

Bass Coast Shire: *Our Community Plan*

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Cardinia Shire

Western Port

LANG LANG

JAM JERRUP

French Island



Argton Peninsula Shire

THE GURDIES

LOCH

GRANTVILLE

CORINELLA

TENBY POINT

KERNOT

Western Port

CORONET BAY

South Gippsland Shire

VENTNOR

COWES

RHYLL

WIMBLEDON HEIGHTS

KROWERA

SMITHS BEACH

NEWHAVEN

BASS

WOOLAMAI

GLEN ALVIE
Lance Creek Reservoir

BASS COAST SHIRE

ANDERSON

KONGWAK

CAPE CAPE WOOLAMAI

SAN REMO

KILCUNDA

ARCHIES CREEK

WATTLE BANK

DALYSTON

BASS STRAIT

WONTHAGGI

INVERLOCH

Andersons Inlet

HARMERS HAVEN

CAPE PATERSON

Bass Coast Basics

- Predominantly coastal, with hilly farmland inland
- Resident population of 28,000: 29% of which is over the age of 60
- One of the highest population growth rates in Victoria
- Estimated to be 36,000 residents by 2020

Bass Coast Basics

- During peak holiday periods, Bass Coast's population exceeds 60,000
- Almost half of the ratepayers live outside of the municipality
- Main industries are retail, tourism, construction, agriculture and health & community services

Community Plan

- Developed in 2002
- 10 year plan
- Captures the hopes and aspirations of our community
- Coordinated by Council's Community Development Unit
- With rapid growth and change, how would we maintain sustainable, vibrant and healthy communities?

The Philosophy

- Community driven
- Developed by and for the community
- An opportunity to develop community leadership capacity
- Action-learning
- Council play facilitation role
- The Plan would provide a foundation for the 03/04 and future Council Plans

The Process

- Need for a Community Plan & skilled community leaders identified
- Funding from Regional Development Victoria
- Consultants engaged

The Process

- 8 geographical areas identified
- Members of the community identified and recruited to be part of Community Plan teams
- One leader/mentor for each team appointed
- 4 or 5 on each team, with a mix of age and gender

The Process

- Issues & information sourced: community survey, recent community consultations
- Information reviewed, refined and draft Local Area Vision produced
- Feedback meetings to review Local Area Vision, agree priorities

The Process

- Community Plan finalised
- Public comment invited
- Community Plan presented to Council & celebration
- Council publishes public response to Community Plan
- 2003/04 Corporate Plan developed based on Community Plan

Community Engagement

5 Ways:

- Community Plan coordinators researched existing community projects and recent consultations
- Community survey (>1,000 returned)
- Direct input by Community Plan teams
- Public workshops run by Community Plan teams
- Public comment on draft invited

Seven Themes

- Access & Transport
- Arts & Culture
- Economic Development
- Natural Environment
- Built Environment
- Community Wellbeing
- Learning

For each geographical area...

- A Vision
- An Objective for each theme
- Actions and Suggestions for each Objective

Implementation

- Community Plan to be used as a basis for local, state and federal government planning and decision making
- Incorporate Community Plan into Council Plan
- Community to support objectives through projects and work of community groups
- Review the Plan every 2 years

Implementation

- Teams to develop monitoring and review tools and processes
- Council to report on progress at Community Forums and Council publications

What worked well?

- Independent consultants
- Action-learning was effective
- Team Leaders felt empowered
- Plan articulates community needs and aspirations well and is a useful reference document

Challenges

- Difficult for Councillors and Council Staff to understand how it fits with Council Plan
- Only some objectives, actions and suggestions relate directly to Council “core business”
- If the Plan belongs to the community, then why is the onus seem to be on Council to implement it?

Challenges

- Engaging a balanced mix of community representatives on teams
- Keeping teams interested after the Plan was complete
- Maintaining the profile of the Plan in the community and within Council
- Teams didn't want the Plan as a "glossy"

Challenges

- Some actions and suggestions in the Plan could be considered unrealistic
- Community, Councillors and Council staff mindsets and confusion about Council's facilitation role and the community's role

Critical Success Factors

Based on our experience:

- Independent consultants
- Pay attention to building “buy-in” of community, Councillors and Council staff
- Very clear definition of how Community Plan fits with Council Plan and other Council-specific plans

Critical Success Factors

- Be clear about how the community “owns” the plan and what Council’s role is
- Need to work on keeping its profile afloat
- Develop processes for monitoring progress
- Follow through on actions and report on them
- Be creative

Thank you

Any questions?