



Strategic Action Plan

Conjola District strategic ACTION PLAN 2014-2030

(an initiative of the Conjola District Community)



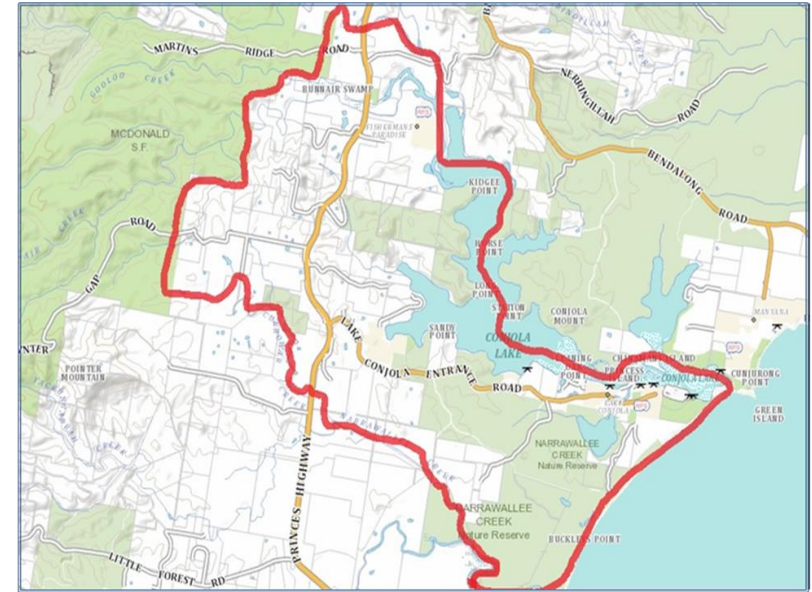
February 2016



Introduction

This strategic Action Plan for the Conjola District is the outcome of eighteen months of collaborative planning effort by members from various Conjola District community members and groups, working with a research team from the School of Environment, Griffith University.

The Griffith University team of urban and regional planning specialists worked with the Conjola District community through a series of four community workshops to identify a desirable and preferred future for the district. This process involved community members and groups from the Conjola District and led to the creation of a vision for the district's future and a strategic Action Plan to guide management actions and development toward that vision. The intent of this whole-of-community Action Plan is to allow the community to consider long term strategic issues and opportunities to build resilience to future impacts from natural hazards and to engage with the various planning processes of local, state and federal government and non-government agencies.



Map 1 Conjola District Area Map

The Conjola District Vision

The strategic Action Plan for the Conjola District relates to a generic area located on the New South Wales South Coast, approximately 200km South of Sydney and 50km South of Nowra. Located within the local government area of the City of Shoalhaven, the District comprises three main townships: Lake Conjola, Conjola Park and Fisherman's Paradise (see Map 1).

The vision statement for the Conjola District is set out below:



Achieving the Vision

The vision provides a framework for the future development of the Conjola District. It is envisaged that urban development and consolidation can occur within the footprint of existing settlements, which will allow the needs of the local population and visitors to be met while valued elements of the natural environment are maintained.

The vision specifically identifies the value of the district's natural and social qualities, as well as community participation and collaboration in the management and planning of the District toward a sustainable future.

Vision Statement

Lake Conjola District will continue to be acclaimed by its natural beauty. It will become an inspirational model of a community living and working together to adapt and respond to natural hazards and reach common and sustainable solutions which protect and conserve the lake and its catchment for future generations.

The District's congenial character is retained within the footprint of the existing settlements to serve the needs of residents and visitors within the area's sustainable limits.

Implementation of the strategic Action Plan will come under the umbrella of the Conjola Community Association¹.

Future Options outlined in the Plan are categorized by the four (4) themes of the Vision – “Community Well Being”, “Natural Beauty and Environment”, “Disaster Management”, and “Economic Development”. Future Options will be implemented as projects and managed by Working Groups of interested community members. Identified community priorities and the capacity of the community to implement projects, will guide implementation plans and timeframes.

The Conjola Community Association's Executive Committee will act as the Steering Committee for these projects. Each Working Group will undertake to update the community on the status of their project at regular general meetings of the Conjola Community Association.

¹ Previously known as Conjola District Lakecare Association. The Association is the current Community Consultative Body for the Conjola District. Membership is open to the community and nominations for executive committee roles are accepted at the Annual General Meeting in Apr each year and voted upon by the membership. General meetings are held at 7pm the 3rd Monday of every second month at the Lake Conjola Community Centre.



Future Options for the Conjola District

| Future Option | Description | Implementation Processes | Responsibility | Priority | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| Social and Community Well Being | | | | | |
| 1* | Promote ownership and management of community affairs | Maximising opportunities for building community capacity and improving local participation and decision-making in all aspects of District's future. Ensuring that future decision-making resides within the control of the local community. | Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan | Conjola Community Association | High to Very High |
| 2 | Maintain a safe, healthy and friendly town | Prioritise safety in all public areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • infrastructure for road safety • water safety (e.g. supervised swimming areas, speed limits and delimitation zones for aquatic sports and boats); • planned & regular maintenance of all community facilities (inc. the Community Centre, picnic areas and playgrounds, boardwalks and disability access); and • strategies to reduce anti-social behaviour and damage to community assets. | Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Illawarra Regional Transport Plan; Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan | TBA | High to Very High |
| 3 | Improve Communication Services and Infrastructure | Lobby for improved communication services and infrastructure in the District (e.g. fixed line and wireless NBN; high quality mobile phone coverage; high definition TV and radio services) to enhance Access and Equity in Health and | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Illawarra Regional Strategy 2006-2031; Regional Development Plan Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental | TBA | Very High |

* Numbers do not denote priority.

