Council Plan 2021-25



A four-year plan to guide Bass Coast using the voice of our community

BASS COAST

Acknowledgement of Country

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledge the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore.

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity.

Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

BASS COAST

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Mayor
Councillor Brett Tessari

Message from our Mayor

Bass Coast is a fantastic place to live, work and visit, thanks to our beautiful natural environments, our welcoming and inclusive communities and our engaging and vibrant events.

On behalf of Council, I am delighted to present the Council Plan for 2021-25. This plan builds upon the wonderful things that make Bass Coast unique and provides direction for how Council will work with residents over the next four years to achieve the community's aspirations, outlined in the Bass Coast Community Vision 2041.

The Council Plan reflects the views that we've heard from our community. We value healthy communities, natural environments, inclusiveness, social connection, sustainable development, creativity and a strong local economy. Council will reflect these values in our actions, programs and capital investment over the next four years.

This Council Plan will guide the organisation to meet the needs of people who live, work, study, visit or run a business in our Shire and positions us to successfully overcome the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council Plan also outlines the importance of transparent and accountable leadership. As a Council we aim to keep you informed and engaged throughout the implementation of this plan and will seek opportunities for our communities to work with us to value, protect and improve the unique characteristics and way of life in Bass Coast.

I'd like to thank everyone in our community who helped inform this Plan, especially those who participated through our community engagement program. My fellow Councillors and I look forward to putting this Plan into action.

Bass Coast Shire | 2020-24

The current Council was elected in November 2020 on a four-year term. The Council is made up of nine elected councillors, including the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor.

Island Ward



Cr Michael Whelan
Deputy Mayor
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Cr David Rooks
Councillor
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Cr Ron Bauer
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Western Port Ward



Cr Bruce Kent
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Bunurong Ward



Cr Brett Tessari
Mayor
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Cr Leticia Laing
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Cr Les Larke
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Chief Executive Officer
Ali Wastie

CEO's Message

The development of this Council Plan was undertaken in challenging circumstances. I credit our councillors and our employees that despite the COVID-19 pandemic they continued to ensure comprehensive deliberative engagement with residents and businesses in order to deliver sound policy considerations.

The Council Plan provides strong direction to our organisation and will help guide decision-making. It will ensure that our work aligns with our community aspirations and our people and councillors are focused on the same outcomes. The Council Plan helps us track our performance, ensures we are accountable and transparent and meet the legislative requirements set out in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

The Council Plan shows our desire to balance our growing community while protecting what makes Bass Coast a wonderful place to live and visit. It outlines our desire to build upon the strength and resilience of our community and ensure our natural environments can be enjoyed by our community well into the future. It celebrates our diversity, creativity and businesses. By understanding our community values and reflecting this in our Plan, we are confident that our organisation can direct resources, time and energy into the areas that will make the most impact for our community.

Like other communities, Bass Coast has faced many challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect this plan will help us to not only rebound from these challenges but thrive as we move into the future.

We have been working closely with the community to deliver the services and support that people need now, while also developing a plan that reflects the community's aspirations and priorities for Bass Coast's future.

Collaborations with the community, stakeholder groups and all levels of government have been key to our response to and recovery from the pandemic. We thrive on these partnerships; and we will continue as an organisation to commit to applying our strong work ethic, skills and commitment to the community to deliver on this Council Plan.

I look forward to working closely with you over the next four years on our strategic objectives and delivering meaningful and effective outcomes for Bass Coast.



Executive Summary

Who we are:

Bass Coast is one of Victoria's fastest growing regional municipalities, located approximately 130km south-east of Melbourne. Bass Coast is bounded by Western Port in the north and west, Cardinia Shire in the north-west, South Gippsland Shire in the east and Bass Strait in the south. It is a coastal council area with a population close to 36,000, that swells significantly during holidays periods with large numbers of tourists visiting to enjoy the scenery and unique experiences on offer.



What we do:

Council provides services for the benefit and wellbeing of our communities, working in partnership with all levels of government, private and not-for-profit entities and our local communities to improve lives for everyone.

- Planning and monitoring: setting the overall direction for our municipality through long-term planning.
- Service delivery: managing and delivering a range of quality services such as public health, recreational facilities, local road maintenance and public libraries.
- Law-making, policy development and enforcement: making and enforcing local laws covering issues such as activities permitted on public land, animal management and use of infrastructure; and developing and implementing policies to guide Council activities.
- Stewardship: maintaining the viability of Council by ensuring that resources are managed in a responsible and accountable manner.
- Advocacy: Representing our community on matters of concern and advocating on their behalf to state and federal government, statutory authorities and other sectors.
- Our Councillors are elected by, and are accountable to, the people who live and do business within the municipality. Council recognises that being responsive to the voices of our community is critical to success.

Challenges:

Council's key challenges reflect many of the major issues underway nationally and globally; addressing climate change, planning for an ageing population, addressing housing affordability and availability, balancing population growth, preventing family violence and recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Engagement:

In developing our key strategic plans, Council has undertaken our most extensive and integrated community engagement process to date. Through broad community engagement and deliberative engagement with a representative community panel, a community vision, aspirations and priorities were identified, and used to connect the long-term community needs with the medium term priorities and actions needed to get us there.

Strategic Objectives:

The Council Plan sets out six strategic objectives to make Bass Coast the place our community wants it to be. The Plan describes what these strategic objectives are, why they are important and the actions we will take to ensure we address the key challenges and opportunities we will face.

Protecting our Natural Environment

- Building resilience and protecting and enhancing our natural assets

Healthy Community

- An inclusive community that embraces its lifestyle and supports health and wellbeing

Our Places

- **Strengthening the connection between people and the public places they share**

Growing our Economy

- Progressing opportunities for visitation economy and business growth in harmony with our natural environment and sustainable values

Sustainable Development

- Prepare for growth while ensuring the intrinsic values and character of Bass Coast are retained

Leading for our Community

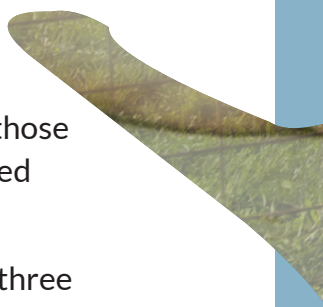
- Demonstrating leadership through good governance, transparency and accountability.



Bass Coast Shire at a glance

Bass Coast is located on Bunurong land and has a rich Indigenous history, we are a predominantly coastal municipality with a unique coastline complemented by a beautiful hinterland. The Shire is made up of different towns with distinct personalities and communities. We have a dynamic population that fluctuates with peak holidays periods and our permanent resident numbers are growing. Bass Coast is one of Victoria's fastest growing regional municipalities and we are less than two hours to Melbourne. We are committed to working together to support our residents, protect our natural environments and native wildlife and promote health and wellbeing. Community spirit is exceptionally high in Bass Coast. We connect with our neighbours, feel welcome in our neighbourhoods, feel safe to walk at night and are more likely to volunteer and be involved with a local sporting club.

The beauty of the area, welcoming communities and unique experiences result in high levels of visitors with over 35 per cent of Melbourne's international visitors enjoying the local area each year. Tourism is a major influence on the local economy, with our main centres, Wonthaggi, Cowes, Inverloch, San Remo and Grantville, serving the local population and more than 3.4 million visitors who arrive in Bass Coast each year. During peak holiday periods, our population swells to over 80,000. Construction, Health Care and Social Assistance, Retail and Manufacturing are also major sectors in the local economy. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated lockdowns have significantly impacted the area, particularly those who rely on the income generated by tourism.



Bass Coast Shire is divided into three Wards with three Councillors elected to represent each Ward. Councillors were elected in November 2020 for a four-year term and are responsible for driving the strategic direction of Council, representing the local community in their decision making, developing policy and monitoring performance.


Melbourne
Chadstone
Dandenong
Cranbourne
Pakenham
Drouin
Warragul
Tooradin
Lang Lang
French Island
Grantville
Corinella
Cowes
San Remo
Kilcunda
Wonthaggi
Inverloch
Island Ward
Western Port Ward
Bunurong Ward

Fast facts

Bass Coast



36,083
An estimated 36,083 people live in Bass Coast
(Estimated Resident Population 2021 Source. ABS)

9%
Our largest age bracket - 65-69 year olds - make up 9% of our population

$1.63 billion
Our Gross Regional Product (GRP) is estimated to be $1.63 billion

Emergency
Council has declared a climate emergency

100%
Council's electricity is sourced from 100% renewable energy.

10,839
10,839 people work in Bass Coast
(both living in and outside of Bass Coast)

Assistance
Our largest industry is health care and social assistance

98.1%
98.1% of our population speaks English at home

33,017
33,017 rateable properties

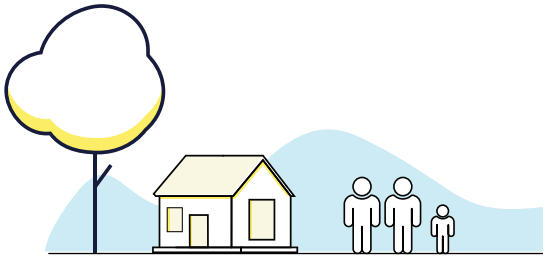


Built & Natural Environment

Natural
Council manages 42 km of foreshore and 150 hectares of bushland reserves

Recreation
Bass Coast has:
- 355km of tracks, trails and pathways
- More than 45 public playgrounds

50%
There is a combined total of 50% vegetation cover on land in our five main townships



Healthy Communities

69.7%
69.7% of people in Bass Coast say they feel safe on streets when walking alone

39%
39% of Bass Coast adults have been diagnosed with anxiety or depression across their lifetime compared to 27% of Victorian adults

25%
25% of Bass Coast residents volunteer, higher than across Victoria *(19 per cent)*

59%
59% of Bass Coast residents visit a green space at least once a week

7.1%
7.1% of Bass Coast population are living with a disability

0.9%
0.9% of Bass Coast population is made up of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people

1,546
The rate of family violence incidents in Bass Coast is recorded at 1,546 incidents per 100,000 population

Economy & Tourism



3,134
There are 3,134 businesses in Bass Coast

5,900
Tourism in Bass Coast employs approximately 5,900 people

600
Over 600 people are employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing in Bass Coast


BASS COAST
Inverloch
Community Hub
16 A'Beckett Street
Visitor Information



The role of Local Government

Australia has three levels of government: Federal, State and Local. The Federal Government looks after the whole of Australia, State Governments look after individual states and territories and Local Governments, such as Bass Coast Shire Council, look after designated areas within each state.

Local Governments are also known as councils. In Victoria, the role of a council is to provide services for the benefit and wellbeing of its community, including planning and building services, waste management, emergency management, recreation and community services. All councils have the power to make and enforce local laws and collect revenue to fund their services and activities. Council works in partnership with all levels of government, private and not-for-profit entities and our local communities to achieve improved outcomes for everyone.

Councils are elected by, and are accountable to, the people who live and do business within the municipality. Council recognises that being responsive to the voices of the community is critical to success.

How the Council Plan fits

The Council Plan is the key strategic document of the Council, and outlines the clear strategic objectives, strategies, major initiatives, and considers the resources required to support delivery. A four-year plan, our Council Plan, reflects the broader direction set by the Community Vision, and other adopted policies, strategies and plans, such as the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The Community Vision themes will be linked with the Council Plan by the following key:

1. Climate Emergency and Climate Preparedness
2. Protect and Enhance Natural Environment
3. Healthy and Inclusive Communities
4. Access and Movement
5. Education, Creative Economy and Industry

Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, connects the long term community needs through Bass Coast Community Vision 2041, with the medium to long term strategies and resource plans, including the Council Plan, Long Term Financial Plan, Long Term Asset Management Plan*, Workforce Plan*, Budget, and Revenue and Rating Plan.

*Plans under development



Our community's aspirations and priorities for the future in Bass Coast Shire.	Community Vision
Our financial plan to support the community vision.	Long Term Financial Plan
Outlines how we will manage our assets and infrastructure.	Asset Plan
Details the objectives and strategies to aim for to achieve the Community Vision.	Council Plan
Supports the health and wellbeing of our community.	Health & Wellbeing Plan
Outlines how we will manage our resources to deliver projects.	Workforce Plan

Community Vision

The Community Vision was developed by a community panel, made up of 43 community members, who worked together to write the vision statement, aspirations and priorities for Bass Coast, for the next 20 years. An open invitation was extended to all residents, home and business owners within Bass Coast Shire to be part of the Panel, and members were recruited to reflect the demographic makeup of Bass Coast Shire.

