

Youth Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: Wednesday, 01 March, 2023

Location: Jervis Bay Rooms, City Administrative Centre, Bridge Road, Nowra

Minutes Attachments

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Purpose

To represent the interests and views of young people to Council and the Community



Terms of Reference

- **Membership:** Young people aged 12 – 25 years from local High Schools, Youth Services, and the wider community
- **Capacity Building:** Participation in the YAC should be an empowering experience for the members
- **Meetings:** Quarterly in person YAC meetings on a rotating schedule across the LGA. Additional virtual working group meetings are offered to ensure ongoing communication and consultation.
- **Code of Conduct:** Informal meeting format that meets Council's Code of Meeting Practice Policy



Priority Areas – Youth Shoalhaven

In October 2022, the YAC agreed on the following priority areas for young people in the Shoalhaven.

What matters to YOUth?

1. Health and Wellbeing support, in particular Mental Health support
2. Education, Training and Employment Opportunities, in particular improving education systems and pathways
3. Belonging and Connection to Community, in particular acceptance and respect
4. Climate Change and Sustainability
5. Public Transport

Strategic Planning

- These priority areas inform strategic decision making by Council
- The YAC does not have a current Strategic Plan in place
- Previously Council worked within the YAC Action Plan 2019 – 2022 which outlined potential opportunities to take action on priority areas in the Council’s Shoalhaven 2027 Community Strategic Plan.

Policies and Procedures



The YAC is guided by the Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (POL21/29)



Community Engagement Strategy - Draft

Have your say



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Community Engagement Strategy



- The OLG requires all councils to have a new Community Engagement Strategy with each incoming Council.
- Will replace our existing Community Engagement Policy (2012)
- Details why we engage and our approach to community engagement.
- Will be underpinned by a Community Engagement Framework.

Effective and meaningful engagement is at the heart of local government and the IP&R process. It helps communities shape their own futures and informs the vision and direction of council.



Why we engage



Our **community vision**

"We will work together in the Shoalhaven to foster a safe and attractive community for people to live, work, stay and play. Where sustainable growth, development and environmental protection are managed to provide a unique and relaxed lifestyle." – Community Strategic Plan – Shoalhaven 2032

Our **goals**

We want to provide an opportunity for everyone to be involved in the decision-making process and welcome robust and considered conversations about the process and ultimate outcomes.

Our goals are to:

- Hear a diverse range of views, opinions and ideas on the community's needs and wants
- Identify shared values, benefits and outcomes and how we can best work together
- Be open, transparent and accountable.
- Create greater community ownership, understanding and acceptance of Council decisions.



What we aim to achieve



Our objectives

We recognise the value the unique perspective of each person in our city and encourage participation in decision making through planned and purposeful consultation activities. The diverse needs of individuals are carefully considered and accessibility is prioritised to ensure that everyone is involved and heard.

Our community engagement strategy sets out a whole of Council commitment to:

- Provide information in a way that's easily accessed and understood to build awareness and knowledge of our policies and plans.
- Encourage collaboration and the exchange of ideas through inclusive processes.
- Build mutual respect through ongoing engagement activities.
- Be responsive and respectful of diverse views.



Strategic alignment



This strategy directly addresses community focus areas and strategies outlined in the Community Strategic Plan – Shoalhaven 2032, as summarised below.

Key Priority	Focus Areas	Delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform and engage with the community about the decisions that affect their lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide opportunities for the community to have genuine engagement on Council planning and decision making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide engagement opportunities for the community both online and face to face Explain to our local community the impacts of strategic planning as required by legislation and ensure appropriate consultation is undertaken and information is available
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide clear, consistent, relevant and accessible information to the community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous improvement of Council's website, social media and media content

This community engagement strategy aligns with the below policies, strategies and plans

- Community Strategic Plan – Shoalhaven 2032
- Shoalhaven City Community Participation Plan 2019
- International Association of Public Participation principles



