transport
- lack of availability of medical services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- improved roads, parking and footpaths

- economic growth and diversification

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT MERIMBULA AND BERRAMBOOL

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- local facilities and services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN MERIMBULA AND BERRAMBOOL

- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- changes to town planning and land use controls
- improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR MERIMBULA AND BERRAMBOOL

“I’d like to see a strong move away from primary industry and towards entrepreneurialism. It’s happening, but we need to make sure we sustain that commitment to overcome the inevitable barriers”

“I’d like to see more green space, trees, grass and seating near main Merimbula shopping area ideally in Beach Street. Also more drop off parking spaces”

“Improve the urban design of the central business area and better integration of public spaces with the commercial precinct”

“More/upgraded footpaths and cycle paths. Better use of lake foreshore areas Improved traffic management, parking and pedestrian crossings”

“Stop development close to waterways, redirect traffic to make town centre more people friendly, encourage clean and green town to attract tourists, try to create more of a sense of community for Merimbula”

“Upgrade the facade of the shops in town - motivate landlords to adjust rents to reflect income and to do up their premises. Give Merimbula a face lift to entice tourists”

PAMBULA SOUTH PAMBULA PAMBULA BEACH



“It has a village feel”

“The older buildings and history of the district”

“No shops thankfully. Views across river flats at Pambula. Small population so pretty quiet”

“North facing, quiet - close to shops, schools and beaches”

“Kangaroos as lawn mowers”

“The beach with the backing of the National Parks and Mountains”

“The 1950s beachside village atmosphere”



WHAT SETS PAMBULA, SOUTH PAMBULA AND PAMBULA BEACH APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- buildings and style of development
- local facilities and services
- small population / towns

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- coast, beach, sea
- people and community
- trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of employment opportunities
- lack of availability of non-medical services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- improved recreation facilities and spaces

- changes to Council's decision making and consultation

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT PAMBUAL, SOUTH PAMBULA AND PAMBULA BEACH

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- local facilities and services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN PAMBULA, SOUTH PAMBULA AND PAMBULA BEACH

- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- improved recreation facilities and spaces
- improved shopping variety

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR PAMBULA, SOUTH PAMBULA AND PAMBULA BEACH

"Bring back the mobile library Stop wasting ratepayers' money"

"Further dog friendly environment, reduce speed limits, encourage cats to be indoor or outdoor caged Encourage more ideas such as the community plots in Pambula garden"

"Heritage listing of buildings Divert traffic from town centre encourage more community based business"

"Looking forward to the new supermarket.

Otherwise not a lot needs to change. Fix the roads up, get rid of that jet patcher, it is useless. Maybe a bypass to take the heavy traffic off the main street"

"More access to arts and cultural activity. More strategic and innovative thinking around development"

TATHRA KALARU



“Proximity to the coast and shopping combined”

“Low scale, small neighbourhood”

“Access to Bega River via Blackfellows Lake”

“Beautiful beach and wharf”

“Awesome single tracks for mountain bikes”

“Small and caring community”

“I live in a holiday!!”

“Natural outlook, excellent ocean water quality, access to national parks, close proximity to Bega and Merimbula’s facilities”



WHAT SETS TATHRA AND KALARU APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- proximity to towns/services/coast/nature
- people and community
- small population / towns

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- coast, beach, sea
- people and community
- views, landscapes, scenery

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of employment opportunities
- lack of public transport

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- improved recreation facilities and spaces
- environmental / power / food sustainability

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT TATHRA AND KALARU

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN TATHRA AND KALARU

- improved recreation facilities and spaces
- improved public transport options and bike paths
- improved roads, parking and footpaths

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR TATHRA AND KALARU

“A bike path connecting Bega - Kalaru - Tathra would be brilliant. I’d like to see real environmental protection in E4 zonings. A hall for Kalaru would be good - meetings etc. could take place there”

“Better access to data connections. Better roads, walkways and bike tracks. More community consultation re Council projects”

“Capitalise on tourism potential - more emphasis on bringing people here for bike tracks, rebuild the ocean pool so more people swim with confidence”

“Continue support for 20/20 campaign. Invest more”

“Ensure that infra-structure can keep up with demands of tourist numbers whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment”

“It’s pretty good the way it is”

“Sealed roads. Street lighting. Village park/ playground Post deliveries”

“Weed management. Restrictive dog laws - not enough leash free public places”

TURA BEACH MIRADOR



“Undulating location and magnificent views over Merimbula”

“Low density living, low traffic, bush and wildlife, good beaches”

“Pristine beaches, parks and forest. Clean and modern housing”

“Suburban. Beautiful views, good walks”

“Shopping, doctors, relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle close to beach”



WHAT SETS TURA BEACH AND MIRADOR APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- local facilities and services
- buildings and style of development

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- coast, beach, sea
- people and community
- relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- lack of availability of non-medical services
- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of public transport

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improved public transport options and bike paths

- changes to Council's decision making and consultation
- improved roads, parking and footpaths

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT TURA BEACH AND MIRADOR

- coast, beach, sea
- people and community
- peace and quiet, open space

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN TURA BEACH AND MIRADOR

- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns
- improved recreation facilities and spaces

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR TURA BEACH AND MIRADOR

"Control of African Lovegrass on Council property -involve adjoining landowners; Protection of Mirador bushland and Merimbula Creek; (we need).Community Hall (e.g. multi-purpose library) for activities"

"I would like the Bega Shire Council to upkeep the public green spaces a little more vigilantly"

"Information page just for the elderly; services, community participation groups, specialised transport, financial advice, support groups for health issues, 'go to' person that can put you in the right direction"

"Maintain the low density residential feel of

the area"

"Pavements or paved walkways suitable for older citizens to walk around our suburb - this would bring benefits of a fitter and more healthy well-being for them"

".. bike/walking path linking Merimbula and Tura - avoiding sapphire coast drive. Means the kids could ride their bikes to school"

"..making residents more aware of. the speed limit in Mirador Drive, including new signage and possible other speed deterrents; . Creation of more than one exit from the estate;. Better bylaws regarding annoying, barking dogs"

RURAL VILLAGES

Bemboka, Burragate, Candelo, Cobargo, Quaama, Wolumla, Wyndham,
Towamba, Wonboyn



*“Clean
green rural
landscape.
Clear streams
and rivers.
Entrance to the
valley”*

*“Peace and
tranquillity”*

*“Pretty historic village with
great cafes”*

*“Happy hamlet encouraging
passing and local business”*

“our rolling green hills”

“small, rural, friendly”

“On the Bundian Way”

*“Small size but well connected
community”*



WHAT SETS RURAL VILLAGES APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- local facilities and services
- buildings and style of development
- people and community
- proximity to towns/services/coast/nature
- park

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- people and community
- views, landscapes, scenery
- coast, beach, sea

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of public transport
- lack of availability of medical services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improved public transport options and bike paths

- changes to Council's decision making and consultation
- economic growth and diversification

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT RURAL VILLAGES

- people and community
- peace and quiet, open space
- local facilities and services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN RURAL VILLAGES

- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- improved recreation facilities and spaces
- improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR RURAL AREAS

"Better grading of some roads or blacktopping, better street lighting (almost non-existent) "

"Improve and conserve water catchments and storage. Establish a solar bank connected to the village"

"In terms of facilities my village is at a low point at the moment. It would be great to get our general store back and for some of the other heritage buildings on the main street to be rejuvenated in innovative ways by people moving into the area"

"More community parks, walkways, community halls to facilitate community gatherings and education / enjoyment. Better roads, health facilities, public amenities. Better telecommunications"

"More safe walking paths around town and bike lanes, community garden. A greater degree of diversity and multi-culturalism - affordable housing for lower socio-economic people, more facilities to make it appropriate for refugees"

"See a little more development without becoming too big. This would allow a few more facilities such as sewerage and transport"

"Some way of having the speed limit adhered to as trucks/cars/bikes go through the village on that main road. Speed signs just don't cut it"

"We desperately need transport for the older people and also the younger people who don't drive. If we had a shop it would help. We currently have to drive to Bega"

INLAND RURAL AREAS

Brogo, Coolagolite, Dignams Creek, Verona, Wandella, Yowrie, Angledale, Black Range, Buckajo, Coopers Gully, Dr George Mountain, Frogs Hollow, Greendale, Jellat Jellat, Numbugga, Reedy Swamp, Stony Creek, Tarraganda, Devils Hole, Kameruka, Kanoona, Mogilla, Morans Crossing, Myrtle Mountain, New Buildings, Pericoe, Rocky Hall, Tantawangalo, Toothdale



“The beauty of the natural environment – both the managed landscape of the dairy farm and the natural bush”

“Quiet, lovely community, friendliness”

“Not built-up. Easy to access. Beautiful landscape. Clean air”

“Its great beauty, temperate climate, friendly neighbours”

“Food swap and community networks”

“Serenity, closeness to a larger rural town, neighbours”

“Friendly community with community values for local kids”



WHAT SETS INLAND RURAL AREAS APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- proximity to towns/services/coast/nature
- people and community

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- people and community
- views, landscapes, scenery
- coast, beach, sea

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of employment opportunities
- lack of public transport

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improved public transport options and bike paths

- economic growth and diversification
- improved roads, parking and footpaths

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT INLAND RURAL AREAS

- peace and quiet, open space
- people and community
- trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN INLAND RURAL AREAS

- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- no change
- improved public transport options and bike paths

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR INLAND RURAL AREAS

“Actively encourage people to be more involved in community. Make towns more attractive and usable for older people. More retirement estates in smaller communities, good quality and energy efficiency, but still rural. More and better health care providers. More inclusive of Koori people”

“Better maintained roads as roads are currently very poorly and infrequently maintained”

“Building applications for rural areas that have small acreages should be made easier”

“Council to encourage and support entrepreneurship within local community e.g. farm gate sales of home-grown produce, crafts. Nursery business. Remove the red tape for people to conduct income producing ventures, and instead facilitate it”

“I would like to see more local food production (market gardening etc.) which could possibly include a local small market as well as more farm gate sales. More community get-togethers”

“Improve and promote nature corridors to aid in species diversity and survival. Improve river banks by removing invasive species”

“Keep it as it is without new development”

“Stop people blocking access to natural sites and places. Better public transport”

“Suppress the “house on every hilltop movement”

“Whole community or large area fox eradication schemes so small land holdings and wildlife are better protected”

COASTAL RURAL AREAS

Barragga Bay, Bermagui South, Bunga, Chinnock, Cuttagee, Murrah, Tanja, Wapengo, Bald Hills, Bournda, Lochiel, Millingandi, South Wolumla, Wallagoot, Yellow Pinch, Boydtown, Broadwater, Griegs Flat, Kiah, Nethercote, Nullica, Nungatta



“A connected, caring local community, involved in many local community projects/social events. Extensive National Park, Nature reserve and forests, no standard tacky shops and exquisite coast”

“Mix of small holdings and bushland”

“The rural setting less than 10min from shopping centres and beaches”

“Great community spirit, gorgeous scenery, proximity to the sea, and to towns like Pambula and Eden”

“quiet and free relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle”



WHAT SETS COASTAL RURAL AREAS APART FROM OTHER PLACES IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- people and community
- proximity to towns/services/coast/nature

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- coast, beach, sea
- people and community
- trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- distance to services/work/major cities
- lack of employment opportunities
- lack of public transport

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improved public transport options and bike paths

- economic growth and diversification
- changes to Council's decision making and consultation

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT COASTAL RURAL AREAS

- people and community
- peace and quiet, open space
- trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN COASTAL RURAL AREAS

- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- no change
- improved recreation facilities and spaces

WHAT YOU SAID - CHANGES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE FOR COASTAL RURAL AREAS

"Be good to have more regular public transport to bigger centre"

"Better roads and drainage around creek beds"

"Ensure that current population density is not increased through further subdivision to maintain environmental values. Development and support of solar farms for local energy needs"

"I would like to get the Community together, we have a lot of newer "tree change" people in the Community now who don't have any connection or alliance to Community living"

"Install the NBN Upgrade our electricity supply network. Provide access to town water and sewerage. Open a cafe and shop at Nethercote"

"Keep it the same - the less developed or promoted the better"

"More support for youth /counselling / job and trade opportunities. Better mobile reception (too many black spots). More available in the way of organised activities for families / tourists and youth"

"No further subdivision of the existing farmland would be lovely. Don't want it to lose the tranquil rural feel"

"To reduce the use of cars and keep us healthy design and implement bicycle tracks to towns. Wind turbines. Underground electricity"

"Yes. Limit commercialisation of rural areas. Restrict small plot farming for life stylers"



WHAT YOU TOLD US... BY AGE

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AGES...