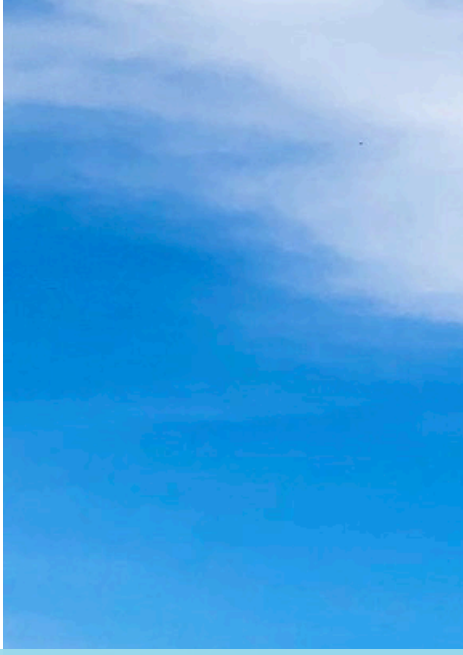
The Panel attended five online workshops, each of two hours duration and one face-to-face workshop of six hours duration. Each workshop built on the information of earlier workshops and focused on a particular area of community interest. Key discussions for the Panel included:

- Developing an understanding of the Panel's role, the work of local government and creating trust
- Working through five broad discussion topics, listening to expert speakers and discussing the aspirations and priorities for each theme
- Refining the vision, themes, aspirations and short-term and long-term priorities
- Reviewing the feedback collected through the public exhibition period.

The Community Vision forms part of Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework, to ensure a long-term view of the community's desired future is incorporated into strategic planning and decision making.



Image: Make up of community panel members



Bass Coast Community Vision 2041

Vision Statement

From its flowing hills to its wild unspoiled coastlines, the Bass Coast is a source of celebration for all who live in and visit the region.

Our townships are vibrant, rich with culture and full of life, each with its own distinct character. Drawing on our creativity, innovation and resilience we've created a thriving and diverse economy that supports sustainable agriculture and industry.

We live proudly on Bunurong Country, and build on learnings from our First Peoples and their knowledge. We coexist in harmony with our environment, and are prepared for future challenges and changes.

We are the people of the Bass Coast. Experience our cultures and history, and contribute to our story.





Bass Coast Community Vision 2041

Bass Coast Community Vision 2041 was developed by our community to articulate our long-term aspirations for the future of our Shire; describing what our community wants, in terms of its "look, feel and liveability". Building on what our broader community values most about Bass Coast, and what would improve living, visiting and investing in the municipality.

Our Community Vision will help guide Council, our partners and the broader community with planning and decision making over the next 20 years.

Bass Coast Community Vision 2041 was created by a representative community panel of residents, participating in a deliberative engagement process. They considered broad discussion topics to determine the community's economic, social, cultural and environmental priorities for the future. They also considered long-term issues, such as access and equity, growth and housing and climate change.

Climate Emergency and Climate Preparedness

Community Aspiration: We take immediate and urgent action to protect and prepare Bass Coast for the serious risk that climate change poses, to secure a liveable and healthy future for our community.

Protect and Enhance Natural Environment

Community Aspiration: We work together to care for our land and coast, sharing our knowledge and skills. Through sensible planning and development, we live in balance with our natural environment

Healthy and Inclusive Communities

Community Aspiration: We have culturally appropriate and safe services and facilities that encourage wellbeing and ensure everyone has a roof over their head. We are caring and connected and welcome all people, celebrating and supporting diversity and uniqueness.

Access and Movement

Community Aspiration: We have equal access to a carefully planned, reliable, expansive and innovative transport network. We can move freely and easily within Bass Coast and beyond.

Education, Creative Economy and Industry

Community Aspiration: We have fulfilled lives with unique opportunities to create, explore, learn, work and grow. We are empowered to make a difference.

Our Bass Coast. Our Future.

Development of Council Plan

In developing our key strategic plans, Council has undertaken our most extensive and integrated community engagement process to date.

Between March and April 2021, Council undertook a community engagement program, both online and in-person across the municipality. We asked what our community valued, and what they wanted for the future of Bass Coast.

During March and April we asked you to tell us what you want for the future of Bass Coast to help shape the long-term Community Vision, Council Plan 2021-25, Health and Wellbeing Plan and long-term Financial Plan.

Who did we hear from?

Connection to Bass Coast

- **73.5%** Live in Bass Coast
- **2.5%** Work in Bass Coast
- **22.5%** Own property in Bass Coast
- **1.5%** Visit Bass Coast

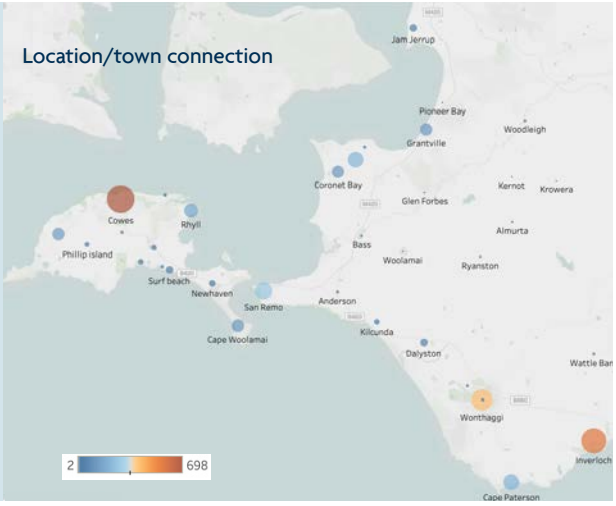
Gender

Male	**27.36%**	Non-binary	**0.29%**
Female	**70.77%**	Do not wish to disclose	**1.58%**

Age

Under 12	**5.32%**
12-24	**4.58%**
25-34	**4.80%**
35-44	**13.09%**
45-54	**19.71%**
55-64	**29.81%**
65-74	**18.54%**
Over 75	**4.15%**

Location/town connection



The information obtained from the broad community consultation was used to help guide our Community Panel to create the 20-year Community Vision. The Vision, aspirations and priorities were presented to Council to help inform their development of this document, the Council Plan 2021-25, and Health and Wellbeing Plan and long-term Financial Plan. The Council Plan has also been informed by existing strategies, policies and plans, and through community review and feedback during the process of drafting and finalising the Council Plan in October 2021.

How did we engage?

9 drop-in sessions
Attendance: over 200 people
Comments: 1,281

707 surveys completed

2 Facebook Q&A sessions
Reach: 8,742 people
Engagement: 1,692 people

9 sessions with students aged 12-25
Comments: 405

Top Themes

What do you value about Bass Coast?

1. Natural Environment
2. Friendly Community
3. Beaches
4. Coastline
5. Small town feel
6. Relaxed lifestyle
7. Wildlife
8. Natural parks
9. Peaceful atmosphere
10. Convienience

What would make living, visiting or investing in Bass Coast better?

1. Better community infrastrucue/amenities
2. Better traffic management during peak season
3. Safer pedestrian/bike paths
4. Dog friendly beaches/parks
5. Stop over-development
6. Protect our environment
7. Need more public transport options
8. Regular collection of bins
9. A community art gallery
10. Balanced housing development

What can we do to improve health and wellbeing?

1. Improved walking trails and paths
2. Accessible health services/facilities
3. Support arts/artists, space accommodations for Artists' Society
4. Off-lead dog beaches/parks
5. Upgraded sports facilities
6. Upgraded roads/pathways
7. More doctors/specialists
8. More open space for exercise/recreational activities
9. Upgrade community recreational amenities
10. Counselling on mental health issues

Challenges

Climate Change

Climate change is impacting all global citizens through health and environmental changes. Potential hazards identified for Bass Coast include: increased average temperatures and solar radiation; increased extreme heat days; increased extreme storm events; decreased annual rainfall; rising sea levels; and ocean acidification. This may impact on the health of our people, flora and fauna.

Housing affordability and availability

There is a clear and immediate need for more affordable housing in Bass Coast. The current amount and configuration of social and affordable housing in Bass Coast does not match local need, there are an estimated 733 households in Bass Coast in need of affordable housing (5.1 per cent of all households in the Shire).

With the reported increase in people moving to regional Victoria and decreased rental vacancy rates over the last 12 months, housing affordability and availability will continue to be a key challenge facing the Shire.

Growth

Between 2016 and 2026 the population is expected to grow from 33,311 to 46,439. This growth is likely to bring economic benefits and increased services, however, it may also present challenges such as a perceived loss of community and 'small town feel' which may have attracted many residents.

Family Violence

Bass Coast has significantly higher levels of family violence incidents compared to the Victorian average. The impacts of family violence can be serious and long-lasting, affecting health, wellbeing, education, relationships and housing outcomes.



Ageing population

Between 2016 and 2026, the age structure forecasts for Bass Coast Shire indicate a 24 per cent increase in population of retirement age. An ageing population is associated with increased disability prevalence and increased need for assistance, care, programs and health services.

COVID-19

The implications of COVID-19 are far reaching. All local residents and visitors may have their health impacted by this highly infectious disease and our health services may be impacted by increased service delivery. Businesses, families and individuals may also face financial implications through a decrease in visitors and decreased spending in the local economy.



Strategic Priorities

Our Council Plan has been developed to address six strategic objectives that demonstrate our commitment to developing a Bass Coast that is recognised for its natural environment and healthy, inclusive communities. The priorities describe the focus of our work over the next four years, and ensure we target our resources and activities to make Bass Coast the place the community wants it to be.

How we will measure progress

Performance Indicators provide Council with measures to monitor how we are progressing towards our strategic objectives. Council's level of influence over the result of each measure varies, as often Council does not control the results, but seeks to influence with advocacy, partnerships and the community.



Reporting back

Council will report on the progress of the Council Plan quarterly to the community through the Annual Action Plan, while the Annual Report will provide an end of year overview of Council's performance including how we're tracking against the Council Plan Performance Indicators.

The following pages will show

- Objective
- Strategies
- Performance Indicators
- Supporting documents

1. Protecting our natural environment

Building resilience and protecting and enhancing our natural assets.

1.1 Encourage the development of a circular economy through education, waste management, resource recovery and the share economy.

1.2 Ensure Council's planning instruments protect the environmental assets of the Bass Coast.

1.3 Encourage the prioritisation of renewable energy and energy efficiency through partnerships, policy and initiatives that reduce costs and increase local uptake.

1.4. Improve biodiversity through careful management of land, water and ecosystems that protect and enhance our native flora, fauna and biolinks.

Our Performance	Target or Desired Trend	Level of Influence
% Commercial waste diverted from landfill	Increase	Medium
% of Council energy use from renewable sources	Increase	High
% net vegetation cover	Increase	Medium
% Council sustainable procurement	Increase	High

Supporting Documents

Natural Environment Strategy 2016-26
Integrated Water Management Plan 2020 Strategy Document
Climate Change Action Plan 2020-30
Waste Management Strategy 2015-25
Advocacy Strategy 2018-21

2. Healthy Community 3

An inclusive community that embraces its lifestyle and supports health and wellbeing.

2.1. Implement the Healthy Communities Plan by partnering with government, community and health organisations to deliver better health outcomes across Bass Coast.

2.2. Support individuals, community groups and local organisations to enhance community connection and wellbeing.

2.3. Foster creativity through promoting and supporting arts and cultural opportunities.

2.4. Provide opportunities for residents to be active in a range of leisure and recreational activities.

2.5. Commit to reconciliation, engagement and collaboration with First Nations Peoples and the celebration and acknowledgement of our Aboriginal culture and heritage.

2.6. Enhance and maximise the use of Council's open space and community facilities to deliver community benefit.

2.7. Work in partnership with the community to adapt and respond to emergencies and climate change.

Our Performance	Target or Desired Trend	Level of Influence
Achievement of the Healthy Communities Plan	100%	Medium
Achievement of the Access, Equity and Inclusion Plan	100%	High
Rate of domestic violence within Bass Coast	Decrease	Low-Medium
Number of new social and affordable housing facilitated within Bass Coast.	Increase	Low

Supporting Documents

Healthy Communities Plan 2021-25
Active Bass Coast Plan 2018-28
Bass Coast Skate Strategy 2018-28
Advocacy Strategy 2018-21
Bass Coast Living Young Plan 2021-25
Communication and Engagement Strategy
Climate Change Action Plan 2020-30
Disability Action Plan 2021-25
Asset Management Strategy for Infrastructure Assets 2017-21
Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25 *
Municipal Emergency Management Plan
Natural Environment Strategy 2016-26
Open Space Asset Management Plan 2018-22

* Plans currently under development

3. Our Places 3 4

Strengthening the connection between people and the public places they share.

3.1. Design, build and cultivate places that create a sense of belonging, connection and pride.

3.2. Create safe, accessible and enjoyable experiences in the public realm enabled by smart technologies, innovative design and environmentally sustainable infrastructure.