Conjola District strategic ACTION PLAN 2014-2030



| Future Option | Description | Implementation Processes | Responsibility | Priority |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Education and assist in Disaster Management and Planning. | Plan | | |
| 4 | <p>Encourage and promote cultural life and events in Conjola District</p> <p><i>(link to option 5)</i></p> | <p>Promote the District as a cultural precinct and destination to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increase cultural and natural heritage awareness and education; • provide a place for research, culture, and knowledge exchange; and • encourage and support social cohesion and a sense of belonging. | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan | TBA Medium |
| 5 | <p>Recognize and respect Aboriginal culture</p> <p><i>(link to option 15)</i></p> | In consultation and partnership with traditional owners acknowledge Conjola District's Aboriginal history, custodianship and enduring role in community affairs. | Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan | TBA High to Very High |
| 6 | <p>Highlight the natural values of Conjola District and promote an acceptance of living with natural processes</p> <p><i>(link to options 12 and 15)</i></p> | <p>Maximise opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the natural values of Conjola District; • develop an understanding of natural processes through education; and • collaborate with relevant organizations to align management decisions with natural processes. | Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan | TBA Very High |
| 7 | <p>Develop a Volunteer Succession Strategy</p> <p><i>(link to options 10 and 22)</i></p> | Develop a volunteer strategy to manage and maintain ongoing recruitment and training of volunteers in Conjola District; including the participation of second home/holiday home owners. | Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan | TBA (supported by Rural Fire Services, State Emergency Services, CCB) Medium to High |
| 8 | <p>Develop a Conjola District Skills Register</p> <p><i>(link to options 9 and 22)</i></p> | Develop a database of skills and qualifications in the Conjola District; inclusive of second home owners, supported by secure protocols to protect | Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan | TBA (supported by Rural Fire Services, State Emergency Services, CCB) Medium |



| | Future Option | Description | Implementation Processes | Responsibility | Priority |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| | | privacy. The database will record the availability of individuals to volunteer during emergencies | | | |
| Preserving Natural Beauty and Environment | | | | | |
| 9 | Professional management of Lake Conjola entrance and navigation channels <i>(in this context, "professional" means a plan developed and managed (on-site) by a qualified Council engineer, not a contractor)</i> | Ensure the Lake Conjola's entrance and navigation channels are professionally and continuously managed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maximise Lake opening periods; • reduce shoaling and increase channel depth and width; • decrease flood risks; • reduce interaction between swimmers and motorised crafts; and • improve infrastructure for boat access. | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Regional Development Australia Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan; Lake Conjola Estuary Management Plan; Lake Conjola Interim Entrance Management Plan; Conjola Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan | TBA | Very High |
| 10 | Professional management of Lake Conjola usage and foreshore rehabilitation <i>(link to option 13)</i> <i>(in this context, "professional" means a plan developed and managed (on-site) by a qualified Council engineer, not a contractor)</i> | Ensure the Lake and its foreshore are professionally and continuously managed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure water quality is improved and maintained to support aquatic flora and fauna; • eliminate exotic weeds; • reduce bank erosion; • rehabilitate bank vegetation; • support and manage multiple uses of the Lake (e.g. tourism, recreation); and • maintain the ecological integrity of the Lake. | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan; Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan; Lake Conjola Estuary Management Plan; Lake Conjola Interim Entrance Management Plan; Conjola Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan | TBA (supported by LLS) | Very High |

Conjola District strategic ACTION PLAN 2014-2030



| | Future Option | Description | Implementation Processes | Responsibility | Priority |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 11 | <p>Promote the lake foreshore as a primary asset of Conjola District</p> <p><i>(link to option 12a and 15)</i></p> | <p>Highlight Lake Conjola foreshore as a primary asset of Conjola District to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure future development does not obstruct public access to the Lake; • promote the foreshore as a tourist destination; • promote public education on foreshore ecology; • disseminate information on features of interest, community services and local businesses; • improve infrastructure for public access and education (e.g. walkway; cycleways; boardwalks; lookouts, circle of logs); • develop a beautification program to enhance public spaces within Conjola District, including roads, signage, tourist facilities, playgrounds and picnic areas; and • improve disability access. | <p>Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan; Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan</p> | TBA | Medium to High |
| 12 | <p>Reduce the impact of storm water runoff on the environment, infrastructure and residences</p> | <p>Initiate a program to minimize the impact of storm water runoff so as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduce flood and inundation risks; • reduce impact of storm water runoff on the Lake's water quality; • as a minimum, ensure no degradation of the existing storm water infrastructure; and • research and investigate new storm | <p>Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Conjola Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan</p> | TBA | High to Very High |

