

KIAMA LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

Technical Paper One

20 Year Narrative for Kiama Municipality



RESPECT



INNOVATION



INTEGRITY



TEAMWORK



EXCELLENCE

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Kiama Local Strategic Planning Statement - Technical Paper One – 20 Year Narrative for Kiama Municipality

1.0 Purpose

Kiama Council has started the process of developing a local strategic planning statement (LSPS) that will set out:

- a 20 year vision for land use in the local area
- the special characteristics which contribute to local identity
- shared community values to be maintained and enhanced
- how growth and change will be managed into the future.

Once the LSPS is in place, it will shape the comprehensive reviews of the Kiama Local Environmental Plan 2011 and the Kiama Development Control Plan 2012. It will also provide a solid foundation for the review of Council's Community Strategic Plan that is scheduled for 2020-21.

Engaging with the community and stakeholders about values and priorities for Kiama is a key input into the development of the LSPS.

Through November 2018, a number of workshops were held to:

- To inform the community and stakeholders about the LSPS
- Identify key community issues and values
- Develop a preliminary high level strategic vision/narrative for the Municipality
- Prioritise the key themes and responses that will guide more detailed analysis and provide a framework for the development of the Statement.

2.0 What did the Kiama community say they value?

2.1 The Environment

The community values the unique natural landscapes and colours of Kiama – from the deep green biodiversity of the escarpment, through to the agricultural pasture lands and rolling green hills of the coastal landscape and earthy hues of the coastline and deep blue of the ocean.

The community wants to see the natural environment and open spaces retained and protected and for Kiama to be a sustainable place that embraces renewable energy and smart technology and that responds to the challenges of climate change.

2.2 The Economy

The community acknowledged Kiama's strong reliance on tourism and reflected on the more diverse economy and employment opportunities that existed in the past including a better range of shops in the town and a stronger agriculture sector.

The community wants to see a more diverse and sustainable economy that balances tourism with growth in the commercial and clean technology sectors.

2.3 The People

The community spirit and resilience of the people of Kiama is seen as a particular strength – the community is friendly, connected and has a commitment to volunteerism.

The community wants to retain the existing community spirit but would like to see more diversity with different cultures and more young people in the community.

2.4 The Character

The community values the distinction between towns and villages set within the coastal and rural landscapes and the unique heritage and architecture of the buildings of the towns.

The community is concerned that over-development will ruin this existing character and wishes to see modest growth that embraces a local architectural language rather than generic higher density buildings.

3.0 What priorities and issues were raised in the Community Satisfaction Survey?

Council conducts a community satisfaction survey from time to time which tracks Council's performance in the delivery of services and facilities and tests potential projects and vision for the future.

While this survey was not undertaken specifically for the LSPS, its timing in December 2018 was ideal to supplement the insights from the community workshops. The survey identified the community's top priorities for the future as:

- The need to control and manage development as the community is concerned that Kiama is at risk of losing its distinctive character. A number of respondents called for a reduction in high-rise apartments and a general slow-down in residential development
- Environmental sustainability, including the conservation of the natural environment and promoting use of sustainable energy to move towards a carbon neutral future
- The economic sustainability of the organisation and the need to support local businesses and promote tourism.

The two issues that were of the highest concern for Kiama residents were:

- Over-development: pressure on infrastructure, urban sprawl and disappearance of heritage
- Over-population: challenging existing character and causing infrastructure and parking concerns.

Residents thought that the best things about living in Kiama were the sense of community, the natural beauty of the area and its relaxed village feel and country atmosphere.

The community consider parking, shopping facilities and public transport as the most important new infrastructure priorities.

4.0 What do residents from other parts of the region think about Kiama?

We asked IRIS Research to survey regional residents who live outside Kiama about their perceptions of the area and what their priorities for Kiama are.

The results show that residents of other areas in the Illawarra generally have very positive perceptions of Kiama. They see the 'unique atmosphere' and 'village feel' of Kiama as something to be protected and they are therefore rather negative towards the thought of any further residential development in the area.

The three highest priorities identified for Kiama were:

- Protect existing heritage buildings
- Protect existing agricultural land for farming
- Encourage local job creation.

The outcomes that received the lowest levels of support were:

- More residential development in town centres outside Kiama Municipal Council developing more housing estates
- Developing more medium and high-density housing in Kiama town centre.

