



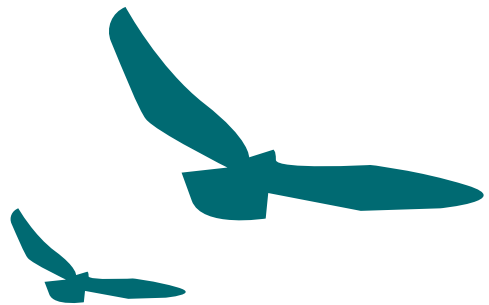
Our Eurobodalla

State of the Shire November 2024



Acknowledgment of Country

Eurobodalla Shire Council recognises Aboriginal people as the original inhabitants and custodians of all land and water in the Eurobodalla and respects their enduring cultural and spiritual connection to it. Eurobodalla Shire Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land in which we live. Council pays respect to Elders past, present and aspiring. We are on Yuin Country.



How to contact us

- In person** Customer Service Centre
Corner Vulcan and Campbell Streets, Moruya
Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 4.30pm
- Phone** 02 4474 1000
For after-hours emergencies call 1800 755 760
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- Email** council@esc.nsw.gov.au
- Web** www.esc.nsw.gov.au
- Councillors** See contact details on our website

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About this report

The purpose of the State of the Shire report is to showcase our efforts to move towards the future vision and goals for Eurobodalla as articulated in the Community Strategic Plan – Our Eurobodalla 2042.

It is an important informing tool for our many stakeholders and is prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Office of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines.

This report will generally cover the Council term of December 2021 to September 2024, and the financial information covers up to 30 June 2024. This report details efforts over a nearly three-year period rather than the usual four-year term of Council, as the NSW Government rescheduled the local government elections from September 2020 to December 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The State of the Shire report is an appendix to the Eurobodalla Shire Council Annual Report 2023-24; however, it has been prepared to be read as a standalone document. Figures quoted in this report may be subject to minor rounding.

The statistics provided are drawn from the most recent data available at the time of publication from the following sources:

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (Census 2021).
- Profile id–Eurobodalla community profile and forecast tool.
- Community Strategic Plan 'Towards 2042' engagement campaign conducted by Eurobodalla Shire Council in February and March 2024.
- Other government and industry sources, including the NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, NSW Your Council, the Australian Government's Clean Energy Regulator, Transport for NSW Safe System Analytics, the Australian Early Development Census, Essential Energy, Snapshot Climate, the NSW Electoral Commission, the Radio Frequency National Site Archive, and the University of Canberra's Regional Wellbeing Survey.
- Eurobodalla Shire Council reports, publications, and data including community research conducted by Micromex on behalf of Council.



Mayor's Message

I write this message in late October 2024, honoured to be returned as popularly-elected Mayor of the Eurobodalla for a second term. The community has responded favourably to the work we started and we – councillors and staff – are committed to continuing our focus of delivering excellent services for our community while living within our means.

This State of the Shire report provides a comprehensive snapshot of our achievements between December 2021 and September 2024, and there are many. It links our community's broader vision with Council's activities and services to provide a report card of sorts. And we're doing pretty well.

A new General Manager in November 2022 saw a fresh approach, with an early financial health check ordered by Warwick Winn revealing debt and deficit too large and a work program beyond the capacity of our workforce and our financial resources. Many factors contributed to this challenging scenario, including the tremendous rebuild after the Black Summer bushfires and floods, and too much reliance on government grants to fund infrastructure we can barely afford to maintain. Thanks to a newly formed finance team, strategies for better managing our finances and grants are now embedded and showing results already, with lower annual deficits forecast and debt being paid down.

Living within our means does not mean going without. This report serves as a showcase of what can be achieved by placing focus on what matters to the community and finding solutions. We still have a massive capital program with water and sewer, roads and bridges, playgrounds, sporting fields, and public toilets all being upgraded or renewed up and down the shire. Our planning team has restructured and refocused on town planning and development services, while services like waste, environment, libraries, children and youth, arts and events keep our communities safe and connected.

Another hallmark of the previous term was better communication. We are now livestreaming the public forum session as part of the Council Meeting, and Councillor Catch Ups the day after each meeting and rotated around the shire provide an opportunity for residents to chat informally with councillors each month. Importantly, we hosted a series of community briefings about our financial challenges and our annual work plans. All of these will continue for the term ahead.

This report serves as a mark in time for our community and the new group of Councillors. Stewardship can be an underrated attribute of government but for me it should be among the most important objectives of any civic leader. Cutting ribbons to open shiny new things is exciting, sure. But a financially sustainable Council that gets the fundamentals right for its community is the gold-standard I am aiming for.

Mathew Hatcher
Eurobodalla Mayor

The State of the Shire report provides a comprehensive snapshot of our achievements ... and there are many.

Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework

Under the *NSW Local Government Act 1993* and Office of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) Framework, councils are required to prepare a suite of planning and reporting documents. The framework provides an opportunity for Council to work with their community to develop plans for long, medium, and short-term timeframes to define their community's aspirations for the future of their local government area and how to direct efforts to work towards them. Council's also needs to periodically report on progress made towards these plans. The plans and reports include:

Planning

Community Strategic Plan

The Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is the highest-level plan that a council prepares. Councils engage, collaborate, collate, and endorse the CSP on behalf of their community. It identifies the community's visions and goals for the future and strategies for achieving these in all aspects of community life. It guides all other Council strategies and plans.

Delivery Program

The Delivery Program is Council's response and commitment to the community, outlining what activities it intends to deliver during its term of office to work towards the CSP's goals.

Resourcing Strategy

This strategy identifies the resources - money, assets, and people - available to Council to support its efforts towards the integrated plans.

Operational Plan

The Operational Plan is a council's annual workplan, listing the actions it will undertake to work towards its Delivery Program and CSP, along with the budgets allocated for the year.

Reporting

Annual Report

Each year, councils report their performance against their annual workplan and the progress made towards their Delivery Program and CSP in their Annual Report.

State of the Shire

The State of the Shire report is presented to a newly elected Council and reports the previous Council's efforts in moving towards the CSP's vision and future goals. It may also cover matters that are not directly Council's responsibility, but contribute to community life.

Stewardship in local government

The IPR framework promotes stewardship in local government, meaning Councillors act as stewards for their Council during their term.

When Councillors are elected, they begin their term under the previously endorsed CSP, the adopted Delivery Program, and its final Operational Plan for their first nine months in office. During this period, they consider the review and revision of the CSP and endorse a new version on behalf of their community and develop a new Delivery Program for their term. They also create Operational Plans as a detailed workplan for each year. The final year's workplan of their Integrated Planning and Reporting suite is left for the next Council to see through, and the cycle continues.

