

Red Head Villages Engagement Findings and Directions Report

Green Island, Manyana Beach and settlement north to Monument Beach. A. Lees

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Red Head Villages Community plan for
a sustainable future 2024-2030

Proudly facilitated by the Red Head
Villages Association



*We acknowledge the traditional
owners and custodians of this Country
and their continuing connection to the
Land through Culture and Community.
We pay our respects to Elders past,
present and future.*

*Images used in this document have been provided by local photographers.
With thanks to Martine Bright, Shannon Crumlin, George Davey, Lorraine Larri,
Alex Lees and Kim Walsh.*

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Endangered Piped Oyster Catcher. G. Davey



Black Cockatoo Mural, bus shelter, Bendalong.
Artists: S. Cole, S. Westaway, G. Walker. L. Larri



Stingray Mural, Boat Harbour Amenities Block. Artist: T. Ezza. L. Larri



Combined Pensioners and Superannuants members participating in the Blue Prints Project. L. Larri

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide a record of the community consultation process and findings that were synthesised into the Red Head Villages Community Plan for a Sustainable Future 2024-2030 (the Plan). This report is intended to be a companion resource and reference document to the Plan.

The 2019/2020 bushfires had a devastating impact on our communities across the east coast of Australia. In our community, the villages of Bendalong, North Bendalong, Berringer Lake, Cunjurong Point, Manyana, Bendalong Road and Nerringillah Road were cut off from each other on the last day of 2019 as the Currowan Mega-fire burnt through. This effectively isolated 3,000 residents and holiday makers leaving everyone responsible for their own and each other's welfare.

The aftermath of the fires for the native animals was apocalyptic. Up to 19 million hectares was burnt across Australia, with 12.6 million hectares being primarily forests and woodlands. Nearly 3 billion animals were impacted by the bushfires (WWF, 2023).

In 2020 funding became available to local communities for resilience, recovery and rebuilding and the Red Head Villages Association (RHVA) was successful in receiving a grant to undertake a local community-led strategic planning project. The RHVA recognised there was an opportunity for a community wide discussion on how we would like to see our community develop within the challenges of climate change and its impact on bushfires, coastal erosion, rising sea temperatures, biodiversity, species populations and unpredictable weather patterns.

We highly value the Red Head Villages for its natural environment, community connection, coastal character and low-density housing. We hold strong concern regarding the future impacts that climate

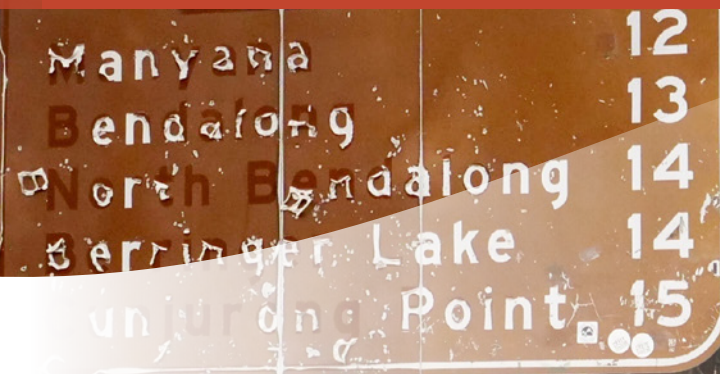
disruption, natural disasters, potential development and commercialisation, and poor infrastructure will have on the Red Head Villages.

This project was made possible by funding from the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal and Shoalhaven City Council. This document was developed collaboratively by the Committee of the RHVA, the Community Working Group (CWG), Locale Consulting, and Grammarfun. We acknowledge and thank everyone in the community who participated in the process and gave generously of their time and local knowledge.

In particular, the RHVA thanks the CWG members Martine Bright, Kerry Moore, Peter Hudson, and Lorraine Larri for successfully steering this project.



Burnt road sign after the fires. G. Davey



Kangaroo and burnt forest. G. Davey



Community consultation process

Before undertaking the community consultation, Locale Consulting in collaboration with the RHVA's Community Working Group (CWG), set the following framework for the involvement of the community in a consultative planning process.



Figure 1 The strategic planning community consultation process



Locale Consulting and RHVA CWG agree on framework for consultative planning process.

Agreed project plan, evaluation plan, and engagement and communications strategy.

Phase 1: Community awareness raising campaign.

Phase 2: Drop-in workshops and evaluation.

Phase 3: Survey developed from workshops and distributed.

Analyse and synthesise data from surveys and workshops.

Draft *Engagement findings and directions report, RHVA Community plan for a sustainable future 2024-2023, and RHVA Community plan @ a glance.*

Community feedback then documents finalised and presented to the community in a celebration.

Implementation

Phase 1: Community awareness raising

We wanted to involve as many people as possible in order to get a broad range of perspectives about what attributes make up the local character and identity of the villages, and what concerns people have for our future. In this project ‘the community’ included people who reside and holiday in our district. This decision recognised that many of our holiday makers own property here, have been visiting the area for generations, and are passionate about their connection here. Therefore, much effort was put into inviting people to register for the four drop-in sessions and the follow-up survey. This campaign stressed the importance of developing a community plan included:

- > *Have Your Say* leaflet with QR code for registration distributed to all households by a team of volunteers.
- > Email updates to people who registered at the community drop-in sessions and RHVA members
- > Community social media and Facebook pages
- > Posters displayed at public locations
- > Community members contacting our First Nations peoples, local interest groups, organisations and speaking at community meetings

Phase 2: Community sessions

Four two and a half hour community consultation sessions were held in October 2022 in which 180 people participated. The evaluations show that this was a very successful process that generated much valuable information about concerns for the future. This data was used to design a larger scale survey to inform the community strategic plan and agreed character statement.

Locations

The four drop-in sessions targeted different villages. Both permanent residents and holiday makers were invited. This was the schedule:

8 October 2022 - Holiday Haven Bendalong – Meeting Room

10:30-12:00- for people from Bendalong Rd and Bendalong.

13:30-15:00- for people from North Bendalong.

22 October 2022 - Manyana Hall, Yulunga Reserve

11:00-12:30- for people from Cunjurong Point and Berringer Lake.

11:00-12:30- for people from Manyana.



Activities

A total of 180 people participated in four community drop-in sessions involving the same three activities:

1. Workshop Style Discussion around 5 themes or influences.
2. Community Mapping of areas of concern.
3. ‘Storyboarding’ which invited a brief individual paragraph or drawing response about connection to this area.

Activity 1: Theme / influence discussions

Community members rotated through a series of five tables. At each table they were asked to write their thoughts on post-it notes about one of the five influences affecting us identified by the CWG- Climate Change, Conjola National Park, Community Social Interaction, Village Amenity, and Connectivity of Villages. Participants answered the

question: what concerns you about this theme? They then placed their concerns on post-it notes on poster-sized paper before moving to the next table. There was much lively informal discussion and quiet contemplation.

People also noted additional themes or influences on another poster-sized paper. A sixth theme, ‘Planning and the Built Environment’, emerged through the sessions and was incorporated into the survey design.

Activity 2: Community Mapping

Aerial maps of the district were laid out on a separate table for people to place their thoughts on post-it notes about specific locations. They answered these questions:

- > What elements of this space do you value? Why?
- > What opportunities do you see in this space?



Activity 3: Storyboarding

Individually, community members wrote why they value this area. These were collected and analysed by the CWG into topics (see **Figure 2**). Of the 180 people who were involved in workshops 110 participated in Activity 3 (61%).

Most comments related to a strong connection with nature, the environment, community, amenity, preservation and sustainability.

Echoes of the six themes were evident in many comments. For example, the values embodied in the ideas about

wildlife and the environment are linked to Conjola National Park and village amenity and underscore values about concern for climate change.

This word cloud (**Figure 3**) generated from the Activity 3 comments is another way of visually showing the same themes.



Figure 3 Word cloud generated from community workshop comments about what we value most

First Nations Contribution

The CWG and Locale Consulting kept in contact with some First Nations community members throughout the project to ensure their voices were included. The idea of specific yarn-ups were suggested as an ongoing consultative process. The RHVA will continue to involve our First Nations families in the refinement and implementation of the RHVA Community Plan for a Sustainable Future 2024-2030.

Figure 2 Analysis of storyboarding topics – what community values

TOPIC	SUBSET	COMMENT	NUMBER OF COMMENTS
ENVIRONMENT	Pristine beaches, nearby forest, need to protect, gain/pass on knowledge about flora and fauna, wonderful vistas, strong wish to keep property within the family	Freedom to explore and also not burdened by worry about crowds	82
WILDLIFE	Includes birds and marine, variety and access to view, educational value		20
SENSE OF COMMUNITY	Friendly, like-minded, helpful, synergy in many being climate aware	Appreciation for community being proactive	29
SOLITUDE / PEACEFULNESS	Separation from large centres, isolation due to Conjola National Park, accessing beaches and forest without crowds		19
NO SHOPS	No clubs, pubs or poker machines, willingness to travel to Milton etc. to purchase items rather than add infrastructure here	1 person advocated for a shopping centre and another for more local commercial opportunities	21
VILLAGE AMENITY	Small size, separate villages, easy beach/forest access		16
FIRST NATIONS	Better understanding of what/why they respect the area		2

Community sessions findings and directions

Analysis of the three activities overall by Locale Consulting identified participants shared the main concerns and opportunities for change listed in **Figure 4**.

Figure 4 Main concerns distilled from the community sessions

THEME	CONCERN	EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS
Climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring preparedness for natural disasters Better understanding and responding to the impacts of climate change (e.g. coastal erosion, bushfire) on the area Improving waste management Establishing a co-op or 'swap space' for food and white goods Reducing reliance on electricity from the grid 	<p><i>The community is climate aware.</i></p> <p><i>The community has always rallied to preserve our natural environment.</i></p> <p><i>There is a growing sense of community (perhaps resulting from recent crises shared).</i></p> <p><i>I value the fabulous volunteers that keep our villages safe.</i></p>
Conjola National Park and connection to nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating or expanding protected natural areas (e.g. expanding Conjola National Park, establishing a marine park) Advocating for greater Aboriginal involvement in the management of natural areas Recognition of heritage and cultural values Improving and connecting wildlife corridors Improving access points to the beaches 	<p><i>Locals are similarly like-minded in caring for and protecting the environment.</i></p> <p><i>At the moment the natural environment is bigger than what we humans have created and we need to keep it that way.</i></p> <p><i>Valuing the indigenous community and supporting greater cultural awareness and connection to "country" and how to care for it</i></p> <p><i>We have to respect what we have and what brought us all here.</i></p> <p><i>It is situated in a beautiful natural environment not spoilt by mega tourism and overdevelopment.</i></p> <p><i>In the 90s people starting poisoning trees to improve their view of Wreck Bay. It would be good to replace lots of that vegetation, especially as the ocean incrementally eats away at the shoreline.</i></p>
Community social interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrating the enriching community spirit and atmosphere Hosting more community centred events (e.g. markets, festivals) Establishing a character statement for the Red Head Villages 	<p><i>The ambience that existing low key development creates is what sets this place apart from all other coastal villages four hours from Sydney.</i></p> <p><i>Part of its charm is the fact there is nothing here commercial wise, just nature in all its glory.</i></p> <p><i>The attraction of this area is that it is out of the way and doesn't have through traffic/tourists.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to see the community grow in a guided, strategic way.</i></p> <p><i>We don't need shopping centres and trendy cafes. Please keep our villages as villages. Don't let them turn into one large suburb.</i></p>

Figure 4 continued

THEME	CONCERN	EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS
Village amenity	<p>Stopping, or limiting housing or commercial development, particularly that which impacts on coastal character and the natural environment</p> <p>Preserving the Don Hearn's reserve</p>	<p><i>The five villages constitute one of the few (and getting fewer) classic Aussie beachside communities. In a spectacular bush and beach surrounding, they remain low key and quite close knit.</i></p> <p><i>Many of the NSW coastal towns and villages have been transformed by development, losing their local character, and going from being communities to investment opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>While development is inevitable, as is the need to provide holiday accommodation for those not so fortunate as to own a property, there should be controls to ensure that it is appropriate and in keeping with this character.</i></p> <p><i>One of the major consequences if inappropriate development is the inadequacy of services, and more critically, the provision of emergency services. We saw in the 2020 Fires how vulnerable the villages were, and it was as much due to good luck as good management that there was not a repeat of the Lake Conjola tragedy. Unfettered development will add significantly to this problem.</i></p> <p><i>Old style housing of small footprint on blocks so green access to animals, birds, insects are plentiful.</i></p> <p><i>The beauty of the bush, nature, wildlife, the ocean, the lake, walking trails and the peacefulness. May it never change.</i></p> <p><i>Cunjurong Point has no houses visible on the headland. Worth maintaining.</i></p>
Connectivity of villages	<p>Establishing more connecting pathways and cycle paths</p> <p>Maintaining green areas that delineate villages, whilst supporting connectivity between villages</p> <p>Improving road conditions, particularly Bendalong Road</p>	<p><i>The level of community involvement in preserving the natural environment and in volunteering to improve local infrastructure such as the Pathways Project connecting our villages.</i></p> <p><i>The unspoilt natural environment separating our village is unique. People come here to enjoy this uniqueness. Developers don't value this place.</i></p>



Evaluation of community sessions

At the end of each workshop, participants were asked to answer a questionnaire about the effectiveness of the process. The objective was to progressively improve each workshop session and to consolidate impressions of key concerns. See Appendix A for a copy of the evaluation questionnaire.