PEOPLE AGED UNDER 18 ARE:

...more likely than people in other age groups to:

- Love coast, beach, sea and local facilities and services most about living in the Bega Valley Shire
- Be challenged by the distance to recreational facilities, the lack of events and activities for youth and limited shopping choices in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want improvements to recreation facilities and spaces and better shopping variety in the Bega Valley Shire

...less likely than people in other age groups to:

- Love people, scenery, lifestyle or the clean pristine environment, most about living in the Bega Valley Shire
- Be challenged by the distance to services, work and major cities, availability of medical services, cost of living and Council rates and decision making in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want improved roads, public transport and bike paths, economic growth, improved community facilities or changes to Council's decision making and consultation in the Bega Valley Shire

PEOPLE AGED 18 – 24 ARE:

...more likely than people in other age groups to:

- Want better employment opportunities in the Bega Valley Shire

PEOPLE AGED 25 – 34 ARE:

...more likely than people in other age groups to:

- Love coast, beach, sea and local facilities and services most about the place they live in
- Want economic growth and diversification in the place they live in

...less likely than people in other age groups to:

- Love people and community most about the place they live in

PEOPLE AGED 35 – 49 ARE:

...more likely than people in other age groups to:

- Be challenged by the lack of employment opportunities in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want improved public transport options and bike paths in the place they live in

PEOPLE AGED 50 – 59 ARE:

...less likely than people in other age groups to:

- Love local facilities and services most about the place they live in

PEOPLE AGED 60 – 69 ARE:

- Be challenged by the lack of availability of medical services in the Bega Valley Shire

PEOPLE AGED 70 AND OVER ARE:

...more likely than people in other age groups to:

- Love climate, weather and the clean pristine environment most about living in the Bega Valley Shire
- Love people and community most about the place they live in
- Be challenged by the distance to services and major cities and lack of public transport in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want improved roads, parking and footpaths or no change in the place they live in

...less likely than people in other age groups to:

- Love coast, beach, sea most about living in the Bega Valley Shire and the place where they live
- Be challenged by the lack of employment opportunities in the Bega Valley Shire
- Want improved recreation facilities and spaces in the Bega Valley Shire and in the place where they live

AGES

WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON

BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

What we love most about living in the Bega Valley Shire

For all age groups people and community and coast, beach, sea were the top 2 categories most frequently mentioned.

For the age groups between 18 and 59 views, landscapes, scenery was the third most frequently mentioned category.

The biggest challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire

For all age groups except under 18 distance to services/work/major cities was in the top 3 most frequently mentioned categories.

For the age groups between 18 and 59 lack of employment opportunities was the most frequently mentioned category.

For the age groups except 35 - 49 lack of public transport was in the top 3 most frequently mentioned categories.

Changes we would like see in the Bega Valley Shire

For all age groups improved public transport options and bike paths were in the top 3 most frequently mentioned categories.

For the age groups above 50 improved roads, parking and footpaths was in the top 3 most frequently mentioned categories.

PLACES WHERE WE LIVE

What we love most about the place where we live

For all age groups people and community was the most frequently mentioned category.

For the age groups above 35 peace and quiet, open space was the second most frequently mentioned category.

For the age groups below 50 coast, beach, sea was the third most frequently mentioned category.

For the age groups below 35 and 60 and over local services and facilities was in the top 3 categories mentioned.

Changes we would like see in the place where we live

For all age groups improved roads, parking and footpaths was in the top 3 categories mentioned.

For the age groups below 60 improved recreation facilities and spaces was in the top 3 categories mentioned.

50% places improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns was in the top 3 categories mentioned.

WHAT YOU TOLD US... 0-12 YEARS

There responses demonstrate their understandings and experiences of life in the Valley and their visions for the future



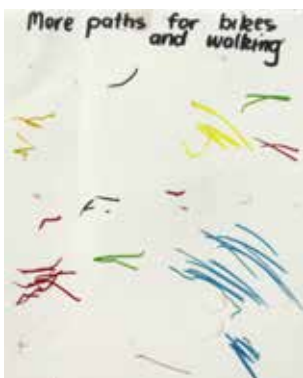
Children aged from 0 – 12 years are important members of our community who can participate as active citizens when they are given opportunities to engage with issues that affect their community and are invited to take part in decision-making processes. Children in this age group took part in the Bega Valley Shire Council consultation process individually and in groups by speaking with a trusted adult and creating pictures of the things that are important to them now and their ideas for the future. Their responses demonstrate their understandings and experiences of life in the Valley and their visions of how the Bega Valley can become a better place for all.

CHILDREN IN THE YEARS PRIOR TO SCHOOLING

My best day is my granny is coming over from India. I like playing in a preschool - this is a preschool - with my friends (Eden)

- **Family and friends are important**

Children talked about what they do on their best day and who is there with them. They are clear that family (62%) and friends (37%) are the most important part of any day. Their descriptions provide a snapshot of how diverse families in the Valley are, and how complex their lives together can be. Their families are made up of mothers,



fathers, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, partners, step-brothers and sisters, foster parents, boyfriends, girlfriends and so on. Every family is different, and every family has connections somewhere else. Sometimes these connections are interstate or overseas. Sometimes these connections are just out of town or in another local town. Where-ever their family and extended family live, children want to stay connected with them and to share something of what they love about their community.



My best day is swimming with my poppy at Cocora. I ran in and out of the water when it's cold. When the sun comes out I go back into the water. My mum and mummy's boyfriend are there too (Eden)

I would like my nanny and poppy to live with my family in Bermagui (PS32, Bermagui)

- **Home is important to children.**

More than 17% of children talked about their home, or the home of friends or family as important. While some of their conversations centred on special celebrations, daily life and simple pleasures were equally important.



My best day is at parties at my friend's houses with my mummy and daddy. We eat lollipops and cake (Eden)

My best day is when I collect shells and seaweed and come home. My favourite thing in Bega is digging and planting things with mum (Bega)

My favourite place is my daddy's house (Eden)

My favourite thing is staying home (Bega)

I like everything. Helping mummy do the garden, play with the dogs with my sister (Bega)

I like going to Narooma and I play with Stumpy – that's papa's dog (Eden)

- **Recreation spaces are important**

Other places that are significant to children are those which offer access to the natural environment, or a blend of natural environment enhanced by family friendly recreation facilities like paths, walkways, playgrounds, swimming pools, barbeques and skate parks. These are places for pleasure where new things are explored and relationships shared. They often form a neutral and safe space to get together with people for children whose families may be separated. While 23% of children talked about the natural environment, more than 50% identified recreation spaces that provided additional resources as important.



My best day is the beach, deep water, blue water, fish jump out of the water there are no sharks. I find some crabs. I dive into the water sometimes with my uncle and my cousins (Eden)

My best day is going to the Park Beach, Cocora. I play on the slide, and the swings, and the see-saw, and the bumble bee. Sometimes I like to go swimming in the water (Eden)

My best day is going to the park, the Merimbula Park. I play in the sandpit and make some sandcastles with Mummy and Daddy (Eden).

I would like to see a swimming pool with big steps you can jump off. I could do my swimming lessons there (Bermagui)

- **Commercial businesses and entertainment venues are important**

Children also love to share and connect with friends and family when accessing the resources offered by local commercial businesses, entertainment venues, museums and zoos. For 20% of children, food, shopping and entertainment were a feature of their best day with family or friends.

My best day is going up the street. I like going to the bakery and I buy sausage rolls and donuts with my nanny and my mum. (Eden)

Vivienne would like to see a heated swimming pool.



My best day is going to the movies in the Merimbula (Bega)

I like to go have a little bit of lunch at Mallacoota with my daddy, mummy and brother (Eden)

I like to go to the Plaza to have time with your mates, like to see the horses. "Snowy" is part of my family. I wish I could take him to the RR Ranch (Bega)

- ***Our future as contributing members of our community***

Young children see their place in the future of this community. Children talked about the short term

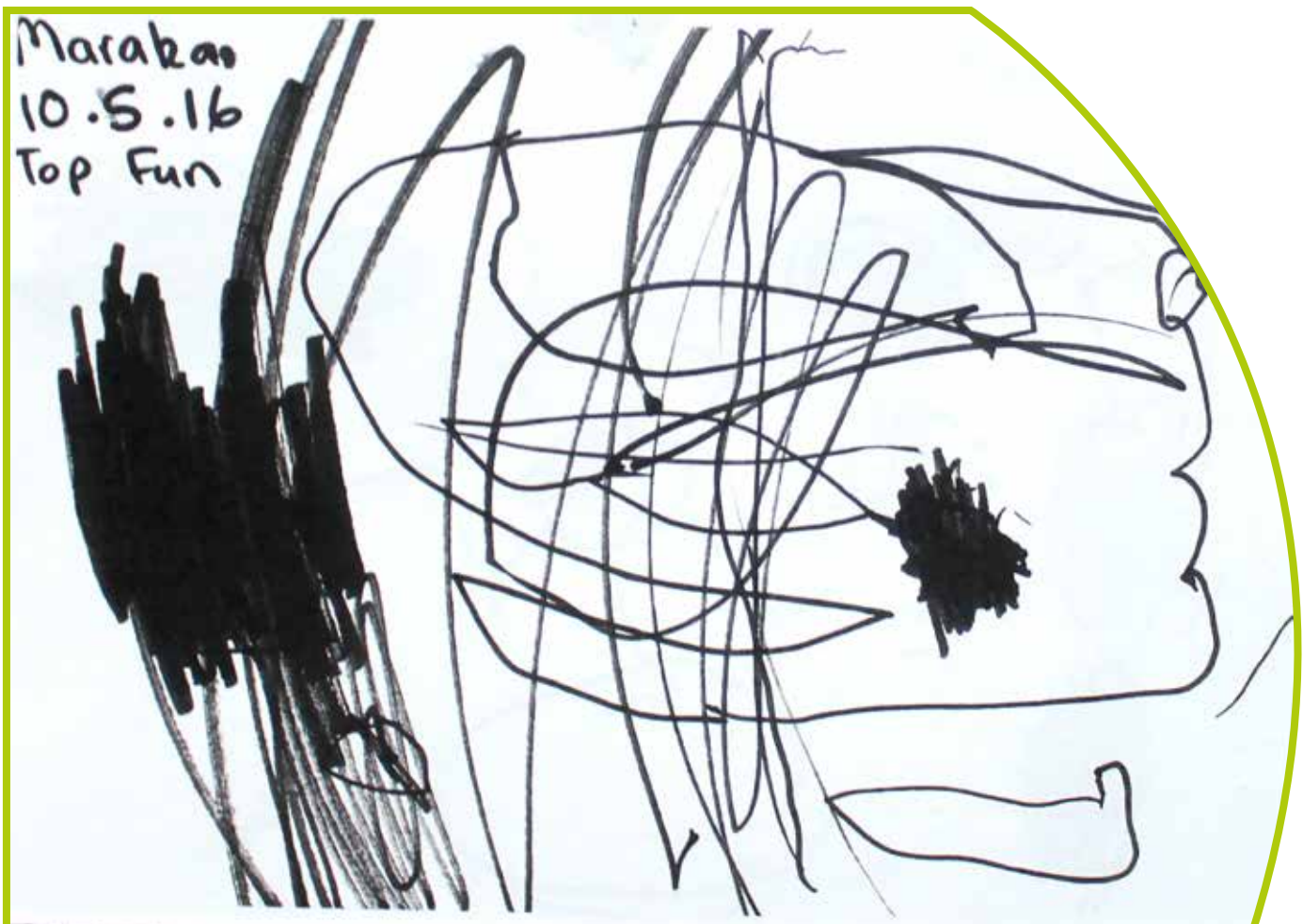
future as a place where their ideas and suggestions are taken on board with improvements made to the things they value.

I will be playing in the park (Eden)

I will see more forests (Bermagui)

I want more paths for bikes and walking (Bermagui)

They also talk about their future as an adult in their community where families continue to share time together, are involved together in recreation activities and where they become a necessary part of the fabric of life as they work to build houses, to provide commercial services, to care for and educate others and to create new families.



A builder that builds houses (Eden)

When I am grown up I want to be a man (Eden)

I want to look after kids. I want to be a teacher like my mummy (Eden)

I want to be bigger. I want to ride a motor bike. We have one at home with two seats, one for my (sister) and one for me (Eden)

I am going to be a chef (Eden)



Children in the years prior to schooling are reliant on adults to enable them to interact with the resources in the community. This is why their local community is so important to the shape and form of their lives. Without local recreation facilities like skate parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, commercial businesses like shops and family services like schools and preschools, their experiences are necessarily limited by the cost of living, distances and the struggles of time-poor adults to manage a balance between work life and home/ family life.



CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL YEARS

Children in the Primary School years worked in groups to identify what they loved about their place now, and how it could be made better. There were 37 groups of children from local Primary Schools in Bega, Bemboka and Eden whose responses provided a snapshot of what is important to them in their community and in their daily life. Some were individual responses or small groups comprising 2 – 3 children, but other responses were representative of a large school group. They have strong opinions about what is important.

- ***Our people are important***

Children know and value their communities, and the unique cultural history of these communities. It is an important part of their daily life.