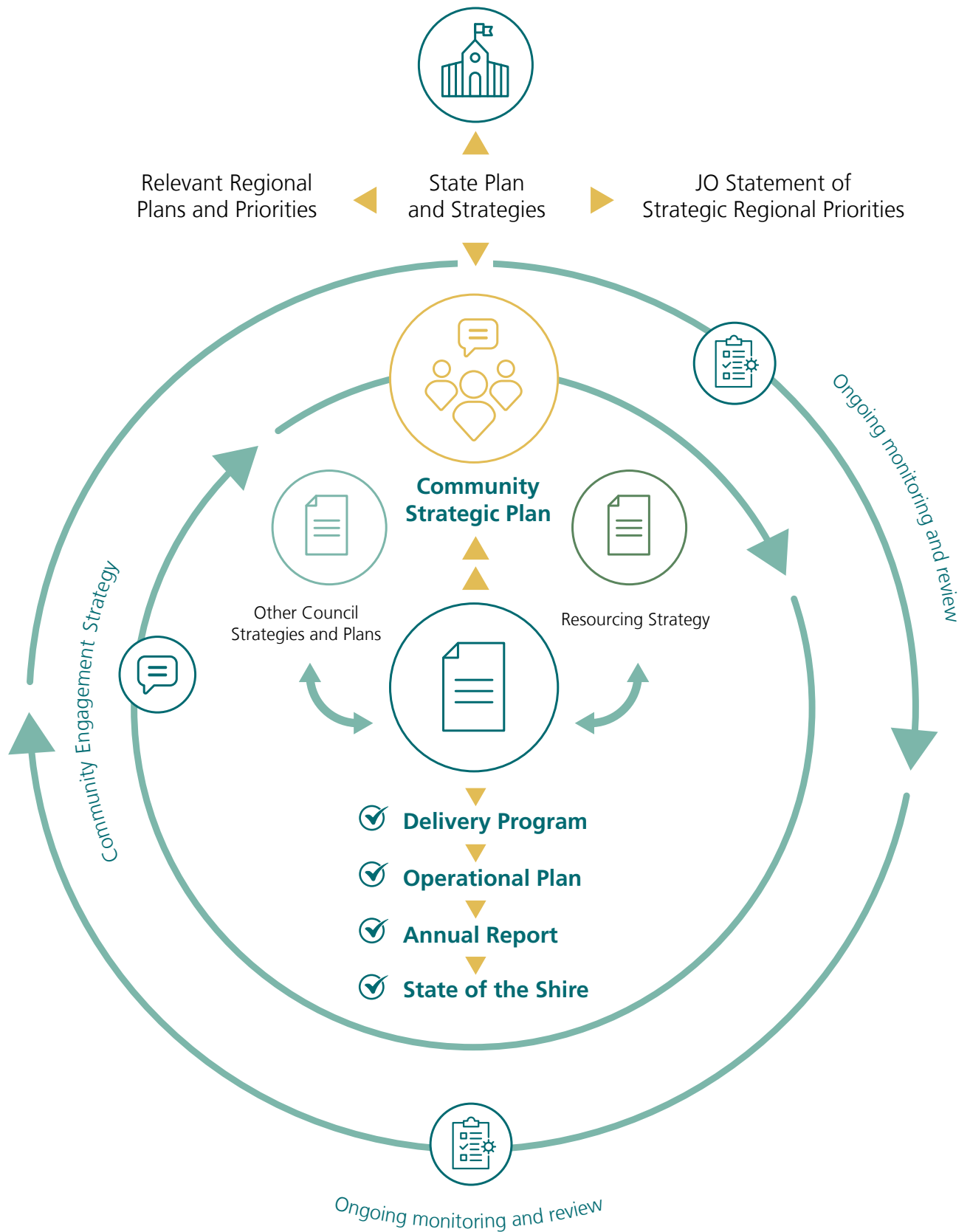
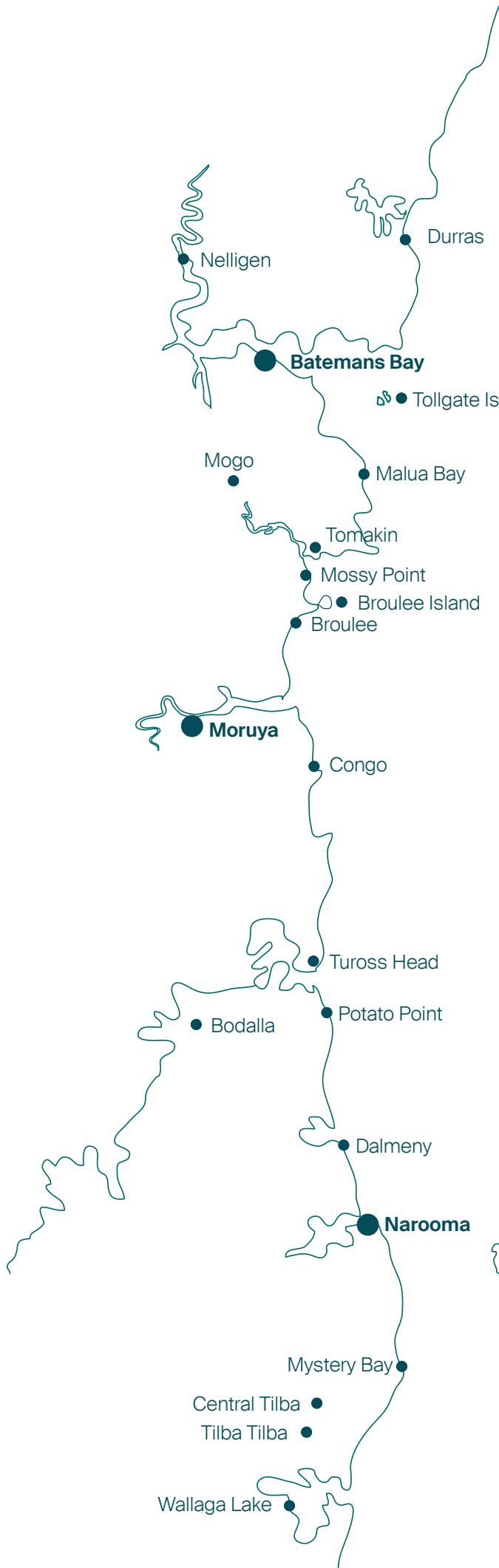


Image: The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.







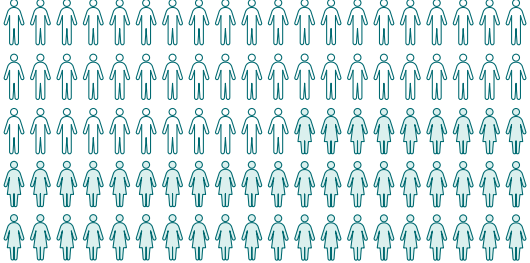




Located close to Canberra and Sydney, Eurobodalla offers an attractive alternative to city living.









Our Eurobodalla

Eurobodalla is part of the state electorate of Bega, and straddles the Australian Government electorate boundaries of Gilmore to the north and Eden-Monaro to the south.



If the Eurobodalla Shire consisted of 100 people there would be:

	6 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders		8 needing assistance with core activities
	4 speaking languages other than English at home		14 born overseas
			
	73 own or mortgage a house		22 renting
	17 undertaking voluntary work		31 with a household income less than \$800 per week

	54 median age
	3,248km² land area
	83 beaches
	20 lakes
	4 major river systems
	11.94 persons per km ²
	10 National parks
	15 State forests

Top industries of employment

1	Health care and social assistance	2	Construction	4	Accommodation and food services
3	Retail trade	5	Education and training		

Our Councillors

Outgoing Council

December 2021 - September 2024 term:

- Mathew Hatcher (Mayor)
- Alison Worthington (Deputy Mayor)
- Tanya Dannock
- Peter Diskon
- David Grace
- Tubby Harrison
- Anthony Mayne
- Rob Pollock OAM
- Amber Schutz

Incoming Council

September 2024 - September 2028 term:

- Mathew Hatcher (Mayor)
- Anthony Mayne (Deputy Mayor, October 2024 - October 2025)
- Laurence Babington
- Phil Constable
- Mick Johnson
- Rob Pollock OAM
- Amber Schutz
- Colleen Turner
- Sharon Winslade

Image: Eurobodalla Shire Councillors for the December 2021 - September 2024 term.



Community Strategic Plan – Our Eurobodalla 2042

Since 2011, many conversations have taken place with the Eurobodalla community to develop the initial Community Strategic Plan and to continue updating the Plan as each new Council term commences.

During the 2021 review, Council needed to move these conversations online, over the phone, or via email submissions due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and social distancing requirements.

Consistently, many engagement participants told us their quality of life in Eurobodalla was good to excellent, and the natural environment, lifestyle and community spirit were valued most highly.

The CSP was revised and our Community Strategic Plan - Our Eurobodalla 2042 was presented to Councillors in February 2022. After a period of public exhibition, the Plan was endorsed by Council on behalf of the community in April 2022.

The whole-of-community plan represents an inspiring roadmap for Eurobodalla to 2042, capturing a clear vision and compelling goals for the future of Eurobodalla.

Our vision

From our beaches to our bushlands, rivers and mountains...

Our Eurobodalla is a place of inclusive communities embracing sustainable lifestyles. Our future balances our natural assets and thriving economy. Our community is resilient and collaborative, and this underpins all that we do.

Our goals

1. Our sustainable shire celebrates our natural environment and outdoor lifestyles
2. Our community that welcomes, celebrates, and supports everyone
3. Our region of vibrant places and spaces
4. Our connected community through reliable and safe infrastructure networks
5. Our engaged community with progressive leadership





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- **Our region of vibrant places and spaces**
- **Our connected community through reliable and safe infrastructure networks**
- **Our engaged community with progressive leadership**

Whose job is it to deliver on the plan?

Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing, and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) on behalf of Eurobodalla, however it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. Achieving and contributing to the vision and goals in this Plan relies on many people, groups, levels of government, and agencies to contribute and collaborate for Eurobodalla.

Individuals

Residents, ratepayers, and visitors from all walks of life are crucial to community life. They are responsible for living and demonstrating values, becoming informed on matters, providing feedback, and engaging in the development of community life.

Community, arts, environmental, and sporting groups

These groups represent their special interest areas and provide opportunities for individuals to come together, participate, and advocate for their group.

Business and industry groups

These groups provide a collective voice for businesses and industries of all shapes and sizes to help progress our local economy.

Local Government

Council is responsible for water supply and sewerage; local and regional roads; footpaths and cycleways; street signage, lighting and parking; stormwater and drainage; waste management including rubbish collection and recycling; recreation facilities including parks, gardens, sports fields, and swimming pools; domestic animal regulation; libraries; land and coast care programs; town planning; building approvals and inspections; and local boating and marine infrastructure. They may provide additional services such as childcare and aged care.

NSW Government

The NSW Government is responsible for education and schools; health including hospitals and nursing; emergency services including police, fire and ambulance; major transport including railways, main roads, and state marine infrastructure; vehicle registration and public transport; public housing and rental assistance; electricity; mining and agriculture; consumer affairs; prisons; and forests.

Australian Government

The Australian Government is responsible for broad national efforts such as defence; trade and commerce; census and statistics; postal and telecommunication services; quarantine; foreign policy; currency; taxation; copyright; and immigration.

Towards 2042

In February and March 2024, Council engaged Eurobodallans to begin the review of our current CSP. Some of the findings from that engagement are included in this report.

We asked:

Have you read the Community Strategic Plan - Our Eurobodalla 2024?

- 65% Yes
- 35% No

How do you feel about the vision?

- 10% very happy
- 39% happy
- 35% neutral
- 11% unhappy
- 5% very unhappy



Progress towards Our Eurobodalla 2042

The upcoming pages are intended to present a summary for each future goal expressed in our Community Strategic Plan – Our Eurobodalla 2042 (CSP). They include:

Where do we want to be?

Details each goal and its strategic objectives as presented in the CSP.

How will we get there?

Lists the strategies detailed in the CSP to guide efforts towards our goals.

March 2024 check-in

What the community told us when we asked if we are on track to reach our goals (from our Towards 2042 engagement during February and March 2024).

By the numbers

Contains a range of figures and indicators relating to the goal.

Efforts and highlights

Features what Council has done over the past three years to work towards our goals.

2024-25 workplan

Includes some key actions Council endorsed in its workplan for the year ending 30 June 2025.

Want to know more?

