



## COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN - OUR 20-YEAR ROADMAP



When you think about Kempsey Shire in 20 years time, what images come to mind?

Is it villages that have grown by a few thousand residents and have more services and businesses as a result? Is it our beautiful river, coast and hinterland thriving because of viable environmental protection?

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the document that describes this long-term vision for the area, including the objectives and strategies to achieve that vision. It helps guide Council and other organisations, government agencies and businesses to understand what's important to the people of the Macleay.

Over the last 12 months Council has been conducting a review of our CSP. The review has considered the results from the annual Community Satisfaction telephone surveys and we've analysed more than 1500 responses from 20 different workshops and surveys conducted as part of our community engagement program in recent years. We've also been asking your opinion about the current vision, priorities and focus areas through

workshops, online surveys and a discussion document. Your feedback has meant four overarching expectations for the future have emerged:

- Living in a healthy environment that's resilient, where natural and built environments are protected for people, fauna and flora.
- Supporting an economy that provides employment and is sustainable over the long term.
- Helping our community to be connected, inclusive and culturally aware.
- Having local leadership that values accountability, transparency and community participation in its decision making.

The new version of the plan is due to go on public exhibition before the end of 2021.

To get involved and have a say, go to [yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/strategy](https://yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/strategy) and sign up.

# MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

With summer on the horizon and a state-wide roadmap in place to allow COVID-19 restrictions to ease over coming weeks, we have high hopes for a safe and successful summer tourist season. Our coast and hinterland normally attract more than 685,000 visitors each year, with the tourism and hospitality services industry bringing \$147 million into our local economy. The lockdowns and restrictions on travel in NSW and across Australia have been incredibly challenging for our tourism businesses in 2021.

In recent weeks our community have really stepped up and taken advantage of the influx of COVID-19 vaccine availability to ensure we have a vaccine and safety rate comparable to anywhere else in NSW.

Again, we have proven that the people of the Macleay are proactive and get in and help others. Being vaccinated not only decreases the severity of COVID-19 in individuals but reduces the

impact on our health system and means all the locals who work in tourism and hospitality might have a chance of returning to a normal workload this summer.

Almost three years ago at our Community Catch-up in Willawarrin, residents told us they wanted to see more promotion of the area and an increase in tourism for the Upper Macleay.

A new campaign coordinated by Council and run in Australian Traveller aims to do just that. The digital campaign features places to stay, explore and eat in the Macleay Valley hinterland and is targeted to reach more than 600,000 subscribers – all keen to rediscover travel!

Before the visitors arrive, there's an opportunity in the next few weeks for locals to get out and explore our valley, discover the trails, the river and the rides and help our tourism industry to feel supported and ready for a brighter season.

## HELP MAKE KEMPSEY SHIRE A SUSTAINABLE PLACE TO LIVE

Kempsey Shire Council has committed to developing a Sustainability and Resilience Strategy but first we need to hear your thoughts, views and ideas!

Incorporating the concepts of sustainability and resilience into the culture, spirit and actions of our community will better prepare us for a changing climate and challenging future. Our Sustainability and Resilience Strategy will set a clear direction and outline a pathway to improve local environmental sustainability and resilience.

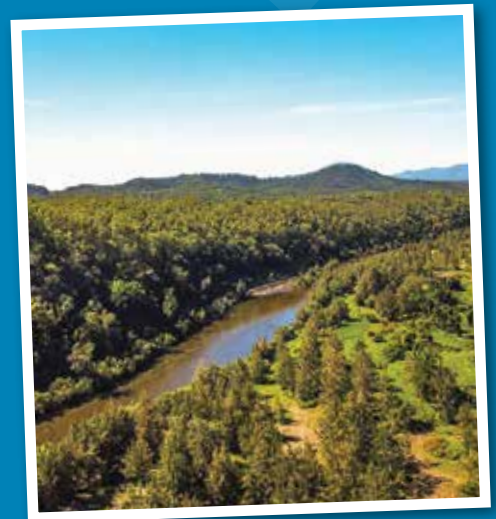
To start the conversation, we've developed a discussion guide to ask what you think might work in our region, what stops you

from doing sustainable things and what motivates you to act sustainably. The guide includes a survey, which is open for your feedback until 30 November 2021.

A number of online sustainability workshops will also be held, including:

- **Sustainability & Environment, Wednesday 27 October, Midday and 5:30pm**
- **Sustainability & Community, Wednesday 24 November, Midday and 5:30pm**

**To register, head to [ksc.pub/sustainability](https://ksc.pub/sustainability)**



**While you were stuck at home, did you spot the dangerous priority weeds in your backyard?**

**Come into Customer Service to get a free Weeds booklet or download a copy at: [ksc.pub/weeds-book](https://ksc.pub/weeds-book)**





# MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

## It's all systems go at the Verge and Eden Streets Sporting Complex

Work is continuing apace at the Verge and Eden Streets Sporting Complex, including construction of the new running track and footpath, and installation of the base layer for the new netball courts.