3.3. Develop and deliver actions in activity centre plans for main townships.

3.4. Create attractive and accessible public open spaces that complement and enhance our visitor economy.

3.5. Facilitate the delivery of public art and art spaces for the community to enjoy.

3.6. Advocate for, and create places that are connected, sustainable and support active transport, reliable public transport and other low emission transport options.

Our Performance	Target or Desired Trend	Level of Influence
% Delivery of Council's Capital Works Program on time	Increase	High
% Delivery of Council's Capital Works Program on budget	Increase	High
Council investment in arts and culture	Increase	High
Council investment in sport and recreation	Maintain or increase	High

Supporting Documents

Active Bass Coast Plan 2018-28
Advocacy Strategy 2018-21
Arts and Culture Strategy 2019-29
Bass Coast Skate Strategy 2018-28
Bass Coast Living Young Plan 2021-25
Communication and Engagement Strategy
Climate Change Action Plan 2020-30
Disability Action Plan 2021-25
Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-25 *
Healthy Communities Plan 2021-25
Asset Management Strategy for Infrastructure Assets 2017-21
Long Term Financial Plan 2021-31
Municipal Emergency Management Plan
Natural Environment Strategy 2016-26
Open Space Asset Management Plan 2018-22

* Plans currently under development

4. Growing our Economy 3 5

Progressing opportunities for visitor economy and business growth in harmony with our natural environment and sustainable values.

4.1. Support the creation of new jobs through the development of local businesses, activity centres and business innovation.

4.2. Work in partnership with students, education providers and local businesses to facilitate education and employment pathways.

4.3. Take a Shire-wide approach to enhancing and diversifying our visitor economy and attraction.

4.4. Advocate for and leverage technology and digital resources to improve connectivity, service delivery and experience.

4.5. Facilitate economic resilience and diversity so industry can succeed in local, national and global markets.

4.6. Partner with key stakeholders to grow and deliver signature events that showcase Bass Coast.

4.7. Support our agricultural and farming industry and facilitate biodiversity conservation and transitions to regenerative farming practices.

Our Performance	Target or Desired Trend	Level of Influence
% Change in economic output	Increase	Low
% Change in Gross Regional Product	Increase	Low
% Change in employment rates	Increase	Low
Number of Businesses	Increase	Low
Central Business District vacancy rates	Decrease	Low
% Change in inbound investment	Increase	Low

Supporting Documents

Healthy Communities Plan 2021-25
Long Term Financial Plan 2021-31
Natural Environment Strategy 2016-26
Road Asset Management Plan 2019-23
Advocacy Strategy 2018-21
Communication and Engagement Strategy
Climate Change Action Plan 2020-30
Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035: Growing Tourism
Road Management Plan 2017
Asset Management Strategy for Infrastructure Assets 2017-21

5. Sustainable Development 

Prepare for growth while ensuring the intrinsic values and character of Bass Coast are retained.

5.1. Plan for housing growth and development that is inclusive, affordable, resilient and complements the nature of individual townships..

5.2. Manage urban growth and define town boundaries to deliver future focused infrastructure that is innovative, sustainable and adaptable.

5.3. Ensure land use planning and economic development are aligned to facilitate business investment.

5.4. Promote environmentally sustainable and universal design principles as standard.

Our Performance	Target or Desired Trend	Level of Influence
Completion of Planning Scheme Review	Deliver	High
Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision	Decrease	Medium
% VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision	Decrease	Medium
% Planning applications decided within required timeframes	Increase	High
Average statutory days taken to determine planning applications	Decrease	Medium

Supporting Documents

Advocacy Strategy 2018-21
Asset Management Strategy for Infrastructure Assets 2017-21
Communication and Engagement Strategy
Climate Change Action Plan 2020-30
Healthy Communities Plan 2021-25
Long Term Financial Plan 2021-31
Natural Environment Strategy 2016-26
Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035: Growing Tourism
Road Asset Management Plan 2019-23
Road Management Plan 2017

6. Leading for our Community



Demonstrating leadership through good governance, transparency and accountability

6.1. Advocate to State and Federal Governments, philanthropic and not-for-profit organisations for improved services, policies and infrastructure delivery in Bass Coast.

6.2. Foster partnerships and engage with the community, Traditional Owners and businesses to deliver the Climate Change Action Plan and achieve the zero net emissions target by 2030.

6.3. Build partnerships that enhance service provision, infrastructure delivery and funding opportunities.

6.4. Lead an adaptable, innovative and financially sustainable organisation that delivers maximum community benefit.

6.5. Demonstrate good governance, integrity and accountability through decision making that is ethical, informed and inclusive.

6.6. Be an industry and regional leader in working towards equality, diversity, inclusion and family violence prevention.

Our Performance	Target or Desired Trend	Level of Influence
Achievement of Climate Change Action Plan	100%	High
Council emissions	Decrease	High
Community satisfaction with Council decisions	Increase	High
Transparency of Council decision making (Number of decisions made in closed Council)	Maintain	High
Development and delivery of the Reconciliation Action Plan	100%	High
Financial viability of Council having regard to Victorian Auditor General's office financial sustainability indicators	Within desirable limits	High
Deliver efficiencies through innovation and continuous improvement	Increase	High

Supporting Documents

Healthy Communities Plan 2021-25
Climate Change Action Plan 2020-30
Long Term Financial Plan 2021-31
Communication and Engagement Strategy
Asset Management Strategy for Infrastructure Assets 2017-21
Economic Development Strategy 2016-21
Natural Environment Strategy 2016-26
Advocacy Strategy 2018-21
Healthy Communities Plan 2021-25
Revenue and Rating Plan

BASS COAST

Council Plan 2021-25

A four-year plan to guide Bass Coast using the voice of our community

Bass Coast Shire Council
76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi, VIC 3995
DX 34903 Wonthaggi
PO Box 118 Wonthaggi, VIC 3995

1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service (if you are deaf and/or find it hard hearing or speaking with people who use a phone) on their website:

infrastructure.gov.au/media-technology-communications/phone/services-people-with-disability/accesshub/national-relay-service

basscoast.vic.gov.au/communityplans

The Annual Action Plan 2021-22



A list of key actions to achieve in 2021-22

BASS COAST



Introduction

Every four years Council develops a Council Plan. Informed by a range of community engagement activities, the Council Plan identifies the priorities for the term of Council in order to work towards achievement of the Community Vision 2041.

The Council Plan 2021-25 has six Strategic Objectives:

- Protecting our Natural Environment
- Healthy Community
- Our Places
- Growing our Economy
- Sustainable Development
- Leading for our Community

The Annual Action Plan 2021-22 outlines what Council plans to achieve by 30 June 2022, in order to support the delivery of the Council Plan 2021-25.

Council will report on the progress of the Annual Action Plan quarterly, while the Annual Report will provide an end of year overview of Council's performance including how it is tracking against the Council Plan Strategic Indicators.



Our Role

Local Government is one of the three levels of government that actively works within and for the community. Council's main responsibilities are to set the strategic direction and goals for the municipality and then monitor their implementation and success.

There are many challenges facing the community that Council does not have direct control over. This includes areas that fall under State and Federal Government jurisdiction, such as major transport infrastructure, public transport and arterial roads. However, Council actively works to influence and facilitate service and infrastructure provision in other ways as outlined in the tables over the page.

Deliver/ Provide	Council directly funds and delivers services or infrastructure. Council provides services and delivers infrastructure projects each year.
Facilitate	Council can facilitate outcomes for its community through building partnerships, changing regulations, promoting opportunities, and building the capacity of community members and organisations.
Advocate	Council advocates to State and Federal Governments on behalf of the community for funding and delivery of services or infrastructure.

Strategic Objectives



Strategic Objective 1: Protecting Our Natural Environment

Action	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Responsible Department
Undertake infrastructure works to protect the beach access along Cowes East Foreshore					Sustainable Environment
Work in partnership with other agencies to deliver the Cape-to-Cape Resilience Project to support coastal hazard adaptation					Sustainable Environment
Partner with Bass Coast Landcare Network to accelerate Council's contribution to the Biolinks Revegetation Program					Sustainable Environment
Deliver a waste management education and engagement campaign to maximise resource recovery and reduce waste to landfill over the summer holiday period					Sustainable Environment



Strategic Objective 2: Healthy Communities

Action	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Responsible Department
Improve community health and wellbeing through the development of the Healthy Communities Plan*					Community, Recreation and Culture
Develop the Disability Action Plan to reduce and remove barriers experienced by people with a disability					Community, Recreation and Culture
Support reconciliation in Bass Coast through the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan					Community, Recreation and Culture
Promote responsible pet ownership through the delivery of a revised Domestic Animal Management Plan*					Community, Recreation and Culture
Review and consider the 24/7 Cat Containment process and Council's Dogs off Leash areas to enhance safety and protect our natural environment					Community, Recreation and Culture
Design skate facilities for Kilcunda and Newhaven to increase recreational activities for young people					Community, Recreation and Culture
Adopt a revised Local Law to protect and enhance the liveability and amenity of our community*					Community, Recreation and Culture

Strategic Objective 3: Our Places

Action	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Responsible Department
Deliver a dynamic, interactive cultural centre through the construction of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre*					Major Projects
Conduct the Cowes to Stony Point Ferry Feasibility Study to assess the viability of an alternate transport option					Economic Development and Investment
Enhance recreational and leisure opportunities through the renewal of the Grantville seawall from the jetty to the boat ramp					Infrastructure Delivery
Connect communities and provide active recreation opportunities through the delivery of the Guy Road – Corinella shared pathway					Infrastructure Delivery
Strategically plan for Council assets through the development of the 10-year Asset Management Plan					Asset Management

Strategic Objective 4: Growing our Economy

Action	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Responsible Department
Facilitate sustainable economic development in Bass Coast through delivery of a revised Economic Development Framework*					Economic Development and Investment
Review the Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy 2035 to ensure the long term viability and sustainability of the visitor economy					Economic Development and Investment

Strategic Objective 5: Sustainable Development

Action	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Responsible Department
Protect the neighbourhood character of townships through the development of a Settlement and Housing Strategy					Strategy and Growth
Establish Council's position on social and affordable housing within Bass Coast by preparing a Social and Affordable Housing Strategy					Community, Recreation and Culture
Support active transport and delivery of tourism infrastructure through the development of Council's Tracks and Trails Strategy					Major Projects

Strategic Objective 6: Leading for our Community

Action	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Responsible Department
Drive progress towards zero net emissions through the delivery of the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030*					Sustainable Environment
Ensure that Council is well placed to seek support for priority projects through delivery of an Advocacy Strategy*					Communication and Customer Experience
Enhance the way Council connects with the community through the revision of the Communication and Engagement Strategy					Communication and Customer Experience
Deliver good governance through the implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020* *					Governance and Property
Set the strategic direction for Council through development of the Council Plan 2021-25*					Governance and Property
Enhance service delivery through implementation of the Business Transformation program*					Transformation and Technology

*Indicates actions that have been adopted as a major initiative in the Budget 2021-22.

The Annual Action Plan 2021-22

A list of key actions to achieve in 2021-22

Bass Coast Shire Council
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basscoast.vic.gov.au/communityplans

Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 comments from Public Exhibition

Feedback	Council Response	Change required
The plan needs to include a clear focus, commitment and outcomes for young people in the shire. Our future adults have been impacted greatly by covid 19 through impact to education, employment, mental health and access to community sport. Councils ongoing support of aquatics and recreation facilities needs to be realistic, affordable long term and accessible to all. Future Facilities should also consider carbon footprint. Council needs to ensure commitment to the ongoing protection of our coastline.	No response requested. No contact details provided for acknowledgement.	Not recommended. There has been clear advice from Councillors, Community Panel and other feedback that the preference is for more inclusive strategies – not singling out particular age groups.
Youth hub in, with couches and chocolate biscuits.	No response requested. No contact details provided for acknowledgement.	Not recommended. This is too much detail for inclusion in Council Plan.
I would like the promised path from Prom Island estate through to the beach. All the other parts of Inverloch have a network of pathways. The real estate agents sell on a promise of the same. Want to see it happen!!	Manager Strategy and Growth called and spoke with the resident.	Not recommended. Pathways/ tracks and trails already addressed in draft Council Plan.
More promotion and support for people in the tourism industry. teenage kids programs to stop boredom. better public transport	No response requested. No contact details provided for acknowledgement.	Supported. Public transport a clear theme in community and officer feedback. An additional strategy has been included in the draft Council Plan.
A good start that requires strategic planning to accomplish together with a shared, long term commitment to fund.	An acknowledgment and thank you response provided.	Not required.
The young people in our town are really struggling. What about a focus on supporting the future generations? Seed funding for business start ups for under 25s -targeted employment opportunities at Council for under 25s - youth spaces that aren't just skate parks -funding local arts groups to run youth programs -advocating for state/federal funding for more youth services	An acknowledgment and thank you response provided.	Not recommended. There has been clear advice from Councillors, Community Panel and other feedback that the preference is for more inclusive strategies – not singling out particular age groups. Specific actions could be included in future action plans.

