

Community Strategic Plan review – Community Services (including Youth Services) *Sound decisions for a sustainable future*

The Community Strategic Plan is the over-arching document that drives Council decisions, ensuring we focus on the projects and services that are of highest importance to our community.

The plan is reviewed after every Council election. This is your opportunity to have a direct say on the vision and priorities for the Kiama Municipality now and into the future.

For our Community Strategic Plan to be effective, it needs to be grounded in reality. It must be informed by current challenges, so that Council and the community can together make strategic choices that will strengthen our ongoing financial sustainability.

The current state of play

Kiama Municipal Council is responsible for delivering services to the community and is the region's largest employer. Unlike other local councils, we also provide aged care services through Blue Haven Illawarra.

In the 2021/22 financial year, Council is projecting an operational deficit of \$2.7M. We're facing significant challenges across three areas:

1. Financial sustainability – cash flow, liquidity, and financial management
2. Organisational capability, culture and performance – how we invest in staff and systems
3. Risk and governance – how we set the strategic direction that drives sound financial and operational decisions

To be sustainable, we need to change the way we operate both parts of the organisation - Blue Haven and Council's general local government services.

About Council's community services and youth services

Council develops and implements services and programs that promote social cohesion, healthy and active lifestyles for residents of all ages, abilities and interests. These include:

- Library services
- The Kiama Leisure Centre
- Community and Cultural Development
 - Community services industry sector development and support
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement and programs Health initiatives and programs
 - Cultural arts programs, spaces and funding grants
 - Youth services, programs and events
 - Dementia-friendly programs

Council's **SENTRAL** youth services offer an extensive program of activities and events for young people aged 12 to 25, their families and carers, coordinated from our Youth Centre which is a safe and inclusive space.

Previous community surveys have identified the following issues as being of great importance to our community:

- Healthy and sustainable lifestyles
- Safety in the community
- Social, cultural and artistic activities for sustainable wellbeing

With the community's input, Council must make strategic decisions about which services to prioritise, to ensure we can work through our current financial challenges and shape a sustainable future for the Kiama Municipality.

Over to you

We'd like to hear your views on these questions:

1. Which community services should Council continue to provide across the Kiama Municipality?
2. Do you believe community services – including youth services and aged care - should be high priorities for Council, or are other services more important to you? If so, which ones?
3. How would you generate more revenue to enable Council to provide community services?
4. Do you believe Council's fees and charges are high enough to support its current level of support for community services in Kiama?
5. Do you have any other comments about community services, including youth and aged care services, in our region?

How to have your say

Attend a public workshop to help update our Community Strategic Plan (CSP)

<https://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Council/Your-say/Community-Strategic-Planning-Workshops>

Complete the CSP survey on our website <https://www.kiama.nsw.gov.au/Council/Your-say/Community-Strategic-Plan>