Who participated

Of the 180 community members that attended the drop-in sessions, 100 (56%) evaluations were completed. Not all respondents answered all the questions. Some demographic data was collected from the third and fourth sessions. The data show that the majority of participants were full-time residents (43, or 78%), 11 (20%) were holiday home owner regular visitors and 1 (2%) was a visitor renting. Most of the people were aged between 45 and 74 years old (49, 89%) and there were more women (32, 58%) than men (23, 42%).

There was some criticism that absent property owners had not been included in the process. Whilst this group were considered, unfortunately, the Phase 1 Community Awareness Campaign was not able to access Shoalhaven City Council records to notify all property owners and had to rely on social media and local letterboxing to spread the word. It was hoped that the survey could draw in more of this group.

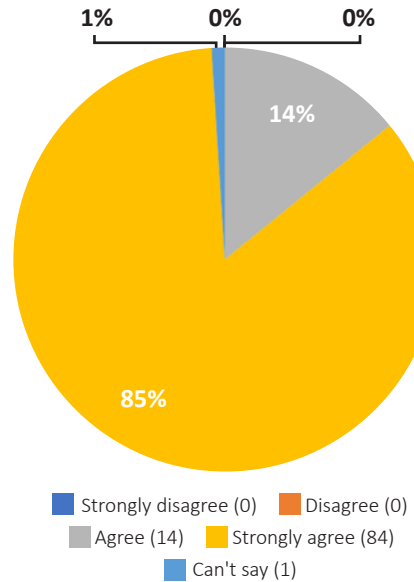
Satisfaction with the project and the process

Overall, the evaluations showed very strong support for and deep engagement with the workshop process. Some typical comments were:

- > *I was very happy with how this was conducted. I felt encouraged to speak my truth in a friendly environment. It was important to me that I was given this opportunity in a face-to-face format. Also liked the different 'stations' to provide feedback. Thank you so very much for your time and efforts in endeavouring to discover what is important to our community, and please keep collecting our stories.*
- > *Thank you - well presented, sufficient time, looking forward to feedback and ongoing process.*
- > *This session was extremely well thought out and well presented.*
- > *Activities were good for people who wouldn't get up and speak at a public forum.*
- > *I enjoyed this process and don't have a suggestion for any way this particular session could be improved.*

Figure 5 Support for the planning process

Statement: *This is an important project for our community.* (n=99)



Overwhelmingly, the majority of workshop participants (85%) indicated they supported the community strategic planning process as very important and valuable. See **Figure 5**.

Participants considered that having a plan for the future of our area was important because this gives the community a voice to all levels of government decision-making about the environment, development, and preserving the unique character for future generations. The word cloud (**Figure 6**) generated from responses emphasise these themes. The examples of comments provided in **Figure 7** emphasise these themes.



Figure 6 Importance of having a plan for the future- word cloud generated from 100 comments

Figure 7 Importance of having a plan for the future – some typical comments

THEME	EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL COMMENT
Importance of having a community voice	<p><i>Without a plan, we plan to fail (or in this instance, not have a voice).</i></p> <p><i>The community has important things to say that should be known to the authorities.</i></p> <p><i>It articulates and provides a record of how the community is looking towards the future to maintain community development to ensure character and small footprint is extended and remains.</i></p> <p><i>Vital to have a strategic plan, ensure all voices are heard, will need to find win-win with regards to future development.</i></p> <p><i>It can be used as the community voice in strategic development and planning applications.</i></p>
Planning for future generations	<p><i>With even the best of intentions, things will not progress otherwise. This special part of the coast is a gem that needs to be preserved and looked after. I want my family, kids and grandkids to be able to enjoy it.</i></p> <p><i>We are prepared for future development proposals.</i></p> <p><i>It allows for both development and preservation and gives guiding principles around both.</i></p> <p><i>We don't want overdevelopment and any more retail or commercial sites. Shops will bring undesirables to the area because they don't have to travel for services and amenities.</i></p> <p><i>Being a long term resident it seems that every few years the community has to rally against inappropriate development. It would be great to have a formalised document that could be used as a reference when DA's occur.</i></p> <p><i>It should stop us having to fight continuously against inappropriate and unsustainable development.</i></p> <p><i>The area is too beautiful to be destroyed by poor planning decisions.</i></p> <p><i>The last thing I want to see is unregulated over development and development that has no sensitivity to the unique character of the area.</i></p> <p><i>With growing population pressures we can no longer afford unplanned development.</i></p>

Overall, the majority of participants were very positive about the workshop process. They were satisfied there was enough time and encouragement for them to express their ideas and concerns for the future of the district (98, 99%); and felt they were better informed about the planning process which the community had initiated (94, 95%). This is an overwhelmingly positive response. See **Figures 8** and **9**.

Figure 8 Participant satisfaction with the workshop length and inclusivity

Statement: *There was enough time and encouragement for me to express my ideas and concerns.* (n=99)

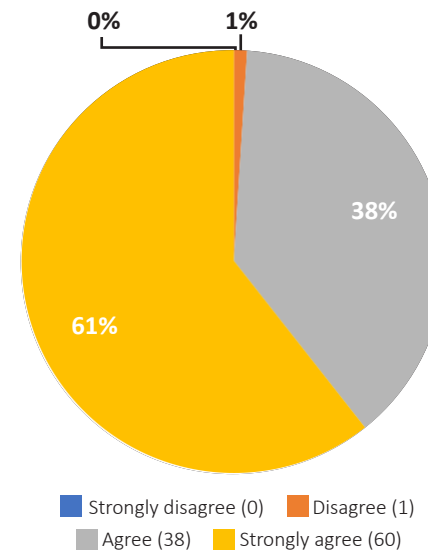
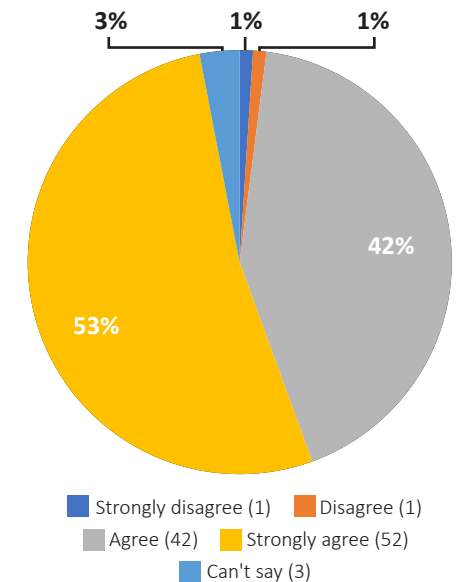


Figure 9 Participant satisfaction in being better informed about the planning project

Statement: *This project has helped me feel better informed about the planning process.* (n=99)



Suggestions for improvements included:

- > A shorter less leading introduction (2) with information about what happens with the “plan” after our brainstorming rather than before (1).
- > More time to consider the themes beforehand (3) to have been better prepared
- > Information about how the plan might fit with the Shoalhaven City Council planning and funding allocation (3).
- > Wanting more people to come and make their feelings heard, some neighbours were unwilling to come (1).
- > Recognition that all 5 villages are one community, not disconnected (1).
- > Online participation (2). (Note: this was able to be achieved with the next step of the community engagement process, the survey.)
- > It does not feel safe to write, we need shops and development
- > The referenced climate change concerns context. Possible overstatement?

Two thirds of participants (67, 67%) were totally satisfied with the spread of topics addressed in the workshops. This confirms that the workshop process was fairly comprehensive and opened up options for people to add their views. Additional topics were suggested for ongoing discussion. These were also considered in designing the survey and relevant to inclusion in the RHVA Community Plan for a Sustainable Future 2024-2030. Here is the list:

- > Funding for our community to help ourselves
- > Health and well-being of all and equity of access
- > Defibrillators
- > Plan for fire prevention
- > Maintenance of Bendalong Road
- > Track and path maintenance
- > The level of infrastructure for the new homes and holiday makers
- > Housing affordability
- > How to limit putting 4 houses on a 1,000 sq. m. block. Is it zoning, is it DCP?
- > Facilities for older residents and youth

- > Interactions among permanent residents, part-time residents and visitors
- > Diversity of community interests
- > Community solar power
- > First Nations community connections to the area
- > Protection of wildlife
- > Seal colony at Bendalong
- > A marine reserve at North Bendalong

- > Longer range concepts
- > More “off leash” areas for dogs e.g. winter access to beaches when birds are not breeding

Most important issues for participants

The impacts of development on the natural environment and the coastal hamlet character of the villages were considered the most relevant or important issues for many participants. The word cloud in **Figure 10** was generated from the responses to a question about this.



Figure 10 Word cloud of the most important or relevant issues



Examples of typical comments related to ensuring housing and infrastructure development that is sensitive to preservation and protection of the natural environment and within character included:

- > *Keeping balance between development and sustainability, increasing community facilities to come together.*
- > *My first preference would be no further development of our villages but if there is any development that is done in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable way with full consultation with the community. I want our beautiful environment to be protected for generations to come.*
- > *Sensitive development - no more monstrosities. Getting rid of feral animals and plants. More planting of vegetation for birds and mammals. Keeping the area small and beautiful.*
- > *Control development. We know it will happen, but needs strong guidelines implemented.*
- > *The natural environment, address climate change - landslide, appropriate development.*

- > *Protection of the natural environment, maintaining the village atmosphere, stopping inappropriate development.*
- > *Keeping further development at a reasonable sustainable level because road use will be increased, also sewerage and drainage.*
- > *I don't want any bushland destroyed. The bushland should be retained and nurtured. It should become national park or CO₂ offset. I don't want the threat of property developers destroying this place to continue. It has been hanging over us for years.*

Community cohesion was also raised as an important issue with this comment suggesting ways for the community to come together:

- > *Looking for ways to celebrate and engage support from First Nations people. Offer a great community experience - outdoor places, music, getting people together. Can we be like Byron Bay in the old days? Can we have a community shop to share and trade food? Bush tucker cafe / restaurant? Can we offer foraging trips for kids with our local First Nations people?*

Phase 3: Survey

This section documents the findings of the community survey which was intended to confirm the strategic concerns of people who reside and holiday in our district. The survey was designed by the independent Locale Consulting based on data from the community workshops. In this section we have also included majority and minority views of the discussion themes and issues. All comments are presented here in the interests of inclusive representation and as documentation of concerns that also need to be considered when planning for the future.

The information gained from the survey data was then analysed and synthesised into the ***Red Head Villages Community Plan for a Sustainable Future 2024-2030***.

Community members were invited to complete the survey either online or paper-based from 5 April to 31 May 2023. Hard copies of the survey were made available at Bendalong General Store and The Deli at Cunjurong Point. Volunteers promoted this survey extensively in many different ways:

- > Direct emails to people who registered at the community drop-in workshops and to RHVA members
- > Community social media pages, including Facebook
- > Posters at various public locations
- > Leaflets to letter boxes in all villages
- > Electronic community information hubs at Manyana Hall and Holiday Haven Bendalong
- > Requests were made to Shoalhaven City Council to access their database of all property owners and alert them to the survey through rate notices but this was not possible

The survey included qualitative and quantitative questions that built on the drop-in workshops held in October 2022. See Appendix B for a copy of the Red Head Villages Survey: Planning for a Sustainable Future.

Figure 11 Poster promoting the community survey.



Planning for a Sustainable Future

The Red Head Villages Association, in conjunction with Locale Consulting, is developing the Red Head Villages Plan for a Sustainable Future.