Council produces an annual report each financial year. These reports provide in-depth information and insights into Council's efforts for the year and contain a range of statutory disclosures. Annual reports are finalised in November and are published on Council's website.

Council also aims to keep the community informed through its website, social media channels, media releases to local community groups and news outlets, subscriber newsletters, and our Living in Eurobodalla publication that is delivered to all households across Eurobodalla three times a year.





Our Eurobodalla is Sustainable Community Strategic Plan Goal 1

Our sustainable shire celebrates our natural environment and outdoor lifestyles

By the numbers

- 190,124MWh electricity used last year*
- 8,402 solar energy installations*
- 371,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions last year*
- 5,984 participants in sustainable education events over the past two years
- 58% of Council's energy is supplied from renewable energy
- 828 water rebates were issued over the past three years
- 3,010 public and environmental health matters responded to over past three years
- 24 Landcare groups in Eurobodalla
- 3.5kg/capita residual household waste generated per week
- 3kg/capita recyclable household waste generated per week*
- 62.6% of total domestic waste generated is diverted from landfill*
- 46,000 bins serviced weekly in the kerbside collection
- 3,302ML water used per year*
- 22,177 water service connections
- 21,711 customers on reticulated sewer

*Measure that is included in the CSP.
For a full list of CSP measures, see Appendix 1.

Infrastructure managed by Council

- 2 waste landfill sites
- 1 waste transfer station
- 1 water storage dam plus one in progress
- 928km water mains
- 16 water pump stations
- 2 water treatment plans
- 588km sewer mains
- 141 sewerage pumping stations
- 6 sewer treatment plants



928km

Water main infrastructure managed



8,402

Solar energy installations*



24

Landcare groups in Eurobodalla



58%

Of Council's energy is supplied from renewable energy



62.6%

Of total domestic waste is diverted from landfill*



Council adopted an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy in May 2023.

Eurobodalla 2042 – Where do we want to be?

Our community embraces sustainable practices to protect our natural environment and resources. Eurobodalla’s treasured biodiversity, featuring beaches, bushland, estuary systems, native flora and fauna, is important and protected. We work collectively to manage our environmental footprint. The potential impacts of climate change and natural disasters, such as those related to bushfires, floods and landslips, are managed and risks are reduced to protect life, property, and the environment.

How will we get there?

Strategies:

- 1.1 Move together for a sustainable future
- 1.2 Value, protect and enhance our natural environment
- 1.3 Respond to our changing climate and natural hazards
- 1.4 Work together in the management and use of our valuable resources

March 2024 check in

Are we on track with delivering the goal?

- 28% yes
- 51% partly
- 17% no
- 4% unsure

Efforts and highlights

1.1 Move together for a sustainable future

- **Smart sensors for wastebins, flood level sensors, guardrail impact sensors and a virtual fence program are technology initiatives that Council has implemented** across the shire to enhance our performance and sustainability. The virtual fence trial, supported by funding from Great Eastern Ranges and Worldwide Fund for Nature, involved establishing an active electronic protection system installed roadside that alerts animals before they cross the road when a vehicle approaches. The trial was remarkably successful, and Council has endorsed funds to continue the rollout of virtual fences in its 2024-25 workplan.
- **Council developed an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy** to assist in identifying suitable locations in the Shire for EVCI. The strategy was adopted in May 2023. The development of an electric vehicle strategy for Council’s fleet remains in its early stages.
- **Waste Management facilities were awarded over \$7.8 million in grant funding** from the NSW Government under the Bushfire Recovery Program for Council landfills. Works have commenced on projects at Surf Beach and Brou, aimed at building capacity, security, and resilience for waste management in the shire.
- **Our already extensive waste minimisation efforts expanded** over the past Council term to include additional diversions for solar panels, textiles, soft plastics and blister packs (pill packets). Council also introduced a two-week free green waste drop-off period for the community to support bushfire-ready clean-ups on their properties.
- **Council commenced revision of its Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy**, and asked stakeholders to provide feedback during September and October 2024 to inform the revision.



Council hosted the first *Festival of Sustainable Choices* in September.

- Council hosted the first 'Festival of Sustainable Choices' in September 2024 with support from NSW Government funding. Featuring roaming performers, over 30 stallholders, workshop and conversation tents, the festival aimed to inspire attendees with new ideas to help build a sustainable future. Worm farms, composting, seed raising, sourdough baking, sustainable skincare product making, eVehicles, permaculture, home design, and understanding energy bills were just some of the topics covered.

1.2 Value, protect and enhance our natural environment

- A Biodiversity Strategy has been drafted and is currently under staff review. The strategy aims to identify objectives and actions to better integrate biodiversity with planning, development, and natural area management in Eurobodalla.
- An updated Flying Fox Management Plan was endorsed in February 2023. Ongoing monitoring of camp numbers continues for these threatened species.
- Council continued to manage environmental health matters, conduct estuary monitoring across six estuaries, and participate in the Beachwatch beach water quality monitoring program for 11 of our popular beaches. The Beachwatch program identified issues with water quality at Surf Beach, and Council has sought independent analysis to assist in identifying the source of the poor results.

- The Wagonga Inlet Living Shoreline multiyear project is nearing completion. 'Living' shorelines provide a natural approach to coastal protection by using plants and other natural elements to prevent erosion. Oyster reefs have been installed, the realignment and restoration of the foreshore is complete, and 17,000 native seedlings have been planted. Designs for public infrastructure (including accessways, a boardwalk, jetty, and floating pontoon) are complete, and construction has commenced. The project is supported by funding from the NSW and Australian Governments.

1.3 Respond to our changing climate and natural hazards

- Council endorsed its Climate Action Plan in July 2022, which sets targets and identifies actions for Council and the community across key areas of sustainability - energy, transport, the built environment, waste, water, biodiversity, agriculture, the regional economy, natural hazards, and Council responsiveness. A Climate Change Advisory Committee was then formed to provide advice to Council and the community on effectively delivering the actions outlined in the Plan, as well as identifying and advising on emerging climate issues and opportunities.
- The Eurobodalla Open Coast Coastal Management Program was completed, certified by the NSW Government, and gazetted in March 2023. Since then, \$12 million in funding has been secured to protect Eurobodalla's northern beaches and low-lying areas from coastal erosion and inundation. Of this, \$6 million from the Australian Government will support works at Caseys Beach, while \$5 million from the NSW Government will support works at Long Beach, Surfside, and North Batemans Bay. Council has also allocated \$1 million towards the works. Tenders have been awarded for the works and design is underway.



The Wagonga Inlet Living Shoreline multi-year project is nearing completion.

1.4 Work together in the management and use of our valuable resources

- The Integrated Water Cycle Management Strategy was updated and endorsed by Council in September 2023. This strategic document outlines a 30-year plan for managing and securing water supply and sewer services for the Eurobodalla community, as well as works required to support growth and protect the environment.
- Provision of a second water storage facility for Eurobodalla in the southern part of the shire continued. The construction of the Southern Water Supply Storage/Dam is estimated to be 67% complete, but several significant rain events have slowed progress to date. Work is expected to continue into 2025.
- Council encouraged the responsible use of water resources by supplying treated effluent for reuse at Catalina Golf Course, Hanging Rock Sports Fields, Moruya Golf Course, Moruya High School playing field, Moruya Riverside Park, and Tuross Golf Course.
- Energy security improvements have been rolled out across key water and sewer assets, including the installation of permanent standby generators at the Batemans Bay, Tuross Head, and Bodalla Sewage Treatment Plants. Permanent standby generators will also be installed at the Tomakin, Moruya, and Narooma Sewage Treatment Plants during their upcoming scheduled augmentations. Going forward, all augmentations will incorporate energy security to improve the resilience and disaster preparedness of this key infrastructure.

2024-25 Workplan highlights

- Finalise the waste strategy
- Establish more virtual fences for wildlife
- Identify and validate biodiversity corridors
- Finalise Wagonga Inlet Living Shoreline project
- Continue the Southern Dam construction



Image: Construction of the Southern Water Supply Storage/Dam is estimated to be 67% complete.



Our Eurobodalla is Inclusive Community Strategic Plan Goal 2

Our community that welcomes, celebrates,
and supports everyone

By the numbers

- 2 hospitals
- 13 schools
 - 9 public
 - 4 private
- 1 University campus
- 2 TAFE campuses
- 1,779 crime offences based on the 13 major offences in 2023-24*
- Over half a million visits to Bay Pavilions in its first two years of operation
- 20,527 Council library members at 30 June 2024

*Measure that is included in the CSP.
For a full list of CSP measures, see Appendix 1.

Over the past 3 years

- 111 heritage advice sessions provided
- 32,822 bookings of Council's recreational and community facilities
- 321,946 visits to libraries

The NSW Government manages and is responsible for schools, hospitals and the healthcare system, policing, and emergency services.

Infrastructure managed by Council

- 515 park benches
- 103 parks
- 67 public amenities
- 35 playgrounds
- 31 tennis courts
- 24 sport fields
- 13 cricket pitches
- 11 netball courts
- 9 public halls
- 5 skate parks
- 3 libraries
- 3 childcare buildings



321,946

Visits to libraries



32,822

Bookings of Council's recreational and community facilities



13 schools

9 Public

4 Private



Observation Point is a gateway to the Coastal Headland Walking Trail.

Eurobodalla 2042 – Where do we want to be?

Eurobodalla recognises and respects our heritage and unique culture. Our community is friendly, diverse and cares for the wellbeing and safety of each other. There is an abundance of opportunities provided to participate or volunteer in community life for all ages and abilities. There is access to a diverse range of education facilities and healthcare services.

How will we get there?

