

# Red Head Villages

# Plan for a sustainable future 2024-2030 @aglance

The Red Head Villages Community Plan for a Sustainable Future (the Plan) has been developed by our Red Head Villages community based on the collective knowledge of everyone who participated in four community drop-in sessions (approximately 180 people) in October 2022 and a survey (406 people) in April/May 2023.

This Plan represents the community's expectations and is a call to action for ongoing engagement between the community, Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) and others. Our Red Head Villages Association (RHVA), through its elected Committee will manage the implementation of this Plan with ongoing community consultation. RHVA is our voice to SCC because it is our official Community Consultative Body.

We see this Plan as a living document that will guide the work of the RHVA from now until 2030. The Plan sets out our community's unique character and concerns for its future sustainability. It establishes our priorities, recommends actions and opportunities for partnering and advocacy with SCC. It is hoped that all levels of government – Local, State and Federal will support us in achieving our strategic priorities in relation to the following six themes: Climate Change, Conjola National Park, Community Social Interaction, Village Amenity, Connectivity of Villages and Delivery of Services, Planning and the Built Environment.

The RHVA Community Plan for a Sustainable Future 2024-2030 is a synthesis of all the information gathered throughout the community consultation process. 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.

Manlyana Special Conservation Reserve. G. Davy

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.*



# Red Head Villages Character Statement

This character statement is the result of information gathered from community consultation through workshops and a survey. It is designed to represent what we value about the unique character of our district and how we see the future of the of the Red Head Villages

The purpose of our character statement is two-fold:

It acts as an overarching direction for our community as we move forward with implementing this Plan; and,

It sets clear intentions for all future planning and decision making within the area.

## **Acknowledgement to Country – Always was, always will be Aboriginal Land**

The Red Head Villages and their coastal hinterland comprise a collective community of inter-generational individuals, families and visitors. We each acknowledge and respect the Dhurga and Dharwal language groups and associated family groups of Shoalhaven and Ulladulla areas, the traditional owners of the land and sea country we treasure, share and protect.



## **Communities in harmony with the natural environment**

Residents, visitors and tourists alike deeply value the pristine and interconnected coastal, marine and bushland environments of the area. While we treasure our close proximity to the natural environment, we accept and respect the adversity and physical constraints this can place on us. Over generations, this has fostered a community which values diversity and whose social fabric is defined by strength, resilience and cohesion.

North Bandalong, Bandalong, Manyana, Berringer Lake and Cunjurong Point are encircled by national parks, iconic native forests and bushland that define the NSW South Coast. Living side-by-side with nature has fostered a true appreciation of its unique social, cultural and economic value as well as a respect for its fragility. We, as a community, are committed to conserving this for future generations.

We accept our villages face limitations as a result of natural disasters and climate disruption. We also acknowledge the role human inadequacies can play in shaping our future. We work together towards mitigating impacts and greater community resilience.

## **Protecting, preserving and planning for a sustainable future**

The Red Head Villages are examples of unique South Coast hamlets and that makes them a critical part of our national heritage. We believe it is possible to protect our unique environmental, social and community values, while meeting the needs of future residents and visitors.

We value democratic solidarity and accept our responsibility as the contemporary custodians of this priceless place. With a united voice, actions and words underpinning our shared values, we are committed to ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Our collective desired future character of the Red Head Villages is one where all future development and the new built environment harmonise with the low-density, detached cottages that the area is so renowned for, as well as the beautiful surrounding bushland and nature. These are aspects that have attracted generations of people to the area and shaped our community.

# Action Plan Overview

## Climate Change

We see an urgent need to investigate, understand, educate and take action to prepare for climate change. As a community, we inform ourselves and others to adapt to climate-based impacts, including cumulative impacts.

We will ensure preparedness for impacts of climate change by:

- > Taking steps to reduce the impacts of bushfires
- > Improved management of the impacts of coastal erosion
- > Identification and implementation of improved management methods for local food and waste
- > Adaptation to climate-based impacts on the community

## Conjola National Park

We live in a unique location, surrounded by a national park, crown land and the sea. We respect its biodiversity and act to conserve it for future generations. We want to balance enforcement of rules and regulations with reasonable and appropriate access to Conjola National Park.