Conjola District strategic ACTION PLAN 2014-2030



| Future Option | | Description | Implementation Processes | Responsibility | Priority |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | water management strategies (i.e. pits, drains, Pattimore's Lagoon channel). | | | |
| 13 | <p>Develop a multi-faceted interpretation of Conjola District values, qualities and features <i>(link to options 6, 8 and 12a)</i></p> | <p>Create a Conjola District interpretation strategy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define Conjola District's Aboriginal, European and multicultural values, heritage, stories, and history; • improve environmental awareness and behaviour; • impart ecological values of Conjola District's unique floras and faunas; and • support tourism information and infrastructure (e.g. maps for walking tracks, guided walks). <p>Create a marketing strategy to promote Conjola District as an attractive destination, particularly outside peak holiday season.</p> | Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan | TBA | Medium to High |
| 14 | <p>Develop and implement a Council Managed Register of Conjola District Assets and Services</p> | <p>Create a Shoalhaven Council managed register of the District's assets and services to improve their regular maintenance and scheduled upgrade.</p> | Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Shoalhaven Asset Management Plans | TBA | High |
| 15 | <p>Develop and implement a register of Aquatic and Marine Floras and Faunas</p> | <p>Develop a database of aquatic and marine floras, faunas and species of Conjola District waterways to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inform entrance and estuary management; • maintain water quality; • assist pest and exotic weed | Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan | TBA | High |



| Future Option | | Description | Implementation Processes | Responsibility | Priority |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | management; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inform recreational fishing activities | | | |
| 16 | Develop and implement a Pollution Register | Develop a register of water, soil and air pollution to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inform and support community clean-up programs; contribute to sewerage and solid waste management; and manage capacity for recycling. | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan | TBA | High |
| 17 | Promote a culture of sustainable living | Develop a sustainable living policy to improve Conjola District's environmental and social quality; promote public health; and reduce risks from natural hazards. | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan; Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan | TBA | Medium |
| 18 | Improve Opportunities for Sustainable Tourism Activities | Maximise opportunities for high-end nature-based ecotourism activities in the District (including camping, kayaking, mountain biking, surf paddling, rock climbing, diving). | Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan | TBA | Very Low |
| Resilience/ Emergency/ Disaster and Risk Management | | | | | |
| 19 | Proactively manage the Conjola District Community Disaster Management Plan (<i>link to options 9 and 10</i>) | The Conjola District Community Disaster Management Plan aims to reduce the risk and impact of severe weather events such as flood, bushfire, coastal inundation, heatwave and wind storms, and should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agreed and fully understood community processes related to preparation, readiness, response, evacuation and recovery; | Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan; Local Emergency Management Committee; Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan; Conjola Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan; Shoalhaven District Bushfire Risk Management Plan | TBA (supported by Rural Fire Services, State Emergency Services, CCB) | Very High |



| | Future Option | Description | Implementation Processes | Responsibility | Priority |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a database of skills and qualifications in the district to support disaster and emergency management; strategies for ongoing leadership training within community volunteer groups, and identified collaborative protocols and partnerships with regional and local Disaster Management organizations. | | | |
| Economic Development and Sustainable Solutions | | | | | |
| 20 | Promote sustainable development and maintenance consistent with the Conjola District Vision | Manage and review new development applications to be consistent with Conjola District Vision to ensure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on building height to no more than 2 storeys; a minimum floorboard height ABOVE the high water mark for new buildings on the Lake foreshore; a limit on property boundaries on the Lake foreshore to enable public access to the Lake; and Develop strategies to enlist the community, trades persons, and commercial operators to comply with current and future environmental legislation for all development applications, residential maintenance, and tourism activities. | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Regional Development Australia Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Conjola Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan | TBA | High to Very High |
| 21 | Develop and implement a water conservation | Develop a water conservation program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support pre-BASIX households to | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Southern Rivers | TBA | Medium to High |

Conjola District strategic ACTION PLAN 2014-2030



| Future Option | | Description | Implementation Processes | Responsibility | Priority |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| | program | <p>become water wise (e.g. installation of water tanks and water saving devices)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote use of recycled water onto gardens; and • implement mandatory water saving strategies for all Shoalhaven City Council operated sites. | Catchment Action Plan; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan | | |
| 22 | Improve Opportunities for the use of Sustainable and Renewable Sources of Energy | Research alternative energy programs that support households to use renewable sources of energy – e.g. Solar Energy | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Southern Rivers Catchment Action Plan | TBA | High |
| 23 | Establish a network of Conjola District Business Enterprises | Facilitate a network of business enterprises in the Conjola District to maximise opportunities for sustainable economic development and financial viability of the community, consistent with Conjola District vision. | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Development Australia Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015 | TBA | Low to Medium |
| 29 | Acquire Higher Ground | Develop a long-term planned retreat strategy for the District to protect the community, and private and public buildings, and infrastructure from climate change impacts such as sea-level rise and extreme flood events. | Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Regional Development Australia Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Conjola Lake Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan | TBA | Medium |