The people – everyone knows each other (Eden)

The friendly faces, caring for us, nice people, our families, supportive, helpful, feel safe (Bega)

There are lots of friendly people (Bemboka)

There's Mumbulla Mountain, Bega Bridge , Bega River(Bega)



There's the Bundian Way, Whale Museum, rich Aboriginal culture, Boyd's tower, Historic buildings (Eden)

Their suggestions for how to make life better for people in their communities demonstrates their understanding of the complexity of living in rural communities with limited resources. Jobs, housing, cost of living and early investment in the potential future of people were all features of their recommendations for the future.

Funding for kids with talent; Funding for kids at risk to join sporting clubs (Eden)

More jobs (Eden)

No more empty promises (Eden)

Cheaper food (Eden)

Youth drop-in centre (Eden)

More houses (P34/35, Eden)

Kids places, growing town, less graffiti, bigger houses, more support for disadvantaged people (Bega)

Our concerns for the future: food choices; rent prices; people being over-protective; No jobs; No money for food; (Bega)



- ***Our natural environment is important***

For 72% of the groups, an appreciation of their local natural environment was a feature of what they love about their community now.

We love the grass, wildflowers, tree, river (Bega)

We have wonderful rivers and lakes (Bemboka)

Their suggestions for how to improve their engagement with their natural environment showed their investment in keeping and looking after what they have now by adding protective structures like walk-ways, bike paths and vegetation to enable them continued access to the environment.

More lookouts (Eden)

Botanical gardens (Eden)

Keep the Lake open (Eden)

We love fishing and beaches, rock pool, prawning, the bush, Lake Curalo, great swimming spots, the beaches, the wildlife, fish whales, the beaches, the wildlife, fish whales (Eden)



Bigger signs saying Don't litter the water (Eden)

Less rubbish (Bega)

A stargazing arena (Bega)

Rivers, river-walks; Trees on old racecourse; cleaner rivers, more trees, more plants (Bega)

More bike tracks (Bega)

- **Recreation areas are important**

Organised team and individual sports featured strongly in what children value now. These included cricket, netball, rugby, softball, tennis, soccer, swimming, hockey, Little Athletics, go-karting, AFL, golf and more. More than 80% of the groups identified that sports and the facilities associated with sports like ovals, playing fields, parks, swimming pools, bike paths and skate-parks were important to them now and 89% of the children sited this as key for others in the future.

We have a lovely pool (Bemboka)

Soccer oval; Free footy on Saturdays; There is sport to play, Football oval, Tennis courts, Netball courts, skate-park, the boardwalk, the pool (Eden)

Sport – the fields; Bega pool, Netball, Bega Devils, Hockey, Show Jumping Club, Bega Roosters, Soccer, Pony club, Bike tracks, the skate park, playgrounds (Bega)



More shade, nicer public toilets, more resting areas, walks and bike-tracks, more public toilets and bubblers, more places in the park, all year round swimming pool (Bega)

Children were particularly concerned about the upkeep of the facilities that enable them to pursue organised sports or individual activities including the ovals and playing fields, toilets, shade and access to drinking water. They wanted the future to be one where facilities were safe, maintained in operating order, were accessible to people, fit-for-purpose and ensured participants, players and spectators were comfortable.

Natural playground; A swimming pool that's safe to the environment (Bega)

A much bigger pool, a skate park, all dogs being controlled, a really awesome fun bike track, a really big park (Bemboka)

More bike tracks, more toilets, extend skate park, more bubblers, water park, indoor pool (Bega)

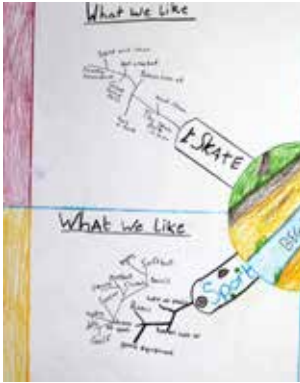
Designated bike trails, more shelter in parks, better skate park (P19, Eden)

Playground near skate park, fix storm damage, improve pool/ heating/ indoor; improve sporting facilities; maintain walking paths; update public toilets (P22/23, Eden)

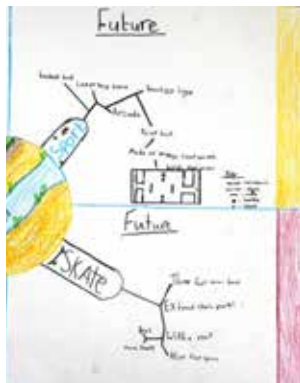
Shaded park areas; more bike paths, bigger parks, motor-bike area/ riding; (P38/39, Eden)

More public toilets (and cleaner) (P45, Bega)





A marina, a sport shop, Jet packs (fast travel), hover boards, theme park, a roller coaster, better hotels, a zoo, a MacDonald's, KFC, Subway (Eden)



- **Access to commercial business and entertainment venues is important**

Children value the goods and services provided by commercial businesses and entertainment providers. Of the groups of children 64% listed shops, cinemas, food businesses, electronic game venues and other entertainment providers as important now.

We love Shops: Wok and Roll, Indian, Tha, Clubs and Restaurants, Sports power, Fish and chips, MacDonald's, Mal's Pizza, Takeaway food, Cafes, Petrol Stations (Bega)

There are plenty of fantastic local shops (Bemboka)

Restaurants and shops – Fig tree; the Wharf. (Eden)

In their imagined future, 81% see greater access to these types of businesses and services in their local community as important. For some this was also about the employment opportunities offered by commercial businesses. Everyone had a rich array of suggestions for things that they would enjoy and that could be offered by commercial businesses and entertainment venues. Children in these groups remain dependent on others for transport, so their desire for access to a greater range of shops or entertainment venues in their local community is to some extent linked to their inability to travel independently to another town within or outside of the Valley. It is not surprising therefore to find children also identified access to public transport and internet connectivity as important factors in their future.

A petrol station (Bemboka)

Lolly shop, sandwich store, Internet café, improved public transport, free local transport, free wifi (Bega)

Trampoline world, Cinema, Arcade, Mini-golf, Paintball (Bega)

Arcade, Skyzone (Bega)

Shopping mall, Wet and Wild, Automatic car wash, Cheaper Public transport, Movies (Eden)

A train station (Eden)



Better internet facilities, shopping/ café development at Cannery; Fix Coles carpark access, More retail choices (Eden)

Cinema, better shops, Kidzone, Flip out, Skyzone (Bega)

Late night shopping more often, Pet shop (Eden)

Not enough jobs; Retail; Transport industry (Bega)

- **Access to learning, health services and cultural venues is important**

Pet shop, more variety of shops, shopping centre in Eden, Bigger gym, More restaurants, Computer game shop (Eden)

Children identified services that support their learning and well-being as important. These services included early childhood services, schools, TAFE, University, libraries, museums, clubs (Little Nippers), church, hospital and medical services. Over 52% of the groups of children felt their lives were improved by organisations that supported them to learn, grow and remain well.



We like history, art, craft, music, school, library (Bega)

Museum, Edrom, School (Eden)

Going to school, learning and in the playground, whale museum (Eden)

The new hospital, school – great teachers, robotics, St Patricks Church, (Bega)

While generally happy with these services 46% of the children suggested some improvements to the facilities and expanded local opportunities for learning, education and employment. Again this was linked with their vision of their place in the future of the Bega Valley.



More technology in schools (Bega)

A Maritime college (Eden)

Art classes (Eden)

Health services (Eden)

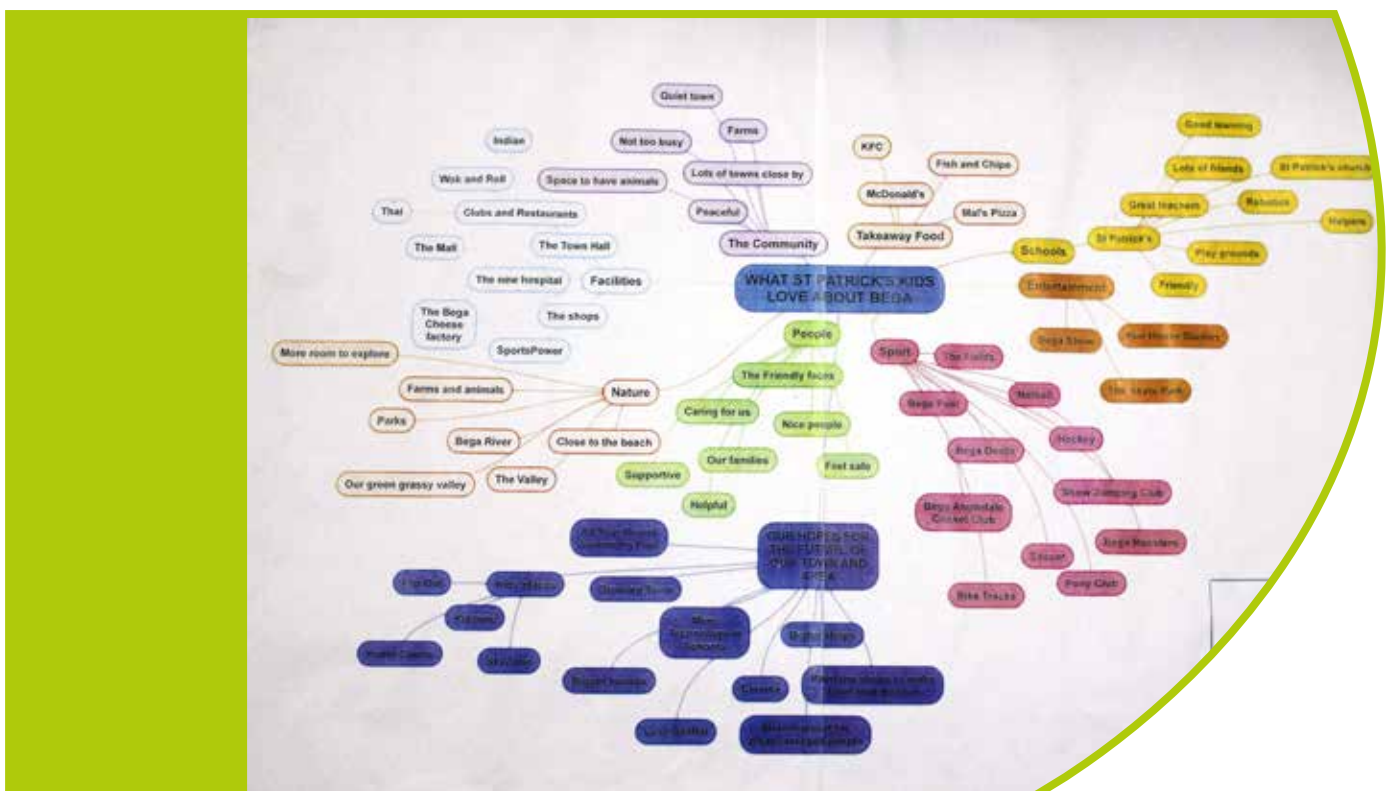
Medical emergency centre 24 hours (Eden)

To summarise, children in the 0 – 12 age group believe it is important to support the health and well-being of people in the community by making it possible to have education, jobs, transport, communication-technology and recreation facilities. They see themselves with a future in their community and want others to listen to them and take actions that invest in their future. They value a mix of local and centralised activities, resources and services that are accessible and affordable. The challenge is how to capitalise on their early entry to planning and leadership within the community in meaningful ways. This means:

- continuing to engage with and connect people of all ages
- investing in, caring for and maintaining existing facilities and recreation resources
- prioritising sustainability and community accessibility in planning new services
- growing the mix of local/ centralised community services, resources and facilities

- building accessible, flexible and adaptable community infrastructure, family health and well-being services and resources
- attracting and establishing public/ private partnerships
- attracting and supporting enterprises that provide local education, jobs, accessible and effective communication technology, and improved transport options.

An outdoor solar powered internet (Bega)



WHAT YOU TOLD US... UNDER 18

The responses demonstrate: what we love most; the biggest challenges and changes we would like in the Bega Valley

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 things we love most about living in the Bega Valley Shire

- coast, beach, sea
- people and community
- local facilities and service

For this question, responses in this age group were more likely to mention:

- coast, beach, sea
- local facilities and services

For this question, responses in this age group less likely to mention:

- people and community
- landscapes, scenery
- relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle
- clean, pristine environment, fresh air

What did this age group like about...

...the coast, beach, sea

- Closeness of beaches and beachy vibes
- Waking up in the morning and listening to the waves
- I love being on the coast yet so close to the countryside
- The pristine beaches and secret swimming holes

...People and community

- Wonderful welcoming, friendly people, the community spirit and how close we are together
- Safety - The best part of where I live is the small community, we know everyone and it feels pretty safe
- Small community helps generate a friendly atmosphere throughout the valley

...Local facilities and services

- Sporting facilities including soccer fields, parks, pools, playgrounds
- Eateries, cafes, KFC
- Schools, libraries, shopping centres
- The new hospital and equipment is really good as it assisted them in discovering the diagnosis in my knee which is now healing

...Recreation activities

- Sport - golfing, soccer, rugby, basketball, netball, footy
- Days at beach, surfing, swimming
- Places to ride, bike tracks, motor riding
- Walking, and
- Good fishing, horse riding.