Following well-attended community consultation sessions held in October 2022, we want to share the key themes that emerged and hear from as many residents and visitors as possible about their vision for our villages. We hope you will take a few minutes to complete our survey. Your responses will help build a more complete and representative picture of what a sustainable future looks like for the Red Head villages



If you would prefer to complete a hard copy survey you can print the pdf version from the RHVA website rhva.org.au or collect a hard copy from Bendy Hub, Bendalong General Store or The Deli Cunjurong.

Completed hard copies can be deposited in the collection boxes at The Bendalong General Store or The Deli Cunjurong. If that's not convenient, then post to: PO Box 2015, BENDALONG NSW 2539.

The survey is open from
8 April - 8 May 2023
so just use QR code
to have your say:



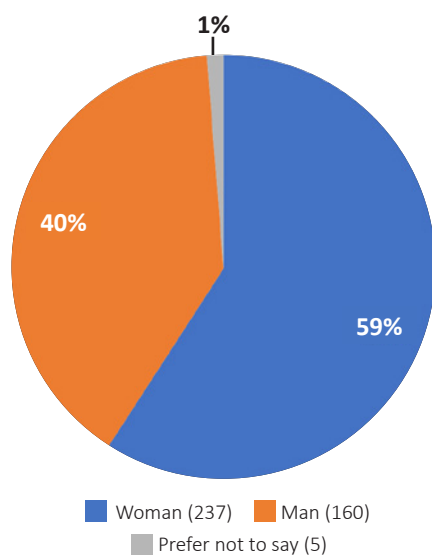
Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this important project about our future.

Survey results

A total of 406 people completed the survey, approximately 10% of whom used a paper based version. The survey was completed by more women (237, 59%) than men (160, 40%). See **Figure 12**.

Figure 12 Survey participants by gender

A total of 402 people answered this question, 4 skipped the question



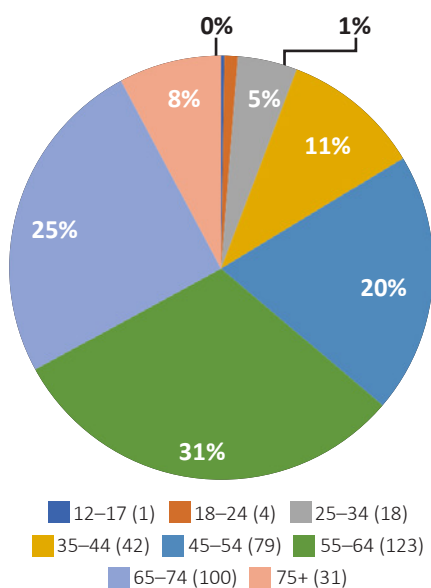
Note: The data were checked against the "all records" file to ascertain whether additional comments to "I identify my gender as ..." were included in the overall count. Only one addition to "female" and two additions to "male" were required. There were four respondents who skipped the question. Thus the total number of survey respondents were 406 - with females = 237; males = 160; prefer not to say = 5 i.e. a total of 402 who answered.

Throughout this report we have included the number of people who answered each question. This is because not all respondents answered all questions. On average a statistically significant number, over 80% (at least 330) of respondents answered the questions.

Most of the 398 people who answered the age question were aged between 45 and 74 (333, 76%). Nearly a quarter of people who completed the survey were under 45. **Figure 13** shows the general proportions of survey participants' age ranges.

Figure 13 Survey participants by age groups

A total of 398 answered this question



The majority were permanent residents (53%, 203), with a further 29% (113) were part-time residents. Some 21% (81) people were non-resident property owners. Only 3% (13) were visitors who rented a holiday home, camped or stayed in their caravans. Three people were also traditional owners. Another six people were also business owners or operators, with three of these being permanent residents.

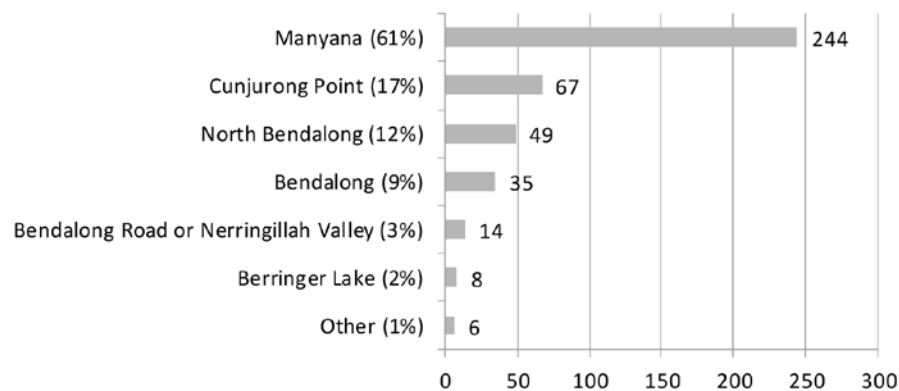
Four percent (15 people) had accessibility concerns that identified the lack of safe access to beaches due to poorly maintained tracks.

Figure 14 shows the particular locations where survey participants resided (either permanently or as visitors).

Figure 14 Survey participants by residence

Where respondents live or were closely aligned to.

(Note: 4 people chose more than one location.)



All five villages and people living along the Bendalong Road or in the Nerringillah Valley were represented. The majority of respondents live or are closely aligned to Manyana (61%, 244).

The 2021 Australian Bureau of Statistics census data for residents normally living in four of the five Red Head Villages is reasonably consistent with the demographic data of the survey, which was open to non-permanent residents. Of the 988 dwellings only 40% (393) are permanently occupied, leaving 60% (595) unoccupied most of the time (2021 Census All persons QuickStats).

Figure 15 2021 census data for most Red Head Villages with comparison to survey respondent data

	MANYANA	BENDALONG & NORTH BENDALONG	CUNJURONG PT	BERRINGER LAKE	TOTAL 2021 CENSUS	TOTAL SURVEY RESPONDENTS ¹
Place of usual residence	670	135	111	30	946	406
Total males	53.2%	57.8%	52.9%	58.1%		40%
Total females	46.8%	42.2%	47.1%	41.9%		59%
Median age	55	55	60	(data		
45-74yrs	51.6%	50.4%	68.8%	unavailable)		76%
20-44yrs	23.2%	16%	20%			24%

Note: Survey respondent data includes full-time, part-time residents and holiday-makers whereas the Census 2021 data only includes permanent residents, therefore the comparison is indicative only.

Climate change

It was clear from the responses about climate change that the 2019/2020 fire, which threatened the community and isolated it was an ongoing trauma causing better preparedness for future catastrophic events. Coastal erosion was a strong second priority, with people proposing mitigation strategies. Of the 333 people, 63 (18.9%) added further comments.

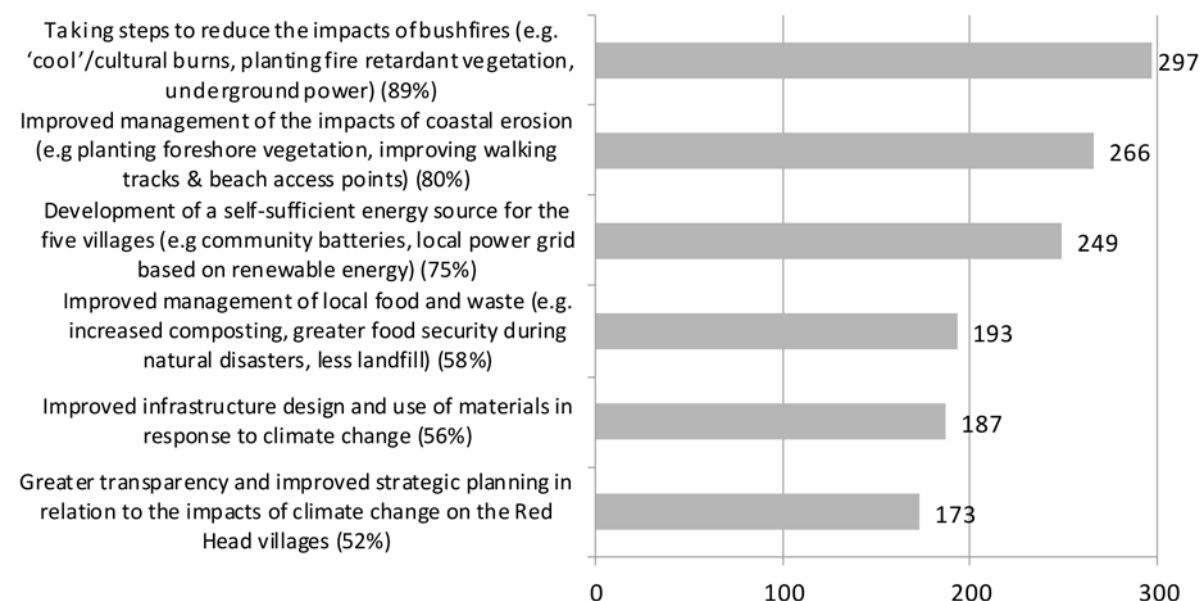
Suggestions for how the community could work with Shoalhaven City Council and government agencies to mitigate the impact of climate disruption stressed this should be a shared responsibility at all levels. Here are some typical examples:

- > *There is a need for the Shoalhaven Council to provide better leadership in addressing the impact of climate change in the communities and support for our small community.*
- > *Addressing climate change is about both mitigation (reducing emissions) and adaptation (increasing physical and mental resilience). It is important that the strategy for our community addresses both.*
- > *Responding to climate change is a whole of society issue. It is really important to do this well. Developing systems to deal with it at a very local level can be*

Figure 16 Survey data about climate change theme

Climate Change - top issues

(A total of 333 people answered this question.)



ineffective. It would be better to see regulations developed at a whole Council level and then mandated green friendly or new construction and infrastructure development. I don't see underground power as a good use of resources as it is very expensive and is more to deal with an eyesore than anything to do with climate.

- > *Governing agencies need to step in and take the load off the community and drive our climate resilience initiatives for e.g. battery storage, increased water storage on residential properties.*
- > *We should advocate for an improved response by government to the projected impact of coastal inundation on the local coastline.*
- > *Re-wilding our oceans is critical to restoring our planet and combating climate change. We, as a community, can assist with this and advocate for the NSW Govt Marine Park of Jervis Bay to be extended to include our area.*
- > *What consideration is being made for planned retreat when a 10m sea level rise is anticipated in the next century?*

Resilience though maintaining energy, water and natural / green space resources were emphasised in the following comments about and water security. These included:

Off-grid energy

- > *A group battery would be magnificent for responsible climate action, efficiency and monetary cost.*
- > *It would be interesting to see what procedures are required for a bank of batteries or community battery not to become a liability during a bushfire. For the record, I'm in favour of investigating the value of a community battery.*
- > *We could learn from other communities e.g. Wollongong where they are trialling ways to electrify homes faster.*

Water security

- > *We need to increase water storage, roof top sprinklers, drinking water in emergency.*
- > *We need to be catching and storing vast amounts of water to feed sprinkler systems that will operate when the power goes out along with ensuring our properties are planted appropriately. The*

technologies and the knowledge exist to plant and plan our village to be resilient to these impacts. A huge issue remains: it is a mostly empty village that expands during fire season. Lodged fire plans should be essential for anyone staying here in summer.

