Shoalhaven City Council

Youth Advisory Committee Action Plan

2019 - 2022

Statement

The Shoalhaven City Council Youth Advisory Committee aims to represent the interests and views of young people to Council and the Community. Membership from local young people with diverse and varied backgrounds is actively encouraged, aged from year 9 students up to 21 years old.

Purpose

- To give young people experience in Local Government and community affairs

- To provide an opportunity to discuss issues of concern to young people

- To provide a mechanism for young people to address youth issues themselves, or to make representations to organisation's and various spheres of Government requesting appropriate action to improve facilities and services available to young people

PEOPLE

KEY THEME & PRIORITY 1:

Resilient, safe and inclusive communities

1.1 Build inclusive, safe and connected communities
1.2 Activate communities through arts, culture and events
1.3 Support active, healthy livable communities

PLACE

KEY THEME & PRIORITY 2:

Sustainable, livable environments

2.1 Improve and maintain road and transport infrastructure
2.2 Plan and manage appropriate and sustainable development
2.3 Protect and showcase the natural environment

ECONOMY

KEY THEME & PRIORITY 3:

Prosperous Communities

3.1 Maintain and grow a robust economy with vibrant towns and villages

LEADERSHIP

KEY THEME & PRIORITY 4:

Responsible Governance

4.1 Deliver reliable services

4.2 Provide advocacy and transparent leadership through effective government and administration

4.3 Inform and engage with the community about the decisions that affect their lives

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN 2019 – 2022
This Action Plan should be read alongside the Terms of Reference POL18/49

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CSP THEME	CSP PRIORITY	ACTION	What does success look like?	How do we do this?
1. Resilient, safe and inclusive communities 	1.1 Build inclusive, safe and connected communities	Promote Youth Advisory Committee through networks	• Schools will know what the Youth Advisory Committee is and the role it plays in Council • There will be a formal application process for the Youth Advisory Committee, and it will involve school networks	• A report will be written to a future meeting of the YAC to review different ways this can be achieved over the next 12 months. • Committee members are encouraged to advocate for the YAC and bring any ideas to meetings via member written reports or general business discussions.
		Promote membership of the Youth Advisory Committee broadly throughout the community and business networks to encourage attendance from young people up to 21 years old	• The YAC membership has a cross section of ages from year 9 students and above, up to 21 years of age • Membership will reflect local young people with diverse and varied backgrounds.	• Formal membership opportunities sent out broadly through all Council's networks to encourage membership outside of the school network.

		Youth Advisory Committee Planning Day	• Members of the Youth Advisory Committee will be actively engaged in Council and have a role in decision making • Members of the Youth Advisory Committee will feel like their opinions are heard and valued	• Members get together once a year to review the terms of reference and discuss any key issues or opportunities over the next 12 months. • Monitor attendance at meetings (this would be tracked at every meeting as a percentage (%) of members present). • Seek feedback from members about the YAC and their role (this would be a through an online and paper-based survey once a year to members of YAC, with outcomes reported formally to the YAC).
		Support the Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP)	• Members of the Youth Advisory Committee will know and understand what DIAP is • Members will understand the role youth play in DIAP • Members of the YAC will provide input into outcomes as they see relevant	• Staff will provide a report on DIAP for YAC to consider their role in the plan and any next steps.
	1.2 Activate communities through arts, culture and events	Celebrate the diversity of young people and the contributions that they make to community.	• Supporting annual Youth Week celebrations - as measured by an increasing trend in the number of community and Council events that are held during Youth Week, YAC members participation and support of Youth Week events and feedback from members and	• Council plays an active role in encouraging participation in Youth Week. A report will be written to the Youth Advisory Committee to seek advice on future decision making as well as to provide an update on key events and activities. • Council work with the YAC on the

  			community. • Ongoing review of opportunities to advocate or support young people through arts, culture and events.	International Youth Day Awards, the role they play and ongoing plans to support and celebrate young people.
2. Sustainable, livable environments YAC	2.2 Plan and manage appropriate and sustainable development	Consult & advise across Council departments, local services and government departments to ensure the needs and issues of young people (year 9 students up to 21 years old) are incorporated into planning of public space, facilities and service provision.	• The needs and opinions of young people are considered by Council in decision making for our region. Success would be an increasing trend in the number of reports provided to YAC by relevant Council departments.	• Community Development Staff will continue to advocate internally for matters of importance and relevance to be formally reported through the YAC for comment.
	2.3 Protect and showcase the natural environment	Members to support National Tree Planting Day by advocating through their school networks.	• Members actively engage with National Tree Planting day through their networks and report back to the group outcome and progress. • Distribute information about the National Tree Day grants to schools.	• A report will be brought to YAC annually on National Tree Planting Day and any opportunities for involvement from YAC members.
		YAC members raise concerns about environmental issues and seek feedback from Council as needed	• There is an increase in reports on matters of environmental importance. • Members are engaged in the importance of our Natural Environment • Members feel empowered to write written reports or raise in general business any issues or matters of environmental significance.	• Members of YAC are encouraged to be active in providing feedback and raising matters of environmental importance to our region via formal meetings. • Council staff will work to increase the number of reports to the YAC on key matters of environmental importance

3. Prosperous Communities 	3.1 Maintain and grow a robust economy with vibrant towns and villages	Youth projects funded through a grant program from the YAC budget	• There will be a lot of great applications for young people focused community projects • YAC members would feel engaged in the grant approval process • YAC members would be happy overall with the projects that were funded	• Review of the current grant program • Outline opportunities for improvement • Report to YAC a way forward for discussion and agreement.
4. Leadership 	4.1 Provide advocacy and transparent leadership through effective government and administration.	Continue YAC meetings quarterly and support member attendance where possible.	• All members will be actively involved and attending all meetings.	• Ongoing review opportunities for access and accessibility to meetings. • Seek feedback from YAC members about opportunities for assistance and improvement.
	4.3 Inform and engage with the community about the decisions that affect their lives	Encourage and invite Councillors and Council staff to attend YAC meetings to engage and talk with young people.	• YAC members have an important role in the organisation's decision making processes on matters of importance and relevance to the group. • YAC members provide thoughtful feedback on key Council strategies, i.e. DPOP.	• YAC are encouraged to stay across any "Get Involved" items that may be of interest or importance • YAC are actively encouraged to submit reports or feedback to Council on any key areas of interest of concern for their perspective for consideration.