"I have a roof over my head, a loving family and beautiful beaches"

"I love the community and how they can really bring people together and raise money. I also love the amazing views around the town"

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire

- lack of availability of non-medical services
- limited shopping choices
- lack of public transport

For this question, responses in this age group were more likely to mention :

- Distance to recreational facilities and lack of events and activities for youth
- limited shopping choices

For this question, responses in this age group were more likely to mention:

- distance to services, work and major cities
- lack of availability of medical services
- Cost of living
- Council rates, decision making and consultation

What did this age group say about...

...Lack of availability of non – medical services

- Lack of sporting facilities - hiring horses, dancing schools, indoor courts, amusement places;
- Isolation and distance from city services;
- Nothing to do, not enough youth hangouts, especially on weekends;
- Not enough community events- teen activities, musical events;
- Public toilets
- There also isn't enough youth support for kids who have trouble with work, identity, sexuality, mental illness etc., and
- Poor internet.

...Limited shopping choices

- No big shopping centres (Westfield) and lack of shopping/choices/ industrial area;
- Shops and restaurants close very early;
- Not enough healthy places to eat, and
- Lack of general stores in villages.

...Lack of public transport

- Costly, infrequent;
- Distance from public transport - have to drive to town for services, and
- Not many support groups easily accessible in rural areas like ours it is difficult to get discreetly to support groups either, without a licence.

"I love the community and how they can really bring people together and raise money. I also love the amazing views around the town"

"The beautiful National Parks and general environment. Strong sense of community whether through TSLSC, football, show/farming and Mumbulla or Steiner. Littleton Gardens - Fling physical theatre. Farmers Markets - music and other arts is supported through various communities"

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 changes we would like to see in the Bega Valley Shire:

- Improved recreation facilities and spaces
- better shopping variety
- improved public transport options and bike paths

For this question, responses in this age group were more likely to mention:

- better shopping variety
- More facilities and things for youth to do

For this question, responses in this age group were less likely to mention:

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- economic growth and diversification
- improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns
- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- changes to Council's decision making and consultation

What changes would this age group like to see...

... for Improved recreation facilities and spaces

- More horse riding trails, water parks, surf machines, diving options, undercover sporting facilities - basketball, netball
- More life guards
- Drive in picture theatres, reopen Bega cinema
- More areas to chill with friends
- Music festivals, more diversity, more entertainment, fun parks
- See more Fun and active facilities for little kids to use in school holidays
- Improved infrastructure. More community events. Trying to improve the feel of teenage community

...for Better shopping variety

- More shops, cafes and greater diversity
- Massive shopping centre in Tura, Merimbula, with major stores, such as Aldi, Kmart, Bunnings, EB games
- More takeaways - Subway, Dominoes, Hungry Jacks, Kebabs, KFC, juice bar, and
- See little shops right on the water's edge all bright and colourful painted e.g. some lolly shops, coffee shops etc.

...for Improved transport options

- More transport - particularly for youth and a bus system that runs regularly and frequently, and
- Airport upgraded.

Also raised was the need for more facilities and things for youth to do

- No more domestic violence in the Bega Valley, and if that is not possible, more places down the coast where women and children alike can feel safe, because the SEWACS Facilities are slowly crumbling
- Puppy training schools, pet centres
- More after school activities for kids
- support groups for young people, for youth space to open permanently with Wi-Fi kitchen etc
- More public toilets.

WHAT YOU TOLD US...

The responses demonstrate: what we love most; the biggest challenges and changes we would like in the Bega Valley

18 – 34 YEARS

Changes we would like see in the Bega Valley Shire...

...more likely to mention

- better employment opportunities

What we love most about the place where we live...

...more likely to mention

- coast, beach, sea
 - Local facilities and services
- ...less likely to mention
- Views, landscapes, scenery
 - People and community

Changes we would like see in the place where we live...

...more likely to mention

- improvements to recreation facilities and spaces
 - Economic growth and diversification
 - More shopping variety
- ...less likely to mention
- improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns
 - changes to Council's decision making and consultation
 - improved roads, parking and footpaths
 - Changes to town planning and land use controls

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 things we love most about living in the Bega Valley Shire

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- views, landscapes, scenery

Top 3 challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire

- lack of employment opportunities
- lack of public transport
- distance to services, work and major cities

Top 3 changes we would like to see in the Bega Valley Shire

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- Improved recreation facilities and spaces
- better employment opportunities

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

- people and community
- local facilities and services
- coast, beach, sea

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

- improved recreation facilities and spaces
- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- better shopping variety

WHAT YOU TOLD US...

The responses demonstrate: what we love most; the biggest challenges and changes we would like in the Bega Valley

35 – 49 YEARS
BEGA VALLEY

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 things we love most about living in the Bega Valley Shire

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- views, landscapes, scenery

Top 3 challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire

- lack of employment opportunities
- distance to services, work and major cities
- lack of availability of non-medical services

Top 3 changes we would like to see in the Bega Valley Shire

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- economic growth and diversification
- better employment opportunities

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

- people and community
- peace and quiet, open space
- coast, beach, sea

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

- improved recreation facilities and spaces
- improved public transport options and bike paths
- improved roads, parking and footpaths

Challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire...

...more likely to mention

- Lack of employment opportunities

Changes we would like see in the place where we live...

...more likely to mention

- improved public transport options and bike paths

WHAT YOU TOLD US...

The responses demonstrate: what we love most; the biggest challenges and changes we would like in the Bega Valley

50 – 59 YEARS
in the Bega Valley

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 things we love most about living in the Bega Valley Shire

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- views, landscapes, scenery

Top 3 challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire

- lack of employment opportunities
- distance to services, work and major cities
- lack of public transport

Top 3 changes we would like to see in the Bega Valley Shire

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- economic growth and diversification
- improved roads, parking and footpaths

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

- community
- peace and quiet, open space
- trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- changes to town planning and land use controls
- improved recreation facilities and spaces

Things we love most about living in the Bega Valley Shire...

...less likely to mention

- Local facilities and services

WHAT YOU TOLD US...

The responses demonstrate: what we love most; the biggest challenges and changes we would like in the Bega Valley

60 – 69 YEARS
Bega Valley

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 things we love most about living in the Bega Valley Shire

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- views, landscapes, scenery

Top 3 challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire

- distance to services, work and major cities
- lack of availability of medical services
- lack of public transport

Top 3 changes we would like to see in the Bega Valley Shire

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- changes to Council's decision making and consultation

Respondents aged over 60 were more likely than the other age group to feel connected - very connected to their community.

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

- people and community
- peace and quiet, open space
- local facilities and services

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE PLACE WHERE WE LIVE

- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- improved community facilities, libraries, waste services and appearance of towns
- changes to town planning and land use controls

Challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire...

...more likely to mention

- lack of availability of medical services

WHAT YOU TOLD US... 70 and OVER

The responses demonstrate: what we love most; the biggest challenges and changes we would like in the Bega Valley

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 things we love most about living in the Bega Valley Shire

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- climate, weather

What did this age group like about...

...People and community

- Being involved with the small community
- Close, caring, friendly, diverse, generous people
- Strong presence of the Yuin nation, with significant sacred sites
- Willingness of people to share their advice and experience to newcomers

...Coast, beach, sea

- Access and closeness to beaches
- Beautiful coastal scenery and sea views
- Clean pristine beaches

...Climate and weather

- Benign and temperate climate with seasonal variations

...Clean, pristine environment and fresh air

- Clean fresh air
- Unspoiled pristine environment
- Green fields and clean green food

Respondents aged 70 and over were more likely to value health, services and relaxed, coastal, country lifestyle than people in other age groups as the most important things in their lives right now..

For this question, responses in this age group were more likely to mention:

- climate, weather
- clean, pristine environment, fresh air

For this question, responses in this age group less likely to mention:

- coast, beach, sea

People in this age group were more likely to mention they love about the place where they live:

- People and community

People in this age group were less likely to mention they love about the place where they live:

- Coast, beach, sea

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 challenges we face living in the Bega Valley Shire

- distance to services, work and major cities
- lack of public transport
- lack of availability of medical services

For this question, responses in this age group were more likely to mention :

- distance to services, work and major cities
- lack of public transport

For this question, responses in this age group less likely to mention:

- lack of employment opportunities

What did this age group find challenging about...

...Distance to services, work and major cities

- Being away from family and friends
- Distance to travel to medical services, specialists, hospitals
- Connections to major cities – shopping
- Distance to jobs
- Feeling of isolation and remoteness
- Affordability

...Lack of public transport

- “Because I don’t drive, it is transportation, especially on weekends. I am in Tura now and there are no buses or community transport then. Also, the bus service could be better during the week as well”
- Dependence on own car
- Lack of easy access and regular transport
- Connection to larger cities
- Expense of air travel

...Lack of medical services

- Access to specialist health care - skin, urologists
- Availability and distance of health professionals and hospitals
- Shortage of decent health care on all levels
- Having to leave the valley for health reasons
- Costly health care and costs of travel and accommodation to cities for health services

...Council rates, decision making and consultation

- Cost of water supply and rates “As a pensioner rates should be halved”. Unfair rating system
- Disrespect for volunteers
- Dealing with Council, general attitude of Councillors to the general public and not listening to the people, out of touch
- Getting support for small towns
- Problems with collection of green waste and waste disposal in general

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

Top 3 changes we would like to see in the Bega Valley Shire:

- improved public transport options and bike paths
- improved roads, parking and footpaths
- changes to Council's decision making and consultation

People in this age group were...

... more likely to mention they want the following to change in place where they live:

- No change
- improved roads, parking and footpaths

...less likely to mention they love about the place where they live::

- Improved recreation facilities and spaces

What changes did this group want to see for...

...Improved transport options

- Bus transport - hourly service and all night services, especially to hospital
- Carpooling to Canberra for non-drivers
- More accessible transport
- More transport between Shire towns and better transport to cities
- Low cost airlines, flights to Canberra, bigger airport, more competition for domestic air service, cheaper air fares
- Train line or fast mono rail along coast or inland, light rail conveyancing
- More connecting bike and walking tracks
- Fast hydrofoil linking coastal towns

...Improved roads, parking and footpaths

- Better maintenance, safer roads, surfacing of dirt roads, repairs done properly in the first place
- Highway upgrade
- More parking spaces
- More pathways
- Disabled access to beaches
- Better facilities for people with disabilities, for example there is no disabled parking in the main street, and some of the

footpath ramps are not very good. Some shops have no disabled access

- improvement in disability access, particularly smoother surfaces at transition point such as gutters, doorways and some retail spaces

...Changes to Council's decision making and consultation

- Better enlightened and educated Council, greater vision, more responsive and caring
- More consensus with the community and better control and expenditure of rate income
- Support of community volunteer activities
- Less red tape and quicker services and rate reductions for retired people
- Fair allocation of funding and maintenance between smaller towns, the key thing is to distribute such services across the Shire and not just centralise



RESPONSES FROM IDENTIFIED SECTOR GROUPS

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS WERE MORE LIKELY...

...to value family or children and jobs than non-Aboriginal people as the most important things in their lives right now.

...to describe the type of community they want to be a part of in the future as diverse or vibrant or thriving than non-Aboriginal people.

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- people and community
- coast, beach, sea
- trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains

What did this sector group like about people and community

- How their communities supported each other, their spirit, culture, values, and cohesiveness
- That the people in their communities were nice and friendly, down to earth, unpretentious and happy
- The social engagement and inclusion of people with disabilities
- The family safety in a small community
- The wonderful people who work to look after native plants and animals
- “Being with and close to my deadly family”

What did this sector group like about coast, beach, sea

- Easy access to the beach and the closeness of coast and towns
- Our lands and waters and mountains

What did this sector group like about trees, forests, wildlife, waterways and mountains

- Birdlife, protected wildlife, trees
- “I love our environment. I love that none of forests or waterways are overly polluted, our forests are pristine and hardly any deforestation has occurred. I hope it stays this way”
- What did this sector group like about

Recreation activities

- Sport - in particular, golfing, fishing, riding tracks, skating, surfing
- “It is quiet and I can go walk whenever I want”

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- Lack of public transport
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Lack of availability of non-medical services

What did this sector group find challenging about lack of public transport

- Lack of transport that restricts opportunities especially for young people
- Distance between towns and to cities
- The expense of petrol

What did this sector group find challenging about lack of employment opportunities

- Lack of opportunities for work, lack of jobs and stable employment

What did this sector group find challenging about lack of availability of non-medical services

- Lack of shops, sporting venues and fun parks and lack of things to do
- Modern services and justice system that can't support them properly
- Rural people suffer the most

What did this sector group find challenging about keeping our culture alive

- Hard to keep culture alive and keep our people strong
- Not enough opportunity for young people to learn their language and culture
- Trying to keep our young people safe and engaged, keep them in the culture (hard with the technology and pressures of the modern world)

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- Improvements to recreation facilities and spaces
- Better employment opportunities
- More shopping variety and local food, more / less major retailers

What changes did this sector group want to see for improvements to recreation facilities and spaces

- Better sporting facilities, such as heated pools, artificial surfing, hockey turf, basketball courts and skate parks
- Safer fenced playgrounds
- Indoor family friendly activity centres

- More camping facilities

What changes did this sector group want to see for better employment opportunities

- Stability of employment
- More opportunities and variety of jobs
- More industry to support employment

What changes did this sector group want to see for more shopping variety and local food, more / less major retailers

- Greater variety and choice with all shops filled
- Lots of small hipster individual shops
- More major stores

What changes did this sector group want to see for change in people's attitudes

- Less parochialism
- More welcoming and diverse
- More respectful to young people
- Region to be leaders in community agriculture, sustainability, renewable energy

PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY

RESPONDENTS WITH A DISABILITY WERE MORE LIKELY...