Greenspaces

- > *Improved infrastructure materials is already well on the planning regulations. Green management is appalling and all landowners be made responsible for maintenance. It costs us a fortune to maintain our green space/ trees to bring the birds.*

Minority views

Of the 63 comments about climate change, 4 (6.4%) expressed scepticism for either climate change or relying on renewable energy:

- > *Climate did and is and always will change.*
- > *Think it's a huge money grab. Once you research it, you'll find the money trail.*
- > *Climate change is an agenda, you are all being fooled.*

- > *Forget climate change, only focus on proven and accepted science consensus from the main stream science fraternity, not just from so called "climate scientists" or idealists.*
- > *Are we happy to have 252 square km of windmills off Ulladulla? Australia is the only country in the world trying to phase out coal fired power without having nuclear in the mix of solutions. Wind and solar won't cut it.*

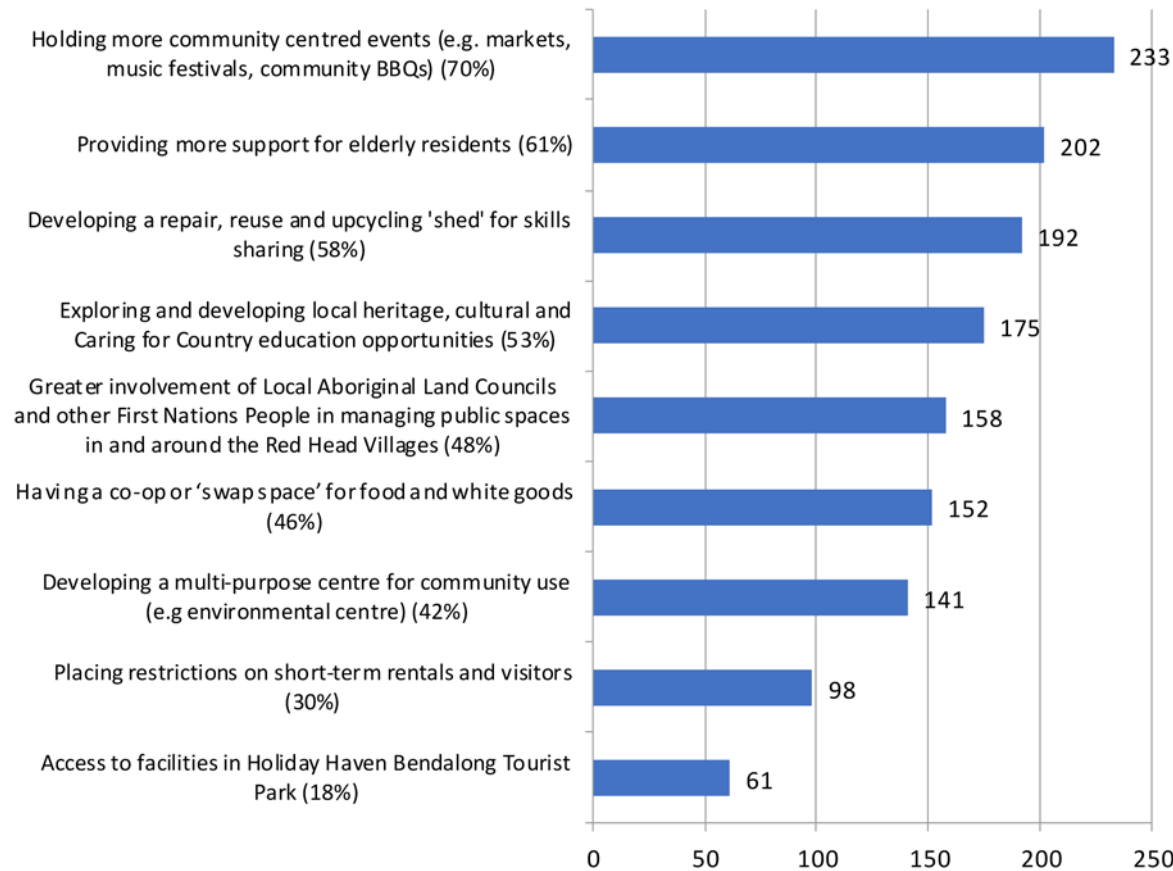
Community social interaction

Holding more community events were a top priority for the theme of community social interaction, More support for older residents came second, closely followed by a concern to share repair and repurposing skills, which would support social interaction. Of the 332 people, 56 (15.7%) added further comments. The many different responses indicate much interest and creativity in promoting community social interaction. One comment stressed the importance of mechanisms by which people can share ideas and work together, such as the RHVA require member engagement, strong communication, and leadership by volunteers.

Figure 17 Survey data about community social interaction theme

Community Social Interaction - top issues

(A total of 332 people answered this question)



Suggestions for ways the community could get together and encourage a sense of community pride and resilience included the following events and facilities:

- > In our isolated community opportunities such as events, an annual festival, or a community centre etc. are important to bring

people together and gain a sense of community and well-being.

- > Face-to-face events are very important as they allow opportunity for genuine and authentic interaction. While digital communication has its role, successful strategies will rely

heavily on us pulling together as an "IRL" (in real life) community so that we can use our diversity (in all its forms) for our collective benefit.

- > A tool library would be good. I have lived in areas where this has been a community based set up.
- > Council should buy the 'Commercial Zone' on Inyadda Drive for community facilities.
- > Explore option for Cunjurong Point fire station which will become available with proposed new fire station.
- > The Bendalong community urgently needs a community meeting space. We no longer have access to fire shed so our community is fractured. The fire shed should become a central community space for meeting, BBQs, swaps of goods, craft groups and offered to a church group for gatherings.
- > Maintaining and building on existing community spaces like the hall is a great way to bring the community together. Places that welcome all and encourage inclusion.
- > I would like to see an indoor community gym as it's too far to get into town regularly enough. It would be of benefit to residents of all ages and build social connections and prevent health decline.



- > Development cannot take place unless we have schools a medical centre with a doctor and safe transportation especially when fire events occur.
- > The local hall is a great focal point for the community. Making it more accessible is a good idea.

Specific support for older people included:

- > *Action assistance plan to offer assistance to elderly residents living alone.*
- > *I believe the lookouts at the popular surfing breaks are very important community meeting places. Lots of old semi-retired (from surfing) visit these lookouts for social interaction & community. These lookouts should be recognised and developed i.e. purpose built, under cover platforms.*

Opportunities for youth were highlighted in this comment:

- > *Provide education and opportunities for youth re environmental and indigenous issues.*

People were also concerned about the effect of short term rentals, public transport on the sense of community as shown in these comments:

- > *Too many Airbnb's which means less sense of community.*

- > *Placing restrictions on short term rentals and visitors is discriminatory and a breach of human rights. I was a short term renter and visitor to the area before moving here permanently.*

- > *Maybe use of small commute bus on a weekly or fortnightly basis to take residents into Milton, for acute service.*

- > *A local bus which ran maybe twice a week to Ulladulla and Nowra stopping off at other isolated communities would be a huge benefit and asset to the area.*

Minority views

Of the 56 comments about community social interaction, 7 (12.5%) specifically expressed opposition to the general consensus. 4 voiced concerns about either how to limit short term rental accommodation, 2 about feeling excluded as a visitor or newcomer and 1 about the methodology for workshop activities analysis:

- > *You can't place restrictions on visitors, that is absolutely absurd we are not an elitist community, that is discriminatory and not a community value that I hope many share.*

- > *Placing restrictions on short term rentals and visitors is discriminatory and a breach of human rights. I was a short term renter and visitor*

to the area before moving here permanently. You can't forcibly exclude people just because you want a certain way of life. Short term rentals and visitors bring money to local businesses and without them. The whole place might be permanent residents. Then it would be very busy!

- > *Not sure what restrictions people are suggesting to visitors, but it sounds aggressive and unwelcoming. The villages are towns or areas like anywhere else, not a gated community.*

- > *I would like to know how you can restrict short term rentals and visitors.*

- > *Geographical discrimination against people who visit the area needs to be addressed. We all come from somewhere and it's horrible as a visitor to the area.*

- > *Let new and young people in! Stop being so selfish! It is so a toxic environment, this is not even funny. Never felt so neglected and never experiences so snobbish and disrespectful attitudes as from locals in Manyana and Bendalong. This is not your private haven, young families want to be able to build their life there as well and raise kids. Locals do everything to evict new people from the area.*

- > *Fairly certain that the biased Manyana Matters member has handpicked these as not what I recall seeing in our workshop.*

Conjola National Park

Almost 80% of people answering this question considered wildlife corridors to be the major issue to support Conjola National Park. This underscores the community's substantial awareness of its place within its natural environment. With nearly as much support, there was concern to halt any development which would affect Conjola National Park. Of the 332 people, 58 (17.5%) added further comments. Concerns about wildlife protection took many forms: balanced development, motorbike and 4WD vehicle management, dog and cat control, weed reduction, cultural burns and (mostly) support for a marine park.

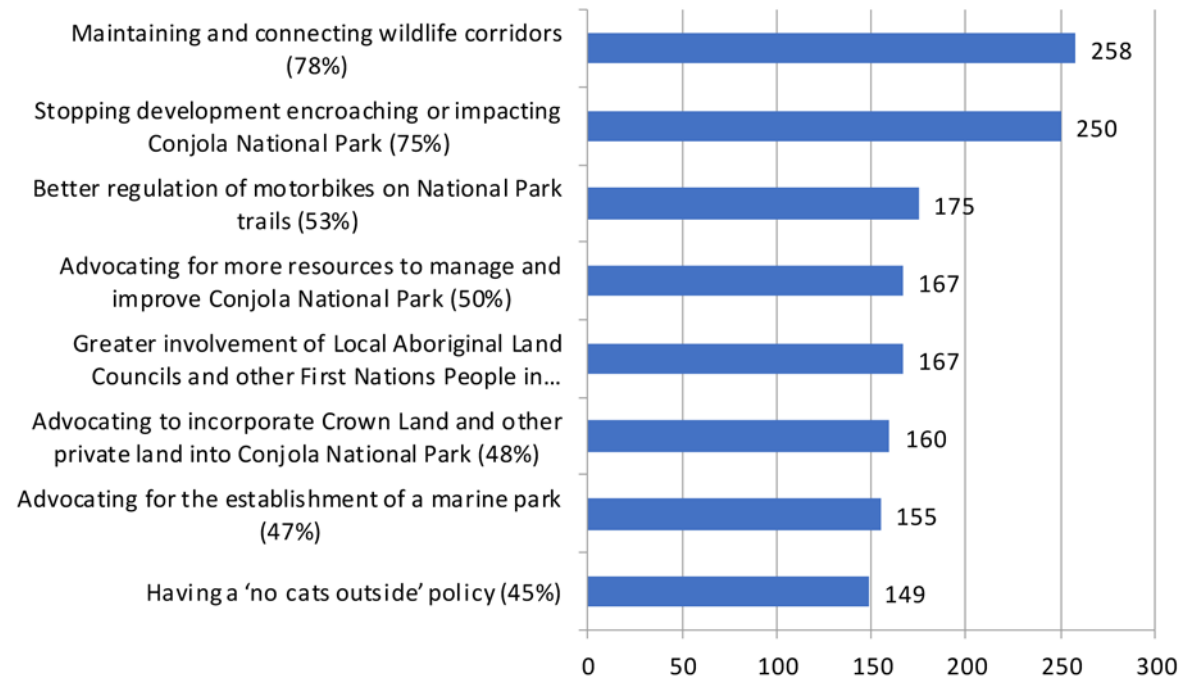
Community members appreciated the efforts the community had made to get the national park established and the importance of wildlife corridors nearby.

- > *Amazing that this went from a Mega Tip to a National Park through passionate campaigning and advocacy by residents.*
- > *It is critical the 3 levels of government work together to stop the ongoing development proposals on North Manyana Estate and gazette the land and other 'corridors' of land not developed into the Conjola National Park. There are opportunities for governments to develop ecotourism opportunities with walking paths,*

Figure 18 Survey data about Conjola National Park theme

Conjola National Park- top issues

(A total of 332 people answered this question.)



cycling, accommodation in our area and attract visitors without spoiling it with over development.

- > *The issue three years ago was to stop development until the bush had recovered. Without private land being able to be developed in accordance with current planning rules then it will be difficult to implement other initiatives to improve the amenity of the local area. It is frustrating that the conversation continues to be an all or nothing approach to development.*

What about a compromise on existing private land development to develop it in line with sustainable approaches?

The following strategies to better manage the park were suggested:

- > *National Parks need to clear invasive species, control feral animals, including cats and dogs, and maintain access for tracks, not just close them off. Better management of unleashed animals on bird nesting beaches.*

- > *Better regulation of our fire trails. Closing fire trails after significant rain to stop the fire trails being ripped up by motorbikes and 4WDs which in turn make these trails sometimes impassable by other users (hikers, E mountain bikers.).*

- > *Motor bike management on trails, as it also impacts on maintaining and connecting wildlife corridors.*
- > *Regulate the 4x4 in the park. Much worse than the motorbikes. They*

destroy important access roads and leave a muddy mess that washes to the rivers.

