



Mayor Patricia White &
CEO Andrew Constance
Shoalhaven City Council
council@shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au
cc Gillian Boyd, Debbie Killian, Denise Kemp, Karlee Dunn

16th March 2026

Dear Ms White and Mr Constance

Re: Joint RHVA: Council projects for 2026 -2027

I am writing to thank you and your fellow councillors, Councillor Boyd and Councillor Killian, for attending the RHVA general meeting on the 21 February. At that meeting, we highlighted a number of priority projects that we would like to work on constructively with Shoalhaven Council to deliver over the next 12-18 months. These projects all spring from our widely consulted on and Council-endorsed Community Plan for a Sustainable Future 2024 -2030 and are aimed at making meaningful differences to the lives of people living in and visiting the villages of Berringer Lake, Manyana, Cunjarong Point, Bendalong and North Bendalong. It is recognised that further consultation will be required with the community on some of the projects and that delivery will be subject, in some cases, to obtaining grant funding.

The five projects are as follows (in no particular order of importance):

Project 1 – All-abilities access to Washerwomans Beach

This is a high priority project for the community, given the number of people with mobility restrictions living in the community and the increasing number likely to do so into the future, as well as growing tourist needs. RHVA has identified that this need might best be met at the popular Washerwomans Beach. I have written to you previously regarding this matter noting the consistency of the proposal with Council's Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 (DIAP). As agreed at the meeting on the 21st, it would be appreciated in the first instance if you could arrange for relevant Council staff to meet with me and members of the RHVA committee to scope out the project on-site.

Project 2 – Extension of Yulunga Hall

Yulunga Hall is the central community meeting facility in the Red Head Villages and was pivotal in ensuring community well-being and connectedness during the 2019/20 bush fires. It was recently upgraded as a result of a Stage 1 grant obtained by RHVA under the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program. We will submit for further funding under the Federal Disaster Ready Fund Round 4 when it opens to undertake a more significant extension of the hall and to ensure that it is purpose-ready for future natural disasters, in particular bush fires. We would appreciate timely and proactive Council support in assisting to obtain grant funding and in facilitating construction of the project if and when funding is obtained. There were some significant delays with implementing Stage 1 works as a result of Council red tape and we would seek to avoid this in the future.

Bendalong – Berringer Lake - Cunjarong Point – Manyana - North Bendalong

Project 3 – Extension of cycleway/pedestrian links

Over recent years, cycleway/pedestrian paths have been constructed from Manyana to Bendalong and from Manyana to Berringer Lake with the assistance of Council. These paths have recently been upgraded by Council.

In order to further improve linkages between our villages, there are long-standing plans to construct further links between Manyana and Cunjarong Point and between Bendalong and North Bendalong. Community views and feasibility assessments will need to be undertaken, and again I would request that in the first instance an on-site meeting be held with relevant Council staff to discuss feasibility and delivery options. It is recognised that grant funding will be necessary to action these projects and we would be keen to work with Council on this.

Project 4 - Disaster Preparedness and Community Resilience Project

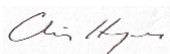
The RHVA is working collaboratively with other community groups in our 5 villages, emergency services such as the RFS and the Red Cross to develop a community disaster preparedness and recovery plan. This plan will be guided by the Red Cross Community-led Resilience Team framework with assistance from Red Cross staff. As you are well aware our community was seriously impacted by the 2019/20 Currowan mega fire. Becoming more disaster ready particularly in the face of the certainty of more catastrophic fires in the future and severe storm impacts, is a high priority for our community. Working collaboratively with Council will be an important aspect of this project.

Project 5 – Organise home composting workshops in collaboration with Council

Local residents have identified in our Community Plan that education of our residents on home composting to reduce food wastage is an important action for the 5 villages community. We would reach out to Council to collaborate on organising local workshops, and seek funding if required.

These are some of the priority projects that we seek to work constructively with Council on over the coming year; there may well be others that arise. Again, I thank you for your attendance at our recent meeting and look forward to Council staff making contact regarding these projects, so we can chart a way forward for their delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hayes
President RHVA Inc