

# KIAMA LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT

## Technical Paper Six Places & People



**RESPECT**



**INNOVATION**



**INTEGRITY**



**TEAMWORK**



**EXCELLENCE**

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### Key Emerging Outcomes for Places and People

- Sustainable and well-planned towns
- Maintain separation of towns and villages
- Undertake local character analyses
- Undertaken heritage review of Kiama Town Centre
- Review the need for recreational and cultural facilities
- Progress the Kiama Arts Precinct project
- Seek funding to investigate Aboriginal Cultural Heritage

### 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 about the people of Kiama?

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.

### 3.0 What did the Kiama community say about the places they want to live in?

The community values the coastal and rural landscapes and the unique heritage and architecture of the buildings of the towns they live in.

The community want Kiama to be sustainable place that embraces renewable energy and smart technology and that responds to the challenges of climate change.

The community wishes to see modest growth that embraces a local character.

#### **4.0 What does the Community Strategic Plan say about the places and the people of 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.

Objective 1 of the CSP is “A healthy, safe and inclusive community” which includes a commitment to three key strategies including the following:

1.1: Developing and implementing services and programs that promote social cohesion, healthy and active lifestyles for residents of all ages, abilities and interests.

1.2: Planning for and assisting specific needs groups

1.3: We live in a safe community

Objective 2 of the CSP is “Well planned and managed spaces, places and environment” which includes a commitment to five key strategies including the following:

2.1: Maintain the separation and distinct nature of local towns, villages and agricultural land

2.2: Our community and natural environments are adaptive, resilient and sustainable and informed of predicted climate change impacts.

2.4: Effectively manage our waste and resources.

2.5: Effectively manage our transport, drainage and other infrastructure and assets.

Objective 3 of the CSP is “A diverse, thriving economy” which includes a commitment to three key strategies including the following:

3.1: Promote and encourage business development and economic prosperity in the local area

Objective 4 of the CSP is “responsible civic leadership that is transparent, innovative and accessible” which includes a commitment to three key strategies including the following:

4.1: Council is financially sustainable

4.3: Council and the community working together

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan provide details about the strategies and activities that will achieve these CSP priorities. Some of the initiatives to support these objectives include:

- Undertake activities to engage with the local Aboriginal community as opportunities arise.
- Engage with and educate members of the community on leading an active and healthy lifestyle.
- Review planning outcomes for Kiama Town Centre.
- Develop and promote Kiama's economic and employment opportunities.
- Facilitate effective engagement with the community.

## 5.0 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.

We have highlighted the following policy areas that are particularly relevant to creating places to support strong and well-connected communities in Kiama.

Action 3.2.3 – investigate tourism-related transport services in Kiama and Shoalhaven. The influx of visitors during holiday periods puts pressure on transport systems and services. The Government wants to consider a range of options to deal with this issue such as better way-finding signage, infrastructure improvements and alternatives forms of public transport.

Direction 3.3 – build socially inclusive, safe and healthy communities. New neighbourhoods and centres should be designed to offer high quality lifestyle and to be environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, easy to get to, healthy and safe. We should provide opportunities for people to be physically where they work and live and connect communities with the surrounding landscape.

Action 3.3.2 – support Council-led revitalisation of centres. Building socially inclusive, safe and healthy communities is one of the priorities of the Regional Plan and the revitalisation of centres is one of the actions that support this directive.

Action 3.3.3 – develop and implement strategies to invest in sporting and recreational infrastructure. The provision of suitable sporting and recreational infrastructure contributes to a place being attractive to live and work in and visit. There are opportunities to modernise existing infrastructure to make them more sustainable, multipurpose and available for a broader range of residents.

Action 3.4.1 – conserve heritage sites when preparing local planning controls. It is important to manage growth consistently with the requirements of heritage legislation. The consideration and conservation as appropriate of heritage assets is an important element of local strategic planning processes.

## 6.0 What places make up the Kiama Municipality?

- Kiama – Major Economic & Residential centre
- Minnamurra/Kiama Downs – River & Coastal Residential Area
- Jamberoo – Rural Village
- Gerringong – Coastal local centre
- Gerroa – Coastal Village

Town character has been identified as being really important.

## 7.0 What is the character of our towns and villages?

### 7.1 Kiama Town Centre

The recently adopted Kiama Town Centre Study included the following future character statement based on feedback from the community:

The Kiama Town Centre has an attractive relaxed seaside town character with connected open spaces that celebrates the scenic qualities of the location and promotes the history of the place and its people.



The centre is a comfortable and attractive place to access and walk around with reduced traffic congestion. It provides a mix of retail and services for locals and visitors, day to day, in the evenings and on weekends during every season of the year.