- > *Eradication of introduced plant species (lantana etc.) around public spaces, beaches, headlands & replanting with native species.*
- > *Look into cultural burns.*
- > *Greater involvement of Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other First Nations People in managing Conjola National Park.*

Companion animals and Conjola National Park were mentioned in these comments:

- > *Dog walking is a very popular pastime here. We should be careful that adding land to the national park doesn't restrict dog walking.*
- > *Too many rules and regulations are not the answer. How about we educate people on why cats shouldn't be outside, not make it a policy.*

Concern for our marine environment related to recreational fishers not following regulations and whether a marine park was needed:

- > *I like the idea of establishing a marine park as mentioned above - re-wilding our oceans is a key step for us to manage climate change and we can support this through this move.*



- > *Marine park would be excellent. The jet skis seem so inappropriate in our waters and in summer dangerous for ocean swimmers.*
- > *There are a lot of shell-fish fishermen who do not follow the rules on maximum catches. This needs to stop with better surveillance.*
- > *No need for a marine park... the area isn't being overfished by recreational fisherman, spearfisherman & divers. A lot of locals enjoy the lifestyle of these activities. If anything, it is the few visitors who participate in these activities & disrespect the legal fishing sizes/limits. Seen it firsthand. Crack down on visitors, most locals & regular people to the region are doing the right thing. Marine park is not needed, please don't restrict the local lifestyle in this way.*
- > *Again, are we not all from the same country and should be working together as 'one' and [not] dividing people and cultures? [Access] as for any vehicle - as long as registered and licensed.*
- > *Maintain access for tracks not just close them off. Encourage campsites.*
- > *The other options are only to stop development which will not help any renters in the area.*
- > *Once again this seems to be worded by the local environmental group.*

Minority views

Of the 58 comments about Conjola National Park, 4 (6.9%) made contrasting suggestions. 2 wanted more vehicle access, 1 took the opportunity to disagree with "stopping housing development" (although the majority were more concerned about planned future housing development, not ceasing it altogether) and 1 voiced scepticism about the legitimacy of the theme itself:

Village Amenity

A significant majority of people (78%) who ranked this theme were concerned to ensure that the amenity of the villages is maintained when new development occurs. This emphasises the values that underpin the Red Head Villages character statement (see RHVA Community Plan for a Sustainable Future). Of the 333 people, 68 (20.4%) added further comments. There were similar reasons for maintaining the village amenity as for protecting wildlife in Conjola National Park.

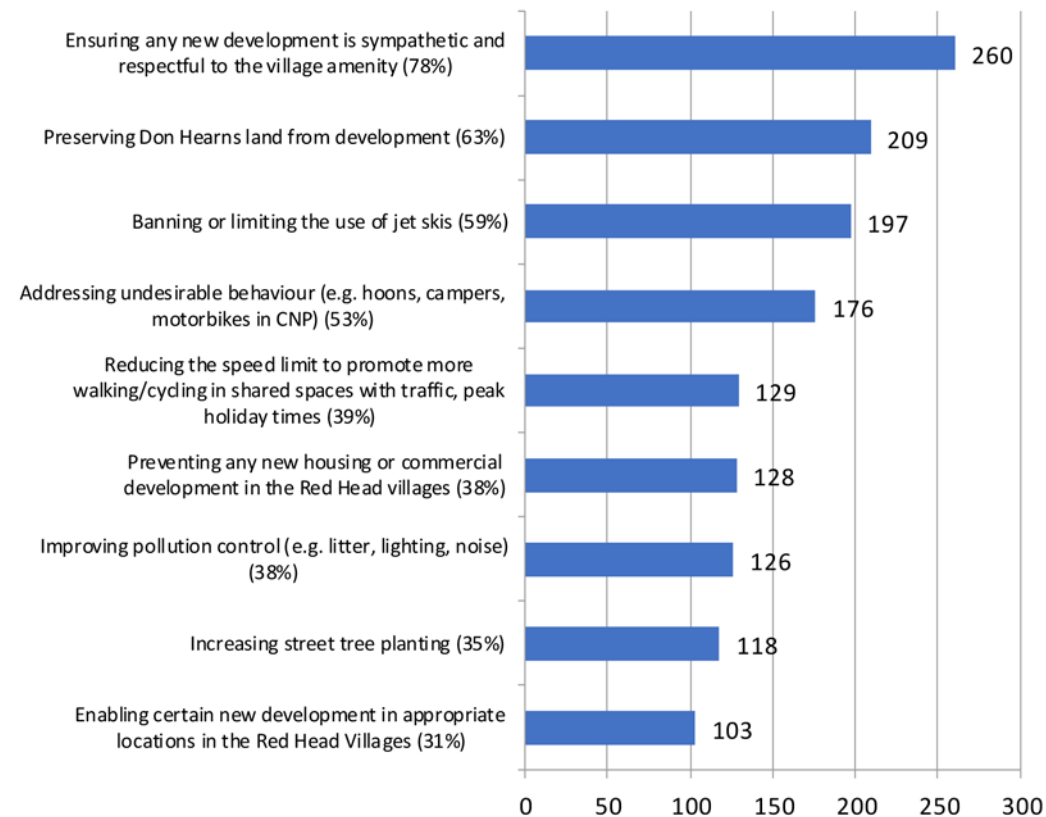
Development that maintains the current amenity and character of villages was a primary concern for many, as shown in these comments:

- > *Preventing commercial development and new housing estates – huge, but very necessary to allow management of climate change and Conjola National Park. Outcomes to be effective and immediate.*
- > *Sympathetic development to include a determined amount of social housing.*
- > *Limiting population growth in this area and doing so by open discussion of the impact of new housing so everyone is on the same page.*
- > *You can't prevent all new housing and development. It important to be part of the conversation of how*
- development will happen in the villages and not just a hard No to everything.*
- > *We have an excess of empty houses, estimated at 50%. Better use of existing infrastructure with an option of increased Council rates for non-residents. Sounds radical but this has proved overseas.*
- > *It is important any new development is sympathetic to the small coastal village environment of the community. The infrastructure is limited and supports a small community.*
- > *Would like to see that any new housing areas are limited in size and appropriate to suit the area. Banning large developments like recently proposed or carried out. Keeping the low key community feel of the area is vital so avoiding large developments of big shops.*
- > *I would have been okay with new housing as long as it didn't destroy sensitive habitats. But that's all we have around here. The estate that happened a few years back is a disgrace. The site earmarked for a shopping centre should be put to good use as a community hub. Limiting holiday rentals will help village amenity greatly.*

Figure 19 Survey data about village amenity theme

Village Amenity - top issues

A total of 333 people answered this question



- > *Change is inevitable. Well planned (even locally proposed) change is the answer.*
- > *I can't see why most are against development, without some investment in improved infrastructure such as better roads.*

- > *You can't prevent all new housing and development. It important to be part of the conversation of how development will happen in the villages and not just a hard No to everything.*

Undesirable behaviours such as use of jet skis, in Berringer Lake and around

beaches, and illegal camping were seen as negatively affecting village amenity, as evidenced by these comments:

- > *No jet skis on Berringer Lake and a corridor from boat ramp at Bendy allowing access to get out to sea coupled with a no go zone within several hundred metres of the*

beach. Ideally restricted use to surf rescue, big wave riding or fishing but only off shore.

- > *I definitely would like to see jet skis banned. They are so dangerous in the lake with little kids.*
- > *Better control of illegal camping and four wheel drive use is required. The North Bendalong triangle road, for example, is host to illegal camping every holiday. And because the road is in such a bad state vehicles drive into the bush on either side, creating a rutted mess. Putting up no camping signs is useless if there is no one patrolling popular illegal campsites in holidays and long weekends.*
- > *Free campers are a major problem in the area. They leave behind rubbish and toilet in the bush. The rangers are quick to fine you for off leash dogs, but do nothing about free campers who pollute the area and endanger people and animals. There are numerous fires on all beaches, often not put out, broken glass and a range of issues that disrespectful free campers create. Lack of dog poo bags and dog poo disposal areas hinders ability to pick up after one's dog. Eurobodalla Council does an excellent job of providing amenities for dog owners to be responsible.*

- > Both Council and NPWS have policies and rules regarding undesirable behaviour, however, they don't have the resources to police them, making the policies and rules worthless.

Road and pedestrian safety issues were raised in these comments:

- > In high season you see families walking on the road with kids, dogs etc. as well as cars, some with boats, travelling at 50 or 60 kms in the same suburban street. It is crucial to put in shared pathway and speed limits of 40 and pedestrian access on roads before there is a major accident.
- > Prevent property owners illegally claiming the council strip in front of properties as garden space, this forces people on to roads for walking.
- > In regards to street planting, no, as we already live in a fire prone zone.
- > Bendalong Boat Harbour- slow the traffic to 30 km once you pass the intersection of Boronia St & Red Point Rd to increase safety of bike riders / pedestrians accessing the beach. The use of speed humps may assist in slowing traffic. A footpath along Boronia St to walk down the hill to the steps at the old silica wharf would also increase safety for pedestrians.
- > How about finishing the pathways, not reducing speed limit? Maintenance of the current pathways as they are overgrown which in turn has a safety aspect e.g. snakes.
- > Reduce speed limits?? For what. Maybe better walkways so people don't use the whole road as a footpath and expect cars to go around them!!
- > Council verges could become the community gardens, including fruit and nuts but also pollinator fire retardant plantings that will help store water in the landscape.
- > Street tree planting and maintenance must take account of suitable species for increased risk of bushfire.
- > Downward facing street lighting was preferred:
- > The new street lights near me are awful. They shine in every direction and stop me seeing all the stars.
- > Having lived here at some points and likely to again in the future, elements of nimbyism are unwelcoming and detract from village amenity. The area is naturally beautiful and attracts people for a diverse range of reasons, improving amenity can be done without excluding others. I do not own a motorbike or jet ski, but others enjoy these activities.
- > We want new development. We want new people and fresh blood to maintain the environment healthy. We want young families with kids in the area. We want shops to be able to buy Nurofen or nappies when we need them next time instead of driving during the night to Ulladulla. Stop being selfish!
- > Surely some of the opinions above are a joke?? Banning jet skis, preventing development, come on!!
- > Some of those options are ridiculous! Sounds like Manyana turning into a dictatorship run by wowzers!

Minority views

Of the 68 comments about village amenity, 4 (5.9%) mentioned contrasting ideas to the general views. 2 expressed a willingness for expansion of the area to more people and 2 stated 100% opposition to some ideas voiced:

Connectivity of villages

Strong concern was expressed for the condition of roads used to access the villages (73%). Residents and holiday makers acknowledged the importance of Bendalong Road, our one road in and out, as essential and requiring the best construction and maintenance. Roads between villages were also of concern. Of the 337 people, 46 (13.6%) added further comments.

Many comments related to the poor maintenance of roads and pathways:

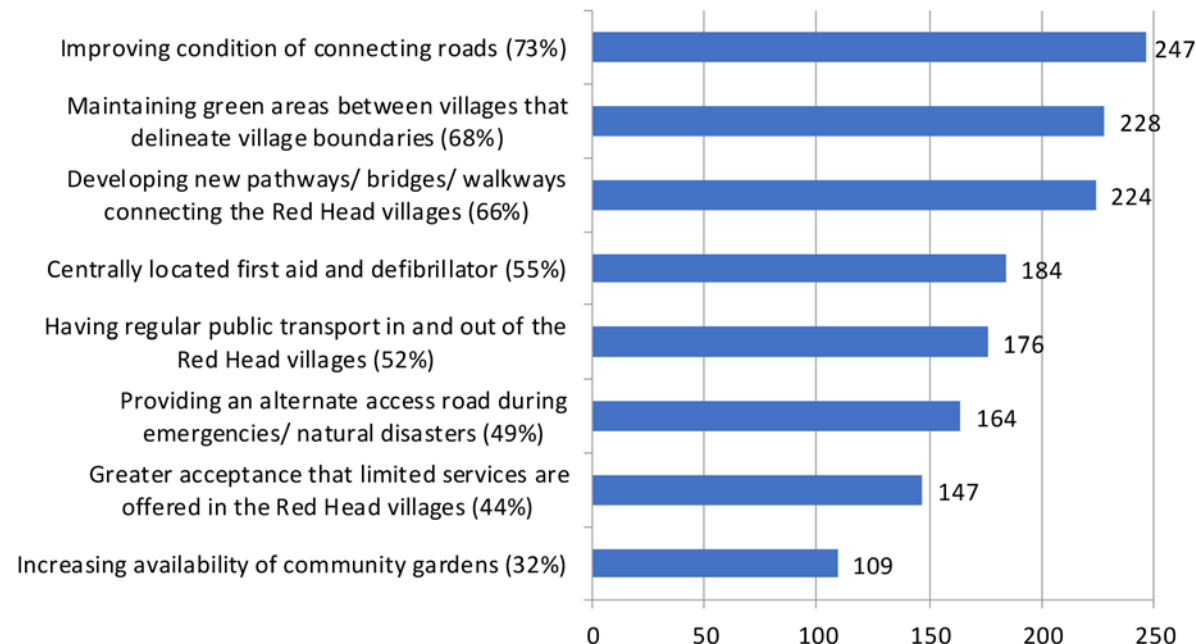
- > Repair Cunjurong Point Rd asap.
- > Roads are a mess and the paths connecting the villages are poorly maintained. Elderly people are forced to walk along the road and the lack of pathways is hazardous for pedestrians. Council think by ignoring that the pathways exist and letting them become overgrown, people will not use them. This isn't the case. Their use just becomes hazardous like the paths to and around Washies from Bendalong/boat ramp.
- > The dreadful road in as well as town roads are appalling. Last year it cost me 2 brand new Pirelli tyres plus installation cost.