Strategies:

- 2.1 Acknowledge our beginnings, embrace our diversity
- 2.2 Encourage community spirit and enable healthy lifestyles
- 2.3 Provide rich learning opportunities and experiences
- 2.4 Foster a safe community

March 2024 check in

Are we on track with delivering the goal?

- 23% yes
- 51% partly
- 19% no
- 7% unsure

Efforts and highlights

2.1 Acknowledge our beginnings, embrace our diversity

- Council collaborated with Aboriginal Elders, leaders, and representatives, and our Aboriginal Advisory Committee, to acknowledge and involve the traditional custodians of Eurobodalla throughout this term. An Aboriginal Protocols and Guidelines document was developed to provide Council staff with information and understanding of important cultural protocols when working with, consulting, and acknowledging local Aboriginal communities and peoples. The Dhurga-speaking peoples' timeline resources were reviewed, and initial investigations into establishing an Aboriginal employee network have commenced. Major civic events over the term incorporated traditional smoking ceremonies and ceremonial dances.
- **The Observation Point Aboriginal Heritage Interpretation project was recently completed.** Observation Point is a gateway to the Coastal Headland Walking Trail and offers a year-round attraction that highlights Eurobodalla's coast, diverse nature and unique Aboriginal heritage. The project features a yarnning circle, an Aboriginal mural, and the use of Dhurga language in interpretive signage. The NSW Government and the Aboriginal community acknowledged the work at Observation Point as a leader in its engagement with Aboriginal stakeholders and the celebration of culture.
- **The Eurobodalla Heritage Strategy was revised, updated, and adopted by Council in July 2024 for the 2024-28 period.** The Strategy will guide Council's approach to the management of heritage items and places over the next four years, with a vision 'to champion and value our collective history for future generations.'



Council continued to provide services for seniors through our Community Care service.

- **Council continued to provide services for seniors through our Community Care service.** The service offers home care packages for specialised in-home care, social and practical support, carer support, and community transport options. The service passed a quality audit in February 2023, being assessed against the Aged Care Quality Standards.
- **Council's Youth Services went mobile from January 2024.** A youth van replaced Eurobodalla's Youth Cafés, giving Council the ability to take youth activities on the road which helps to remove a significant barrier experienced when engaging with young people – transport. The van adds to Council's efforts for the youth of our shire, which also includes working with our Youth Committee to drive projects and events, and the Y drive project which supports learner drivers to build driving hours and/or pass their learner's test.
- **'Involve Eurobodalla' is a registered National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) provider and part of Council's Community Care service.** It offers direct support services, plan management, support coordination, and/or specialist disability accommodation and supported independent living to participants to assist them to maintain their independence and be actively involved in our community.

2.2 Encourage community spirit and enable healthy lifestyles

- **Over 700 community members volunteer their time across Council's community programs and services,** enriching community life for Eurobodallans. This includes regularly contributing to our community care programs, Y drive youth driving program, the Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre, the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden, and Landcare groups.
- **After our community continued to express low satisfaction with public toilet facilities, Council undertook a thorough inspection of all 67 Council-managed public toilets.** The Toilet Strategy 2023-28 was then developed to provide a coordinated approach to the provision and management of public toilets in the shire, with clear, measurable improvements in place to meet community expectations. Along with the strategy, a new public amenities team was recruited to renew and maintain these facilities. The team has completed new builds at Malua Bay and Brierleys Boat Ramp, as well as renovations to the North Broulee and NATA Oval Narooma amenities. Renovations at South Head Moruya, South Broulee, and Mosquito Bay are underway.
- **The Bay Pavilions Arts and Aquatic Facility opened to the public in June 2022** following its multiyear build, supported by contributions of \$26 million from the NSW Government and \$25 million from the Australian Government. The facility had over half a million visits in its first two years of operation. Since its opening, Council has commissioned independent reviews into the facility's performance, energy use and risks to inform The Bay Pavilions Sustainability Plan 2024. The plan aims to optimise business outcomes for the facility, while maintaining positive community benefits.



Council recently completed major upgrade works at the Malua Bay Reserve.

- Council recently completed major upgrade works at the Malua Bay Reserve, and Moruya Showground. The works at Malua Bay include accessibility upgrades, an expanded play space, new picnic facilities, a toilet block, pathways and landscaping and were supported by funding from NSW and Australian Governments, the Lions District Club of Batemans Bay, and Council funding. The existing bar and individual toilet blocks at Moruya Showground have been replaced with a new single bar/canteen and amenities building, and the heritage shed was relocated and refurbished. The works were funded by the Australian Government and will also ensure the facility can better cater as an evacuation centre for the community during emergencies.
- In April 2024, Council resolved to lobby the NSW Government to ensure the opening of Eurobodalla's new regional hospital at the end of 2025 continues to provide high levels of health care for all Eurobodalla residents. The lobbying will also advocate for the prioritised construction of the Moruya Bypass to provide direct and efficient access to the new hospital, increased ambulance services in the north of the shire and extended opening hours for the Batemans Bay Urgent Care Clinic upon the hospital's opening.

2.3 Provide rich learning opportunities and experiences

- Council collaborates with TAFE NSW, the University of Wollongong (UOW), and other education providers to advocate for and ensure that students in Eurobodalla have access to local vocational and tertiary education opportunities. Batemans Bay's library (Council-run), TAFE, and UOW campus are co-located at Hanging Rock.
- Batemans Bay, Moruya and Narooma libraries provide a diverse range of lending collections, reference materials, information services, online resources, programs, and events to the community. They remain free to join for people who live, work, or study in Eurobodalla.
- Options for the introduction of a new Home Library Service have been investigated and potential operational models have been reviewed. Estimates for the program's costings have been prepared, and documentation, policies, and procedures have also been created.
- Council coordinates early education services, including Family Day Care, Vacation Care and Out of School Hours (OOSH) for infants, preschool, and primary school-aged children. The family day care service provided over 4,000 instances of care during the 2023-24 year, however this is fewer than previous years given a reduction in the number of educators due to retirement and illness. There are over 110 children on the waitlist for this service. The Out of School Hours and Vacation Care programs provided a combined almost 10,000 occasions of care last year and are located in Batemans Bay, Moruya, and Narooma.



Council recruited its first full-time Local Emergency Management Officer in November 2023.

- Council has advocated for the early childhood education and care sector during its term after the industry faced staff and skill shortages. Council developed a Children’s Service Action Plan and State of the Industry Summary in 2022 to guide advocacy and drive efforts. Lobbying and networking events have since taken place, and positively, Moruya TAFE have recommended providing the Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care course, supported by a full-time teacher.

2.4 Foster a safe community

- With funding support from the NSW Government, Council employs a full-time Road Safety Officer who implements road safety campaigns across Eurobodalla, and for the Kings Highway – the road that connects Canberra to our shire.
- Council provides professional lifeguard services, via contracted specialists, to eight main beaches across the shire each summer to help keep beachgoers safe. These services are in addition to volunteer-patrolled beaches by the Surf Lifesaving Association. The contract also supports the installation of Council’s mobility beach mats, which assist community members with disability or low mobility in accessing the beach.
- Council delivers public safety and regulatory programs. These include food inspection programs, commercial public pool water quality inspections, liquid trade waste audits, and companion animal management. Over 500 customer service requests were responded to annually for matters including abandoned vehicles, unsafe parking, and illegal camping.

- Council recruited its first full-time Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO) in November 2023. The role was upgraded from part-time to full-time, reflecting both community sentiment and our own commitment to disaster preparedness in the wake of bushfires and floods. Work has commenced with the NSW Reconstruction Authority on disaster adaptation and pre-emergency recovery plans. The LEMO is also developing a community information piece for guiding individuals and groups on where to find and how to use the abundant existing resources for preparedness from responsible agencies.
- Council is working with emergency services to finalise the designs for the Surf Beach Emergency Services Precinct, following the completion of bulk earthworks at the site. The precinct will be a new headquarters for Surf Beach Rural Fire Brigade and Batemans Bay State Emergency Services. The works are supported by funding from the NSW and Australian Governments.

2024-25 Workplan highlights

- Collaborate to provide youth health and wellbeing initiatives
- Construct John Street, Mogo public amenity
- Introduce energy efficiencies at Bay Pavilions
- Explore intergenerational programming at our libraries
- Update the Eurobodalla Road Safety Plan

Mobility beach mats assist community members with disability or low mobility accessing the beach.





Our Eurobodalla is Thriving Community Strategic Plan Goal 3

Our region of vibrant places and spaces

By the numbers

- \$2.25B gross domestic product of Eurobodalla*
- 17,901 jobs located in Eurobodalla
- 4% unemployment rate*
- 3,629 GST registered businesses*
- \$180.5 million value add of the visitor economy
- 1.6 million visitors annually
- 221,204 visitors to Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden over past 3 years
- 10% resident agree that housing in the area is affordable*

*Measure that is included in the CSP.
For a full list of CSP measures, see Appendix 1.

Development applications



2021-22

903 Applications received

57.16 Days turnaround time

2022-23

759 Applications received

61.16 Days turnaround time

2023-24

789 Applications received

59.15 Days turnaround time

Top industries of employment

- 1 Health care and social assistance
- 2 Construction
- 3 Retail trade
- 4 Accommodation and food services
- 5 Education and training



\$2.25B

Gross domestic product*



221,204

Visitors to Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden



17,901

Jobs located in Eurobodalla



1.6M

Visitors annually



10%

Of residents agree housing in the area is affordable*



Council is preparing a draft masterplan for Batemans Bay.

Eurobodalla 2042 – Where do we want to be?