Interestingly, the more housing that is provided the less likely people are to move to Kiama. This tells us that the strength of the Kiama housing market is linked with its low scale residential development that respects its environmental, heritage and agricultural context.

5.0 What is the Community Strategic Plan's vision for Kiama?

The LSPS has a strong relationship with the Kiama Community Strategic Plan. It needs to be consistent with the existing CSP but importantly, it can provide context and new policy ideas to be considered in the next CSP which will be finalised by September 2021.

The community's vision in the current CSP is "Working together for a healthy, sustainable and caring community".

Councils Mission is that we will "work to create a healthy, vibrant lifestyle, beautiful environment and harmonious, connected and resilient community".

Supporting this is Council's CSP values and principles:

- Values the commitment of the community to our local region
- Recognise the value of the area's rural and coastal lifestyle
- Will strive to maintain the nature beauty of the environment.

6.0 How does the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan apply?

The LSPS is required to be consistent with any strategic plan applying to the area. The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan is the overarching regional policy document guiding strategic land use planning in the region.

The vision for the Illawarra-Shoalhaven is for a sustainable future and a resilient community, capable of adapting to changing economic, social and environmental circumstances. The regional vision talks about residents having access to:

- a range of lifestyle choices,
- landscapes and biodiversity,
- well-established and emerging work opportunities
- a strong network of centres, and
- high-quality education and health facilities.

There are also specific directions and actions in the Regional Plan about the economy and jobs; housing; strong communities; agriculture and resource lands; and the environment. Any relevant requirements for Kiama are discussed in the themed technical papers.

7.0 Are there any global trends that will influence the future of Kiama?

As we look forward, the State government has encouraged us to consider any global trends that may influence Kiama's future.

The CSIRO has published a report called Our Future World which highlights six global megatrends that will change the way we live. This report has been cited by the NSW

Government Chief Planner as a context for Local Strategic Planning Statements – the Chief Planner included a 7th megatrend for consideration.

1. More for less – increasing demand for limited resources
2. Planetary pushback – protection of biodiversity and the global climate
3. The silk highway – rapid economic growth and rise of the middle class in Asia
4. Forever young – an aging population that is also an asset
5. Digital immersion – an increasingly technologically connected society
6. Great expectations – rise of the individual consumer
7. Porous boundaries – technology and globalisation are changing global relationships

These global trends will have an impact on the future of Kiama and we are able to respond to them through:

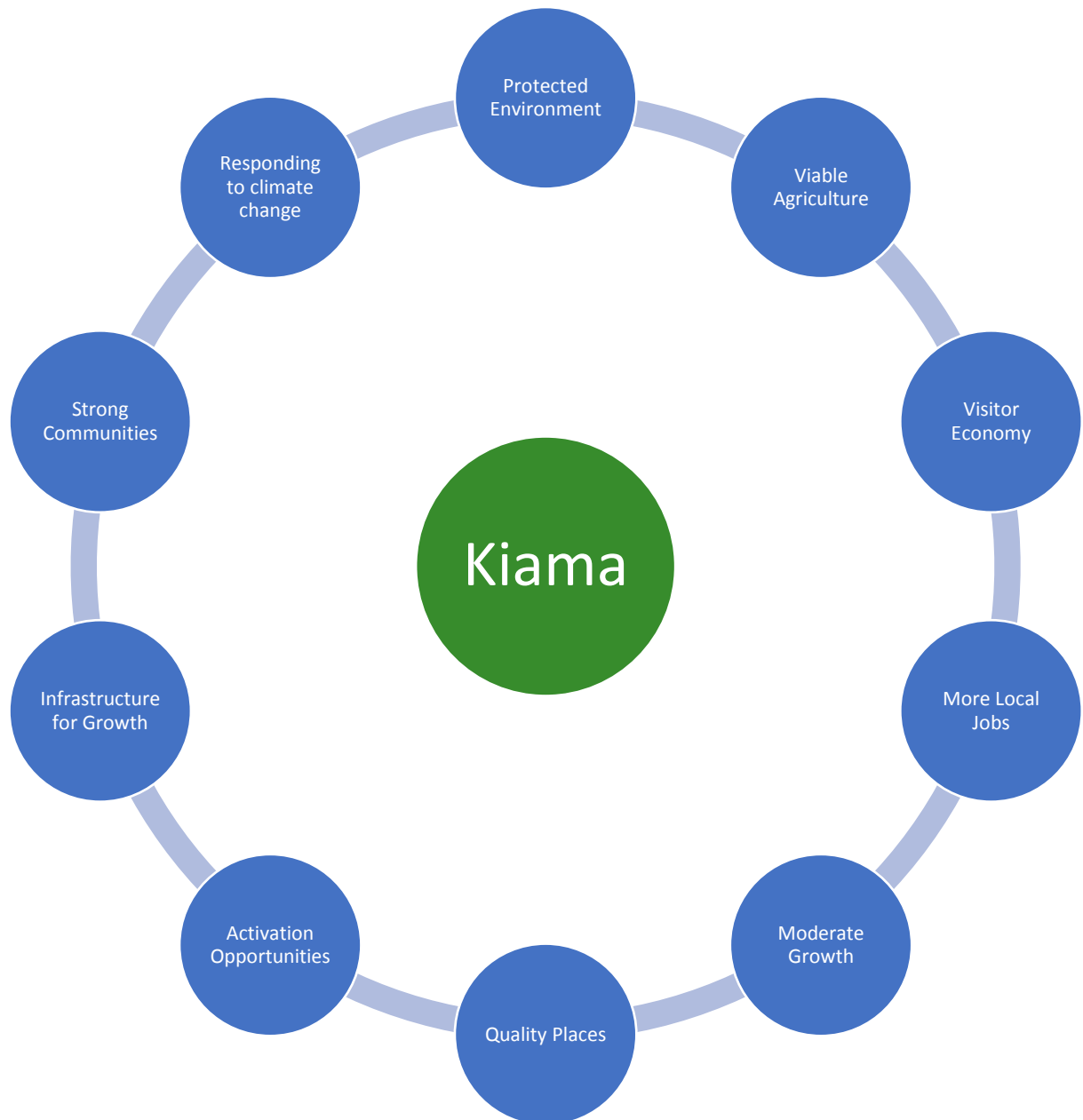
- Securing food producing lands as a resource
- Protecting high value environments
- Increasing use of renewable energy
- Exploring employment opportunities in clean technology
- Opportunities from new tourist markets
- Planning for our aging population
- Using technology to connect community and improve our services
- Being open to innovation – such as autonomous vehicles
- Stronger regional relationships that support service and policy efficiencies.

8.0 So what's our story?

At the core of our story is a celebration of our natural setting and heritage which supports a high quality lifestyle for our community:

- our coastline and biodiversity lands provide a beautiful environment
- fertile soils and hard rock deposits supported early growth
- places of heritage provide character and scale for our towns and villages.

There are a number of key themes that could be drawn on to develop a narrative for Kiama's future:



Protect the Environment: high value biodiversity of the escarpment lands, connectivity of high conservation vegetation and riparian, coastal wetlands, coastline. Hazards are managed

Climate Change: Technology, renewable energy and smart infrastructure supports sustainability of the environment and resilience to climate change.

Support Agricultural: protect important agricultural lands, diversity into new niche markets, the production of local high quality produce, buffers between housing and rural lands, right mix of land uses

Moderate Growth: Moderate housing growth, appropriate medium density around centres, landscape separation around towns, outward urban growth minimised, diversity of housing types

Quality Places: maintaining distinct character of suburbs towns and villages, sustainability, accessible, well designed, inclusive, access to public open space, high quality public domain

Strong Communities: Sense of community, people looking after each other, diversity welcomed, care for all people

Visitor Economy: increasing the spend from visitors, utilising natural assets, provide infrastructure, link to new regional marine based tourism, cultural tourism, tourist accommodation

Local Jobs: More diversity in local job opportunities, improved employment containment, visitor economy, health and aged services, education and training, knowledge services and agriculture

Activation Opportunities: Bombo quarry provides a unique long term opportunity for housing and employment. Activation of the harbour precinct would bring economic development and employment opportunities and provide recreational opportunities

Infrastructure and Transport: support lifestyle opportunities, high speed broadband, SMART infrastructure, parking and traffic management, alternative transport, services and utilities for growth, infrastructure to support activation opportunities

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