- > There should be a path plan developed that connects and encircles all the villages. It must be suitable for wheel chairs, bicycles, skateboards & pedestrians etc.
- > New pathways etc. are wasted if they are not maintained. The pathway between Bendalong and Manyana is overgrown with grasses and other vegetation and the pathway between Manyana and Beringer is often covered with so much debris and silt that the concrete is no longer visible.

Figure 20 Survey data about connectivity of villages theme

Connectivity of Villages - top issues

(A total of 337 people answered this question.)



- > Incredibly rich biodiversity needs to be supported by appropriate plantings, the pathways between the villages are eyesores with concrete and weedy dry flammable sides, like our roadsides. Reimagining these spaces as wildlife supporting, water retaining, fire retardant pollinator friendly native corridors could help rewind the concreted. No more concrete paths.
- > It would be good to establish a push bike path network. There are some but would be good to expand shared paths.

Several people made suggestions about accessibility to defibrillators:

- > See the Defib Project for community defib solutions.

- > *A centrally located defibrillator will serve no purpose unless the individual has an attack within 100 metres of the device. A more useful option could be to analyse the areas where they would be more useful (concentrations of people/ activities) and having a number of them around the villages. Use the same ones as currently fitted to all of the fire trucks and there will always be a cadre of well trained personnel to teach anyone interested how they are used and also unit costs and maintenance becomes cheaper.*

Public transport was commented on in relation to village connectivity and community social interaction. A small 12 seater bus was suggested and a service twice a week to Milton/ Ulladulla.

The community garden was criticised for not being open at more times and available to people who may not necessarily want to interact in groups.

Some people expressly preferred the lack of services, valued simplicity as part of the village character and recognised that funding for small communities is limited.

Minority views

Of the 46 comments about the connectivity of villages, 2 (4.3%) made

comments contrasting with the main thrust of opinions. 1 was against a community garden (although several complained about the existing one being locked) and 1 did not want a second emergency evacuation road:

- > *No need for funded community gardens as a miniscule number of residents do not have access to their own gardens.*
- > *An alternate access road during emergencies is unviable and still unsafe. Safest evacuation is by boat from Bendalong harbour. E.g. the Navy operation to evacuate Mallacoota.*

Planning and built environment

This sixth theme was added following feedback from the community workshops. Improvement to the Bendalong Road was a major concern. Of the 334 people, 52 (15.6%) added further comments. The comments show how this theme underpins much of what the community has expressed when responding to other themes.

As with village connectivity, people commented about poor maintenance of roads and pathways:

- > *For God's sake fix Bendalong Rd.*
- > *Developing new pathways/ cycle pathways/ bridges/ walkways throughout and along Bendalong Road.*
- > *All connecting roads within villages need work.*

Most people felt that development should be in keeping with the existing coastal hamlet character:

- > *We can't and shouldn't put down the draw bridge, but do need to ensure that new development fits the character of the villages - both in look and scale.*
- > *The large backyards and relatively small houses are a hallmark of the area, giving a sense of space and greenery. This should be protected,*

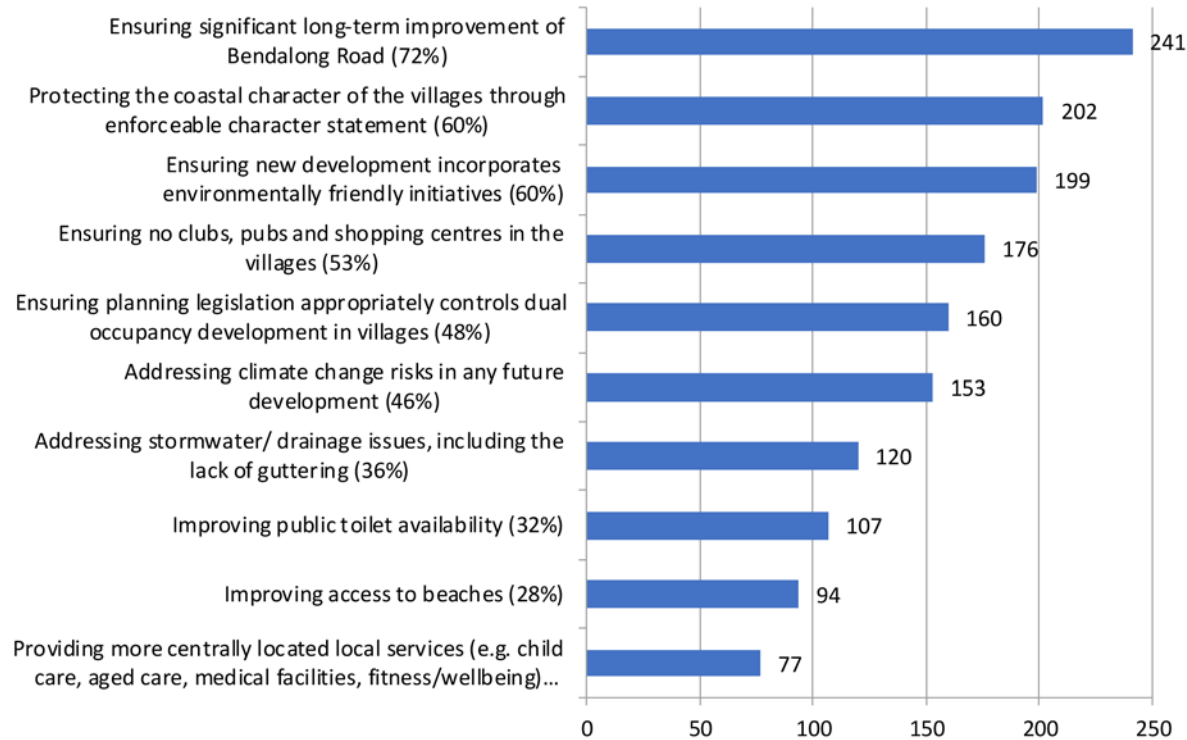
not just from dual occupancies but also McMansions and large detached studios/extensions; getting the balance right is important.

- > *I feel the option about "protecting the coastal character of the Red Head Villages" also includes prevention of pubs, clubs and shopping centres, because we are a collection of "villages" not urban centres.*
- > *Character statement is important to stop development not in keeping with village atmosphere.*
- > *Make sure block sizes remain appropriate sizes. The term "coastal village" is an important planning strategic statement and must not be changed.*
- > *We love how wild it is here. We need any new infrastructure to be low impact.*
- > *Prevention of rezoning.*
- > *I feel the 2 shops are more sustainable than a large shopping centre especially with online grocery deliveries available.*
- > *People need to accept this is not Ulladulla. If people want all the facilities and services they should move to Ulladulla.*

Figure 21 Survey data about planning and built environment theme

Planning and Built Environment - top issues

(A total of 334 people answered this question.)



- > Focus on improving and maintaining existing built environment, including addressing existing environmental concerns.
- > It's inexplicable that anyone would come to live here knowing about the lack of services and entertainment, terrible road(s), patchy NBN and then demand said services and infrastructure be instituted. By the living experience you come here to get away from

all that stuff, not bring it into the villages.

Some people were critical of not accepting inevitable change for the sake of more facilities:

- > Oh wow, how can you have child care centres, aged care, medical and fitness without a shopping centre bigger than Bendy Shop? No one will start and operate any of these facilities without

development in line with original planned development. Basix already incorporates water tanks and bush fire protection. Duplex development will come because the State Government will have to change laws to increase more housing to accommodate the Federal Government immigration quota, affordable housing etc.

- > The dual occupancy argument is very nimby. It would provide more

accommodation without needing more land development.

- > A shop with amenities should be accepted within the community for basic services such as chemist and groceries - especially for the elderly who don't have access to go into town on a daily basis.
- > Need increased child care and medical facilities.
- > The area would be ideal for an aged care facility. It would also provide local employment.

Suggestions for improvements in infrastructure included:

- > We need to be collectively catching by and storing as much water as possible as fire becomes one of our greatest risks. Allowing for environmentally sensitive and climate change survivable lookouts, paths and beach access should be a primary focus.
- > Could funding go towards a set of outdoor exercise equipment in the park near the Manyana hall for locals to access? This allows senior members of the community to keep up resistance training at no cost.
- > Each of the main surfing breaks needs better amenities e.g. toilet & rubbish facilities plus decent



showers & tap for feet washing, dog poo bag dispenser. Modern car parking facilities.

- > Need to build a toilet block (only needs to be 2 at the most) on Waratah St Bendalong. Suitable location could be at the top of the walking track.
- > Accesses to beaches need improved maintenance from council and waste bins should be at all access points to beaches and lakes.
- > Runoff to the beach needs to be addressed but kerb and gutter is not in keeping with the village atmosphere.
- > In our street half the houses have guttering and the other half don't. The SCC should provide support to residents who do not have any kerbside guttering to apply for the work to be done with a form of community grant. It is devastating in heavy rain because the runoff leads to damp and flooding of foundations and we have been required to sandbag to protect properties.

Minority views

Of the 56 comments about planning and the built environment, 3 (5.3%) expressed contrary opinions to the general consensus. 1 disagreed with

improved access to beaches (which had been proposed for people with mobility issues), 1 voiced a general concern about restrictions and 1 argued for pubs and clubs:

- > You don't need to improve access to beaches.
- > Don't place restrictions on our free society.
- > You can't say no pubs, clubs etc. and then seek child and aged care. We either want to be a 'normal' community or attempt to remain an ark that tries to control who gets in and who doesn't.

Themes for Directions

Survey respondents ranked climate change as their highest priority (37%). Planning and the built environment came second (20%).

Some additional issues were suggested by 33 (10%) of respondents. Many, but not all of these comments were already included as part of the top issues for themes, as shown in **Figures 4-9** above and in the comments presented for each theme, often with slightly different wording. Youth

- > See our youth more involved in the community.
- > I would love to see more things done in the area for all the kids, they finally got a skate park (if you call it that) then we allowed a community garden to be built on top of it, taking away the nice little grass area to sit and what the kids have fun on is their strip of concrete. Why don't we look to put a pump track in for the kids to ride, keeping them active and outdoors?
- > Hardly a mention about fun for children in any of these options.
- > Provide more activities for young people e.g. bike tracks.

Community social cohesion

- > Highlighting the rich history of Red Head Villages.

- > Regular events to encourage social interactions between residents of the villages
- > Social events, markets, concerts, movie night's outdoor, bush tucker talks, workshop that may interest people, community gatherings.
- > More ways for young families and their friends (keeping in mind not all their friends have children) to socialise and meet other couples, singles and tourists visiting the area.
- > Pop up events at the community hall - e.g. night food markets, turn the hall into a restaurant for the night, high tea, morning teas, bingo, morning exercise classes for those who work from home e.g. yoga, pilates, zumba, workshops to learn new skills e.g. painting, candle making, ceramics, photography.
- > Maintenance of peaceful safe villages for residents with minimal impact by tourists.

Historical documentation

- > Non-indigenous history and heritage i.e. timber and silica, the infrastructure they left behind and the damage they did.

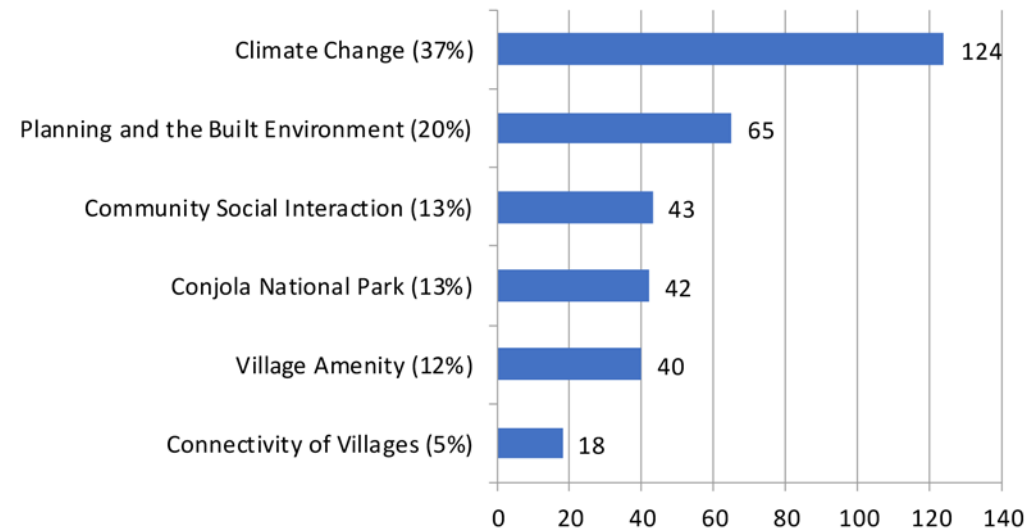
Community engagement in decision-making

- > More discussion on changes before it is adopted. Too often

Figure 22 Themes ranked in order of importance

Ranking the most important themes

332 people answered this question



changes are implemented without community discussion.