The development of Eurobodalla is responsive, functional and sympathetic to our environment. We balance growth and economic demands with sustainable practices. Eurobodalla is welcoming to new industries and innovations whilst supporting our strong established economy. Our public spaces are activated, engaging and attractive all year round.

How will we get there?

Strategies:

- 3.1 Balance development between the needs of people, place and productivity
- 3.2 Support diversified industry and thriving businesses
- 3.3 Embrace and value our creative arts
- 3.4 Celebrate our unique region through inclusive places and spaces

March 2024 check in

Are we on track with delivering the goal?

- 31% yes
- 50% partly
- 14% no
- 5% unsure

Efforts and highlights

3.1 Balance development between the needs of people, place and productivity

- Council has developed a draft Housing Strategy 2024-41 that was publicly exhibited from 29 May to 10 July for community and stakeholders to provide feedback. The strategy aims to meet demand for new homes and encourage greater housing diversity and affordability over the next 20 years. It acknowledges that the role of Council is limited to planning rules and the processes for approvals, and provides a framework for Council advocacy on housing issues. Feedback from the exhibition process is being considered.
- Council is preparing a draft masterplan for Batemans Bay after numerous meetings with Batemans Bay community groups and stakeholders. The masterplan will be presented to Council during 2024-25 for a period of public exhibition and feedback. Following its finalisation, a planning proposal will be prepared to implement the plan.
- At Dalmeny, land zoned for residential development is subject to the development of a masterplan and a development control plan that will guide future works. A preliminary masterplan was presented to the community for their views, and the project will now be finalised by the landowners group considering the technical studies and feedback from the community.
- Council is on track to deliver the Moruya Housing Infrastructure Project, supported by \$11.53 million in funding received from the NSW Government. Infrastructure is being designed and constructed to support housing development in Moruya for up to 1,000 homes in areas already zoned for residential development. It aims to attract potential developers by providing this infrastructure and help alleviate pressure on the local housing market.



The 'Job Shop' provides access to training and job opportunities and connect businesses with jobseekers.

- **Recently, there has been an increase in complex and larger development applications submitted to Council.** This, paired with delays experienced with the NSW Planning Portal and an industry skill shortage, has impacted turnaround times for applications. Turnaround times showed slight improvement for the 2023-24 year compared to the year prior.

3.2 Support diversified industry and thriving businesses

- **Council works with local business chambers, industry groups, local universities, and businesses directly to support growth, diversity and investment for our shire.** Numerous workshops, networking events, and meetings were hosted or attended by Council, supporting agencies, and businesses. Council also produces a monthly business update newsletter to keep stakeholders informed on the latest spending trends, tender opportunities, workshops, business support, events, and available resources.
- **The 'Job Shop,' a project run by Council and funded by the NSW Government,** provides access to training and job opportunities to help people in Eurobodalla secure employment and connect businesses with jobseekers. It provides free training opportunities and job readiness support such as resume writing and interview preparation. The service also issues weekly job alerts and has hosted a number of networking events and job expos.
- **After over 12 months of collaboration with industry and key stakeholders, the Eurobodalla Destination Action Plan 2023-28 was adopted by Council in December 2023.** The plan sets the direction and identifies priorities to sustainably grow the visitor economy of Eurobodalla. Work is now underway with industry representatives to determine a suitable tourism delivery model to drive the plan forward.
- **Mogo Trails, an adventure trail for mountain biking, is nearing completion.** The project is funded by the NSW and Australian Governments and aims to increase tourism-related business opportunities year-round. The eastern section of the trails opened in August 2024. Council hosted a series of ride-ready workshops for local businesses to guide them on catering for visitors enjoying the trail network. A longer-term management model for the trails is being considered.
- **'Munjip,' the Batemans Bay Coastal Headlands Walking Trail extends from Observation Point, Batehaven to McKenzies Beach, Malua Bay.** The nearly 16km walking trail links headlands and beaches via natural bush tracks and lookout areas is nearing completion, with works to upgrade and rejuvenate Observation Point completed in 2023. The multiyear project is supported by funds from the NSW and Australian Governments and contributions from the Rotary Club and Council. The project aims to offer a year-round attraction for locals and visitors.
- **Council is currently reviewing its Event Strategy** to ensure Eurobodalla's event attraction and support are comprehensive, sustainable, and focused on fostering higher quality, more frequent, safe, and successful events for the community to enjoy and attract visitors to the region. The review is anticipated to be completed in 2025.



The biennial Basil Sellers Art Prize is now in its 20th year.

3.3 Embrace and value our creative arts

- **Eurobodalla’s public art offerings continued to grow throughout the shire.** Recent additions include murals at the Moruya public amenities, the Hanging Rock water tank, and the Narooma toilet block at the Avenue of Remembrance, as well as the Heavy Metal Seashore and Weed sculptures from the 2023 Sculpture for Clyde event, which have been permanently installed.
- **Local artists are provided with opportunities to exhibit, promote, and perform through the annual program at the Basil Sellers Exhibition Centre and the ‘Bas About Town’ stream of activities at the Mechanics Institute.** Council provides venue support for the River of Art Festival to further promote local artists and organises creative workshops and creative long programs at Council’s facilities throughout the year for the community to experience vibrant creative arts offerings.
- **The biennial Basil Sellers Art Prize is now in its 20th year.** The Council-run and nationally recognised prize offers a prize pool of over \$30,000 and attracts entrants from across Australia. The Little Sellers Art Prize, which caters to aspiring school-aged artists, has experienced record numbers of entries in recent years. The awards are supported by Mr Basil Sellers AM.

3.4 Celebrate our unique region through inclusive places and spaces

- **Plans of Management are being developed for Crown Reserves.** Plans for Hanging Rock and Observation Point have been submitted to Crown Lands for finalisation and approval. A Moruya Riverside Park plan is in its early stages of development.

- **Village entry signs are being progressively upgraded and installed across Eurobodalla.** Signage at Durras, Dalmeny, Kianga, Nelligen, and Tuross Head has been completed, with Tilba Tilba and Central Tilba, Tomakin, Broulee, Mossy Point and Batehaven included in the next phase of the rollout. The signs feature our distinctive laser-cut totem for Yuin Nation Umbarra – the black duck, by Yuin artist Tereasa Trevor, and feature the traditional Dhurga welcome, walawaani njindiwan, ‘safe journeys everyone’.
- **The Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden (the Gardens) has been rebuilt better after sustaining major damage from the Black Summer Bushfires 2019-20.** Timber bridges were replaced with steel, less flammable landscaping materials used, and greater asset protection zones established. The Gardens experienced record visitor numbers for most months during 2023-24 and hosts a range of events to attract visitors.
- **The delivery of a ‘Wellness Walk’ at the Gardens is progressing with funding secured from grants and the Friends Group.** Plans to build a ‘Sensory Garden’ were withdrawn after responses to the construction tender exceeded the available grant funds.

2024-25 Workplan highlights

- Finalise the Batemans Bay Masterplan
- Review the Economic Development Strategy
- Establish a tourism delivery model to drive the outcomes of the Eurobodalla Destination Action Plan
- Finalise the Mogo Trails and Coastal Headland Walking Trails projects
- Install town signage at Tilba Tilba, Central Tilba, Tomakin, Broulee, Mossy Point and Batehaven



Our Eurobodalla is Resilient Community Strategic Plan Goal 4

Our connected community through reliable and safe infrastructure networks

By the numbers

- 1 Regional airport
- 59 Mobile phone towers*
- 3.6% of resident rode or walked to work on census day 2021*

Road safety annual average (2018-22)*

- 4.6 fatal crashes
- 23.2 crashes resulting in serious injury
- 64.2 crashes resulting in moderate injury
- 22.2 crashes resulting in minor injury

*Measure that is included in the CSP. For a full list of CSP measures, see Appendix 1.

Infrastructure maintained by Council

- 633km of sealed roads
- 390km of unsealed roads
- 115 bridges
- 205km of stormwater infrastructure
- 153km of pathways
- 147 Council carparks
- 22 boat ramps
- 9 pontoons
- 8 jetties
- 7km rock wall
- 5 fishing platforms
- 4 wharves

Over the past three years

- 29 Local Traffic Committee meetings held
- 25,530 community transport trips provided
- 54,411 passengers through Moruya Regional Airport



115
Bridges



205km
Stormwater infrastructure



54,411 passengers
Through Moruya Regional Airport



147
Council carparks

The NSW Government manages and is responsible for major roads and waterways, including building and maintaining the Princes and Kings Highway. It is also the level of government responsible for vehicle and driver registrations and enforcing road safety through policing and vehicle inspections.

The Commonwealth Government is responsible for telecommunications, the internet and air travel.



The Community Transport service, supported by volunteer drivers, provided over 25,000 trips over the past three years

Eurobodalla 2042 – Where do we want to be?

Our Eurobodalla is connected through resilient transport and telecommunications links. Moving through Eurobodalla is seamless via our considered and accessible transport system of local road and pathway networks. Access to and from the region is supported by effective air, road and marine transport options. The community can access reliable telephone and internet services to enhance connectivity.

How will we get there?

Strategies:

- 4.1 Provide integrated and active transport networks to enable a connected and accessible Eurobodalla
- 4.2 Strengthen linkages through air, road, and marine transport options
- 4.3 Enhance connectivity through improved telecommunications and power supply

March 2024 check in

Are we on track with delivering the goal?