Feedback	Council Response	Change required
I feel this is a very vague way to respond to the draft plan. it would have been more helpful to have comment boxes under each subsection.	Submitter thanked and advised that there are multiple ways that they could provide their feedback including emailing Council directly.	Not required. No further response received.
I would like to see more being done to make housing more affordable for renters and low income people.	No response requested.	Not recommended. Social and Affordable housing addressed in the draft Council Plan and draft Annual Action Plan.
We were advised by real estate agent before we bought land in the Prom estate in Inverloch that there would be walking paths to the beach from the estate. Everyone that has bought land in this fast growing estate has been told the same story. We have owned land for 4 years and built on it but still no walking paths. I enquired twice to Bass council about when this was going to happen and am still waiting for 7 months for an answer. If there is to be no walking paths, which decreases the use of cars , all the residents of Prom estate should not have been told this before buying. As in your Vision statement section 3.3 you want to promote these attractions of the area but cannot inform a rate payer who is still waiting after 7 months of asking.	Manager Strategy and Growth spoke to resident and addressed their concerns.	Not Recommended.
I would like to see Inverloch stay a small community as I worry the impact of housing will do to the environment and my family have had property here for more then thirty five years and it's all ready list it's a lot of fire shore and wildlife	Email response provided by Manager Strategy and Growth.	Not recommended. Strategies within the draft Council Plan address this concern.
Reduce rates by 50% for landlords that offer long term rentals. This is important to keep affordability and availability of housing for the locals that are being squeezed out by house sales and conversions to holiday rentals.	No response requested.	Not recommended. Social and Affordable housing addressed in the draft Council Plan and draft Annual Action Plan.
Have not had time to analyse in depth but have difficulty with the environmental aspirational statement ie. "sustainable planning and development, we live in balance with our natural environment and climate." unless the expansion of sand mining is greatly limited in size and depth to protect water sources. This is an urgent requirement to protect the Grantville and Gurdies bush conservation reserves.	Thank you email sent.	Not recommended. Strategies within the draft Council Plan address this concern.

Feedback	Council Response	Change required
1. Protecting our natural environment: 1.4 should include When inappropriate/destructive development or land management occurs there would be significant penalties applied to offenders. (Overuse and poor application methods along with insufficient warnings to neighbours when spraying (Glysophate) is planned must be legislated against and enforced). This overuse and poor methodology is resulting in residential house blocks being turned into toxic waste areas. Current legislation and willingness to investigate and prosecute are sadly lacking in all authorities. I would like to see greater emphasis put on humane farming practices. Legislating shade belts for grazing animals. Promoting wild life corridors and improving wildlife crossings. Healthy Community: 2.6 Deliver APPROPRIATE infrastructure and services in a timely manner. Too many projects use community feedback to stall progress. Service groups have an over represented influence on council infrastructure planning. (Ref: The Sound Shell in the Glade at Inverloch.) 3.1 Design, build and cultivate places that create a sense of belonging, connection and pride. Too many buildings and infrastructure lack any cohesive style and design. More often projects are stand alone 'bespoke' items that create no sense of planning and adherence to any overlay and style guide. A simple signage strategy and style guide would stop inappropriate signs from proliferation. I applaud the new Dinosaur activity centre proposed at Wyeth Park. 4 Growing our Economy: Acknowledging that Bass Coast IS a tourist region is a good start to prioritising development of eco tourism projects that make the most of our abundant natural resources. Appropriate environmental stewardship rather than over zealous anti-development "greenie-ism" is required. Encouragement of eco tourism with financial and business assistance will create employment that will keep our children in the area. 5. Sustainable Development: Managing land releases through responsible joint ventures with reputable operators to facilitate and encourage entry level home ownership. Help provide affordable housing for new residents and our children seeking to stay, live and work in the area. This doesn’t have to mean creating "slums of the future". (Ref: Dalyston) Creative overlays with smaller block sizes, abundant green spaces and financial help schemes could keep our children from moving away and attract energetic young residents for our towns. 6.5 Accountability is the greatest shortfall this current council has. Too often lip service and endless consultation stalls good projects and frustrates residents. In closing: My hope is that in future we can be proud of our council. Proud of a council that doesn't just talk about aspirations, but actually achieves them … measurably. Currently, sadly that's a long way off. The words are there ... but the actions are what's needed.	Thank you email sent.	Not recommended. Strategies within the draft Council Plan address this concerns. The draft Annual Action Plan also identifies projects that respond to some of these issues.

Feedback	Council Response	Change required
Note that this is a separate submission to the one above. 1. Protecting Our Natural Environment 1.4 Council needs to eliminate mass "agricultural scale' herbicide (glyphosate) application by property developers in towns and in all high density urban areas. These large scale applications have serious health affects on nearby residents, surrounding gardens, vegetation, wildlife and ultimately flow into stormwater drains and our ocean. Council is very much aware of this issue 50 meters from the ocean (see attached file) 2. Healthy Community 2.1 In relation to above (1.4) Council needs to urgently work with Government and Health Organisations to protect the health of our Bass Coast community residents, our marine and wildlife and the environment 2.4 Too many decisions are made 'on the fly' by a chosen few without appropriate (or any) consideration of, or consultation with the wider community e.g the $500 K+ Outdated and overpriced Inverloch Sound Shell 2.7 Responsible TOWN PLANNING, CREATIVE DESIGN and PLACEMAKING in Inverloch is missing!!! Too many decisions continue to be made 'on the fly' by a chosen few without consideration of the wider community, contemporary design or responsible town planning 3. Our Places 3.1 A 'sense of belonging, connection and pride' is urgently needed in Inverloch. The controversial $500 K+ (Circa 90's 'Handmaids Tale' Style Bonnet) Inverloch Sound Shell was constructed without any sense of Community belonging or pride. The Lions club refused to engage with the community at any stage and chose not to respond to any enquiries made by community members. Where did the recent installation of mod grass idea come from? How much did it cost, No one in the Inverloch Community seems to know? 4.0 Growing Our Economy 4.1 & 4.6 ECOTOURISM is another 'valuable commodity ' that we all benefit from. It brings employment and education and a sense of pride to our people, supports family businesses and nurtures our environment for generations to come 5. Sustainable Development 5.1 - 5.4 No mention of aesthetics, parks and gardens?? Whilst we congratulate affordable housing, defining town boundaries and environmentally sustainable design, we need more parks, green spaces and aesthetically pleasing neighbourhoods for families to grow and thrive in. Please no more boxy ugly buildings and barren neighbourhoods that will turn into ghettos. Developers and Council MUST invest a percentage of their profits into the design of aesthetically pleasing recreational and garden spaces.	Thank you email sent.	Not recommended. Strategies within the draft Council Plan address this concerns. The draft Annual Action Plan also identifies projects that respond to some of these issues.

Feedback	Council Response	Change required
Resident provided a blank response – officers followed up. Good morning Thanks for the follow-up. My concerns were regarding the carpark that is being built on Thompson's reserve. Several trees were cut down and the carpark is very close the residential area. We received a notice in the letter box literally the day the works commenced. Are there any future carparks planned on Thompson's reserve?	I can confirm that no trees have been cut down, with branches trimmed to allow space to install drainage pipes. We will also be trimming back further vegetation on the north side of the new entrance, to improve sight lines. The progress of this project followed Council's recent decision and through the immediate availability of a contractor. The car park being constructed at the BMX Track, is included within the Thompson Reserve Master Plan and the only one being constructed as part of this project.	Not required.

Feedback	Council Response	Change required
Being a ratepayer retired in Inverloch I would like to see our town catch up with a similar infrastructure that Leongatha has. Inverloch and Leongatha has a similar population. 1 supermarket in Inverloch / 3 in Leongatha 1 service station in Inverloch / 2 in Leongatha 0 cinemas in Inverloch / I multi screen in Leongatha 1 hardware store Inverloch / 2 in Leongatha More choice of retail outlets in Leongatha than Inverloch. Inverloch has an abundance of cafes but lacks decent restaurants and the only decent pub, The Inlet is over priced. As a priority Inverloch needs another supermarket to create competition and get prices down. We also need another service station for the same reason and to cater for all the holiday makers with caravans and boats. Our current service station is stupidly small. Inverloch is growing rapidly but the town's infrastructure isn't.	Response provided directly to the resident by Manager Strategy and Growth.	Not Required.
Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Council Plan. I am concerned that there is no mention of women's health and safety under 2. Healthy Community. I realise that Family violence prevention is a priority in the Healthy Communities Plan but it seems like women's safety has dropped off the priority list. Also, the Vision doesn't mention the health of Bass Coast communities - just to live respectfully and harmoniously with the environment. Family violence rates have increased 25% in the last 12 months and the health and safety of community should be part of the vision. Thank you Thank you for your reply. After some further discussions with my colleagues at Gippsland Women's Health, we are also concerned that Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health is not listed as a priority area. Please pass this concern on to the relevant Council representative.	Response provided to resident	Change recommended in part. A strategy under leadership has been adjusted to include reference to violence against women. The Community Vision has a community aspiration and more than 10 priorities in relation to Healthy Communities. Issues such as sexual and reproductive health are a little too specific for the Council Plan.

Feedback	Council Response	Change required
I would like to contribute some further ideas in the Housing area. 1. Council can help provide more low cost accommodation without cost to itself through the mechanism of allowing granny flats to be used by non dependents: this simple change means granny flats or smaller accommodation can be built by homeowners with multiple uses available. One of those uses is to provide rental accommodation. Without constraints, the private sector will build more of these units to building regulations, and that will mean a choice for lower income singles and couples. It means more housing close to amenities and work, closer to transport, while being paid for by homeowners. 2. a second and other lever might cost more, but would be the old stick and carrot approach. Having observed the multitudes of empty houses during the Census, why not offer a hefty rates discount to lease these homes for a 12 month period? This could easily be verified, and the discount applied at the end of the lease to stop leases being broken by landlords. Again it would mean rent prices lowered as more stock would be available.	Response provided by Manager Community, Recreation and Culture	Not recommended. Social and Affordable housing addressed in the draft Council Plan and draft Annual Action Plan.

CPRRA Inc.
Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association
PO Box 280
Wonthaggi
Vic 3995

Ms. Ann Selby

Community Engagement Advisor

Bass Coast Shire Council

P O Box 118

Wonthaggi, 3995

Dear Ann,

RE: Council Plan Feedback

Please find the enclosed response from the Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association [CPRRA] to the Council Plan 2021-2025.

The response is composed of two components:

i. Seven general comments relating to the plan and its development
ii. Comments and suggestions on the six Strategic Objectives and their Strategies.

The seven general comments are:

i. The Plan is not a completed Strategic Plan
ii. The drop-in sessions in the community engagement
iii. The evaluation of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan
iv. The continuity of themes or strategic objectives
v. The scope for the strategic objectives
vi. The need to specifically address climate change in a strategic objective
vii. The inclusion of definitions of a glossary of key terms

The last three comments involve suggestions for inclusion in the completed Strategic Plan.

The need for the Strategic Plan to specifically address climate change is also raised in the second section of the response. It is recommended that Strategic Objective 1 be revised to read:

Address the challenges of climate change and protect the natural environment

Apart from the recommendation to modify Strategic Objective 1 to address climate change, the comments, and suggestions in the second section relate the strategies for the six strategic objectives.

The CPRRA would welcome the opportunity for representatives to meet with Council staff to obtain feedback on the response, and to provide any clarification and further detail that the staff may desire.

This can be arranged by contacted the secretary of the CPRRA, Kathy Hills on:

- Mobile [redacted]
- Email [redacted]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Council Plan.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

Pete Muskens

President CPRRA

[redacted]

THE RESPONSE FROM THE CPRRA ON THE BASS COAST DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

The response to the Council Plan 2021-2025 from the Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association [CPRRA]is comprised of two sections:

i. Seven general comments relating to the plan and its development
ii. Comments and suggestions on the six Strategic Objectives and their Strategies.

1. GENERAL COMMENTS

1.1. Not a Strategic Plan

The draft is not a complete Strategic Plan, but rather the broad framework of Strategic Objectives [Themes or Goals] and the derived Strategies [Objectives]

Whatever the terminology being used, the draft lacks:

i. The actions that will be undertaken to achieve the Strategies- The How, What, by Whom and When statements on how the Strategy will be achieved.
ii. The Indicators or Measures on which to determine the progress and success of the actions being implemented
iii. The supporting policies that will provide the framework for the actions.
iv. The core services related to the achievement of the Strategic Objectives and Strategies.