## 7.2 Jamberoo

Building on the work done to support the Jamberoo chapter of the Development Control Plan and from feedback from the community workshop:

Jamberoo has a rural village charm which is at the heart of its character. It is nestled within a magnificent scenic landscape which acts to separate it from other urban centres. The village itself has a strong connection to its dairying and farming history which is celebrated in the architecture, form and scale of the place.

Development in the village supports modest local growth and ensures that space and trees are retained between buildings and in public areas. A mixture of young and old people contribute to a feeling of community and inclusiveness.

## 7.3 Gerringong and Gerroa

Referencing the outcomes from the Gerringong Charrette and from feedback from the community workshop:

Gerringong and Gerroa are perched on headlands overlooking the ocean. This physical context supports a local lifestyle which is active, healthy and strongly connected to surfing culture. Celebrating and protecting the coastal landscape and pristine beaches is a community priority.

The historical coastal/country architecture of the towns has given way to more contemporary buildings through recent developments. Consolidating a local building character will ensure that future development reinforces the relaxed coastal country feel of the place.

## 7.4 Minnamurra/Kiama Downs

Based on feedback from the community workshop:

The northern suburbs of Kiama are focussed around the river, beach and parklands. While the community comes together as one, it celebrates three identities:

- River community: older homes transitioning to newer housing around the Minnamurra River
- Beach community: large homes that take advantage of coastal views and access to the beach lifestyle
- Parklands community: west of Riverside Drive, contemporary housing provide homes for families with easy access to open parklands.

## 8.0 How can we ensure our historical buildings are protected?

A key strength of Kiama's town centre lies in its numerous historic buildings. Protecting them and ensuring their long-term survival will require considerable effort and needs to be championed by all, including state and local government, private landowners, tenants and building users as well as the wider community.

Council has committed to reviewing the exiting heritage listed items and to potentially consider the inclusion of additional heritage items in the LEP. Council will work collaboratively with an independent consultant and the Historical Society to identify additional items. Council has also

committed to establish a heritage conservation area for the Civic Quarter of the Kiama Town Centre. This work will be carried in conjunction with the heritage review project.

The character of our places make them distinctive and unique. Character encompasses the way a place looks and feels. It is created by a combination of land, people, built environment, history, culture and tradition, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, and it looks at how they interact to create an area's distinctive character.

The NSW Government has released a Local Character and Place Guideline that outlines what local character and place is, and how it fits into the planning system. The Guideline introduces the concept of character overlays in the LEP. The Government has indicated that the character overlays could identify the defined character area, and map its boundaries, and require applicants to meet development controls specific to the character of the area. This is something that Council will continue to investigate, particularly how the character overlays will influence complying development certification (i.e. approvals issued by private certifiers).

## **9.0 Are there opportunities to better identify and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage?**

A core objective of the Community Strategic Plan is a healthy, safe and inclusive community. One of the strategies under the Operational Plan and Delivery Program is to work collaboratively with the Aboriginal community to better promote and celebrate their culture. Directions 1.5 and 3.4 of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan support this strategy by seeking to strengthen economic self-determination of Aboriginal communities and protect the region's cultural heritage.

We currently do not have a thorough appreciation of the Aboriginal cultural heritage of Kiama or how we may be able to recognise that culture to support local aboriginal people within our community. There is an opportunity for undertake a project to identify and heritage list Aboriginal sites of cultural and historical significance and to appropriately promote that heritage. The concept of this project was initiated by local Aboriginal community members and has been discussed over the last few years.

Such a project would allow interpretive signage to be developed and installed to create an Aboriginal heritage trail to complement our tourism offerings. A key outcome would be increased awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our heritage for all residents and visitors.

It would be appropriate for this project to be worked up in more detail so we are in a position to apply for grants to fund the work.

## **10.0 Are there any plans to invest in new or updated recreation and community facilities?**

Council is continuing to work towards providing an arts precinct within the Kiama Town Centre. The Kiama Arts Precinct will support local artists in coming together in spaces that are purpose built, accessible and appropriate to their needs.

In March 2018, Council surveyed a broad cross section of local artists and 77% of respondents said that there are not enough spaces and venues for the arts in Kiama. So Council is committed to progressing plans for the Kiama Arts Precinct within Hindmarsh Park which will include:

- working artist spaces; studios, workshop, recording and rehearsal spaces (existing building for repurposing)
- additional large professional gallery and small exhibition spaces (new space)

- 220 seat black box performance space (new space),
- A large outdoor stage along with further small outdoor stage areas (existing infrastructure), and a
- restaurant (including roof top dining), integrated with and overlooking the ocean and Hindmarsh Park (new space)

Council expects that by taking the project to the point of it being “shovel ready”, we will have more success in attracting grants funding in the future.