...as those without a disability to feel connected - very connected to their community.

...than those without a disability to feel disconnected - very disconnected and less likely to feel neither connected nor disconnected to their community.

WHAT WE LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- People and community
- Coast, beach, sea
- Peace and quiet, open space

What did this sector group like about people and community

- The friendliness of the local community and that they pulled together and were 'real'
- The small, close and active community that surrounded them
- Their health, eating sensibly and keeping fit
- Local health services

What did this sector group like about coast, beach, sea

- Beautiful beaches
- Proximity to the beach and coast
- Sapphire clean oceans, unspoilt environment

What did this sector group like about peace and quiet, open space

- Distance from city
- Lack of traffic
- Peaceful, serene
- No close neighbours, isolation

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES WE FACE LIVING IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- Lack of availability of medical services
- Lack of public transport
- Lack of availability of non-medical services

What did this sector group find challenging about lack of availability of medical services

- The availability of medical services
- Their isolation from medical services, particularly after hours
- The distance from hospitals and to specialists, time to reach emergency services
- The lack of suitable transport that prevented them from attending appointments
- The cost of medical services, lack of bulk billing and costs involved in seeking medical services outside of the region

What did this sector group find challenging about lack of public transport

- Increased bus services around the rural areas that are suitable for the elderly to address their feelings of isolation
- Walking and cycling paths suitable for pedestrian access, mobility scooters on gentle inclines
- Buses and taxis that are fully accessible for wheelchair access
- Better more frequent transport, particularly to access medical services and between towns

What did this sector group find challenging about lack of availability of non-medical services

- Accessibility of services
- Availability of tradesmen and building/renovation supplies
- No home delivery
- More places to hang out
- Need places like Ricky's Place to be supported by big business from local economy

What did this sector group find challenging about condition of roads, parking availability, lack of footpaths

- Condition of roads
- Traffic in main street - difficult to cross for people who can't move quickly. Vision is impaired at times (traffic lights please near clock tower.)
- Parking availability
- Lack of footpaths - Deep gutters, cobblestone pavers

CHANGES WE WOULD LIKE SEE IN THE BEGA VALLEY SHIRE

- improvements to recreation facilities and spaces
- improved public transport options and bike paths
- better employment opportunities

What changes would this sector group like to see for improvements to recreation facilities and spaces

- More leash free and walking areas for dogs
- Better clean, well maintained disabled facilities throughout the town, including hall and sports grounds, beaches, river beds and heated pools
- More community activities that are family oriented, accessible, better advertised
- Community gardens, improved parks, green spaces
- More indoor sport facilities
- More leash free and walking areas for dogs
- Better clean, well maintained disabled facilities

throughout the town, including hall and sports grounds, beaches, river beds and heated pools

What changes would this sector group like to see for improved public transport options and bike paths

- Increased bus services around the rural areas that are suitable for the elderly addressing their feelings of isolation
- Walking and cycling paths suitable for pedestrian access, mobility scooters on gentle inclines
- Buses and taxis that are fully accessible for wheelchair access
- Better more frequent transport between towns
- Expansion of air services
- "Low-cost flexible transport options"

What changes would this sector group like to see for better employment opportunities

- Jobs for disabled youth were a high priority
- More work opportunities to be made available for young people and for professionals
- More industry, shops that provide employment
- Growth in tourism

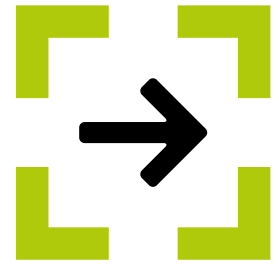
WHAT WOULD MAKE THIS SECTOR GROUP FEEL MORE CONNECTED TO OUR COMMUNITY

- Better more frequent transport
- More community activities that are family oriented, accessible, better advertised
- Community friendlier, less judgemental, with reduced bullying



CREATING OUR FUTURE....

FUTURE



COMMUNITY

THE TYPE OF COMMUNITY WE WANT TO BE A PART OF IN THE FUTURE

1,373 people answered this question. From these answers 2,822 ideas were put forward which were allocated into one or more of 11 categories. Of these ideas:

- 20% describe a desired future community as vibrant or thriving
- 18% describe a desired future community as inclusive or cohesive
- 15% describe a desired future community as caring or safe

100% places and respondents of all age groups described a future community that is vibrant or thriving or inclusive or cohesive in the top 2 categories most frequently mentioned

90% places described a future community that is caring or safe as the third most frequently mentioned category. The exception was the Bermagui and Wallaga Lake area where sustainable or eco-friendly was the third most frequently mentioned category.

Respondents aged between 25 – 34, 50 – 59 and over 70 were more likely than the other age group to describe a future community that is sustainable or eco-friendly.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders were more likely to described a

future community that is diverse or vibrant or thriving than non-Aboriginal people.

There was little difference in the responses between men and women, between people who live in a town or village compared with people who live on a rural farm or lifestyle property, between people based on how long they have lived in the Bega Valley Shire or between people with and without disabilities.

The type of community we want to be a part of in the future was described by the respondents as:

- vibrant and thriving
- inclusive and cohesive
- caring and safe
- sustainable and eco-friendly
- local, small, rural and quiet
- intelligent, innovative and progressive
- diverse
- connected and accessible
- active and healthy
- other

WHAT YOU TOLD US...

Active free spirited innovative
relative close-knitted
supportive

Agricultural; move toward
localisation rather than
globalisation

All are welcome to join in and
participate in major decisions
concerning the Shire

Balance between development/
progress and preserving rural/
country setting

Caring for our environment
and being Australian regional
leaders in using renewable
energy

Caring, innovative, up-to-
date, safe, quiet, respectful

Celebrates its heritage and
history, has opportunities for
young people

Clean, environmentally
conscious community that
values its green spaces

Connected, loving, caring.
Strong, intelligent, visionary
leadership

More tolerant community,
where everyone is accepted for
who they are, and there is no
discrimination

Open community supporting
the Arts and music. Small
townships and communities,
small recreational and cultural
activities supported

Open to ideas to accommodate
the changing world

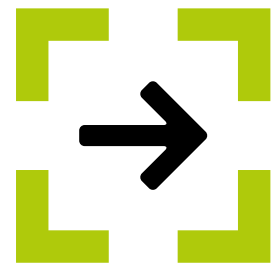
Smart, creative, leaders in
regionalism that attracts
people from the cities

The Valley is already
recognised as an arts and
cultural centre so keep
promoting this wonderful asset

Thriving Shire where resident
wellbeing is the number one
priority



WE WANT



CHANGES

YOUR IDEAS
ABOUT HOW
CHANGES
COULD BE
ACHIEVED IN
OUR SHIRE

WHAT CHANGES DO WE WANT RIGHT NOW?

ECONOMY

Eden Harbour

- Council to get behind the Snug Cove Safe Harbour Development - Finish wharf extension - it is essential and urgent
- Get the marina built yesterday. Better facilities for visiting vessels in Snug Cove, such as Marina. In excess of 400 vessels visit annually now and there is no proper facilities for them
- In favour of cruise ships but don't exclude others e.g. whale watching businesses who could be impacted negatively if poor planning takes place

Diversification of economy

- Decentralised clean industry, small-medium manufacturing across Shire. Less reliance on tourism which is too seasonal
- Council to encourage and support entrepreneurship within local community e.g. Farm gate sales of home-grown produce, crafts. Nursery business. Remove the red tape for people to conduct income producing ventures, and instead facilitate it. Maybe there could be one place on each street where interested residents could have their own little co-op outlet

- to peddle their wares or skills, e.g. wines, fruit / veg, wooden furniture, haircuts, etc.
- Encouraging emerging industries and diverse types of farming to the area

Farming and food

- Shift away from the reliance on dairy and try to introduce a broader agricultural industry that includes vineyards, olives etc. - potential of making a village like Candelo the centre of a wine growing area e.g. the Huon Valley, Tasmania
- Dairy, seafood production catering to sophisticated 'food crowd' - the so called dining boom
- Fishing industry is important. Aquaculture overtaking agriculture in importance - particularly in seaweed and fisheries

Big vs. small business

- Promote local/regional industry, more emphasis on small businesses and home-grown industries rather than large
- Commercial growth and retail keep to a minimum - keep large developments away

Supporting small business

- More support and incentives (lower rents) for small, local businesses

- Council to insist owners of vacant retail shops to participate in new Council initiatives so that Main Street shops are full. Empty shops used for creative and sustainable businesses - as in Renew Australia

Industrial development

- Development of industry / infrastructure / sustainable industries / technology industries / advanced industry
- Some manufacturing industries to help decentralize urban areas

New technology

- Upgrade of technology systems equal to other world leaders in technology innovation
- Stimulate IT networking hub and business opportunities
- A digital co-working space. an influx of technology start-up businesses
- A technology park

Innovation

- Innovative technical sector and manufacturing sector to value add for the agriculture business
- Be a hub for research, education, creative industries and new ideas
- A place for innovative ideas that will lead to the establishment of more businesses, especially small businesses that would encourage young people here

Other

- Localised solar power should be developed. Aquaculture should be developed. Make use of the seawater via desalination for water supply. Make use of seawater for aquaculture
- Development of boating centre for southern NSW
- Wind farm in hinterland

TOURISM

Promotion

- People in the tourism industry working together, to grow and strengthen our tourism sectors
- Tourism development, i.e. networking with other countries to holiday here. Attract international visitors e.g. mecca for bike or horse riders, golfers, excellent restaurants, unusual, different sorts of shops - add a 5 star luxury hotel (not apartments)
- Working with airlines to increase tourists

Infrastructure

- Ensure that infra-structure can keep up with demands of tourist numbers whilst protecting and enhancing the natural environment
 - Invest in tourism infrastructure that encourages people to get out into nature, e.g. walking, cycling or riding trails through forests and farmland
 - Tourist Drive with signage to get people off the highway to see our town

Council working together with University of Wollongong to build indoor pool facility.

Eco/Adventure

- More adventure tours - treetop walks, ziplines, paragliding
- A walking and cycle path all along the coast with links to all the communities along the way. Tourism of the future is pro-active and demands this sort of activity

Opportunities

- More food trails and tourism centred around quality local produce (not just cheddar)



- Council work with the local Yuin people to provide a unique form of eco-tourism similar to that used at Uluru
- Gold diggings made into a tourist attraction

Other issues

- The tourist industry does not contribute adequately - a bed tax could support local environmental stewardship - the main reason tourists come is to enjoy the 'pristine' coast
- Some businesses close down over the quiet tourist season - I would like to see some sort of regulation that requires them to have opening hours that service the permanent resident population

EMPLOYMENT

Youth

- Innovative methods of increasing employment and education opportunities, especially for young people
- Employment options for our kids so they don't have to move to the big smoke for work outside tourism or agriculture
- Encourage/expand job opportunities to keep the young families coming in

Opportunities

- Improved services and job opportunities centred around marine and maritime themes - a marina in Snug Cove attracting jobs 365 days a year. Get the Port development done
- Increased employment opportunities by Council focussing on encouraging businesses to come to the Bega Valley Shire
- Economic development to generate new employment models and opportunities

An annual Indigenous Arts/Music and culture festival to showcase local artists and bring the whole community together to educate and enjoy each other's culture.

Technology and innovation

- Encouraging emerging industries and diverse types of farming to the area. Creating opportunities for young people to stay in the area employed with interesting and gainful employment
- Improved telco services eliminating as many blackspots as possible, to encourage home based businesses and employment
- The jobs created in design, building and maintenance and associated accommodation options from camping to Air BNB would add a year round sustainable income to the coastal communities now suffering from unsustainable forestry and fishing

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

General

- Promoting more sustainable living e.g. solar power, water tanks, improved drainage and runoff
- Lead the way in rural sustainable infrastructure, especially housing, civic buildings/spaces and transport that is less reliant on fossil fuels and other outside imports
- A strategic look at the smaller towns and how to support community sustainability and growth within them

- Ban plastic bags / plastic bag restrictions / no plastic water bottles, filtered water fountains (for drinking and refilling bottles)

Energy

- Bega Valley at the centre of renewable energy research and development;
- Embrace 100% Carbon Neutral region

- More efficient energy supply to reduce the high charges. Mains Gas supply would help in this regard
- Renewable energy across the whole Shire

Communal gardens and food production

- A community garden / education centre in the middle of town to show people how food production etc. can be done
- Encourage small/medium and large food producers so the Shire can become more self- sufficient

Climate change

- Climate change is a serious issue. We have only a few years to change drastically the way we live. It is the opportunity to improve our way of life: self-limitation and solidarity, and
- Understanding consequences of global warming.