In addition, the Strategic Plan will set out the Council's Vision, Mission and Values

As such the draft is comprised of broad statements without the details necessary to determine the quality of the Plan. This significantly inhibits the feedback that can be provided.

Furthermore, it is not possible to ascertain whether issues of considerable significance to the Cape Paterson will be include within the final Strategic Plan and to provide feedback on them.

Such issues include:

i. The redevelopment of the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club within the context of the Cape Paterson Bay Beach Activity Area Master Plan [2014]
ii. Amendment C136 and the Development Plan Overlay
iii. The Bass Coast DAL project
iv. The George Bass Coastal Walk
v. The Cape-to-Cape Resilience project
vi. The Bass Coast Dinosaurs Trail

It is recognized that many of the issues are still 'a work in progress" but it is considered essential that all feature in the Council's Plan for the next four years.

1.2. The Community Engagement /Consultation

The development of the Plan has occurred in the context of:

i. The Community Engagement Policy
ii. The community consultations in the form of:
    - Drop in sessions
    - An online survey
    - Facebook Q&A session
iii. The Vision 2041

The process for the development of the Vision 2041 has been a good example of the implementation of the Community Engagement Policy and Council is seeking feedback on the statement by a separate process.

The drop-in sessions in 2021 did not provide for the same level of community engagement and input as the workshop style sessions for the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan in that:

i. The consultation was controlled or limited to providing written responses on Postits
ii. There was no forum for dialogue between participants of for communication [information, explanations etc.] from Council staff on the participants issues.
iii. There was more extensive feedback on the sessions than the two-page report for 2021.

1.3. Evaluation of the 2017- 2021 Strategic Plan

An essential component of the "planning cycle" is the evaluation of the prior plan to establish:

i. What Strategic Objectives and Strategies have been achieved?
ii. Which ones need to be further pursued?
iii. What Actions have been effective and efficient and where there is a need for modifications and/or new approaches?

The evaluation should also address:

i. How effective was the implementation of the plan?
ii. What were the factors thee facilitated and/or inhibited the implementation of the plan?

While the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan was revised in June 2019, information on the evaluation has not been provided to the community. This diminishes the ability to provide feedback on the new plan.

Some Councils, [The Surf Coast for example] provide a progress snapshot in relation to the Strategic Plan and cover the evaluation in the Annual Report.

The Shire of South Gippsland reported on what had been achieved to date in its 2019 revision of its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan. This did not occur in the Bass Coast 2019 revision.

1.4. Continuity of Themes [Strategic Objectives]

There does appear to be a consistency in the themes addressed in the 2017-2021 and 2021-2025 Plans. This is a positive and evidence of a commitment to the cycle of continuous improvement.

The four themes in the Vision 2041 appear to be covered in the 2021-2025 Plan, although this is more difficult to determine the degree due to:

i. The incomplete nature of the 2021-2025 Plan
ii. The different framework of themes and priorities

1.5. The Scope for the Strategic Objectives

A Local Government's Strategic Plan needs to address the three environments in which the community lives.

i. **Built Environment** refers to human-made surroundings that provide the setting for human activity. It encompasses places and spaces created or modified by people including building, parks, or green space, and supporting infrastructures such as water supply, or energy networks, transportation systems etc.

ii. **Natural Environment** refers to the non-human-made circumstances, objects, or conditions by which we are surrounded. The domains within the natural environment are land, air, water, plants, and animals.

iii. **Social Environment** refers to all the things that humans have overlaid on top of our world: our personal and societal relationships, our institutions, our cultures, and our physical surroundings—all the aspects and products of human activity and interaction.

The Natural Environment is emphasized in in that it is identified as a Theme in the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, a Strategic Objective in the Draft 2021-2025 Plan, and a Theme in the Vision 2041. The Built and the Social Environments are not specifically referred to, although Strategies relating to them are contained in the other 5 Strategic Objective.

The three environments and the interactions between them provide the scope from which the Strategic Objectives and Strategies are derived.

It would enhance the 2021-2025 Plan to include a section on the Scope for the Strategic Objectives.

1.6. The Need to Specifically Address Climate Change

Bass Coast Shire Council has declared a climate emergency and developed a Climate Change Action Plan 2020-30 recognising the role of both Council and the community to:

- Reduce our emissions,
- Build community resilience against the local impacts of climate change
- Reverse global warming.

The plan includes the target of zero net emissions by 2030

The 2021-25 Council Plan has only four strategies addressing the Strategic Objective of "*Protecting out natural environment"* None mention or directly address climate change. The only mentions of climate change are:

i. Strategy 2.8 for the Strategic Objective Healthy Community:
"*Work in partnership with the community to adapt to and respond to emergencies and climate change"*

This relates to the second of the three objectives listed above for the action plan. It is suggested in 2.2.3. on page 6 that this strategy remains in the Healthy Community Strategic Objective as is or extended to emergencies caused by natural disasters. It indicates how climate change impacts on the social environment as well as the natural.

ii. Strategy 6.2. for leading our community:
Foster partnerships and engage with the community, traditional landowners, and businesses to support Bass Coast to meet its zero net emissions target by 2030.

This applies to the target and the first and third of the objectives listed in the action plan and it is recommended that it be transferred to be a strategy in a modified Strategic Objective 1.

Given the importance and urgency of climate change as demonstrated by the Council's declaration of a climate emergency and the 2020-2030 Action Plan, there is a conclusive case that the first Strategic Objective for the Council Plan be widened to:

Address the challenges of climate change and protect the natural environment

It is recognized that climate change impacts on the built, natural, and social environments, but it is considered that it is appropriate to focus on natural environment with the suggested change to Strategic Objective 1 in this Council Plan.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

The 2021-2025 Plan would benefit from the inclusion of a Glossary or Definition of Key Terms.

While the meaning of the terms may become clearer with the inclusion of the Actions, Measures, Policies and Services segments, the definition of the following would assist in understanding the Strategic Objective and/or Strategy in which they occur.

Term	Strategic Objective
• Circular economy	1
• Environmental values	1
• Community connections	2.
• Inclusive health outcome	2
• Activity centre	3
• Environmentally sustainable	5
• Universal design principles	5
• 20 -Minute Neighbourhood	5

2. COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ON THE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

2.1. Protecting our natural environment

2.1.1. Coastal Erosion and Climate Change

There was a specific Strategic Outcome in the 2017-2025 Strategic Plan: "Advocate for state and federal government support and assistance on coastal erosion."

This is a vital and ongoing issue for the Shire as demonstrated by the Cape-to-Cape Resilience Project to build coastal resilience from Cape Paterson to Cape Liptrap. Its importance warrants it being included in the Council Plan, within the context of climate change, as an action within the following suggested revision for Strategic Objective 1:

> *Address the challenges of climate change and protect the natural environment.*

As stated in 1.6. The Need to Specifically Address Climate Change, on page 3, the issue of climate change is of such critical importance that it necessitates being a specific Strategic Objective.

The following are examples of the strategies that could be included for the revised Strategic Objective1:

- *Reduce carbon emissions and manage the impact of climate change*
  Or
- *Partner all levels of government, businesses and organizations and the community to reduce and manage the environmental impacts of climate change.*

0r

- *Plan for the following increased hazards due to climate change:*
  - *Heatwaves*
  - *Flood and drought*
  - *Thunderstorms, hail, dust storms*
  - *Cyclones*
  - *Bush fires and fire weather*

2.1.2. The environmental values of Bass Coast

If the Bass Coast has established a set of values, they should be detailed, or a reference provided as to where they are documented.

2.2. Healthy Community

2.2.1. Strategy 2.4. "Provide opportunities for residents to be active in a range of leisure and recreational activities."

Suggestion, change to:

- *Provide directly and collaborate with other organizations in the provision of a range of a range of leisure and recreational activities*.

2.2.2. Strategy 2.5. "Support First Nation People and Traditional Owners by listening, engaging, celebrating acknowledging and collaborating."

Comment.

Not sure what is meant by 'support" or that it would be provided by the listed activities.

Suggestion

The Priority 1.11. in the Vision 2041 is a preferable statement

- *Commitment to reconciliation, engagement and collaboration with First Nation People community members and the celebration and acknowledgement of our Aboriginal culture and heritage.*

2.2.3. Strategy 2.8. "Work in partnership with the community to adapt and respond to emergencies and climate change."

Comments.

It has been recommended that there be a revised Strategic Objective 1: *Address the challenges of climate change and protect the natural environment.*

The strategy is consistent with one of the objectives of the Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030.

Suggestion

The strategy remain as is within Healthy Community or be extended in scope to:

- *Work in partnership with the community to adapt and respond to emergencies caused by natural disasters, [fire, floods, storms] social issues [domestic violence] and medical issues [pandemic]*

2.3. Our Places

2.3.1. Strategy 3.2. Create sustainable, friendly destinations that focus on low-emission transport options

Comment.

It is not clear as to what is meant by the term "destinations." Does it refer to:

- Tourist or recreational and leisure centres, or
- Activity centres such as the Wonthaggi Activity Centre Plan, or
- The 20-minute Neighbourhood concept?

2.3.2. Strategy 3.5. "Develop and deliver actions in activity centre plans for main townships."

Comment

While it will become clearer what an activity centre plan involves when the actions relating to the key directions are set out in Actions section of Plan are completed, it would assist by including in the recommended glossary a definition of an activity centre plan, such as the State Government definition contained in the Wonthaggi Activity Centre Plan

Activity centres as areas that provide

"Focus for housing, commercial, retailing, community, employment, transport, leisure, open space, entertainment and other services and are places where people shop, work, meet, relax and live."

2.3.3. Other Possible Strategies

- *Facilitate urban design that enhances the connection between the built, natural, and social environments.*

- *Ensure that the township boundaries guarantee the preservation of the unique character of the townships within the shire and prevent overdevelopment.*

2.4. Growing our Economy

Comment

The priorities in Theme 4 of the Vision 2041 are well covered in this section of the Plan.

2.5. Sustainable Development

2.5.1. Strategy 5.1. "Plan for housing growth and development that is inclusive, affordable, resilient and complements the nature of individual townships."

Comment.

Not sure as to the use of the term "resilient" in relation to housing growth and development?

2.5.2. Strategy 5.2. "Manage urban growth and define town boundaries to deliver future focused infrastructure that is innovative, sustainable, and adaptable."

Suggestion

Inclusion in the Strategy - "building design and regulations."

- *Manage urban growth and define town boundaries **and building design and regulations** to deliver future focused infrastructure that is innovative, sustainable, and adaptable.*

2.5.3. Strategy 5.3. "Ensure land use planning and economic development are aligned to facilitate investment."

Suggestion

Include in the Strategy – "within the context of balanced development and the protection and enhancement of the built, natural and social environment."

- *Ensure land use planning and economic development are aligned to facilitate investment, **within the context of balanced development and the protection and enhancement of the built, natural and social environments."***

2.5.4. Strategy 5.4. "Promote environmentally sustainable and universal design principles as standard."

Comments.

As standard for what?

Include the terms environmentally sustainable and universal design principles in the recommended glossary.

Suggestion

- *Apply the concepts of environmental sustainability and universal design in the planning and development of the built environment to provide accessible and inclusive communities*

2.5.5. Strategy 5.5. "Prioritise development towards 20-minute neighbourhoods."

Comment

- Include a definition of a 20-minute Neighbourhood in the recommended glossary

Suggestion

- *Prioritize the development of a network of local 20- minute neighbourhoods across the Shire, in which everyone can live, work and play.*

2.6. Leading our community

2.6.1. **Strategy 6.2.** Foster partnerships and engage with the community, traditional landowners, and businesses to support Bass Coast to meet its zero net emissions target by 2030.

Suggestion

- It would be better located in suggested revision for Strategic Objective 1 as a strategy in relation to climate change.

2.6.2. Strategy 6.6. ''Be an industry and regional leader in working towards equality, diversity, and inclusion."

Suggestion

- *Provide leadership and best practice in the achievement of equality, diversity and inclusion within the Council and promotion within the organizations and communities within the Shire.*

2.6.3. Other Possible Strategies relating to empowering the community.

- *Ensure that the members of the community are fully informed on all matters that affect them and that they are actively engaged in the Council's decision making.*

- *Implement inclusive community engagement and consultation to identify and consider the needs and aspirations of people of all agers and backgrounds.*

Submission. 22-9-2021

Draft Council Plan 2021/25.

Liveability and Lifestyle, Health and Well-being.

What is a plan ?

A plan must have objectives containing achievable outcomes.

Councillor's, it is very important to understand the objectives and achieved outcomes to the current Council Plan 2017/21 comprising of 30 pages are taken into consideration when determining the new Council Plan 2021/25.

- **Attached is the current Council Plan 2017/21.**

1. **I request Councillor's and ratepayers be directed to a report that sets out the objectives and outcomes achieved by council to the current Council Plan 2017-21 for the period ending 30 June 2021.**

What actually has been achieved during the 4 years of the current Council Plan 2017-21 ?