## Rankine Street renewal, Crescent Head

The renewal of Rankine Street at Crescent Head is well underway, with the recent construction of retaining walls and footpaths, to be followed by the installation of decking.

## Stuarts Point Reservoir refurbishment complete

Council recently completed the refurbishment of the Stuarts Point Reservoir, which supplies water to Stuarts Point, Grassy



Head and Fisherman's Reach. Early detection of corrosion enabled Council to get the upper hand and recoat the reservoir's internal surfaces, guaranteeing the asset's viability for decades to come.

**For updates on all of Council's Major Projects head to [ksc.pub/majorprojects](http://ksc.pub/majorprojects)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Help celebrate the International Day of People with Disability

The preparations are underway for two key events this year.

Join us for the **Big Day Out** at Riverside Park on Friday 3 December. Between 10am and 2pm, there'll be a range of fun activities for people of all abilities, and information stalls with Macleay Valley disability service providers and other organisations.

Get your glitz and glam on at the **Glitz and Glamour Ball** on Saturday 5 March. To be held at the Slim Dusty Centre between 5.30-11pm, the event promises a full evening of entertainment and dancing in an accessible environment, including dinner and a drink on arrival.

**Tickets are \$75 (or \$35 with a health care or concession card) and are on sale from Council Customer Service, Key Employment or online at [ksc.pub/ggball21](http://ksc.pub/ggball21). Please note the event is for ages 18+ only.**

## Save the date - Local Government Elections

Local Government Elections will be held across NSW on Saturday 4 December 2021.

The nomination period for candidates starts on Monday 25 October and ends at 12 noon on Wednesday 3 November. Details of the candidates who are running for office will be available after this nomination period.

**More information is available at [ksc.pub/election2021](http://ksc.pub/election2021)**

# THE NEW HEART OF KEMPSEY CBD COMES TO LIFE

The wait for the revitalised Clyde Street car park and amenities is now over after works wrapped up on the almost \$1 million project, proudly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments in association with Council.

Council has recently completed major upgrades to Clyde Street, an essential

project to renew Kempsey's main shopping precinct that allows for safer pedestrian movements and easier traffic flow.

The previous ageing public toilets have been replaced with a new inclusive amenities block, a vast improvement with accessible toilets and a more

inviting and family-friendly exterior.

Council wish to thank residents for continuing to support local businesses in the area and using nearby car parks as the works were carried out.

**You can find out more about this project at [ksc.pub/clyde-st](http://ksc.pub/clyde-st)**

STRENGTH, SUPPORT & COMMUNITY  
**GET INVOLVED!**

A program of **FREE** activities to promote **best-practice, resilience & mateship** **register your interest today [ksc.pub/recovery](http://ksc.pub/recovery)**



Check out our new look website [www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au)



# HAVE YOU JUMPED ON THE PUMP TRACK YET?

The recently completed pump track at Mountainview Reserve, West Kempsey is now open to all.

A pump track is a 'rollercoaster' path which riders of bicycles, skateboards and scooters can complete without needing to pedal or push.

The facility has been designed as a recreational riding area and safe community space for individuals and families to enjoy.

Find out more at [ksc.pub/pump-track](https://ksc.pub/pump-track)



## E-NOTICES COMPETITION WINNER ANNOUNCED

Council recently held a competition asking residents to sign up for electronic rates notices for a chance to receive \$2,000 off their rates.

Council has drawn the one lucky winner out of 1,362 residents who entered. Congratulations, Trent W!

While the competition's over, you can still sign up for secure, convenient electronic rates notices by visiting [ksc.pub/enotices](https://ksc.pub/enotices)



## LIBRARY UPDATE

The upgrade of one of the Kempsey community's best-loved facilities, Kempsey Library, is underway and will last until the end of the year.

Council recently received a \$460,000 Public Library Infrastructure Grant from the NSW Government to undertake the refurbishment, which will include new bookable meeting rooms, quiet study pods, a youth space with gaming technology and a new children's area that will flow onto a deck and outdoor reading room.

Throughout the renovations, library visitors must enter through the rear of the building via the Council car

park, where some additional public parking spaces are available. Customers will be able to browse stock, make selections and use public computers for minimal printing needs, but won't have access to seating and lounging spaces. A click and collect service will operate, and access to all the books, movies and resources online remains unchanged.

Kempsey Library operates weekdays 10:00am until 5.30pm and Saturdays 9am until 12pm.

To find out more about the renovation, see [ksc.pub/library-reno](https://ksc.pub/library-reno)



**HEROES DESERVE  
RECOGNITION**  
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