Some of the plans for re-use of water to be implemented 'sooner rather than later'.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Maintain environment

- Preserve environment that is already incredible. In respect especially for Aboriginal people and for alternative people
- I would like it to stay as it is. No more filling in of swamps. Not fill up with shops and houses. The wetlands are unique and should be cared for
- Make the environment and sustainability the priority
- Celebration, promotion / preservation of our cultural / natural assets
- Excellent holistic community and ecological services

More environmental protection

- Protection of the pristine environment
- Better preservation of natural resources for tourism, recreational use and conservation

- Even greater emphasis on preserving the natural environment, including that which supports our Indigenous heritage e.g. Bundian Way, and reduction of degradation

Land management

- Balanced growth so the environment is not trashed, balancing development with beauty
 - Conservation of natural surroundings but encouragement of tourism
 - Better management of parks and natural landscapes to protect established plantings especially native species and to address weediness. Help the community to support such management by doing better in their own gardens

Environmental education

- More education for locals to help them understand the impact of their plants and animals on the native environment
- I would like people to be educated about the effects of pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers and the negative impact they have on our environment and our health
- Respect for wild places

Plants and animals

- No matter what we must continue to protect the natural habitats/national parks local wildlife and flora
- Stricter control over domestic cats
- Improve and promote nature corridors to aid in species diversity and survival
- A lot more green initiatives replacing traditional logging practices
- No more logging



- I would like to see no forest/bush burnt or wood chipped and an understanding that all of the earth is sacred and deserves our respect

Rivers and waterways

- Further/better protection waterways / keep dairy cows out of the waterways
- Ongoing support for native planting and river care and land care
- Improve and strengthen environmental protection to stop E.coli pollution, silting of waterways

Bush regeneration and tree planting

- Create carbon sinks in all unused public areas, e.g. roadsides (consistent with safety), edges of showgrounds, as was done in previous decades behind beaches. Have succession plans for trees in public parks
- Planting more trees, even food trees as street trees, neighbourhood gardens and street verges being used to grow lemon trees, nut trees, a street could adopt an orchard
- Greener townships with more gardens and trees, more beauty and perfumed flora

More sanctuaries for birds and greater involvement of schoolchildren in this.

Bushfire management

- Keeping the area safer from bushfires with better management of forests and reducing risks around housing
- Parks and wildlife and forestry adequately funded for fire management

POPULATION AND ATTITUDES

Communication

- Designated community notice boards - go to place for meetings / workshops

- Maybe a “what’s on” gig guide, covering Merimbula to Eden
- Regular informal meetings, particularly new comers to get to know each other

Engaged and social

- A more engaged vibrant community with local community groups from a cross section of society and ages with energy and stamina, and
- Community gardens and kitchen for combining harvest and value adding, while also providing a social environment that is inclusive and providing super affordable meals for those less fortunate or in need.

Diverse and inclusive

- Less focus on the “old pioneer families” and more inclusive of incomers (alternative life stylers, city retirees, refugees, etc.)
- Better interaction between Indigenous and white communities and greater respect for Aboriginal knowledge and place
- More cultural diversity - acceptance and integration of refugees into the community

Population size

- We don’t grow too big that we lose our sense of community
- Increase of population so the costs of living here are reduced

Growth

- More retirement estates in smaller communities, good quality and energy efficiency, but still rural
- Ensure new development retains rural flavour, environmental value and contributes to local community diversity

Attitudes

- A resilient can do, give it a go, positive, accessible and accepting of difference through the community
- Respect for people and heritage ahead of the false god of growth
- Thriving grass roots community involvement that reduces poverty, joblessness and mental health issues

EDUCATION

Children

- Improving school attendance for Aboriginal kids, schools to teach young people about the importance of Gulaga and surrounds. Better lives for kooris with self-help education
- Boxing programs for kids in school, more information around drug and alcohol and quitting smoking
- Better sustainability/environmental education for our children

Schools

- Increase in and modernisation of early childhood education and care centres
- More focus on local history and local ecology in primary schools, particularly indigenous history
- Primary school in Tura Beach
- Growth in building education facilities, particularly secondary in the north of our Shire
- High school in Merimbula

TAFE

- Restore educational opportunities for adults with more tertiary education on offer e.g. TAFE and apprenticeships available

- Bigger and better TAFE
- More affordable education facilities

University

- I would love to see Bega being the hub, have a university - not just an annexe of Wollongong - this would bring in a wonderful demographic of youth administrative support staff and academics - the flow on effect would be great for the community and it would keep our 'best and brightest' youth within the area
- Larger university with more subject choice

General

- Bega Valley as a centre of innovation and excellence in science, education and the arts
- Accessibility to relevant education - farming small areas, how to operate farm machinery, animal husbandry etc.
- "I would like people to be educated about the effects of pesticides, herbicides, fertilisers and the negative impact they have on our environment and our health"

HOUSING AND AGED CARE

Affordability

- A focus on affordable housing for a range of people e.g. lower socio-economic, elderly, families, singles, youth and low income earners
 - The poor lives in houses and treated with respect
 - More good quality low-cost medium-density housing in walking distance to town

Aged Care. A house in a small community could be purchased either privately or funded by Council or state government for this specific purpose



Availability

- About one third of Tathra's houses are empty the majority of the year. It would be great if there was a solution to owners being encouraged to rent these premises outside holiday periods as it is increasingly getting harder to find affordable rental properties in Tathra and elsewhere
- More community and social housing for people on low incomes and for people with a disability

Homelessness

- Increase in resources for women and men that are homeless and have Domestic Violence issues
- Outside places for homeless to sleep safely
- Nobody who wants a home is homeless

Aged care

- More independent living options and aged care facilities
- More retirement estates in smaller communities, good quality and energy efficiency, but still rural
- A range of housing options for the older population

Remaining at home

- Support lifelong living in our own homes
- Co-operative new ways of staying at home

Sustainable housing

- Ecovillages and integrated living choices for all ages
- Encouraging only sustainable and low energy usage housing.

A welcoming day or night for new comers to the area.

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

Festivals

- More community and music festivals like Parkes, Trundle, Woodford etc.
- Sapphire coast cheese festival - cheese plus all the unique/excellent foods that are grown in Bega Valley - world's best oysters, honey, beef etc.

Promotion

- A more thriving arts and creative industry that attracts high profile artists to the area and quality touring entertainment
- Harnessing our local creative talent and encouraging a stronger arts community to provide more opportunities to promote local artists.

Public art

- More community sculptures and artworks in public spaces in every town
- Artistic integrity in design decisions, and
- More community artwork, e.g. installations, street painting.

Activities

- Higher priority and interest on arts and culture with more funding
 - More culturally specific activities including theatre, music, traditional dance and language on a regular basis, and
 - More day and night fun events for entertainment like park runs, dancing and music.

Facilities

- A purpose built visual arts centre and gallery with facilities for arts lessons, workshops and offering artist residences

- I can imagine our town really developing music and art venues in Bega itself, live music encourages visitors and will make Bega a desirable place to live for young people, restore Kings cinema as a place people meet, an entertainment venue
- Reopen cinema in Bega and develop more theatres apart from Merimbula

Indigenous culture

- Better interaction between indigenous and white communities, community to be more open-minded and accepting of others with greater respect for Aboriginal knowledge and place
- I would like to see Council work with the local Yuin people to provide a unique form of ecotourism similar to that used at Uluru. This could involve Elders being a part of Council and the schools to teach young people about the importance of Gulaga and surrounds
- A restoration of pride and dignity in Aboriginal people within the Shire
- Mentoring young people in culture, helping them to learn traditional ways in a modern world

Consolidation of some of the clubs resulting in financial savings for members and better facilities surviving in the long term.

ROADS, PARKING AND FOOTPATHS

- Improve Brown mountain road / Brown Mountain becoming a 2 lanes highway / tunnel under Brown Mountain
- Development of main road system throughout Shire / improved linking roads, major by-passes of townships
- Upgrade the Princes Highway to a dual lane highway linking Melbourne Sydney Canberra

Roads upgrade / maintenance

- Council to spend a greater allocation of funds to repair/upgrade our streets and footpaths. Faster fixing of potholes. Seal all unsealed roads
- More targeted road repairs/improvements, upgrades to arterial / secondary / minor roads / roads to outlying properties and places of recreation, roadside maintenance to improve safety and visibility of wildlife
- Less money spent on roads and more money spent on parks, libraries and communal zones

Pedestrian crossings

- Better facilities for people with disabilities - some of the footpath ramps are not very good., Accessible main street ramps are needed
- Pedestrian only main streets in major towns. Close more main streets for better town centres.

Develop better, safer pedestrian access in town e.g. zebra crossings at Coles, at the Post Office and at the Reject shop. Crossing at the lights is no good

- More pram/wheelchair friendly access i.e. down the street is uneven with a lot of steep gutters makes crossing the roads dangerous

Footpaths

- Improved / more / non-slip footpaths. "Hard to walk down the footpath without tripping on uneven surface or slipping on stupid granite tiles in wet weather". Poor maintenance of footpaths prevents the elderly from walking
- All roads around our towns to have pathways so we can walk to the shops and don't have to share with cars
- Paths around Tura Beach - safer at night / don't have to walk on the road / difficult to push a pram on the grass nature strips / wheelchairs / senior citizens and children



Parking

- Better car parks with wider spaces and easier access. Recent changes to car spots reduced their size from 2.6+m to 2.5m. Hard to park if you have a large car
- Additional / better parking facilities / better designed parking
- More disabled facilities and policed parking, people being penalised for parking without a permit. Need more disabled parking in the main streets of all towns

Speed

- Better roads with slower speeds in dangerous spots and in communities. Reduced speed limits on roads at night to protect wildlife
- Better signage etc. to slow the traffic on our rural roads with more signage asking vehicles (especially trucks) to please slow down on dirt roads
- Better enforced speed limits and crossings for the elderly in our highway villages. Better (more intelligent) road traffic control. Replace traffic lights with roundabouts and zebra crossings

Other

- Better street lighting
- Road making machinery to be made available for private land holder road upgrade and repair - at reasonable cost as many roads will be sealed by 20 years - leaving time for these works with this equipment

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND BIKE PATHS

Air travel

- More flights servicing the area, especially daily flights to Canberra
- Extended runway at Merimbula airport to increase competition and drive down exorbitant airfares

- Airport upgrade to allow larger aircraft which will reduce flight costs for both residents and tourists

Buses

- Improved more adequate bus services 7 days per week including to/from isolated areas in the Shire - Summer bus for youth was great, bring it back
- Cheaper faster public transport between villages and major towns and cities
- A much better bus service that advertises its timetable

Rail

- A rail link connecting Shire to Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra
- Fast train or Monorail along coast or inland town.

Disabled and elderly

- Mini bus transport linking the towns for elderly or disabled people to be able to get to entertainment and health services
- More accessible transport options
- Public transport isn't well utilised but I worry about what will happen if I can no longer drive

Alternatives

- Fast hydrofoil coastal service linking coastal towns
- Improved taxi services
- Ability to find out if anyone is going to Canberra for non-drivers and willingness to share passenger who has to go to hospital
- Hover crafts

Cycle paths

- More bike paths and safer walking routes. Wider roads to enhance bike riding with bike lanes on major roads

- Make main access roads safe for on road bicycles in all conditions (including dark and wet) for at least 5km radius around town

MEDICAL SERVICES

Hospital - general

- Fully operational hospital
- Hospital as centre for innovative ways to treat patients including with preventative regimes
- All hospitals built over railway lines and other public entities including shopping centres

Bega Hospital

- Have the new hospital up and running to its full capacity with no shortage of medical staff
- All surgical operations, better medical services for cardiac problems and stroke treatments to be performed at the new hospital in Bega
- Return of a Bega Hospital board as locals have little say in the running of the Bega Hospital which is alienating the local medical community

Pambula Hospital

- Pambula Hospital re-opened for emergency services
- Pambula - better 24 hour medical services in or near area
- Upgrade of Pambula Hospital (or similar) to a fully functioning hospital

Additional hospitals

- Bega is too far to travel for a lot of coastal and inland occupiers such as farmers in an emergency and often time is vital
- One more hospital would be handy, between Narooma and Bega or closer to the Victorian border

Doctors and medical centres

- Better availability of health care, and bulk billing doctors
- Incentives for quality medical practitioners to move and reside in Bega Valley Shire
- More general practitioners

Specialist services

- Improved access to all types of medical professionals
- Be able to see the specialist doctors here at the new hospital instead of Canberra or Sydney

A registration of University women. For example an Association of University women in the Bega Shire.