My basic principle of a plan is structured by using key headings leading to the objectives.

a. **What.**
b. **When.**
c. **Where.**
d. **Why.**
e. **How.**
f. **Who.**
g. **Cost.**

Therefore my objectives must be a priority of continual improvement to 'Liveability and Lifestyle, Health and Well-being' which I am sure must be Council's at all times.

Does this draft Council Plan 2021-25 set out clear objectives for the Bass Coast Shire ?

Yes with headings but, no with planned outcomes. Why.

The presented draft Council Plan 2021-25 has no reporting details of objective successes to be achieved during the term of the current Council Plan 2017-21.

There is no reporting details of where and how the current Council Plan 2017-21 must be adjusted and incorporated into the new Council Plan 2021-25.

2. **<u>I request</u> Councillor's and ratepayers be provided with a report of outcomes of objectives not achieved and recommendations of adjustments to move forward into the new Council Plan 2021-25.**

Reading the draft Council Plan 2021-25 which has limited detail and lacking major key connection reference documents, namely the Community Vision 2041. To that degree I express concern as council is asking ratepayers to respond to a draft Council Plan at a time when the draft Community Vision 2041 has <u>not</u> been finalized, presented to a council meeting and approved.

How can the unknown be incorporated into discussion or writing to this draft Council Plan 2021-25 submission at this date prior to a Vision being approved ?. It cannot constructively be developed.

I would like to think our elected Councillor's seek further details before a new Council Plan 2021-25 is debated and approved at a council meeting.

Councillor's, my concern continue when you understand the next link document step connected to financial projections needed to achieve the objectives and outcomes of the proposed draft Council Plan 2021-25.

The next important document link stage is not finalized. Council is seeking submissions to a draft Long Term Financial Plan spanning 10 years. A

closing date of the 1st October 2021 is when somehow Councillor's and ratepayers are supposed to believe all information is ok in the draft Long Term financial Plan when in fact a new Council Plan 2021-25 does not exist.

On page 31 of the draft Long Term Financial Plan under the heading 'Statement of capital works' Council informs 'total capital works expenditure' from Actual 2020-21 of $18,365m and showing projected allocation financial figures starting from 2021-22 (current year) through to 2030-31.

The 4th Quarterly Financial Report reported at the council meeting 22-9-2021 provides a different figure. $20,358,829.

These financial figures might seem reasonable at first glance, however I suggest a complete review update is needed once the Community Vision 2041 and the new Council Plan 2021-25 are approved. Why.

Reading further into the draft Long Term Financial Plan spanning 10 years on page 33 under a heading 'Statement of Investment Reserves' there is a sub heading 'Constrained works (carry forward) showing Actual 2020-21 of $18,699m and showing projected figures from 2021-22 (current year) through to 2030-31. Each year of $18,699m.

The 4th Quarterly Financial Report reported at the council meeting 22-9-2021 provides a different figure. $26,154,721 entailing 174 carryover projects.

Page 33 of this draft Long Term Financial Plan showing Constrained works (carry forward) of $18,699m is an admission by Council that the Objectives and Outcomes to any Council Plan for any year are NOT achievable and never have been. $26,154,721 of carry over's at years end 30-6-2021.

Councillor's you and I can refer to past years results of Constrained works (carry over's or carry forward) financials and the failures each year to achieve the yearly Capital Works Projects approved through the budget.

Council has pre informed all Ratepayer and Councillor's that each and every year at least $18,699m out of the Capital Works budget program will not be completed or expensed.

Deferred C.W.P.

The financial year ending 30-6-2021 had 5 major C.W.P deferred in the 1st Quarter (30-9-2020), 1 more deferred in the 2nd Quarter (31-12-2021) and 2 in the 3rd Quarter (31-3-2021).

The Capital Works financial figures shown in the draft Long Term Financial Plan show 2020-21 $35,052m (current year), 2022-23 $23,556m, 2023-24 $36,717, 2024-25 $49,622m and 2025-26 $51,715m possible budgeted values.

These financial figures of Capital Works and Constrained Works (carry forward) clearly indicates a major problem exists and therefore adjustments must be made when determining the new Council Plan 2021-25.

These projected allocations of yearly Constrained Works (carry forward) clearly indicates a very slow process of improving Lifestyle and Liveability, Health and Well-being in the Bass Coast Shire.

Council has 400 employees reported the CEO with various departmental managers. Council also has at request contractual external consultants.

The year ending 30 June 2021 (2020-21) council had 160 Capital Works Projects listed, all approved by our elected Councillor's as a clear direction to continue the path of improving Liveability and Lifestyle, Health and Well-being.

So why is there a problem getting Capital Works as planned completed and fully expensed ?

Is any Council Plan and the connecting linked plans and yearly budgets beyond the capabilities of the CEO ?. The Local Government Act 2020 Section 46. Functions of the Chief Executive Officer and Section 106. Service performance principles are quite clear. Councillor's approve a Vision, Council Plan, Long term financial Plan and a yearly Budget which is the direction given to the CEO of Councillor's. That's the ACT, LAW.

Are these base principles being considered by Councillor's along the lines of :-

a. **Must do.**
b. **Can do.**
c. **Nice to do.**
d. **Like to do.**

Has the Objectives and planned Outcomes had achievable time line limits included ?

<u>What we do know is funding is not a problem.</u>

Rates Income, Property numbers increasing each year, State and Federal grants and Investments as well as yearly borrowings have been the continued main sources of supply income to fund continuous improvement to our Lifestyle and Liveability, Health and Well-being for all in the Bass Coast Shire.

3. **<u>I request</u> the Council Plan 2021-25 includes the Bass Coast Community Vision 2041 with direct correlation to the Community Vision 2041 Statement, the key Theme's 1 to 4 including their priority numbered identifications.**

4. **<u>I request</u> the Council Plan 2021-25 includes a new linking numbering system to cross reference backwards to the Community Vision 2041 and forward to the Long Term Financial Plan spanning 10 years. The numbering linking system to continue down to the council yearly budget. Can you please inform me what difficulties a new linking numbering system might result.**

5. **<u>I request</u> council as part of an objectives plan four new Township Strategy Plans during the period 2021-25 be created. The townships are to be in order Smiths Beach, Inverloch a holiday destination, Grantville a developing township and Coronet Bay which will expand further once the roads and drainage special charge scheme is completed. Recently the CEO reported the time line for a Special Charge Scheme is around 4 years.**

6. **I request Council's Housing Strategy Plan be reviewed in the first year of the new Council Plan 2021-25.**

7. **I request Point 6.5 on the last page of the draft Council Plan 2021-25 read as follows :-**
   'Demonstrate good governance, transparency, integrity and accountability with our Councillor's through decision making that is ethical, well informed and inclusion while supporting our growth and our communities'.

8. **I request Council's Special Charge Scheme for roads and drainage upgrade be reviewed in the first year of the new Council Plan 2021-25. The review to indicate a more attractive uptake by ratepayers. It would clearly improve Liveability, Health and Well-being.**

9. **I request this new Council Plan 2021-25 to advocate for a roads intersection upgrade at the intersection of Phillip Island Road and Potters Hill Road to improve road safety for all school children carrying vehicles entering and exiting the intersection which leads to the new Secondary School in San Remo.**

I request a reply to each of my requests 1 to 9.

[redacted]

Cape Woolamai.

Submission
Draft Council Plan 2021-25

[redacted]

14.09.2021

We congratulate and thank those who drew up the Draft Council Plan 2021-25 and applaud much of it. However, Council is at a pivotal point in the history of Bass Coast Shire so we believe the plan must go much further and with urgency.

If we do not move quickly, we are on the point of losing forever some of the environmental gems of our area—namely the remnant bushlands running along the eastern side of Western Port Bay between Nyora-Lang Lang to Grantville and beyond. Yet nowhere in the Draft Council Plan is there anything about this other than vague general references to protecting the environment, for example **1.2 and 1.4**.

Here are some of our comments on selected clauses in the Council Plan.
Clause 1.
Protecting our natural environment: Building resilience and protecting and enhancing our natural assets
All strategies are fine as far as they go but ...
1.2: Ensure Council's planning instruments protect the environmental values of the Bass Coast
1.4: Improve biodiversity through careful management of land, water and ecosystems that protect and enhance our native flora, fauna and biolinks.

The environment, along with achieving social justice for First Nations, which we shall discuss later, should be top priority. The above clauses are good but general, and, despite us being on the point of losing forever some of the priceless environmental gems of our area, there is no sense of urgency. Currently, the most significant area of concern is the biolink between Nyora-Lang Lang and Grantville and beyond. Made up of remnant pre-European native vegetation, virtually the last of the land uncleared in West Gippsland, where 95% of the land is cleared, the biolink is incredibly important to the biodiversity and attraction of the area.

While the State Government has moved to protect the Bunurong Coast by setting up the Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park, it has not followed up on its Distinctive Areas and Landscapes project in July as expected. If the DAL project had called for submissions by now, it would have allowed the community to indicate the other special areas in our Shire that should be protected. Since this has not happened but the Minister for Planning calling in the Dandy Premix Quarries proposed Amendment to its Work Authority at Grantville has happened, as has the intention for him to pass the SERA legislation which endangers buffer zones and also takes away the right of community consultation.

Strong measures are needed now, so we trust Council the general clauses cover taking steps to counter the State Government's apparent intentions to take over and allow sand mining companies to take the sand under one of Bass Coast's most precious assets, not only for tourism

but for biodiversity and essential in the long run to survival of humans and not just in the short run to the wildlife dependent on it.

As a result The draft should enunciate its commitment. For example, by acknowledging Pt1, p45 of the **Bass Coast Shire Council Environment Sustainability Plan**, 2008 – 2013, p14 that: *One of the most critical local environmental issues for Bass Coast is that there is less than 10% indigenous bush remaining from pre 1700s. There is research and a common acceptance that if there is 35% cover of native vegetation then 75-80% of species can survive, but below that level extinctions can accelerate rapidly*.

However, instead of just stating it here and in an earlier plan and then, apparently dumping it, they must pursue this aim until it or better is achieved.

Therefore Council must move immediately and unequivocally to protect its vision for
Protecting our natural environment: Building resilience and protecting and enhancing our natural assets

Clause 2. Healthy Community
All are general and fine concepts but we strongly suggest additions which must be acted on without delay. All parts of this clause would greatly benefit from the inclusion of the strategy to buy the old Holden Proving Ground at Lang Lang.

In our ***Bass Coast 2021 Community Vision*** submitted on 6.9.2021 we went into this issue at length when discussing our support for Council with the help of the community to acquire the former Holden Proving Ground at Lang Lang now that Vinfast, the current owner, is likely to put it back on the market.
In the attached ***Bass Coast 2021 Community Vision*** submission, 6.9.2021, we have outlined our vision for this. Hopefully, with consultation, First Nations People will embrace the idea for the old HPG to be the entrance to Bass Coast Shire and a Western Port National Park to be jointly managed by DEWLP and themselves.

It is an opportunity for Council to lead the way in Victoria for a council to show its support of Land Rights for the First Nations People and 'grant' some land to them in Bass Coast Shire. Possibly they would be interested in creating an Aboriginal cultural centre and/or museum in one of the buildings in the HPG built-up area.

2.5: Support First Nations People and Traditional Owners by listening, engaging, celebrating, acknowledging and collaborating.
The strategy to do this must include acknowledgment of Land Rights and do something about it as suggested immediately above.

Clause 3. Our Places
All strategies suggested would be greatly advanced by following the suggested strategy to buy the old Holden Proving Ground site.
3.1: Design, build and cultivate places that create a sense of belonging, connection and pride.
If Council decides to acquire the HPG and First Nations people are included in considerations, this could be an ideal opportunity for the inclusion of First Nations people to have their 'own place to call home' in the Shire.

Clause 4. Growing our Economy
This strategic objective and strategy points 4.1 to 4.7 would also be greatly achieved through the acquisition of the HPG.

Clause 5. Sustainable Development: Prepare for growth while ensuring the intrinsic values and character of Bass Coast are retained.
Sadly, much of this strategic objective and strategies to obtain it sounds like pie in the sky to people like us who have extensively travelled Australia since our first Round Australia trip in 1970. Development has already nibbled into our beautiful coastal area until the balance of competing needs is way out of balance in favour of unsustainable development at the expense of the environment and biodiversity. The rest of our shire will continue to be nibbled away until it is nothing like the beautiful area it was when we lived or holidayed here in the 1940s and 1950s or even the 1970s when we bought a holiday house and then built our permanent residence here in the 1980s. It is pie in the sky to think you can have your pie in your hand and eat it too. Please see ***Bass Coast 2021 Community Vision*** for detailed arguments.