- 13% yes
- 51% partly
- 31% no
- 5% unsure

Efforts and highlights

4.1 Provide integrated and active transport networks to enable a connected and accessible Eurobodalla

- Council continued to work closely with the NSW Government, Transport for NSW, and the Local Traffic Committee to support and advocate for improvements to public transport. This advocacy has supported upgrades to bus shelters at Surfside, Batemans Bay, Batehaven, Lilli Pilli, Moruya Heads, Tuross and Kianga, supported by funding contribution from the NSW Government.
- Council's Community Transport service continued providing transport for older people, people with disability, those who are transport disadvantaged, and their carers. The door-to-door service, supported by a team of volunteer drivers, provided over 25,000 trips to Eurobodallans over the past three years, helping them access medical services, attend social outings, and complete their shopping.
- Multiple declared natural disasters from significant rain events impacted our road network during this term. Numerous potholes and pavement failures were caused by periods of relentless rain, requiring urgent repairs. Council diverted extra crews to address the repairs on a priority basis, and our road maintenance program required additional reactive works. Longer-term repairs are underway and will be supported by funding from the NSW Government.



Rex Airlines operates four passenger flights per day from Moruya Airport.

- **The 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires significantly damaged or destroyed numerous timber bridges across the shire.** Resilience works to replace the damaged and destroyed bridges, and to upgrade additional bridges, including timber bridges, with more resilient structures are ongoing. To date, 24 bridges have undergone replacements and upgrades, and an additional two bridges are scheduled in our works program. These works have been supported by grants from the NSW and Australian Governments.
- **Araluen Road, a narrow and mostly unsealed road from Moruya to Braidwood, was damaged on an unprecedented scale from the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires and from the significant rain events since.** The main access route for properties in the Deua River Valley and Merricumbene has had significant Council resources, and funding from NSW and Australian Governments, dedicated to it during the term to restore safe access. The road was reopened in October 2023, and individual stabilisation plans have been developed for the different problem areas.
- **The network of pathways increased by 13% across Eurobodalla** to continue the growth of active transport in the shire. A review of Council's Pathway Strategy has been delayed while efforts have been diverted to disaster recovery works, but it is anticipated to be prepared during the 2024-25 year.

4.2 Strengthen linkages through air, road, and marine transport options

- **The Princes Highway and Kings Highway are the two regional highways that connect Eurobodalla.** Council continued to advocate for improved outcomes for these significant regional transport links. This included advocacy for highway duplication and bridge upgrades, directly to Transport for NSW and the NSW Government, as well as through the Southeast Regional Transport Strategy Inc and the Canberra Region Joint Organisation. The NSW Government replaced the major bridges of Batemans Bay (opened mid-2022) and Nelligen (opened February 2023) and announced the preferred corridor for the proposed Moruya bypass in July 2024.
- **Council advocated to Transport for NSW to investigate upgrading of the L-Wharf in Batemans Bay** to facilitate larger sea plane berths and for dredging of the Clyde River, with consideration for the reuse of dredged sand to renourish Surfside Beach to help address erosion concerns.
- **Significant upgrades to Moruya Airport have been underway since 2017.** The substantial multiyear upgrades aim to build and maintain infrastructure needed for the future growth of air travel in our shire and are supported by NSW and Australian Government grants. Recent works have included the installation of new security access gates, line marking and asphalt seals on taxiways, installation of power and street lighting for the western subdivision, and pilot-activated runway lights. A review of the Airport Masterplan is also currently underway.



Mount Wandera has the main telecommunications site for the whole of Eurobodalla.

- **Rex Airlines operates four passenger flights per day from Moruya Airport** (three to Sydney and one to Merimbula), and passenger numbers are trending back towards the pre-COVID-19 high of over 22,000 per year, with over 20,000 using the service during 2023-24. Rex Airlines entered voluntary administration in August 2024, however their regional services have continued operating.

4.3 Enhance connectivity through improved telecommunications and power supply

- **The Mount Wandera telecommunications site, west of Moruya, is the main telecommunications infrastructure site for the whole of Eurobodalla.** Improvements to the site are underway, due to successful advocacy by a Council-led steering group of users to improve the resilience of the site after it incurred extensive damage in the 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires. The resilience upgrades, funded by a \$750,000 grant from the Australian Government, include provision of resilient power infrastructure, improved access, and expanded asset protection zones. This site houses the government radio network for all emergency services agencies, ABC and commercial radio, TV, mobile phone infrastructure, Council's telemetry systems for water and sewerage systems, and numerous private purposes.
- **Council partnered with the Durras Association to assist their advocacy for improved power resilience.** This resulted in an Australian Government funded upgrade to replace 30 timber power poles between South Durras and the Princes Highway with composite fire-proof poles and relocate power cables to the local NBN fixed-wireless tower underground. These works were carried out by Essential Energy.

- **Council has commenced developing a Eurobodalla Digital Strategy,** working with government, business, and resident stakeholders to inform its preparation. The strategy aims to focus on opportunities and tools provided by digital transformation, including the development of infrastructure, increased digital literacy of residents, and facilitating business adaptation and innovation using new technologies.

2024-25 Workplan highlights

- **Deliver Potato Point Road flood resilience upgrades**
- **Progress intersection upgrades for George Bass Drive at Broulee and Malua Bay**
- **Finalise the review of the Moruya Airport Masterplan**



Our Eurobodalla is Collaborative Community Strategic Plan Goal 5

Our engaged community with progressive leadership

By the numbers

- Nine Councillors represent Eurobodalla
- 82% voter turnout at the September 2024 Council elections*
- 861,881 views of Council website in 2023-24
- 3,658 Council News subscribers at June 2024
- 6.7% of population engaged during 2024 Community Strategic Plan review engagement
- 41 GIPA applications determined



2021-24 Council Term

- 44** Council Meetings
- 61** Public access speakers
- 177** Public forum speakers



Council's social media

- 18,365** Facebook followers
Posts seen by 36,358 accounts per month (on average)
- 2,871** Instagram followers
- 1,931** LinkedIn followers

Over the past three years



433
Media releases



12 meetings
Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee



468
Private work orders completed



144,182 calls
To Council's switch



10,964
Hard copy letters received and processed



108,268
Emails to council@esc.nsw.gov.au



over \$630,000
Granted via Council's Community Grants program

*Measure that is included in the CSP. For a full list of CSP measures, see Appendix 1.



Council's print newsletter is distributed to households throughout the shire three times per year.

Eurobodalla 2042 – Where do we want to be?

Our Eurobodalla is a collaborative and connected community that recognises our mutual responsibility to work towards our goals, and actively participates and engages to improve our region. Our leaders act fairly, listen to, and represent our community. They are accountable and transparent in their decision-making process.

How will we get there?

Strategies:

- 5.1 Acknowledge our shared responsibility through an informed community
- 5.2 Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership
- 5.3 Work together to achieve our collective vision

March 2024 check in

Are we on track with delivering the goal?

- 15% yes
- 45% partly
- 29% no
- 11% unsure

Efforts and highlights

5.1 Acknowledge our shared responsibility through an informed community

- Council endeavours to reach as many community members as possible across a number of communication channels. Our website is updated daily, and ongoing training is provided to web editors to continually improve content. Our social media accounts have over 23,000 followers and are regularly updated with information, posts and reels. Media releases are sent to media outlets, Chambers of Commerce and local community groups for newsworthy items.
- **Living in Eurobodalla, Council's print newsletter, is distributed to households throughout the shire three times per year.** The newsletter keeps residents up to date with council projects, special interest stories, Dhurga corner - which introduces Dhurga words and culture - and a what's on section for upcoming events.
- **Council's 'Our Eurobodalla' online engagement platform was rolled out** to become a permanent method of community engagement going forward. The platform supports and supplements Council's face-to-face engagement activities by offering a 24/7 space for residents to have their say while surveys and projects are open for feedback. The platform can be utilised across all areas of Council.
- **Council News, our monthly email newsletter, is distributed to almost 4,000 subscribers**, keeping them up to date on Council activities. A range of other specialist newsletters - tourism, libraries, arts, botanic gardens - are also available to subscribers.



Councillor Catch Ups are an initiative of the 2021 elected Councillors.

- Council introduced 'Community Briefings' in 2023. Held in each of the shire's three major towns, they invite members of the community to attend a session, be briefed and ask questions on important issues. The first were held in May 2023 and saw General Manager Warwick Winn and Director of Finance and Corporate Services Stephanie Speedy hit the road to explain the findings of a financial health check into Council. They were joined by Mayor Mathew Hatcher in April 2024 for briefings to explain Council's newly developed Finance Strategy, and then were out again in May 2024 to explain the upcoming workplan.
- In November 2023, Congo residents and people who made submissions on how to restore northern access to Congo, were invited to a workshop to explore ways forward for the road. The workshop was hosted by Council and facilitated by an independent specialist and saw community, stakeholders, Councillors and senior council staff come together to consider possible solutions. This workshop enabled participants to gather, in good faith, to work on this difficult and divisive issue.

5.2 Proactive, responsive and strategic leadership

- Council recruited and appointed a new General Manager in 2022. Warwick Winn commenced as General Manager on 7 November 2022 for a four-year term.
- During the 2021-2024 term, Councillors held 44 council meetings. Meeting agendas were released one week prior to ordinary meetings and meetings were livestreamed and available to playback.
- Council continued to actively work with, and advocate to, the NSW and Australian Governments, neighbouring councils and Canberra Region Joint Organisation, local government sector organisations and industry during their term. Along with participating in a variety of committees and campaigns, Councillors attended conferences, made submissions, and sent advocacy letters on a range of topics to improve community life. Council's Annual Report discloses these efforts each year.
- Councillor Catch Ups are an initiative of the 2021 elected Councillors, who wanted to ensure the community had opportunities to meet with them in a community setting and be heard. Fourteen catch ups were held since their implementation, rotating between towns in our shire. Residents and stakeholders can raise issues, provide feedback and ask for information, and a wrap up from each session is featured on Council's website.
- Mayor Mathew Hatcher made numerous television and radio appearances to highlight challenges facing Eurobodalla and promote solutions, particularly for greater housing availability and affordability. His television appearances include the Project, Q and A, and the Today Show, representing Eurobodalla's concerns at a national level.