- Cheaper dental practices
- Like many older people, I hate the idea that one day I will have to leave Bermagui due to inability to access many medical facilities. People have had to leave because of this as they become unable to drive or look after themselves

People with special needs

- Ongoing support of community infrastructure including in-home support, family services and aged care services
- Adolescent health including mental health facilities and more services for special needs children
- Like to see a hospice purpose built and more palliative care nurses and doctors available

Better health care and services

- Fantastic health services from 0 to 100 years of age
- World class health facilities
- Like to see today's youth have better health so they will live longer than us



Healthy lifestyle

- All those that want it having access to a healthy lifestyle -- good cheap food; exercise regimes that prevent unnecessary bad health outcomes
- Do something about the obesity in the Valley
- More emphasis on healthy living using the natural features of bush and coast

SHOPPING

Restaurants

- Lots more outside eating areas for restaurants. More diverse food outlets and more water front eateries across the Shire
- More quality restaurants making use of local produce
- Longer opening hours at nights and on weekends

Local grocery shops

- General store or supermarkets in all towns
- If we had a shop it would help. We currently have to drive to Bega for provisions like newspapers, milk, and bread
- Allow more shops to sell papers and grocery items

Markets

- Organic, biodiverse agriculture, community sufficiency, less dependent on importing food to the region
- Alternative food supply beside major super markets
- More access to fresh food at reasonable prices
- Weekly markets - Council sponsored (esp. insurance) weekly growers / artisan / craftsmen markets

Publicise the Council's website so that it becomes a forum for the community.

Variety

- Better retail - ability to shop locally
- Expand shopping and service points outside of traditional CBD
- Wider range of stores both local and national, greater diversity and choices without going all the way to Melbourne, Canberra or Sydney

Major retailers - more

- We need to entice big business, Aldi and Kmart specifically. We're a town full of struggling families there should be options for affordability of everyday basic items
- Allow more businesses and corporations into the area to promote growth, ALDI, Bunnings, Coles, Big W. etc. and to make prices competitive
- Progress please, why don't we have a Bunnings yet? When will ALDI be coming? These businesses will have a net effect of more money in people's pockets

Major retailers - less

- Less franchises, more smaller boutique businesses - rather than the multi-national retail outlets
- No Bunnings
- Reduction in big supermarkets (they destroy the livelihoods of our small shopkeepers)

Revitalisation of shops

- Shops on main streets brightened up and painted to create some novelty attraction for tourism; restaurants that are open later, with live music so not always at pubs
- Shop fronts to be more pleasing to the eye, less of the "Australian Ugliness".

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

NBN

- Broadband network comparable to urban plans
- Fibre optic rather than wireless for internet
- Better communications - an NBN that works

Mobile phones

- As there is lots of bushland a better mobile phone coverage is vital
- Better mobile phone coverage needed for safety of residents and visitors
- Eliminating mobile and internet black spots - No black spots for mobile phones

Internet

- Better, faster internet
- Low cost high speed internet everywhere for everyone
- Competitive Internet access and speeds

Better communications

- Better access to telecommunications
- Effective high speed communications. Better telco coverage
- Better and consistent television, internet and radio transmission/receiving.

Wi-Fi

- Extend free Wi-Fi access
- Outdoor power supply on picnic areas - charging phones / laptops. Public Wi-Fi spots for tourists to use
- Charging stations all around the Valley

OTHER SERVICES

Police

- Better policing and control of delinquent behaviour, vandalism and drugs
- More street level police presence i.e. walking the beat
- We absolutely need 24 hour, 7 day per week manned Police Stations

Safety

- Stop vandalism in our towns, more rural security
- More CCTV cameras in CBD
- Safety from public members on dangerous drugs

Elderly

- More services for ageing population to be able to live for longer in their own homes;
- More accommodation for the elderly and underprivileged, and
- I am old enough to want / need safe, affordable and interesting / stimulating aged care.

Youth

- More activities and facilities for kids to be involved in
- A real strategic focus on keeping our young people in the area
- I think the town needs an entertainment precinct, youth engagement programs - places for youth to go and be part of something interesting and inspiring
- I'd also like to see a well-developed and well run drop in centre for young people to attend

Children

- More vacancies for child care / more centres, more playgroups



- Council funded and organised community based music and sports programs for 0-12 year old children in the lower socio economic areas of the Shire

Special needs

- Increase in resources and better care for women and men that are homeless and have domestic violence issues
- More support groups for the disabled and youth
- Better disability access in all places

Other

- Greater assistance from government agencies to improve facilities and opportunities.
- A mail delivery service would be greatly appreciated and papers delivered to outlying homes
- Underground power - Burying power lines would be nice

RECREATION

General

- Better infrastructure for things like power, roads, public toilets, parks, tourism, public and community resources
- Maintain, plan and invest wisely in existing infrastructure
- Upkeep of maintenance for facilities in town. Public toilets, parks, beaches

Parks and playgrounds

- More parks with everything included - toilets, easy access, fenced, inclusive equipment - upgraded to blend and suit the environment
- Much better maintenance of and access to public recreation spaces such as beaches, national parks and reserves
- More adventurous, child friendly playgrounds, parks, and green spaces

- Focus on community recreation to natural attractions e.g. waterfalls, headlands, picnic facilities
- Families and tourists love town parks, but most of ours are very sad

Dogs

- More places to be able to take my dog off-leash legally
- More dog walking areas / dog friendly beaches / dog poo bags at more sites
- Fenced dog areas with tables and water bubbler for people and dogs

Pools

- More ocean pools
- More heated indoor pools with longer opening hours all year round
- Free for kids

Sport facilities

- More regional standard sporting facilities
- Multi-purpose indoor stadium, swimming, basketball, gym, netball, cricket, squash, volleyball, soccer, the local personal trainers as well as other community events (indoor markets) etc.
- An indoor gym, climbing wall, with indoor play centre for toddlers/primary school children

It would be nice if Council acknowledged the work in the Shire volunteers carry out, both in savings and in making the community richer and caring

Toilets

- Improve toilet block and amenities throughout the whole Shire
- More public toilets needed for families at parks etc. More disabled facilities for families in general for prams and grandma's walkers
- More and cleaner toilets in the towns and townships

Walks

- Widen, extend and upgrade boardwalks
- More foreshore and coastal walks and more walking tracks away from roadsides
- A walking and cycle path all along the coast with links to all the communities along the way

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities

- More affordable venues for hire, sports and recreation and the new Shire buildings open for people to use without the high cost
- Increased community spaces, community gardens, and community resources
- Better maintenance and support of our local halls and sportsground assets, help with maintaining church, toilets and cemetery.

Library

- Better hours - I always miss the library after getting off the bus, libraries open every day
- Longer opening hours for the community centre and library so families can utilize the facilities after school or work
- Better stocked library with new books presented each week and with good reference books

Waste

- Better recycling services / bring back the local recycling points – have an actual recycling plant
- Free green recycling / Green bins weekly or fortnightly
- Hard rubbish collection
- Extend tip opening hours
- More public waste and recycling bins, tourist hot spots or near shops

Water and sewerage

- Investment in innovative sewerage management and recycling to protect our waterways and sensitive areas
- Sewerage system to cope with population
- Small farms and communities should get access to infrastructure like water supplies. “Why is a dwelling in Tura beach more important than a dwelling in Tantawangalo. There should be equal access to all infrastructure”
- Better water supplies without fluoride

Towns

- Beautification and revitalisation of towns, maintaining and protecting heritage. Save old buildings, wooden bridges and monuments
- Better upkeep of green spaces / road verges, cleaning /maintenance of facilities
- Bega township needs to be more beautiful and welcoming. The river area walking tracks and re-development are absolutely beautiful and a great job well done
- Plant more trees and shade plants along streets and business areas
- Planting more trees, even food trees as street trees, neighbourhood gardens and street verges being used to grow lemon trees, nut trees, a street could adopt an orchard”

COUNCIL DECISION MAKING

Attitude and approach

- Better Council / local government / better Council planning / more thoughtful decision making and planning
- A more modern approach to the way Council do their business
- More of a can do attitude from Council / get things happening don't just talk about doing



- A Council that is sincerely tuned to the important needs of resident and visitors
- Continued excellent Shire Council focussed on local issues and services

Decision making

- Less influence by minority groups in decision making
- More collaborative relationship between Council and residents to move the area more towards what the residents want rather than Council thinks they need.
- More
- More consensus with the community and better control and expenditure of rate income

Rates

- Less rate increases by being wise about the spending
- Cheaper rates for those living in Tura and Merimbula / fifty year olds un-employed / pensioners / self-funded retirees
- More equal rating for people near the sea i.e. user pay

Distribution of funds

- Distribute such services across the Shire and not just centralise / rates money and government funding spent more fairly over all the Shire / Equal allocation of resources and infrastructure
- An increase in funding allocation for Merimbula CBD / Eden / Merimbula / Tathra / Pambula / Pambula Beach / Tura Beach / tourism hotspots / northern part of Shire / coastal towns
- More spending in rural villages / a Council supporting small towns / As much Council help in retaining our smaller communities / Improve quality of local facilities in nearest villages

Encourage more ratepayers to receive the AG e-newsletter with a view to making this a central AG for community events.

Council focus

- More emphasis on the people of the Shire and not the places
- More attention from Council on local issues
- Money spent on core Council services - water, sewerage, garbage, roads
- Spend more money on parks, libraries and communal zones and less money on roads
- Make the environment and sustainability the priority

COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Listening

- A more open Council that listens to and acts on the people's opinions / ideas
- The Council to start listening to what the people want rather than what they want or under table deals.

Communication

- A Council that isn't scared to share information / Greater transparency in Councils decision making process
- More explanations to public about how decisions are made - that options have been considered when planning
- Be more involved - need better communication about what's going on / initiatives impacting the community / intended public works
- Greater access to decision makers / Greater community contact from Council members.

Consultation

- Genuine consultative local government / Real community engagement in decision making - not just token efforts

- Better community consultation about projects / more sympathetic seeking of and responses to community preferences
- Greater community / ratepayers / community group consultation / empower people and create consensus about future
- Deep and widespread community consultation and involvement in all areas of governance and decision-making in ways that work for the community not the state level regulations prescribed for Council operations - ask the community how they wish to be consulted and what works for them.

Councillors

- More vision from Councillors / broader horizon demonstrated by some Councillors
- limited terms for Councillors / citizen Councillors on rotation with limited terms / Ward Councillors / Councillors responsible and accountable for assigned areas of the Shire
- Elect a new Council who always hear and act on residents' concerns and always act in our best interest
- Better Councillors / Councillors to listen and represent their constituents

Government

- The State to take responsibility for major infrastructure / Rate payers should not be burdened with infrastructure costs - impossible / Work done should be federally funded issue
- Better government infrastructure at all levels of government.
- No Shire Council / one less tier of government e.g. Federal and Regional (not State and Local)

Council meetings held in the regional towns where citizens could express their thoughts and ideas directly to Council staff and elected representatives - and be heard.

Red tape

- Council could be more efficient, less burdened with office staff and top management - tell us what you actually do
- Change in the way local government employees interact with ratepayers
- Less red tape within the Shire with quicker services
- Minimum red tape but maintain essential controls and interventions
- More facilities, less government interference, sustainable and progressive industry

Miscellaneous

- Taking a leadership role on the national stage about just how much fun living in regional Australia can be
- The communities of the Shire actually have an understanding of what a local Council can actually do.
- We need help in a bigger way than what we get now from the Shire

TOWN PLANNING AND LAND USE

Industrial / commercial development

- Better architecture for commercial buildings, no more big boxes like Sapphire Market Place
- Keep light industry and heavy industry out of our villages. Keep large scale commercial and industrial development in Bega

Development approval process

- Shire needs streamlined and cheaper development process, faster action



- The red tape and the prohibitive schedule of fees for development of even the most basic house, easier (less red tape) to build a house more cheaply
- Less rules so small businesses can be dynamic and set up interesting spaces to provide a unique environment

Rural land use planning

- Less subdivision of farmlands and preservation of primary production land and control over development so good agricultural land is left for food production
- Land zoning needs addressing to foster share farming and co-housing. Great examples of this in Holland, Sweden
- Stop random residential development in rural areas i.e. get rid of concessionary lots and stop ribbon development.

Commercial planning in towns

- Highlight the old buildings in Bega and bring the centre of town back to Carp street - away from Big W
- Merimbula town plan inhibits its functionality. Develop the foreshore along Market Street to cater for more restaurants and cafes, similar model in the ACT - Kingston foreshore
- Ensure Pambula retains its village like feel and in particular that any future developments give consideration to heritage. Expansion must be in line with expected and realistic population growth to ensure the village is not burdened by vacant shop fronts

Heritage

- Heritage conserved and new heritage created, more diversity in building

- If Council seeks to innovate to improve facilities please ensure you don't push aside the unique local monuments, streetscape and natural features which make this area and its settlements so special. There's plenty of concrete elsewhere
- Remember the heart / soul and history and build on this foundation i.e. the memorial clock.

