



# Community Wellbeing Strategy

## Executive Summary

**The Shoalhaven Community Wellbeing Plan is a framework to guide Shoalhaven City Council in making business-planning decisions to improve community wellbeing.**

The Shoalhaven Community Wellbeing Plan will comprise:

- This document, the **Shoalhaven Community Wellbeing Strategy**, which identifies the strategic priorities for Council to improve community wellbeing. It will provide the strategic direction to guide development of the Action Plan and Evaluation Framework.
- The **Action Plan** will identify specific actions that will be used to achieve the outcomes identified for each strategic priority in the Strategy.
- The **Evaluation Framework** will allow Council to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of our work in terms of impact on wellbeing indicators.

The Plan will provide a tool that will support Council to evaluate the importance and effectiveness of our investments, programs and assets in achieving wellbeing outcomes and to plan evidence-informed work in response.

### Approach

Wellbeing is the ability to thrive, to which all should have equitable access. Community wellbeing is a shared responsibility that requires all community stakeholders to work collaboratively to achieve shared goals and aspirations for wellbeing.

This Strategy identifies the foundations needed to create community wellbeing – the broad range of key things that the community needs to thrive, including both the places and the people that make up communities that support wellbeing.

### Methodology

To develop the Strategy, a comprehensive literature review was undertaken to consider current research and ensure a contemporary understanding of community wellbeing. In addition, we heard from over 460 people in the Shoalhaven community, using surveys and community and stakeholder workshops and interviews. The Strategy is also informed by the perspectives of a broad range of experienced Council teams.

### Council's role

Council is a key player in creating the conditions for wellbeing but cannot achieve community wellbeing alone. Recognising this, the Strategy supports Council to work more strategically and collaboratively to improve community wellbeing, considering how our efforts work alongside those of other stakeholders and valuing the important contribution that people in our community make to community wellbeing.

To create the conditions for individuals and communities to thrive, eight Foundations have been identified as integral for wellbeing. The key aspects of each Foundation form the Wellbeing Domains, which are summarised over the page.

The Strategy outlines Council's existing work contributing to each Domain, as well as opportunities for future work and the key partners who make each Domain happen in the Shoalhaven.

# Community Wellbeing Strategy

## Foundations for Wellbeing

### Foundation 1

#### **Vibrant communities where everyone can participate and connect**

Access to opportunities to participate and connect in the community and with culture

##### **Domains:**

###### **1.1 Community life**

People do things in their community and feel connected, included, community pride and belonging

###### **1.2 Civic engagement and community agency**

People actively participate in shaping their community and have a sense of shared responsibility

###### **1.3 Creativity and culture**

People value and celebrate creative and cultural expression (Participation in the arts, engagement with cultural events/activities that represent and reflect the community's stories, heritage and character)

### Foundation 2

#### **Lifelong learning and helping each other**

Access to opportunities throughout life to learn, help others and be supported

##### **Domains:**

###### **2.1 Training for employment**

People have access to education to improve their employment opportunities

###### **2.2 Learning opportunities for all ages**

People have access to learning opportunities to build skills for enjoyment and to build capacity; Children and their families/carers have support for early childhood development

###### **2.3 Local community supports**

People have access to well-resourced local support services; People volunteer to help others in the community

### Foundation 3

#### **Safe and prepared communities**

Safety in relationships, in the community and during emergencies

##### **Domains:**

###### **3.1 Safe built environment**

People experience safety in community spaces; People are safe using buildings and development that meets legislative standards

###### **3.2 Safe behaviour and healthy relationships**

People feel safe with others and are supported by healthy, respectful relationships

###### **3.3 Prepared for disasters and emergencies**

People are prepared for disasters; Emergency Managers are ready to keep people safe during disasters and emergencies

### Foundation 4

#### **Healthy and active communities**

Access to opportunities to live healthy and active lifestyles

##### **Domains:**

###### **4.1 Health services and support**

People have good access to health services and supports

###### **4.2 Places and programs for active lifestyles**

People have access to green space and facilities for active recreation, play and walking; People have access to sports and active recreational activities

###### **4.3 Healthy and equitable food systems**

People have equitable access to healthy food

### Foundation 5

#### **Transport connections to access our community's opportunities**

Access to transport infrastructure and services so we can participate in life

##### **Domains:**

###### **5.1 Active transport**

People access places and services in their community by walking or cycling; People with additional access needs can get around

###### **5.2 Transport facilities and services**

People can get around with public transport and other transport services; People have good facilities when using public transport

###### **5.3 Road access**

People can get around by road

### Foundation 6

#### **Sustainable natural and built environments**

Sustainable access to natural resources by managing our impact on them

##### **Domains:**

###### **6.1 Sustainable management of natural resources**

People can access our natural resources in a way that supports the long-term sustainability of them.

###### **6.2 Sustainable access to natural environments**

People can enjoy our natural environment in a way that is sustainable for future generations (Natural environments are sustainably managed so people will have access in the future)

###### **6.3 Sustainable built environment**

People are supported to understand sustainable building and to build sustainably

### Foundation 7

#### **Housing that meets the community's needs**

Access to secure and affordable housing that meets our households' needs

##### **Domains:**

###### **7.1 Housing security for people of all income levels and tenure types**

People can live without housing stress; People can access social and Affordable dwellings

###### **7.2 Housing for people with access and support needs**

People can access adaptable and accessible dwellings; People can live in supported accommodation

###### **7.3 Housing for residents**

People can live where resident communities live (the majority of housing is available for residents)

### Foundation 8

#### **Resilient local economies and inclusive economic opportunities**

Access to secure employment opportunities and income to provide for our households

##### **Domains:**

###### **8.1 Economic opportunity**

People have secure employment; People have income to meet their household's needs; People have equitable access to material and social resources

###### **8.2 Economic diversity**

People have local employment opportunities in diverse and resilient industries