

Community Strategic Plan review – Engineering, Capital Works and Waste *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 extensive 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 Engineering, Capital Works and Waste services

Council manages a vast network of roads, footpaths, cycleways, drains and other community assets including parks and sporting facilities, buildings, public toilets and parking places. We're continually upgrading and maintaining these assets and planning for new ones.

Part of financial sustainability involves long-term planning so that we don't increase future costs or unreasonably transfer costs to future generations, because of delayed asset maintenance.

In 2021-22, we expect to spend \$3.5m from our capital budget on new assets including playgrounds, footpaths and cycleways, traffic facilities, holiday park facilities and investment in plants and equipment. We'll spend an estimated \$13.3m on renewing/upgrading our current assets to ensure they continue to meet the community's needs.

Effective waste services are critical for every household and business across the Kiama Municipality. As well as providing regular domestic and commercial collections for waste, recycling and organics, we operate a Community Recycling Centre and deliver programs that promote responsible waste management, for example to promote recycling and reduce illegal dumping. Currently, 75% of all waste collected is either recycled or reused.

Over to you

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

1. Should Council continue to provide and maintain community assets at their current level?
 - a. If so, which types of assets should be the highest priority?
 - b. If not, which assets/facilities should be removed?
2. How would you generate more revenue to enable Council to appropriately fund the creation, upgrade and maintenance of community assets and facilities across the municipality?
3. What items should be included in Council's Capital Works budget? What, if anything, should be removed?
4. Do you have any other comments about Council's management of its engineering, capital works and waste services/programs?

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>