Retaining character of area

- Keeping the coast, iconic areas, forests and important Koorie areas protected from development so tourists and locals share unique area of the Australian coast rather than a suburban/shop waterfront that could be anywhere in the developed world
- Ensure new development retains rural flavour, environmental value and contributes to local community diversity

Urban design controls

- Aesthetically pleasing, approachable and rustic public architecture and new developments that reflect the charm, and character of the town, not the stark, austere and fast aging architecture of the recent developments including the civic centre, Ayers Walkway and Big W complex;
 - There should be caveats on the style of home people can build to avoid ruining the country village atmosphere, and
 - Sustainability leaders - all new development to be meet sustainability guidelines.

BVSC to do more to help land owners beautify their home areas in consultation with BVSC outdoor staff e.g. street gardening, footpaths and maintenance of Council land etc.

Town planning general

- Intelligent, sensitive town planning with informed public input
- Less Council interference in small scale development as architectural diversity is being stifled

- Don't want to become isolated. We resist progress but need to manage progress well - sensible town planning that makes it attractive yet functional

Planning other issues

- We need a tight rein on land development so that works aren't started and not completed. Meaning an eye on the solvency of 'developers'
- Providing more town water services or replacing out dated systems and allow new development the right to connect
- Small villages that had plans for large communities in the past have "paper roads" that are never going to be used, people should not have to pay for

Look at other successful Shires / towns.

COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT

Cats and dogs

- Encourage cats to be indoor or outdoor caged / Need tough laws for cat ownership in keeping with sensitive environmental areas around Australia (eg Canberra \$1,200 or \$1,500 fine for cat been seen out of their property boundary within 400m of native bush land).
- Stricter enforcement of policies/rules - Dogs and cats are allowed to run free, dogs allowed to bark day and night, cats on up property, dogs not on leads.

Public health

- Consideration must be given to limiting/ removing on site gambling at licensed premises - damage to communities and unsightly distraction
- Phasing out of wood burning fires and backyard fire pits as hazardous to asthmatics

Weeds and pests

- Council take a much more positive and proactive weed control program particularly on road sides
- No more poisons sprayed along the roadside in farms houses, hospitals, anywhere, anywhere and the understanding that if any application of a deadly poison does actually harm us
 - Parkland riddled of rabbits and pests, large area fox eradication schemes so small land holdings and wildlife are better protected

Other

- Better bylaws regarding the removal of trees. Gums are dangerous in a residential area. "Trees need to be cut down without a royal commission"
- Improve adherence to planning laws e.g. removal of vehicle stockpiles on acreages, clean up properties that are an eyesore
- No camping signs in the picnic and other areas on the Yowaka River and enforcement of signs. We are sick of cleaning up rubbish and seeing excrement where people have camped. Health and safety issue. Rangers be more active in getting free campers to move into our caravan parks
- Tougher policing on noise pollution and speeding traffic



WHAT YOU TOLD US...

Council working together with University of Wollongong to build indoor pool facility.

Aged Care. A house in a small community could be purchased either privately or funded by Council or state government for this specific purpose.

Some of the plans for re-use of water to be implemented 'sooner rather than later.'

A better supported U3A.

A central agency or body to assess community based or individual innovations that seek in-kind of financial start-up support, other than NEIS.

A registration of University women. For example an Association of University women in the Bega Shire.

An annual happiness / contentment survey could help the blokes.

An annual Indigenous Arts/ Music and culture festival to showcase local artists and bring the whole community together to educate and enjoy each other's culture.

It would be nice if Council acknowledged the work in the Shire volunteers carry out, both in savings and in making the community richer and caring.

BVSC to do more to help land owners beautify their home areas in consultation with BVSC outdoor staff e.g. street gardening, footpaths and maintenance of Council land etc.

Consolidation of some of the clubs resulting in financial savings for members and better facilities surviving in the long term.

Council meetings held in the regional towns where citizens could express their thoughts and ideas directly to Council staff and elected representatives - and be heard.

Council to provide new residents with a welcome pack. It could include important by-laws, local places of interest, details of various community groups, pet requirements, burning off requirements, local weeds to get rid of, list of indigenous plants suitable for the area, hospital and doctors contact numbers, Councillors names and contact details etc.

More sanctuaries for birds and greater involvement of school children in this.

Openly and more actively canvas the migration of Skilled Sea Changers to the region. Become part of the EvoCities programme Seed Technology Startups. Increase the range of STEM options for young people link up, and to some extent replicate, the creative forces at play in Canberra and other metro regions.

Publicise the Council's website so that it becomes a forum for the community.

Encourage more ratepayers to receive the AG e-newsletter with a view to making this a central AG for community events.

A welcoming day or night for new comers to the area.

I think a data base of the skills of locals and how they could make an impact would be good - also to utilise the unemployed in local projects as volunteers to help out.

Look at other successful Shires / towns.

More brilliant people and ideas in the community need some resources and facilitation to be a constant part of Council operation at all levels.





WHERE TO FROM HERE...

DEVELOPING THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

This Understanding Our Place report has prepared in accordance with Phase 1 of Council's adopted Community Engagement Strategy for the upcoming Bega Valley Community Strategic Plan 2040.

WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN?

The Community Strategic Plan is a document that captures the voice, the values, the challenges and the ambitions of our local community.

The Community Strategic Plan is not a Council driven document, however, it is Council's role to facilitate and independently record the community's current values, challenges and ambitions on behalf of the community.

The Community Strategic Plan is a document to be 'owned' by everyone: the community, agencies, government and non-government stakeholders. We all have a role we can play in working towards the future of our place and

supporting the ambitions of our collective community.

The purpose of the Community Strategic Plan is through consultation, work together with our community to develop 20 year Community Ambitions to work towards, and to independently document these, so that they can be worked towards and reported back to our community.

From the information contained in this Understanding Our Place Report, a series of draft 'community ambitions' have been developed to reflect our communities' main priorities and aspirations. When finalised and adopted, these community ambitions will form the cornerstones of our next Community Strategic Plan.

WORKING TOWARDS OUR COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The information presented will be used:

- for general information purposes by the people of the Bega Valley Shire
- to inform the upcoming Bega Valley Community Strategic Plan 2040 by identifying our values, challenges and emerging issues in our area and to understand the future ambitions of our local community
- to inform the development of Council's policies and strategies
- to inform other government and non-government stakeholders and agencies which have a role in working towards the future of our place and supporting the ambitions of our collective community

One of the key reasons for the compilation of the Understanding Our Place Report was to inform the development of the upcoming Bega Valley Community Strategic Plan 2040. The information contributed, identified our communities' main priorities and aspirations by asking about our values, challenges, future ambitions and the emerging issues in our area.

The Community Strategic Plan is a long term visionary plan and is the main strategic and aspirational document for a Council area in NSW. It identifies the main priorities and aspirations of the community. The Community Strategic Plan is not a Council owned document, however, it is Council's role to facilitate the composition and publication of the document.

OUR DRAFT COMMUNITY AMBITIONS...

by 2040

- Our air and water is pristine and our natural environment and rural landscapes are preserved
- Our economy is prosperous, diverse and supported through innovative and creative businesses
- Our Shire continues to be an enjoyable, safe and affordable place to live
- Our towns and villages are well presented and provide a range of goods and services that meet local needs
- Our towns and villages have character and development throughout the Shire remains low density and low rise
- We are a co-operative, kind and culturally rich community
- We are an active and healthy community with access to good quality recreation and sporting facilities and specialist medical health care
- We are an engaged community with a transparent, consultative and responsive Council
- We are leaders in sustainable living and support innovative approaches to resource recovery and the production of alternative energy and food
- We are well connected by public transport and telecommunications services
- We have good quality roads and a network of accessible foot and bike paths connects communities throughout the Shire
- We have meaningful employment and education opportunities for people in all stages of life

DRAFT

COMMUNITY AMBITIONS EXPLAINED

*How did these draft ambitions develop?
Through our community consultation feedback, we learnt that:*

- ***Our air and water is pristine and our natural environment and rural landscapes are preserved***

We love our natural environment; the coast, waterways, trees, wildlife and clean fresh air. We love the views, landscapes, scenery, farmland vistas and rolling hills. In the future we would like to protect the quality of our natural environment through better land and water quality management, eliminating littering and weed and pest control. We would also like to preserve more of our natural resources and protect our scenery and rural vistas from over-development.

- ***Our economy is prosperous, diverse and supported through innovative and creative businesses***

In the future we would like our economy to have grown and become more diversified. We have identified economic opportunities in our Shire in the development and utilisation of the Port of Eden, farming and food production, supporting small businesses, developing eco/adventure tourism and tourism infrastructure, attracting new businesses and industries and encouraging innovative ideas and creative businesses.

- ***Our Shire continues to be an enjoyable, safe and affordable place to live***

We enjoy a safe, relaxed, coastal, country style of living which we would like to retain. For some, the cost of living and the cost and availability of housing is a problem and in the future we can see a shortage in the provision of affordable housing as well as accommodation that meet the needs of the elderly population.

- ***Our towns and villages are well presented and provide a range of goods and services that meet local needs***

We like the local facilities and services that are provided in our towns such as parks, schools, sports facilities, libraries and shops. However, access to these facilities is a problem for many as is the limited range of services and retail goods and available locally. In the future, we would like better quality and a wider range of services available in our towns, including library, youth, elderly, police and social services. We would like our existing facilities to be well maintained and our towns to be better presented. While many of us would like more shopping variety and more availability of local food, some of us want more major retailers in the area while others do not.

- ***Our towns and villages have character and development throughout the Shire remains low density and low rise***

We like our low population, small uncrowded towns and villages and lack of high rise development. We are generally happy for some growth in our population, but want to maintain a balance between new development and protection of the environment and to retain the existing small town atmosphere and local charm. Other issues for the future include improving urban design in town centres, retaining and simplifying development approvals and preserving agricultural land, heritage buildings and the existing low density residential character.

- ***We are a co-operative, kind and culturally rich community***

We love our friends and family and living within small, friendly communities. We also value our indigenous heritage and cultural activities including music, arts and events. In the future we would like more arts, entertainment and cultural opportunities and improved facilities for community activities and events. Some of us would also like our communities to be more accepting and culturally diverse.

- ***We are an active and healthy community with access to good quality recreation and sporting facilities and specialist medical health care***

The natural environment provides us with ample recreation opportunities such as fishing, walking, cycling, motor bike riding and surfing and we participate in a wide range of sporting activities. While we have access to many activities that help us maintain a healthy lifestyle, we do not currently have good access to quality health services. In the future we would like access to good quality general medical services, hospital services Shire-wide, a wide range of resident medical specialists and appropriate health care for people with special needs and for Bega hospital to be operating at full capacity.

- ***We are an engaged community with a transparent, consultative and responsive Council***

We are challenged by Council's approach, decision making processes and focus, by paying rates and the way that Council consults and communicates with us. We have a wide range of ideas about how Council funds should be distributed and what Council's focus should be but many of us would like a Council that listens to our ideas and opinions, includes us in decision making through meaningful consultation processes, effectively communicates information about what Council is doing or intends to do and is more transparent and open in the future.

- ***We are leaders in sustainable living and support innovative approaches to resource recovery and the production of alternative energy and food***

We love the climate and weather in our region and understand that natural resources are finite. In the future, we would like our communities to live more sustainably through improved resource management such as minimising waste disposal as landfill, designing more sustainable buildings and businesses, producing alternative energy and increasing local food production.

- ***We are well connected by public transport and telecommunications services***

We like our central location, air and road links to Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. Some of us like the feeling of seclusion that the distance from regional centres provides, but many feel disadvantaged and isolated which is compounded by the lack of public transport and problems with telecommunications. The lack of public transport within the Shire also adversely impacts us, making it hard for many people to travel to work, education and social opportunities. In the future we would like our towns and villages to be connected with each other and places outside the Shire by an affordable, efficient public transport network, full mobile phone coverage and fast internet services.

- ***We have good quality roads and a network of accessible foot and bike paths connects communities throughout the Shire***

We are challenged by the condition of our paved and gravel roads, seasonal parking availability, lack of footpaths in our urban areas and the lack of foot and bike paths connecting our communities. In the future we would like the road network within the Shire to be better maintained, road connections to other regional centres to be upgraded, car parking in our towns and villages to be better designed and more plentiful and highway traffic slowed down in our villages. We would like our Central Business Districts to be more pedestrian friendly and accessible and our urban areas to have more footpaths. We would also like a network of well-maintained shared foot/bike paths linking communities throughout the Shire.

- ***We have meaningful employment and education opportunities for people in all stages in life***

We love our schools but are limited by the lack of high schools and tertiary education opportunities. Some of us enjoy our jobs but many are challenged by the limited range and number of local employment opportunities. In the future we would like plenty of job opportunities and education services for all stages in life but particularly for our youth.

OUR NEXT STEPS

IN WORKING TOWARDS THE COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2040

Our next steps in working towards the development of the Community Strategic Plan 2040 will be to publically exhibit the above draft ambitions to seek feedback and ensure they adequately reflect the desired future ambitions of the community and permit the incorporation of community feedback before the development of other components of the draft Community Strategic Plan 2040.

*Thank
you*