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**Shoalhaven 2040 – Key Planning Priorities**

**Managing Growth**

Planning Priority 1 – Providing homes to meet needs and lifestyles

* Existing suburbs and villages need in-fill development to support the supply of housing types and allow people to change homes as their needs change. Smaller, more easily maintained homes allow communities to age-in-place and young adults to live close to the family home. However, change needs to be managed to ensure development contributes to a neighbourhood’s character.
* Shoalhaven is well supplied with rural-residential properties – lots between 2,000-10,000m2 on the urban fringe. The rezoning of rural land to create more rural-residential properties is not supported because of the loss of productive agricultural land and potential conflicts between agricultural and residential uses.

Actions:

Prepare a Local Housing Strategy to update and consolidate existing strategies and structure plans and identify future dwelling supply, strategic locations for new homes, and required housing diversity. (Immediate)

Planning Priority 2 – Delivering infrastructure

* Shoalhaven’s growing and diverse communities require a wide range of infrastructure, facilities and services, including roads, pathways and cycleways

Actions:

CA2.2 Advocate with Transport for NSW to upgrade the rail line and services between Berry and Bomaderry

**Great Places**

Planning Priority 3 – Protecting and enhancing neighbourhoods

* Our communities have consistently expressed a strong desire for good management of development pressure in Shoalhaven’s towns and villages to ensure developments respect, rather than erode, existing character.
* Our development of the Shoalhaven Character Assessment Report provides a starting point for us to work with our communities to settle a vision for the existing and future character of their neighbourhoods.
* The NSW Government has recognised the importance of character and the need to improve the built environment. It has published several related policies and is developing more, potentially including a new set of planning controls to identify and protect the character of settlements considered to have special values.

Actions:

CA3.1 Work with the NSW Government to identify opportunities for proposed special character planning controls to guide in-fill development in Berry

A3.1 Update Shoalhaven Development Control Plan 2014 with built form statements to ensure in-fill development contributes to neighbourhood character. (Immediate)

**Growing the Economy**

Planning Priority 8 – Promoting a responsible visitor economy

* Sustainable and responsible tourism practises are required to ensure Shoalhaven perseveres as a tourism and leisure destination
* We are working out the best planning and development controls for a range of tourist and visitor accommodation and temporary uses, such as wedding and function centres and other new and innovative uses. We need to strike a balance between supporting and promoting tourism to increase visitor spending and managing impacts on communities and sensitive locations.
* To promote a responsible visitor economy, we need to manage the influx of visitors during holiday periods which puts pressure on transport systems and other infrastructure. We need to plan to provide necessary infrastructure, such as improved car parking and toilets

Actions:

A8.1 Review planning and development controls for tourist and visitor accommodation and temporary uses to balance the support of tourism activity and manage impacts on communities and sensitive locations. (Immediate)

A8.3 Identify the infrastructure and servicing requirements to support sustainable tourism hubs. (Short-term)

**Celebrating Culture & Heritage**

Planning Priority 14 – Heritage items and places

* It is important for us to continue to work with our local communities to identify new opportunities to recognise, retain and preserve both existing and potential heritage items and places for current and future generations.

Actions:

CA14.1 Work with local historic groups to identify significant heritage items and places and opportunities to conserve them

A14.1 Council will establish a Heritage Design Advisory Service to provide expert advice and guidance on development involving or in proximity to heritage items and places. Immediate (and ongoing)

A14.3 Council will develop a heritage interpretation program for selected settlements. Short-term

Planning Priority 15 – Scenic and cultural landscapes

* The rural landscape is a valuable asset for Shoalhaven. Our communities have expressed the importance of these vistas, not only for their scenic amenity and contribution to the relaxed country atmosphere of Shoalhaven, but also for the diversity of land uses they support
* Council will work with our local communities to identify areas of high scenic and cultural value throughout Shoalhaven. We will investigate mechanisms to protect these significant attributes through planning our planning controls to ensure these values are protected for current and future generations.

Actions:

A15.1 Council will identify scenic and landscape values and develop controls to protect and enhance these values, starting with the Cambewarra Escarpment. (Short-term)

**Implementation**

Monitoring & Reporting

**Partnerships**

* Council will use the existing network of Community Consultative Bodies as reference groups.
* An annual meeting between Council and each body provides the opportunities for on-going discussions between Council and communities to help achieve the shared Vison and inform future updates to this Statement and other planning and development controls.

**Community Consultative Bodies:**

* Endorsed by Council as the representative group for a given area.
* Have geographic boundaries covering an area with common interests.
* Supported by the community to communicate collective views to Council.
* Are representatives of the residents and ratepayers within the area.