Employees provide a wide range of experience to deliver essential services for Eurobodalla.

- The inaugural Mayor's Charity Ball was held in November 2023. The event brought the Eurobodalla community together for dinner and dancing to celebrate the shires volunteers. It supported Monty's Place in Narooma, with proceeds from the night going to this worthy cause. The event is now a permanent fixture, with the second ball planned for November 2024.
- In late 2022, an independent financial health check was undertaken to consider Council's financial position and performance into the future. The health check showed that Council was planning for large future operating deficits in the general fund, increasing levels of debt, and a work program which stretched resources.
- Armed with the financial health check findings, a Finance Strategy and accompanying Grants Strategy was developed to guide Council back to a financially sustainable path. Council committed to living within its means, to finalise the large capital works program it was carrying, and to 'do less but do better' instead of being a medium council trying to do the work of a larger one. The finance-led, delivery-focused mindset, and an organisation-wide budget reset to identify efficiencies, resulted in smaller deficits for the 2024-25 and outer year projections. Work is ongoing to deploy the strategies.

5.3 Work together to achieve our collective vision

- The financial statements of Eurobodalla Shire Council all received unqualified audit opinions from the NSW Audit Office for years ended 30 June 2022, 30 June 2023, and 30 June 2024.
- Council has commenced drafting a Property Strategy to examine land owned or under council control. The development of the strategy is a recommendation of the Finance Strategy 2024-28 and is planned to be presented to Council in 2025.
- Council transitioned its Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee to the Office of Local Government's new guidelines. The guidelines strengthen the independence of the committee and ensure the continuing of the three mandatory governance functions - audit, risk and improvement - that are key to ensuring councils are doing things the best way they can for their communities. New members have been appointed to the committee in line with the revised guidelines.
- At 30 June 2024, Council employed 543 staff in either full-time, part-time or temporary roles. These employees provide a wide range of experience to deliver essential services for Eurobodalla, and to drive efforts towards our vision for the future.

2024-25 Workplan highlights

- Induct Councillors after the September 2024 Local Government Elections
- Undertake a review of Council's light fleet including electric vehicle considerations
- Facilitate the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee under its new terms of reference

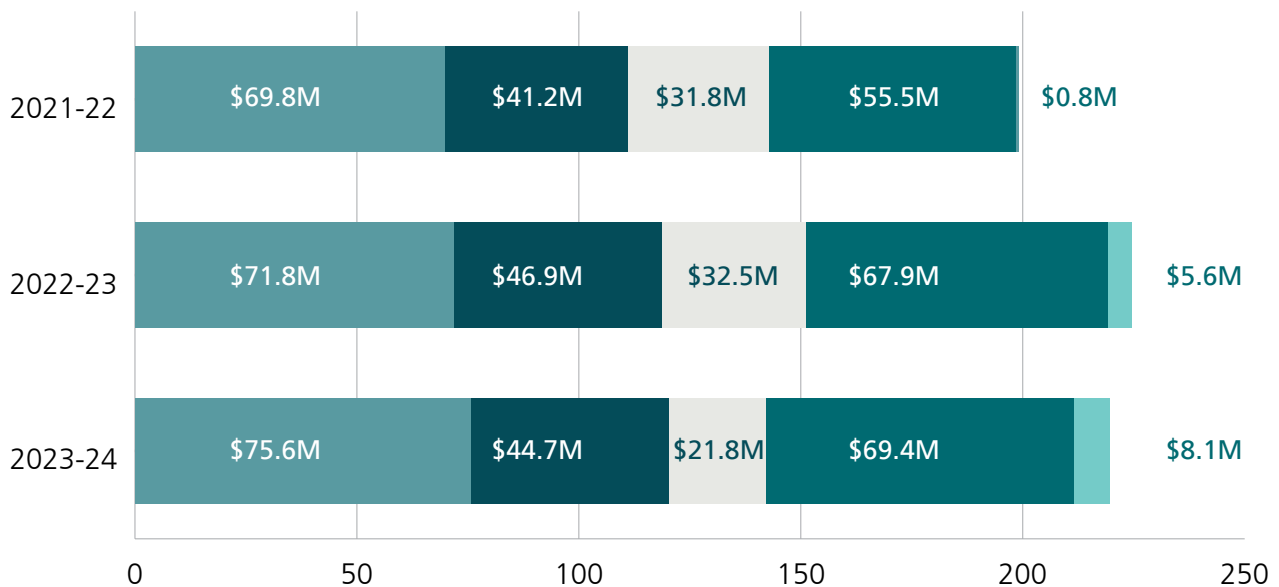
Financial snapshot

Each year, Council prepares financial statements that detail its financial activities and performance. These statements are published on Council’s website. The following provides an overview of financial information from our financial statements for the years ended 30 June 2022, 30 June 2023, and 30 June 2024. It aims to be easily understood by readers in our community.

Money in

Comparison of income over 3 years (\$,000,000)

Year	Rates and annual charges	User charges, fees and other	Operating grants and contributions	Capital grants and contributions	Investments	Total
2021-22	69.8	41.2	31.8	55.5	0.8	199.1
2022-23	71.8	46.9	32.5	67.9	5.6	224.6
2023-24	75.6	44.7	21.8	69.4	8.1	219.6

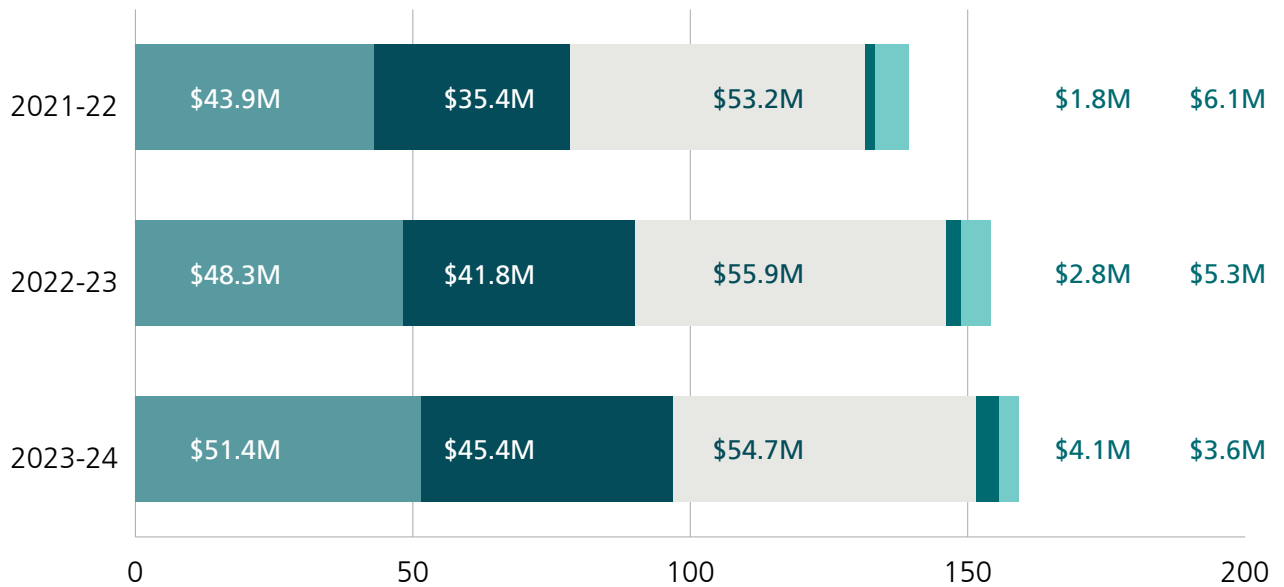


- Rates and annual charges
- User charges, fees and other
- Operating grants and contributions
- Capital grants and contributions
- Investments

Money out

Comparison of expenditure over 3 years (\$,000,000)

Year	Employee costs	Depreciation	Materials and contracts	Borrowing costs	Net loss on asset disposal	Total
2021-22	43.9	35.4	53.2	1.8	6.1	140.5
2022-23	48.3	41.8	55.9	2.8	5.3	154.1
2023-24	51.4	45.4	54.7	4.1	3.6	159.1



- Employee costs
- Depreciation
- Materials and contracts
- Borrowing costs
- Net loss on asset disposal

Operating Result by fund

Net result before capital revenue

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
General Fund	\$3.2M surplus	\$1.9M deficit	\$11.2M deficit
Water Fund	\$0.9M surplus	\$3.7M surplus	\$2.8M surplus
Sewer Fund	\$1.1M deficit	\$0.9M surplus	\$0.4M deficit

Assets

\$2.2 billion of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment under Council ownership and management as at 30 June 2024.

This is made up of:

- Buildings \$182 million
- Land \$313 million
- Open space and recreation \$59 million
- Plant and equipment \$28 million
- Roads, bridges, footpaths \$883 million
- Sewerage \$316 million
- Water supply \$238 million
- Works in progress \$164 million



\$182M

Buildings



\$313M

Land



\$59M

Open space and recreation



\$28M

Plant and equipment



\$883M

Roads, bridges and footpaths



\$316M

Sewerage



\$238M

Water supply



\$164M

Works in Progress

Financial ratios

Financial ratios are a tool that assist in understanding some aspects of Council's financial performance.