5.3 is quite concerning. What does it mean by ***Ensure land use planning and economic development are aligned to facilitate investment***? Surely, to fit in with the rest of the document it should read ***Ensure land use planning and economic development are aligned to protect the environment***?

Clause 6. Leading for our community
All—strategy objectives and strategies—sound good. The addition of the acquisition of the Holden Proving Ground would be a huge step towards all these goals.

Thank you for the opportunity for residents and ratepayers to comment on the plan which gives stakeholders a strong basis on which to build.

[redacted]

Attachment below.

Attachment to
Submission
Draft Council Plan 2021-25
Submitted 14.09.2021

Submission submitted 6.9.2021
Bass Coast 2021 Community Vision



Answers on Survey

General Comments
1.
No.

Congratulations and thanks to all who contributed to a fine Bass Coast 2021 Community Vision. Congratulations and thanks also to current and previous Council members and earlier individual councillors who have come out as strong advocates and activists to protect the natural environment of our Shire.

Sadly, though, it is questionable to start from the premise 'we've created a thriving and diverse economy that supports sustainable agriculture, industry and endeavour. As we live respectfully in harmony with our environment, we prepare for future challenges and changes'.

Arguably, our agriculture, industry and endeavour are not always sustainable and we do not live respectfully in harmony with our environment'. Certainly for decades, along with many others, my husband and I have fought to ensure these things but we have not always succeeded. Ask anyone who lives near a sand mine, walkers distressed to find the north-west entrance to the Grantville Nature Conservation Reserve and the major track through a popular part of the reserve they had walked for decades appropriated as part of a Work Authority for a sand mining company as a buffer zone, ibis coming home to roost for the night in trees they had long used along Bass Highway and finding them cut down for roadworks, or kangaroos hopping around Corinella when dislocated and disoriented by unsustainable development when work started on the Heritage estate or the kangaroos, black swamp wallabies, wombats, koalas, native birds and other fauna turned into roadkill on our roads.

2.
Recognition and priority needs to be given to the facts
(1) that biodiversity depends on environmental sustainability.
(2) That the current environment is not sustainable, and action must be taken to restore sustainability. A commitment to this must be shown, for example, by acknowledging Pt1, p45 of the Bass Coast Shire Council Environment Sustainability Plan, 2008 – 2013, p14 that: One of the most critical local environmental issues for Bass Coast is that there is less than 10% indigenous bush remaining from pre 1700s. There is research and a common acceptance that if there is 35% cover of native vegetation then 75-

80% of species can survive, but below that level extinctions can accelerate rapidly. Then it must show how this is to be achieved.

It is not enough to say we aspire, we have to ensure we include the groundwork to build on to achieve those aspirations. Currently, our environment, which has long been under attack from developers and governments, is far below the figures quoted above and under immense pressure.

Until this balance is righted, only unquestionably sustainable development should be contemplated, and that would negate many developments. With Phillip Island in particular so dependent on tourism, it would be folly to carve any further into rural land or native vegetation or endanger the health of Western Port Bay as they are the very things that attract tourists on which our economy is dependent.

To achieve environmental sustainability in Bass Coast Shire involves:
*Making 'restoring the balance' the priority, not 'the balance of competing needs';
*Making trying for a balance between competing needs for scarce resources as a secondary priority and not continue to allow the nibbling away of our rural and bush land.
*Deciding how much native vegetation is necessary to do this; given the Sustainability quote above.

This needs to acknowledged and addressed in this vision. For instance, without permanent protection of the biolink between Nyora-Lang Lang and Grantville and beyond, virtually the last substantial area of uncleared land pre-European occupation in West Gippsland, we can be assured the sand miners will keep taking our bushland for sand bit by bit until we lose it all. We can't keep fighting the same battle over and over again. Indeed the SERA legislation is making sure we won't even have the chance to do so - all our precious bush will just be taken whenever the miners and/or the Government wish. Then so much for our aspiration that As we live respectfully in harmony with our environment, we prepare for future challenges and changes.

If this decimation and destruction or our remnant native vegetation is to continue, as it did even when Council was alerted to the imminent threat to a sizeable part of the Grantville Grass Tree Forest in May 2020, we shall eventually lose the lot to unsustainable development.

Then, though concern was shown, nothing was done to sort out some sort of trade-off with the Work Authority holder with the power bestowed on it by an earlier Bass Coast Shire Council and State Government. Instead, the WA holder removed much of the native vegetation on the site, including grass trees and native orchids, and dislocate or doom the fauna dependent on it for its survival.

Similarly, our 'wild' and 'unspoiled' coastlines as mentioned in line 1 are constantly under threat from inappropriate development. Last year, for instance, at Coronet Bay with the proposed hotel devolpment on the foreshore and earlier the Heritage Estate and elsewhere at Corinella. If Council wants them unspoiled, why is it necessary to go through the struggle over and over again to protect them. Under the Brumby Government coastal ribbon development was a no-no, as was development below 5 metre above sea level.

By 2009 the Victorian Government had stipulated that there is to be no development within 200 metres of the coast or strip development along the coast. Also non-urban land abutting the coast that was less than five metres above sea level and was within one kilometre of the coastline, was not be rezoned for urban use unless the *new development will be located, designed and protected from potential coastal hazard to the extent practicable and … future management arrangements will ensure ongoing risk minimisation*. (See **Ministerial Direction No 13** and **Clause 15.08** of the **State Planning Policy Framework** for details.)

If that was the ‘rule’, it could be used to stop development along the coast, without the constant need for the community to have to step in to argue to protect it as we, as community members, have had to do since we bought property in the shire in the early 1970s.

Fortunately, if not overdeveloped and if it is well-managed, some protection will be afforded by the welcome establishment of the Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park and Dinosaur Trail supported by Council this year.

However, though Council has a strong voice advocating for our environment, much more is needed to safeguard it. It needs a very proactive stance. For instance, in 2.1 we need more details to spell out what we are planning to do to save what we have and to repair what is damaged. In the past, we have been focused on balance of competing needs and harmony, we seem to have missed that the balance of which our community is based is way out of kilter. Instead of trying to balance community needs and talk about harmony, we need to address our most pressing need, the loss of much of our precious natural environment on which our economy depends, indeed our life and, as a microcosm for the whole planet, the life of our planet depends. Currently it is under such serious threat from developers, including the sand extraction industry, we must make conserving our natural environment front and foremost.

It would be nice to agree but unfortunately, we do not always 'live in harmony. For instance, we have to stop carving up foreshore and other sensitive areas as at Cape Paterson, San Remo, Corinella and Grantville, further overdeveloping Phillip Island, and breaking up important wildlife corridors such as that along the Grantville-Glen Alvie Rd between The Gurdies and Grantville Nature Conservation Reserves and stop allowing sand companies to extract sand in valuable ecological areas such as on the sand extraction site adjacent to the Grantville Nature Conservation Reserve and ensuring it never expands into the buffer zone around it. Two more big sand operations which are expected to start operating in the Stanley Rd/McGrady Rd Glen Forbes area soon should also be stopped. Though some of these things are out of Council's immediate control, Council must stand against such moves by State Govt. This includes standing unequivocally against Dandy Premix Quarries proposal to expand its already damaging operations at its quarry in Grantville. According to Dick Wettenhall, former professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at Melbourne University, these could have serious environmental consequences, not only on the land but in Western Port Bay.

Council is already standing up to be counted on some of these issues, but it must do far more. Small wins here and there are not enough. For instance, it must make it clear to the State Govt that our shire is not here to be exploited to provide cheap sand for Melbourne's infrastructure. In 2140, with our forests and fauna dependent on it decimated and our relatively healthy bay compromised by the sand extraction industry and with Phillip Island and San Remo compromised by over-development, where will we be? Not where your Vision Statement document envisages, that's for sure.

Yes, all are nice aspirations to have but we don't even have all of our coastlines as 'wild' and 'unspoiled', as mentioned in line 1. Even those we do have were under threat from inappropriate development last year, for instance, with the proposed hotel development at Coronet Bay, and others were and still are being compromised at Corinella, eg the Heritage Estate.

Again, fortunately, if not overdeveloped, some protection will be afforded by the welcome establishment of the Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park and Dinosaur Trail, both supported by Council this year.

However, though Council has a strong voice advocating for our environment, much more is needed to safeguard it. See **2.1**.

Theme 1 – Healthy and Inclusive Communities

3.
No.

Generally it is fine, but there needs to be a special aspiration regarding the traditional owners who were dispossessed of their land and need a treaty and compensation. Even if a Treaty and Land Rights and compensation are Federal and State Government responsibilities, Bass Coast can show solidarity with First Nations and do what it can. And, indeed, it is they who should be welcoming all non-indigenous people to country— not vice versa!

4.
As Aborigines are the traditional owners of Bass Coast, this must be acknowledged and it should be stated how non-indigenous Bass Coast peoples are aspiring to acknowledge and right that wrong. We've lived long enough to see Aborigines fight for decades for basic human rights yet they still have a long way to go to achieve social justice. Bass Coast should lead the way by acknowledging this and aspiring to do better, for example by including provision for Land Rights.

Also, as mentioned, it is they who should be welcoming all non-indigenous people - not vice versa.

5.
Yes, generally they are fine, but **1.11** is such an extremely important point, it should be Priority 1.1. We've lived long enough to see Aborigines fight for decades for basic human rights yet still have a long way to go to achieve social justice. Bass Coast should lead the way by acknowledging this and aspiring to do better by advocating for them and by including provision for Land Rights. For instance, if Council and the community buy the HPG, it would be an ideal chance to work out some sort of plan to include some of the package as part of a Land Rights treaty.

To support **1.2, 1.5, 1.6 and 1.8**, it would be a great advantage to establish small parks cum playgrounds, some only the size of several house blocks, within walking distance of all houses dotted throughout the community. As developers have to put aside land for community use, this land should always be retained and Council not take the option of money in lieu of land as we understand it did for the Heritage Estate at Corinella. Instead of upgrading the playground at the park adjacent to the Corinella Hall, the money could have been used to build a small playground on the land 'donated' by the developer. Blocks in the middle of the estate would have been a good site.

The small community of Pioneer Bay has an excellent small park cum playground in the middle of the estate. It is somewhere where people of all ages can go to walk or sit or get together at community events such as a barbecue or Australia Day celebration with a band and barbecue.

6.
Yes. If the priorities are in order of priority, **1.11** should be **1.1**.

Again, **1.11** is an extremely important point and should include advocacy for social justice for our indigenous population and provision for Land Rights. As mentioned, if Council and the community buy the HPG, it would be an ideal chance to work out some sort of plan to include the package as part of a Land Rights treaty.

Ideally, parks cum playgrounds within walking distance of all homes should be dotted around all populated areas. See **5.** for details.

7.
No.

It might be a lovely aspiration but currently we are so far short of that goal that this must be acknowledged Unless it spells out that much must be done to rectify the situation, it will just be a Bass Coast 2041 Community Vision but one that has no hope of being realised. There must be some appreciation there is the will to lay down how it can be done and ensuring it is and not just paying lipservice to the concept.

We've lived long enough to have seen Dandenong, Tooradin and Pakenham swallowed up by an ever-expanding Melbourne and could live long enough to see Bass Coast similarly swallowed up. Green wedges have been absorbed and, where orchards and market gardens once flourished, cattle and sheep roamed and bush where native flora and fauna flourished and kids played, are now covered in houses, business and industrial estates and tourist hubs. Even now much of our foreshore land no longer edges 'wild unspoiled coastlines'. Instead it boasts residential subdivisions, golf courses and multi-storey hotels and other tourist venues. As for native flora and fauna, where are they?

Ideally, Bass Coast should also aspire to work with First Nations people, for instance, those who have knowledge of fire management, by inviting them to share in management of the Bass Coast environment.

8.
Lots. First we need to face up to the fact that commitment to a strong plan to turn words into action is needed since words have failed to deliver what is needed in the past. See detailed answers under general comments at the start.

Please note in particular the need to attend to the following issue:
Pt1, p45 of the 'Bass Coast Shire Council Environment Sustainability Plan, 2008 – 2013', p14 that: One of the most critical local environmental issues for Bass Coast is that there is less than 10% indigenous bush remaining from pre 1700s. There is research and a common acceptance that if there is 35% cover of native vegetation then 75-80% of species can survive, but below that level extinctions can accelerate rapidly.

This issue has been constantly pushed into the too hard basket.

And it is not just us who are pointing out the hard facts. David Attenborough, whom many people, including us, believe is one of the greatest persons to live in the 20th and 21st centuries, has made them clear. Anyone who watched 'Extinction and Climate Change with David Attenborough' on 1.4.2021 on Ch 2, 8.30 pm, would understand that he, along with hundreds of top scientists, believes the world is at a turning point. (See https://iview.abc.net.au/show/extinction-with-david-attenborough.)