We will preserve and improve the highly valued natural and cultural environment by working towards:

- > Effective maintenance and connection of wildlife corridors
- > Identification and conservation of biodiversity values in the context of any new development
- > Conservation and enrichment of First Nations and European Heritage
- > Effective management of the fragile marine and coastal natural environment
- > Additional resources for, and effective control of, human impacts on Conjola National Park

## Community Social Interaction

We value our strong community connections and working together on common goals. We are a close-knit and caring community. We intend to leverage the strength and unity within our community to influence Council and relevant other government agencies to reach goals expressed in this Plan.

We will retain and enhance village character by valuing its people and the community setting by:

- > Continuing to build community through face-to-face interactions
- > A range of community events and activities that respond to all demographics that make up the community (including tourists)
- > Increased collaboration between community and government agencies to ensure community representation in decision making
- > Greater focus on local cultural heritage

## Village Amenity

We value preserving the unique natural beauty and village character of the local area, while ensuring adequate infrastructure for people to thrive.

We will influence development outcomes that respect the scale of the villages, by continuing to build a strong and engaged community by:

- > Recognition by Council and other levels of Government of the Red Head Villages Character Statement in decision making for all new development
- > Advocacy to improve planning controls that reduce ad-hoc development outcomes and respond to historic planning decisions
- > Advocacy to improve digital connections and communications for residents and visitors



# Action Plan Overview (continued)



Evacuation during bushfires 2019-20. P. Bartlett

Manyana Art and Craft market. L. Larri

## Connectivity of Villages and Delivery of Services

We expect the five Red Head Villages to continue as individual villages while being physically accessible to each other through well maintained infrastructure and facilitated service delivery.

We will achieve appropriate services, facilities and fit for purpose infrastructure appropriate to the needs of both residents and visitors, whilst respecting the scale of the village setting by advocating for:

- > Improved facilities that meet the needs and demands of the local community
- > Enhancement and provision of services for youth and the elderly
- > Improvement of access to health services

## Planning and the Built Environment

We value the importance of our natural environment and village character. We respect the Red Head Villages character statement and expect that it is taken into account when decisions about the built environment are made.

We aim to increase connectivity and mobility to and within the villages by advocating for:

- > Increased community input to infrastructure planning, delivery and maintenance, including road infrastructure
- > Improvement and maintenance of the local and regional road network, including evacuation routes
- > Creation, improvement and maintenance of the foot and cycle path network (with a strong focus on accessibility)
- > Improvement of public and community transport

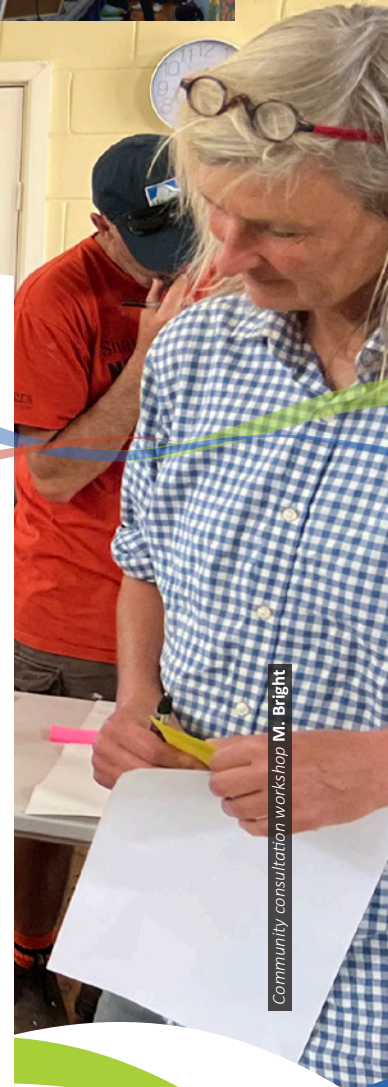


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future  
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Community consultation workshop. M. Bright