Work is starting on the new Gerringong Library and Museum (GLaM). The \$3.2 million project involves building a new library behind the historic School of Arts on Blackwood Street in Gerringong. The restored School of Arts building will house the collection of the Gerringong and District Historical Society. The library will provide flexible spaces for programs and events such as story time, author talks and book group meetings.

Council continually invests in existing recreational and community facilities. Grant funding has been received for works to the Kevin Walsh Sports Precinct, Hyams Creek pedestrian bridge and amenity facilities at North Street, Jones Beach and Cooke Park/Boat Harbour Amenities.

Council will continue to look for opportunities to attract grants to provide the recreation and community facilities the community require.

As part of the preparation of a new contributions plan framework a recreation needs assessment will be undertake to determine the current and future demand for recreational and community facilities. This work will enable Council to determine the monetary contribution developers should make to recreational and community facilities.

## 11.0 What are the plans for the Kiama Town Centre?

The Kiama Town Centre Study was prepared to assist Council with its planning and development functions, whilst also informing the direction of future strategic planning studies and policies. Council has endorsed the Kiama Town Centre Study as a guiding document for future strategic planning and plan making functions within the Kiama Town Centre.

The recommended framework of the Town Centre Study builds on Kiama's unique qualities and strong identity. The desired future character, as outlined above, includes the vision, key drivers and a set of design principles which are a direct result of the community consultation and an in-depth understanding of the centre's context and existing character.

The key recommendations of the Town Centre Study are focussed on improving:

- Health & Accessibility
  - An efficient road structure allows people and goods to easily access key areas within the centre and access sufficient parking that does not compromise the quality of the pedestrian environment. The environment encourages walking and cycling which contributes to the social and physical health of all residents.
- Sustainability
  - Environmentally sustainable design is effective, energy efficient and high performing. It is adaptable and durable and mitigates adverse environmental conditions such as high winds and provides shade in summer and access to winter sun.



- Social Equity & Inclusion
  - The needs of all user groups is reflected in the design of the public domain and civic spaces. Informal gathering spaces help to activate the centre and contribute to the life of the community. The design of buildings and spaces ensures passive surveillance occurs along pedestrian access routes.
- Economic Vitality
  - The town centre provides the focus for employment opportunities. Retail, services and community facilities provide compelling reasons to work in and visit the centre and multiple reasons to return.
- Governance
  - Effective governance processes are established to ensure clarity in decision-making and achieve specific aims in the centre over time.

## 12.0 What are the plans for to make the places of Kiama more resilient?

In 2009, Council endorsed a regional climate change adaption strategy and action plan as a local policy. The plan includes detailed actions relating to planning and development, environment, community and corporate services, and infrastructure and services. Implementation of the prioritised actions required collaboration between local and State authorities.

More recently, the Shoalhaven and Illawarra Enabling Regional Adaptation (SIERA) report was released in June 2019 and contains an overview of the region's vulnerability to climate change and suggest adaptation actions.

The Region is expected to experience increase in all temperature variables, more frequent and intense storms and flooding, and increased fire risk. Impacts may include power outages, infrastructure damage, erosion, changes to plant growth, impact on vulnerable groups and financial cost.

The report identifies seven regional systems that are particularly vulnerable and in need of change to ensure effective ongoing government service planning and delivery:

- Satellite settlements (such as Jamberoo): would benefit from sustainable built environments, resilience to extreme climate events, integrated transport and community awareness
- Transport: reduced reliance on low occupancy motorised vehicles could be supported through public transport, alternative transport and telecommuting
- Emergency management: planning could better consider risk in development decision and there could be a greater focus on information and compliance
- Energy: investment into local generation (photovoltaics, water storage, storage battery) and scalable technology would reduce vulnerability and improve resilience to extreme climate events
- Food: security could be supported through appropriate land use planning and agile local food production
- Industrial transformation: may include investment into freight infrastructure, supporting marine based tourism and developing the knowledge services sector

- Water: securing potable water supply, clean and healthy water systems, the use of 'green' infrastructure and reliable sewerage systems all support healthy and safe water resources

Kiama has already identified a number of initiatives to mitigate and adapt to climate change including the mapping and protection of rural lands, use of renewable energy, sustainable urban design for centres and new development and planning for hazards.

It may be beneficial for Council to bring these initiative together and consider additional areas for investment as a contemporary local climate change and adaption policy. This would be a refresh of the 2009 climate change adaptation strategy.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Joint Organisation is actively engaged with the region's councils, including Kiama Council, in a number of environment, sustainability and climate change policy areas. These include current and potential programs relating to illegal dumping, litter, waste, climate change adaptation, biodiversity, renewable energy and community education. We will continue to collaborate regionally to ensure improved outcomes and efficiencies across these program areas.

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