- > This survey seems to be pointing most in the view of the minority and not an open representation of honest views. It is pushing a green agenda.

Environment

- > The beauty of isolation.
- > Area put forward as a national surfing reserve.
- > Let's get back to nature and natural living. We are a village, not a city.
- > Biodiversity.

- > Priority of wildlife.
- > Re-wilding our oceans is central to our ability to manage climate change. I would propose we advocate for a marine park to support this.
- > Establishment of a Marine Park at and around Flat Rock Platform across to Dee Beach. Too many fishermen and spear fishers at prime holiday time!! Especially when there are snorkellers and swimmers in the area.

Disaster preparedness

- > Village emergency management committee.

- > Bushfire controls.
- > We have a unique position and unique character and could be leaders in using these circumstances to create resilience to the extremes and inevitable shifts in living that are here and are fast approaching.
- > We need to focus on making resilient what already exists in the villages. Any new housing developments would increase vulnerability to climate change impacts and would distract the community on focusing on the important task of climate resilient villages.

Infrastructure

- > Roads.
- > Affordable housing and rental availability.
- > Sustainable infrastructure.
- > Preserving the character of the villages (people have chosen to come here for a reason. Let us preserve that reason).
- > Housing to provide shelter, not wealth creation. Concern about rental and housing unavailability, especially for younger people.
- > Verges and nature strip need maintaining.
- > I like the idea of being self sufficient with solar power for the village and property owners contributing to battery storage to cover power outages and long term being more sustainable.
- > Transport - walking, biking, public.
- > Felling of trees on private properties, dual occupancy properties,
- > Consider the emerging concepts of regenerative agriculture, regenerative design for future development. Also, consider the new concept of 'degrowth' and how this can be applied to planning for the future of the villages.

Additional amenities

- > *A variety of food options available at night.*
- > *More locations for commercial spaces - co-op art studio, wine bar, fast food, chemist, medical, childcare, co-op office spaces.*
- > *Provision for camping in Conjola National Park.*
- > *lack of off leash dog areas (e.g. many areas could be off leash between 4pm and 10am).*

The following ideas include some specific opportunities for actions:

- > *Improved facilities and opportunities for children and young families (4 mentions)*
- > *Consideration of the concepts of 'degrowth' and regenerative agriculture*
- > *Establishment of a national surfing reserve*
- > *Emergency response planning*
- > *Power self-sufficiency opportunities*
- > *Camping in the Conjola National Park*
- > *Management of damage from the misuse of land in the past.*

Three people took the chance to compliment the people who made this survey a reality:

- > *This is a fabulous effort Red Head Villages has put forward.*
- > *Useful to use the above.*
- > *An exceptionally well planned survey.*

Two people expressed concerns about the methodology of choosing their top five themes of concern from an identified set of six:

- > *Choosing 5 of 6 options does not give a statistically balanced response.*
- > *The choices should have been 'numbers' to indicate importance and choosing 5 out of 6 is unrealistic.*



Red Head Villages character statement

The survey included a question about developing a local 'character statement' for the area. A character statement defines what is so special about our area. It allows us to challenge what is or is not in keeping with our future vision. Other communities have had their character statement considered by the Land and Environment Court when determining development proposals. The Red Head Villages community views captured in the first consultation phase are integral for developing, documenting and publishing our 'Character Statement and Desired Future Character' definition influencing critical Local Government planning and development deliberations. Some of the ideas that emerged from the information collected at the community drop-in sessions in Activity 3 include:

- > Living in, preserving and protecting our unique natural environment
- > Valuing the connectedness of our community and the people in it
- > Enjoying our peaceful, quiet and beautiful bush, coast, and marine surrounds

In the survey, respondents were asked their views of these ideas and what else they would like included. Here are the 81 comments:

- > *Respect people that live here.*
- > *Group of shops.*
- > *To keep the place as it is, as it always has been. That's why we are all here.*
- > *If it ain't broke don't fix it.*
- > *Keep it the way it is!*
- > *Becoming of a beautiful example of stewardship and reciprocity with lands, sea, water ways and skies.*
- > *No residents are 'local' unless they were born here.*
- > *Preservation of rock foreshores devastation of abalone, urchin etc. by holiday makers.*
- > *Preserve what's here fix and repair what's here.*
- > *All three of these can be combined in one statement.*
- > *Ensuring coastal communities situated in high value natural environments are protected by appropriate legislative controls e.g. specific zoning controls.*
- > *In this unspoilt natural place, humans come second. We are a community that will protect, celebrate and honour our natural environment so our families and others can enjoy it into the future. We stand for nature.*
- > *A word which has inclusiveness in it.*
- > *A place to live safely and harmoniously for people, our native animals and plants (land and sea) now and into the future, in what is possibly an increasingly unsafe world.*
- > *Preserving the natural environment that underpins the beauty of the area.*
- > *Love the bush surrounds and want priority to be given to preserving the bush and the beaches and in between the villages - thank you.*
- > *A unique community where homes have been held by generations of families to enjoy this special place. Leave nature alone. It will manage itself better than human intervention.*
- > *Loving the parks, oceans and wildlife. And the people that live in the community.*
- > *Ensuring the legacy of the Yuin Nation is continued and preserved so future generations can thrive in our natural coastal environs.*
- > *I think we should concentrate on getting things done rather than wasting time and energy and money on a character statement.*
- > *We are not permanent residents, but the main reason for visiting is the quiet amenity and the national park. Both need to be preserved.*
- > *Seems to me that so many of the options in this survey leave selfish people that live in the area to stop a future development and keep any future people out e.g. no pubs, clubs, shops, no new houses, Don Hearn's property not be developed, no short time rentals, no short term visitors. I have owned and paid rates for over sixty years in Manyana and I believe it should be shared and be enjoyed by everyone.*
- > *Not destroying any more bushland in the area.*
- > *Preserving the natural environment.*
- > *The reason many of us have chosen to live in the area and raise children here is because of the natural beauty that surrounds us and the opportunities to explore and immerse ourselves in it. It is also the slow pace of life and the knowledge that you are surrounded by like-minded people. It is confronting to think that the dynamics of this place, and the very reasons that we chose to live here could be changed to benefit those not invested in living here amongst the community.*

- > *Maintaining a consensus of perceptions and decisions made.*
 - > *No comment.*
 - > *The community is wholesome & peaceful. The variety of all the lifestyle hobbies/opportunities & the lack of new development keeps the community a humble one. Locals wave to each other as they drive by. New development will dilute the peaceful environment & community aspect of the area.*
 - > *There is nothing noted above that could improve the home I have lived in for the past 34 years and enjoyed holidays for the precious 15 years before. All these suggestions have come about from a few new people who were here in the bushfires of 2019 and new residents then, but mostly from new residents through Covid years. Most of their suggestions are not what the greater community want... hence these suggestions came from a 100 odd mainly new residents, who are looking to think they can improve an already pristine area that over the last 50 years, the villages residents have been able to protect, through planning etc. to ensure there is no future development except those that were identified when the National Park borders were extended. Duplexes are another*
- conversation that I think will happen over time with relaxed State Planning laws not local.*
- > *Please let this community grow the way it has over the last 30 years.*
 - > *You have said it well. In my opinion, we need to work on valuing the connectedness of our community and the people in it. Young families are moving here, where do they get to social and meet new people?*
 - > *It's a unique coastal area, what else do you need to say?*
 - > *Supporting residents in time of bushfire crisis.*
 - > *Interacting responsibly and preserving and protecting the peaceful bush land, coastal and lake environments whilst living in a connected community that enjoys a slower and simpler lifestyle.*
 - > *A coastal landscape with identifiable local architecture and materiality through the built form.*
 - > *Creative, friendly, at peace, reflective, enthusiastic, relaxed, accepting types of people.*
 - > *Be the community that listens and learns from the traditional owners and custodians of this land in order to preserve the natural environment.*
- > *You are all being done by the climate change agenda, in years to come we will be limited and have our electricity use monitored and restricted under the guise of climate control when in fact it is population control, you will dismiss this now but in years to come realise you have been duped.*
 - > *Peace & quiet. No pub, club or shopping centre.*
 - > *Very difficult! We are a special place with a unique wild environment that is fast disappearing along the entire east coast. Let's stop any more loss.*
 - > *Harmony with our environment and our community.*
 - > *Retain unique Australian coastal villages from the past into the future.*
 - > *To becoming a more welcoming community to part-time residents and visitors and leave behind any change is bad attitude.*
 - > *The natural environment, including plants, animals, birds, marine life, forests and beaches must always come first in any decision making.*
 - > *Quintessentially beautiful Australian beach living.*
- > *Living in, preserving and protecting our unique natural environment.*
 - > *Yours is one of the most relaxed and beautiful coastal areas I have ever visited and hope that it's serenity is preserved. One day I would be honoured to live in this community permanently.*
 - > *Pristine coastal bushland community where residents and visitors live in harmony with wildlife in their natural habitat.*
 - > *People of all kinds, connecting themselves and their families to a unique coastal and bush environment and respecting the needs of nature and each other.*
 - > *Stop being selfish and let other people enjoy the peaceful, quiet and beautiful bush, coast, and marine surroundings as it is not your private property.*
 - > *It is the low human population that I most value, and the harmony between people and the wildlife that results.*
 - > *Small coastal village surrounded by pristine natural beauty.*
 - > *Nothing says it better than that!*
 - > *Living in, preserving and protecting our unique natural bush and marine environment.*

- > *I would add something about valuing First Nations people's heritage of our beautiful environment and the cultural gifts they bring that enhance the specialness of place.*
- > *I think the statements above are clear and useful. I don't have a better one to add.*
- > *Creating social connections in a respectful manner.*
- > *The current RHVA draft character statement, I believe, reflects the current and desired future character of our villages.*
- > *Preserving the unique natural wonders of the five villages, and embracing their seclusion, peace and tranquillity.*
- > *Develop the Red Head Villages as a model of sustainable, environmentally sympathetic development, stopping the removal and degradation of the natural environment that makes our region and country so special.*
- > *Understanding we are a collective community, not just a series of villages.*
- > *I support the first statement regarding natural environment preservation.*
- > *Preservation of coastal beauty. Respect for nature and each other.*
- > *Now is the time we need to come together as a strong community to protect what we love.*
- > *The following are not necessarily character statements, but elements of:*
 - *Villages reflective of times passed but embracing the future*
 - *Preserving small scale character and backyards*
 - *Respecting the area and each other.*
- > *Intraconnected with neighbours, visitors, wildlife and environment.*
- > *Respecting our natural environment and limiting human impact on it.*
- > *We are unique in that we are cocooned and surrounded by lake, ocean, bush and National Park. Let's hope it stays pristine, natural, peaceful without great big concrete houses. It's a small coastal hamlet. It's a community that is friendly, interacts well and cares for its people, animals and marine and bush environments. It fights to protect the area.*
- > *May I add the word 'vulnerable' to unique and natural environment. It most certainly is beautiful, quiet and peaceful and we want it kept that way for our children and grandchildren to enjoy as we have.*
- > *Supporting the residents to remain here as they age.*
- > *Living modestly in harmony and collaboration with our environment.*
- > *Restricting population density.*
- > *I can't go past living in, preserving and protecting our unique natural environment. It is very restorative for one's well-being.*
- > *Ensuring inhabitants and visitors enjoy village life sustainably and respectfully.*
- > *A lovely place where people can live and recreate surrounded by natural vegetation.*
- > *"People and nature can live as one."*
- > *At this critical time on our planet our community aims to reimagine an interconnected way of living. We co-create a survivable village through cooperation that takes ethical responsibility for the living world and uses ecological science to establish a regenerative example for a livable future.*
- > *I am happy with the current draft RHVA character statement.*
- > *I agree with all the above, but in some way incorporate for all & especially visitors that we are all on Jerringa Country of the Yuin Nation of First Nations People. Perhaps a sign could be put at the corner of Inyarrda Dr & Bendalong Rd.*

In general, the comments showed these community values which were taken into account to form the final character statement in the RHVA Community Plan for a Sustainable Future 2024-2030.:

1. We embody a high level of respect for the unique, natural environment in all future planning.
2. We wish to realise a built environment that respects the scale of the villages and relative peace and quiet of the area.
3. We protect and care for the natural environment, to plan and prepare for climate change.
4. We build community through face-to-face interactions.
5. We understand and provide for all demographic groups that make up the community, including visitors.
6. We see benefit in creating access within and to all villages, through provision and maintenance of varied infrastructure.