As the program illustrates, if you want something left for your children and their children's children in perpetuity, you have to act now. Our shire is a microcosm, part of the macrocosm that is the planet Earth. To excuse lack of action to save our small area because of current laws and regulations will not save our shire nor our planet. If currently such laws and regulations allow sand miners to remove part of an important biolink, mine below the water table and risk polluting Western Port Bay only 300 metres away with virtual impunity, then it's high time to call on the responsible lawmakers and authorities to change the laws and regulation, not endorse them with conditions to 'mitigate risks'. Taking ineffectual baby steps to check destruction is only marginally slowing down incremental destruction of our planet, not saving it.

As David Attenborough said, "We can safeguard our planet's diversity but ... what happens next is up to every one of us." As my University Sociology lecturer talking about India and the caste system where Untouchables were treated abysmally once said, "If enough people bash their head against a brick wall at the same time, it will fall."

David Attenborough urged us to look at our current lifestyles and said we have to educate our children on the way Nature works. We have to realise plants are an integral part of our existence. "[Future

generations] will look back on our generation with absolute horror," he said. "We are walking a tragic road of extinction."

As David Attenborough so strongly suggests far more than what the vision suggests is needed. We must stop unsustainable development now not just slow it down.

9.
We need more details to spell out what we are planning to do to save what we have and to repair what is damaged. Past Council seem to have been focused on balance of competing needs and harmony, so it is heartening that more recent councils realise something needs to be done as many of our resources are finite and need to be managed wisely. However, some decision makers still seem to have missed that the balance of which our community is based is way out of kilter. Instead of trying to balance community needs and talk about harmony, we need to address our most pressing need, the loss of much of our precious natural environment on which our economy, and indeed our life, depends. Also, we are a microcosm for the whole planet and the life of our planet depends on what each small microcosm can do to save itself and hence the larger body. Currently Bass Coast is under such serious threat from developers, including the sand extraction industry, we must make conserving our natural environment as much front and foremost as possible.

For instance, we have to stop carving up foreshore and other sensitive areas as we have been doing at Cape Paterson, San Remo, Corinella and Grantville, further overdeveloping Phillip Island. We also need to:
*stop breaking up important wildlife corridors such as that along the Grantville-Glen Alvie Rd between The Gurdies and Grantville Nature Conservation Reserves
*stop allowing sand companies to extract sand in valuable ecological areas such as on the sand extraction site adjacent to the Grantville Nature Conservation Reserve and ensuring it never expands into the buffer zone around it.
* stop two more big sand operations which are expected to start operating in the Stanley Rd/McGrady Rd Glen Forbes area soon.

Though some of these things are out of Council's immediate control, Council must stand against such moves by State Govt. This includes
*standing unequivocally against Dandy Premix Quarries proposal to expand its already damaging operations at its quarry in Grantville. According to Dick Wettenhall, these could have serious environmental consequences, not only on the land but in Western Port Bay.

Council is already standing up to be counted on some of these issues, but it must do far more. Small wins here and there are not enough. For instance, it must make it clear to the State Govt that our shire is not here to be exploited to provide cheap sand for Melbourne's infrastructure. In 2041, if our forests and fauna dependent on it are decimated and our currently relatively healthy bay possibly compromised by the sand extraction industry and with Phillip Island and San Remo already compromised by over-development, where will we be? Not where your Vision Statement document envisages, that's for sure.

Protection of the environment must be top priority if Bass Coast is to survive as a 'source of celebration for all who live in and visit the region'.

Council should advocate for and act decisively to establish a national park to protect the highly valuable remnant native vegetation between Lang Lang-Nyora to Grantville and beyond - virtually the last 5% if pre-European vegetation left after 95% of it was cleared. This would be Stage 1. Stage 2 could extend elsewhere in the Shire, such as Phillip Island. For Stage 1 of the national park, Council should buy the Holden Proving Ground and ensure the protection of the undeveloped areas and advocate to the State Govt for it to be added to all other existing reserves the the biolink, such as the Adams Creek, Hurdy Gurdy,

The Gurdies and Grantville Nature Conservation reserves, and also all foreshore land between Bass Landing and the Lang Lang River mouth. As more private land comes on the market and the opportunity arises, Council work to expand the national park.

Please note: While **Priorities 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.10** all sound good, they need to be more than hollow words mouthing the talk but not following through. To date, we have not seen enough to believe that actions to achieve these visions will take place. Again, please see general comments at the start of this document.

All Work Authorities should be reviewed and, where necessary to protect the environment, for example, the remainder of the Grantville Grass Tree Forest at risk of decimation or destruction on the Sand Supplies Pty Ltd site at Grantville and on the buffer zone, deals/trade-offs need to be negotiated.

Council must also do all in its power, with advocacy, the use of environmental overlays and the like, to persuade the State Government to cease supporting sand extraction along the Nyora-Lang Lang to Grantville and beyond.

Buying the Holden Proving Ground with community help and advocating for and ensuring the undeveloped part becomes a key part of a national park will be a big help here.

10.
Please note: While **Priorities 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.10** all sound good, they need to be more than hollow words mouthing the talk but not following through. To date, we have not seen enough to believe that actions to achieve these visions will take place. Please see general comments at the start of this document. as this has been discussed at length above. Priorities must include, for example, strong statements on the following:

(1) To protect our shorelines, Bass Coast must allow no development within 200 metres of the coast or strip development along the coast. Also non-urban land abutting the coast that is less than five metres above sea level and is within one kilometre of the coastline, is not to be rezoned for urban use unless the *new development will be located, designed and protected from potential coastal hazard to the extent practicable and … future management arrangements will ensure ongoing risk minimisation*.
(2) A priority to support the planting of mangroves where they were growing prior to European settlement should be included.
(3) We must commit to achieving at least the minimum of 75-80% survival of our species as stated below, but preferably 100%:

Pt1, p45 of the '**Bass Coast Shire Council Environment Sustainability Plan**, 2008 – 2013', p14 that: O*ne of the most critical local environmental issues for Bass Coast is that there is less than 10% indigenous bush remaining from pre 1700s. There is research and a common acceptance that if there is 35% cover of native vegetation then 75-80% of species can survive, but below that level extinctions can accelerate rapidly*. Then it must show how this is to be achieved.

If we are not to lose more species than we have already, our aim must be even higher than the above statement. Given the Sustainability quote above, we need to ask Zoology and Botany experts how much native vegetation is necessary to do this and how to best achieve our aspiration.

(4) We should make 'restoring the balance' the priority, not 'the balance of competing needs'; and make trying for a balance between competing needs for scarce resources as a secondary priority.
(5) We should not continue to allow the nibbling away of our rural and bush land.

11.
Yes.

It's a basic and broad comment that covers the situation.

12.
No.

13. **Priority 3.1** ***We have infrastructure investment that prioritises non-traditional modes of transport (e.g. centralised car parking, community transport, car share, bike share, scooter hire, electric charge points).***
3.1: Unless new technologies offer something easier and more convenient than a private vehicle, we do not think many people in Bass Coast would be in favour of prioritising non-traditional modes of transport. For example, older people who can't walk far or carry heavy loads far would not welcome centralised car parking.

Priority 3.2 ***We are advocating for better public transport access, reliability and connection across Bass Coast and to the Melbourne CBD.***
3.2: This is good but please be aware of the following incident outlined in a letter I wrote to my Ward councillors on 14.7.2019. We would to ensure it is not repeated.
"Sometimes the [2.50 pm] Friday VLine bus from Southern Cross to Grantville] bus is running late because of traffic and the driver, knowing he won't get to Anderson in time to meet the bus connection to Wonthaggi, has to ring and tee up a taxi for those going past Anderson towards Wonthaggi and Inverloch. On Friday, June 28 [2019], the bus was running very late. When a young man was ringing his mother in Wonthaggi to tell her he'd be very late getting to her place, I couldn't help overhearing him. He told her the bus he was on was too late for him to catch the connecting bus at Anderson (at 4.48 to 4.53 pm). He said he'd have to walk from Anderson to Kilcunda (he also mentioned Dalyston, so he could have been walking as far as there) and pick up the next bus when it got there. The next bus from Southern Cross was to leave at 4.55 pm and transfer its Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Cowes passengers to the Dandenong bus at Koo-Wee-Rup at 6.55 pm, and that bus was to get to Anderson at 7,16 pm, Kilcunda at 7.20 pm and Dalyston at 7.25 pm – if it was running on time.

When the young man got off the phone from his mother, who was quite distressed over the whole matter, I told him I couldn't help overhearing his conversation and didn't he know the driver would ring a taxi for him if the bus missed the connection. He said they did that only if there were multiple passengers, and he was the only one affected. I couldn't believe it! How could the bus company even think of dropping a person off in the cold and dark at Anderson and leaving him or her alone there for maybe two hours plus until the next bus, due at 7.16 pm but that could be later if running late?

Obviously the young man had no one he could call on for a lift and couldn't afford a taxi. Even if he was capable of walking the distance, how safe is the Anderson-Kilcunda-Dalyston stretch of road for a walker in dark clothes with a pack on his back after the sun has gone down on a winter's day? Sorry I don't know the name of the 'victim' so he could give you the whole story. Are you able to look in to this matter and do anything about it so that it doesn't happen to anyone else?"

Priority 3.3 We are prioritising walking and cycling through safe and well-connected pathways (e.g 20km/hr areas,shared and separated pathways).

Priority 3.4 We are reducing car use in main streets and activity centres through policy, pocket parks and outdoor dining (e.g. wider footpaths, closing streets).

3.4: We gather some of these suggestions, such as closing off parts of McBride Ave to car parking are contentious with locals. Sorry, no easy answers here.

13. ***Do you think the Access and Movement priorities reflect the Bass Coast community?***

3.4: No, as we gather some of these suggestions, such as closing off parts of McBride Ave to car parking, are contentious with locals. Sorry, no easy answers here.

14. **Do you think there is anything missing from the Access and Movement priorities? If yes, what is missing?**

It would be better to survey users of public transport, especially those with no alternative transport, for answers to this one.

15. Do you think the Education, Creative Economy and Industry aspiration reflects the Bass Coast community?
Broadly the aspiration is good. However, it does not include mention of First Nations.

16. Do you think there is anything missing from the Education, Creative Economy and Industry aspiration? If yes, what is missing?
Mention of First Nations and the establishment of an education/museum/cultural centre or whatever it is they would like as recognition of their traditional ownership of Bass Coast and their dispossession of that land by European settlers.

Priority 4.3 We have well-planned townships, preserving their unique identities. Our community members invest in and embrace local opportunities.

4.3: Currently not all townships are well-planned townships but hopefully long before 2041 there will be improvements.

Priority 4.4 We have industries and businesses that embrace innovation, share our environmental and community values, provide opportunities and strengthen our community.

4.4: While some industries and businesses might, others, such as sand companies, exploit the area's natural resources and then leave. Sand extraction companies, such as Dandy Premix Quarries in Grantville and Sand Supplies Pty Ltd adjacent to the Grantville Nature Conservation Reserve, have already demonstrated they do not share community values. Something needs to be done about this and, if necessary, 'trade-offs' or 'deals' need to be done to ensure no more of our precious natural assets are wiped out, as was the big part of the Grantville Grass Tree Forest decimated in late 2020 with more to go. Nor will aspirations save the biolink between Nyora/Lang Lang and Grantville and beyond nor ensure there will be no pollution of Western Port Bay from current Dandy Premix Quarries' proposals. Exploitative, unsustainable industries already given permission to exist in Bass Coast need to be reined in through education or review to be good neighbours or else deals should be done to stop them destroying what the community values and needs for continued life on Earth.

Priority 4.5 We are inspired by knowledge-sharing and learning across all generations and cultures.

4.5: Bass Coast, South Gippsland & islands | Port Phillip & Western Port Regional Catchment Strategy (rcs.vic.gov.au) states: *For tens of thousands of years, the Bunurong people used and cultivated the land, water, marine and coastal resources of the Bass Coast, South Gippsland and islands area. They continue to practice and strengthen their culture and care for Country and the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation is the Registered Aboriginal Party for the area.*

So to achieve the stated vision, at the very least our First Nations' people need some sort of a centre, which, if they pleased, they could use as a museum or education centre. If Council and the community buy the Holden Proving Ground, should it come up for sale, and/or the idea of a national park take off , we would like to see the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation become involved and share management of the HPG and national park. Depending on how management wishes to develop the area, it could consider making part of the developed part a First Nations' Centre with maybe an Education Cente and/or Museum to be set up as they wish. (Also see **1.11**.)

Priority 4.8 We have carefully planned, innovative, well-balanced and sustainable tourism that brings benefits to the whole community.

We live in hope.