Completion of the Plan and Community Feedback

In late March 2024, the Draft RHVA Community Plan for a Sustainable Future 2024-2030 was available to all, via the RHVA website, for comments and feedback from the community for a two week period. The RHVA Committee and a handful of community members provided valuable feedback which was incorporated into the final version.

Reliability of Findings

Much effort was made to ensure that the findings of this community engagement process are statistically reliable and valid. The process was meticulously designed and planned with the incorporation of features outlined in this section.

Design process

A community engagement evaluation plan was developed and finalised in September 2022. This plan was devised collaboratively by Locale Consulting and the RHVA. It set out the steps of the community engagement process and the ways in which data collected would be measured and reported, with input for evaluation by the community.

Widespread publicity and engagement

Volunteers carried out a vigorous campaign to encourage community members to participate in the process of information and opinion sharing to develop a plan for the sustainable future of the Red Head Villages community.

Demographic records

For each part of the process, numbers of participants were recorded and where possible their demographic details (age range, residence, gender) were noted. This gave a clear indication

of whether participants represented the community in general. The results show that in the main they did with variations highlighted.

A range of methods

A mixed methods approach to data gathering was used. This allows for greater cross-referencing and validation of results. This happened in several ways:

- > The 3 activities across the 4 workshops offered different ways for people to voice their concerns. Aerial mapping was used for Activity 2 so that people could pinpoint locations of particular concern. Community members could also complete a survey either on paper and return it to either of the 2 shops in the area or online.
- > Community members had the opportunity to evaluate the workshops both quantitatively by rating their agreement to 3 statements and qualitatively by finishing 4 open-ended statements. A combination of quantitative and qualitative information gathering was also used in the survey.
- > People did not need to be physically present at the Red Head Villages in order to complete the

survey, which helped more part-time residents to participate.

Confidentiality

Whilst some information gathering methods were more visible than others, at no time were any comments identified. For example, putting information on post-it notes at a public workshop for Activities 1 and 2 meant that people present were able to immediately see what had been written, but not who had written it. In contrast, Activity 3 and the survey were totally private. Confidentiality and privacy were maintained by de-identifying comments.

Consistency

Even though there were significantly more respondents to the survey (406) than participants in the workshops (180) the issues and concerns raised remained much the same. Thus, across the various ways to gather information, the results were stable. In other words, results from the survey were similar to results from the workshops.

Transparency

The quantitative data presented include both numbers and percentages. The qualitative data reports majority and minority views so that all issues raised are available to all.

Appendices

Appendix A:

Workshop Evaluation

We would appreciate you completing this feedback form, to enable us to improve future community engagement events in relation to this project.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree	Can't say
This project has helped me feel better informed about the planning process.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There was enough time and encouragement for me to express my ideas and concerns.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This is an important project for our community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

HERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT TODAY'S SESSION THAT WILL HELP US PLAN THE COMMUNITY SURVEY Please use the blank space on the back if you run out of space.



Having a plan for the future of our area is important to me because ...

The most relevant or important issue or issues for me are ...

I would have also liked to discuss ...

This session would have been better for me if ...

Demographic data: Age, Gender, Residential status

Introduction

The Red Head Villages Association, in conjunction with Locale Consulting, are developing the 'Red Head Villages Plan for a Sustainable Future'.

In October 2022, we held four community drop-in sessions. We had a great turnout with approximately 180 community members in attendance.

Participants contributed their views on a range of key themes. It's now time to present these themes to even more residents and visitors. We really want as many people as possible to answer this survey.

Your views will be used to represent the whole Red Head Villages community, in influencing critical Local Government planning and development deliberations, and we want to get this right.

Shoalhaven City Council and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Resilience have funded us with almost \$82,000 in total because they believe in the importance of these community plans.

How to complete this survey:

- Online now, or
- If you have a printer, save and print the pdf version available here <https://redheadvillages.wpcomstaging.com/> , or
- Collect a hard copy from the Bendalong General Store or The Deli Cunjurong

Completed hard copies can be deposited in the collection boxes at The Bendalong General Store or The Deli Cunjurong. If that's not convenient, then post to: PO Box 2015, BENDALONG NSW 2539.

Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this important project about our future.

With thanks,
Luke Bastok - President, Red Head Villages Association
Your voice to Shoalhaven City Council

Location

When we talk about Red Head Villages we include the environment and the people who live on Bendalong Road and in the five villages of Bendalong, North Bendalong, Manyana, Cunjurong Point, and Berringer Lake. We are surrounded by Conjola National Park and include some areas of Crown Land.

Appendix B:

Survey



Part 1: A bit about yourself

1. Are you?

- Woman
- Man
- Prefer not to say

I identify my gender as (please specify)

2. Age

- Under 12
- 12 - 17
- 18 - 24
- 25 - 34
- 35 - 44
- 45 - 54
- 55 - 64
- 65 - 74
- 75 +

3. Do you have accessibility requirements?

- Yes
- No

If yes, what are your accessibility requirements?

4. What is your relationship to the area? (select multiple if applicable)

- Permanent resident
- Part-time resident
- Property owner (non-resident)
- Visitor - renting a holiday home
- Visitor - staying in caravan park
- Traditional owner
- Business owner or operator

Other (please specify)

5. Which of the Red Head villages do you live in or are closest aligned with? (select multiple if applicable)

- Bendalong
- North Bendalong
- Bendalong Road
- Berringer Lake
- Manyana
- Cunjurong Point
- Other (please specify)

Part 2: Your thoughts and ideas

These questions are based on information from the community drop-in sessions. They aim to recognise key interactions between villages, and to confirm issues of greatest importance to you.

Here are the six key themes that emerged from the community consultation sessions:

- **Climate Change**
- **Community Social Interaction**
- **Conjola National Park**
- **Village Amenities**
- **Connectivity of Villages**
- **Planning and the Built Environment**

6. In relation to *Climate Change*, these are the specific issues identified. Please select the top five matters you would most like to see emphasised in the future:

- Development of a self-sufficient energy source for the five villages (e.g. community batteries, local power grid based on renewable energy)
- Improved management of local food and waste (e.g. increased composting, greater food security during natural disasters, less landfill)
- Greater transparency and improved strategic planning in relation to the impacts of climate change on the Red Head villages (e.g. improved data/forecasts, better governance)
- Improved management of the impacts of coastal erosion (e.g. planting foreshore vegetation, improving walking tracks, appropriate beach access points)
- Taking steps to reduce the impacts of bushfires (e.g. 'cool' burns, cultural burns, planting fire retardant vegetation throughout the villages, underground power)
- Improved infrastructure design and use of materials in response to climate change

7. What other comments would you like to add about the *Climate Change* theme?

8. In relation to *Community Social Interaction*, these are the specific issues identified. Please select the top five matters you would most like to see emphasised in the future:

- Greater involvement of Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other First Nations People in managing public spaces in and around the Red Head Villages
- Placing restrictions on short-term rentals and visitors
- Holding more community centred events (e.g. markets, music festivals, community BBQs)
- Having a co-op or 'swap space' for food and white goods
- Developing a multi-purpose centre for community use (e.g. environmental centre)
- Providing more support for elderly residents
- Developing a repair, reuse and upcycling 'shed' for skills sharing
- Access to facilities in Holiday Haven Bendalong Tourist Park
- Exploring and developing local heritage, cultural and Caring for Country education opportunities

9. What other comments would you like to add about the *Community Social Interaction* theme?

10. In relation to *Conjola National Park*, these are the specific issues identified. Please select the top five matters you would most like to see emphasised in the future:

- Greater involvement of Local Aboriginal Land Councils and other First Nations People in managing Conjola National Park
- Maintaining and connecting wildlife corridors
- Better regulation of motorbikes on National Park trails
- Advocating for more resources to manage and improve Conjola National Park
- Advocating to incorporate Crown Land and other private land into Conjola National Park
- Stopping development encroaching or impacting Conjola National Park
- Having a 'no cats outside' policy
- Advocating for the establishment of a marine park

11. What other comments would you like to add about the *Conjola National Park* theme?

12. In relation to *Village Amenity*, these are the specific issues identified. Please select the top five matters you would most like to see emphasised in the future:

- Preventing any new housing or commercial development in the Red Head villages
- Ensuring any new development is sympathetic and respectful to the village amenity
- Enabling certain new development in appropriate locations in the Red Heads villages
- Preserving Don Hearn's land from development
- Addressing undesirable behaviour (e.g. hoons, campers, motorbikes in Conjola National Park)
- Increasing street tree planting
- Improving pollution control (e.g. litter, lighting, noise)
- Reducing the speed limit to promote more walking/ cycling in shared spaces with traffic, particularly in peak holiday times
- Banning or limiting the use of jet skis

13. What other comments would you like to add about the *Village Amenity* theme?

14. In relation to *Connectivity of Villages*, these are the specific issues identified. Please select the top five matters you would most like to see emphasised in the future:

- Maintaining green areas between villages that delineate village boundaries
- Developing new pathways/ bridges/ walkways connecting the Red Head villages
- Providing an alternate access road during emergencies/ natural disasters
- Having regular public transport in and out of the Red Head villages
- Improving condition of connecting roads
- Greater acceptance that limited services are offered in the Red Head villages
- Centrally located first aid and defibrillator
- Increasing availability of community gardens

15. What other comments would you like to add about the *Connectivity of Villages* theme?

16. In relation to *Planning and the Built Environment*, these are the specific issues identified. Please select the top five matters you would most like emphasised in the future:

- Addressing climate change risks in any future development
- Protecting the coastal character of the Red Head villages through enforceable character statements
- Ensuring planning legislation appropriately controls dual occupancy development in the Red Head villages
- Ensuring new development incorporates environmentally friendly initiatives (e.g. water tanks, protection against bushfire)
- Ensuring no clubs, pubs and shopping centres in the Red Head villages
- Ensuring significant long-term improvement of Bendalong Road
- Improving access to beaches
- Providing more centrally located local services (e.g. child care, aged care, medical facilities, fitness and wellbeing)
- Addressing stormwater/ drainage issues, including the lack of guttering in some streets
- Improving public toilet availability (e.g. Bendalong shop, Berringer Lake, Washerwoman's Beach)

17. What other comments would you like to add about the *Planning and the Built Environment* theme?

18. Thinking about the Red Head villages, rank these themes in order of importance to you? (1 being the "most important" and 6 being the "least important")

- ☰ Climate Change
- ☰ Community Social Interaction
- ☰ Conjola National Park
- ☰ Village Amenity
- ☰ Connectivity of Villages
- ☰ Planning and the Built Environment

19. What other themes or ideas would you like to add?

20. Development of a "character statement" to reflect the unique qualities of our area.

A "character statement" defines what is so special about our area. It allows us to challenge what is or is not in keeping with our future vision. Other communities have had their "character statement" considered by the Land and Environment Court when determining development proposals.

The Red Head Villages community views captured in the first consultation phase are integral for developing, documenting and publishing our Character Statement and Desired Future Character definition influencing critical Local Government planning and development deliberations.

This word cloud below shows what people who came to the drop-in sessions thought were the most important characteristics of our Red Head villages area. The larger words were mentioned the most.



Some of the ideas that have emerged from the information collected at the community drop-in sessions include:

- Living in, preserving and protecting our unique natural environment
- Valuing the connectedness of our community and the people in it
- Enjoying our peaceful, quiet and beautiful bush, coast, and marine surrounds

We invite you to add a statement of your own that you feel says it better...

Red Head Villages Survey: Planning for a Sustainable Future

Part 4: What happens next?

The results of the survey will be presented by Locale Consulting at a General Meeting of the RHVA, the date of which will be advertised in the community through social media and at the Bendalong General Store and The Cunjurong Deli.

Thank you for completing this important survey. We greatly value your contributions to the Red Head Villages Plan for a Sustainable Future.

Red Head Villages Association

Glossy Black Cockatoos during the bushfires. A. Lees

Red Head Villages
Engagement
Findings and
Directions
Report



redheadvillagesassociation.org