There are seven ratios that are calculated each year.

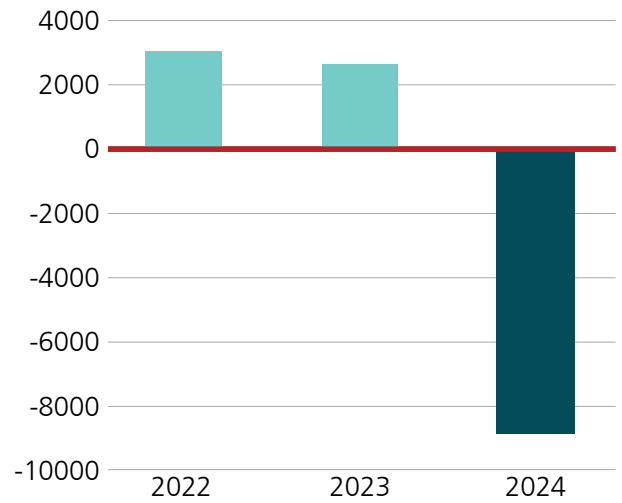
Operating Result before Capital (\$'000)

Below the benchmark ↓

Council's operating result is below the benchmark for this year. While some of this is due to one-off timing factors, Council's ability to keep costs below revenue will continue to be a challenge in the future.

Benchmark 0

- 2022 3,093
- 2023 2,628
- 2024 (8,835)



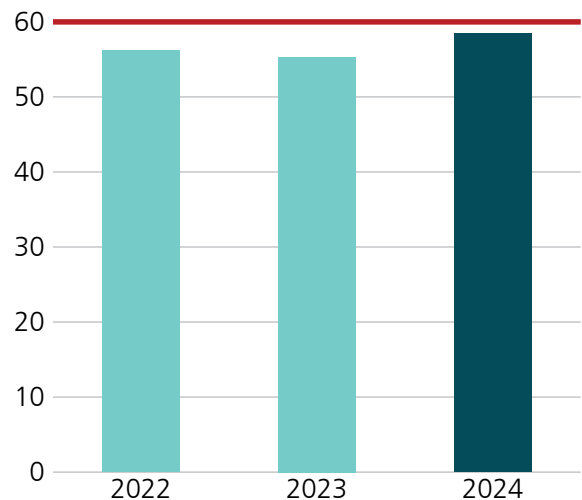
Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio

Below the benchmark ↓

This ratio measures how reliant Council is on grants or outside funding. The gradual improvement in this ratio demonstrates Council's commitment to reviewing its approach to grant funding.

Benchmark 60%

- 2022 56.14%
- 2023 55.33%
- 2024 58.49%



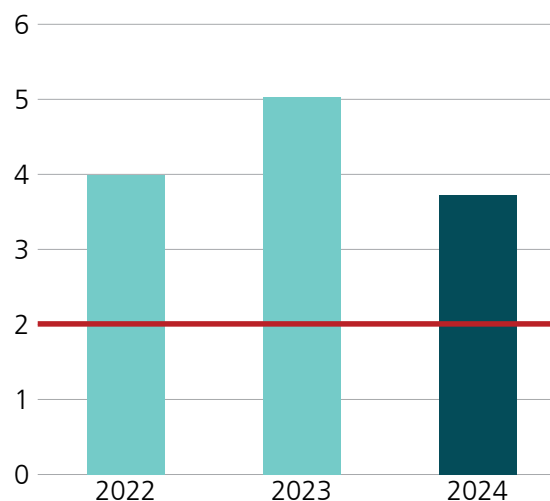
Debt Service Cover Ratio

Achieved the benchmark ↑

This ratio measures the availability of cash to pay for loans, including interest, principle and lease repayments. Council has continued to remain above the benchmark.

Benchmark 2x

- 2022 3.99x
- 2023 5.03x
- 2024 3.73x



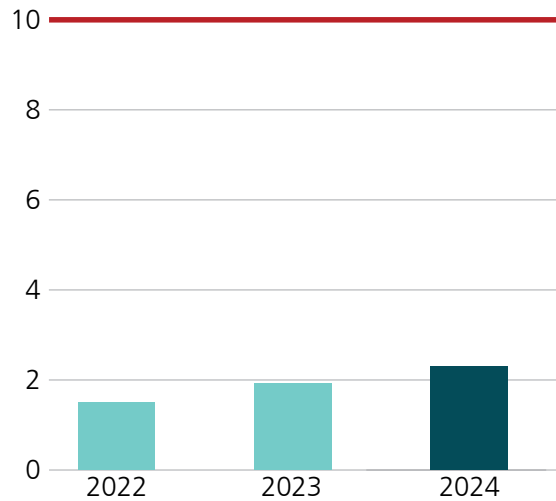
Rates and Charges Outstanding

Achieved the benchmark 

This ratio shows the percentage of rates and annual charges outstanding over total rates and annual charges charged. Council's high standard of debt recovery and collection policy ensures this ratio remains well below the benchmark of 10%.

Benchmark 10%

- 2022 1.49%
- 2023 1.92%
- 2024 2.30%



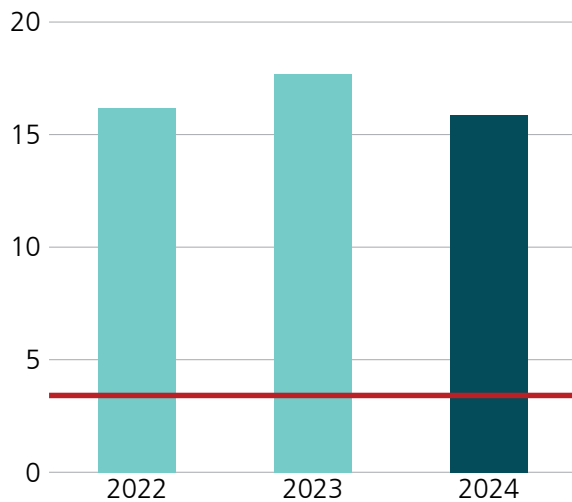
Cash Expense Cover Ratio

Achieved the benchmark 

This ratio measures in months how long Council could continue paying for its immediate expenses without the need for additional cash. Council has achieved well above the benchmark by using a good mix of low-risk medium return investments.

Benchmark >3 months

- 2022 16.18 months
- 2023 17.69 months
- 2024 15.87 months



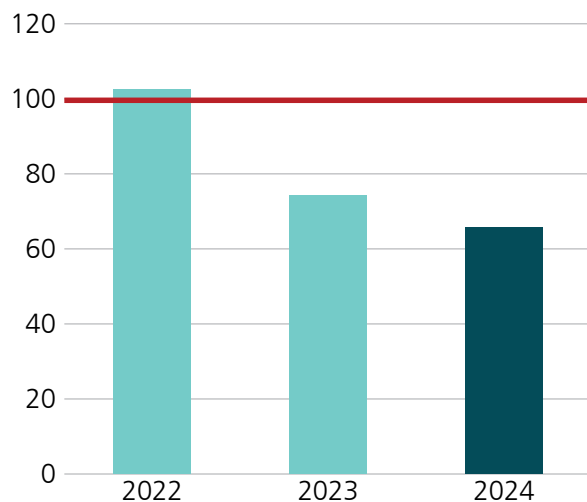
Infrastructure Renewal Ratio

Below the benchmark 

This ratio measures whether the renewal of public assets is keeping up with the rate of depreciation (or depletion). Council will need to invest in the renewal of existing assets in the future (rather than new assets) to see an improvement in this ratio.

Benchmark 100%

- 2022 102.42%
- 2023 74.14%
- 2024 65.64%



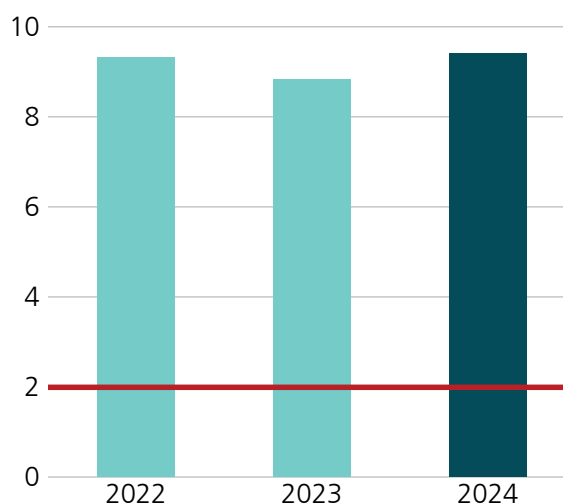
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio

Outside the benchmark 

Infrastructure backlog is the amount required to be spent on public assets to bring them to a satisfactory condition. As costs increase over time the cost to bring assets to satisfactory will also grow. Council will need to prioritise reducing this backlog to ensure the community can benefit from the services these assets provide.

Benchmark <2%

- 2022 9.32%
- 2023 8.84%
- 2024 9.40%



Working towards a financially sustainable future

In late 2022, an independent financial health check was undertaken to consider Council's financial position and performance into the future. The health check showed that Council was planning for large future operating deficits in the general fund, increasing levels of debt, and a work program which stretched resources. In response to the findings, Council embarked on developing a Finance Strategy to work towards financial resilience.

In late 2023, Council endorsed its Finance Strategy. The Finance Strategy 2024-28 centres around three strategic themes:

1. Financial resilience
2. Prudent asset management
3. Accountability

During the 2023-24 year, Council undertook several actions in the Finance Strategy to achieve and maintain the financial resilience of Council and minimise the impact of unknown events or events outside its control. These actions included:

- A Council-wide 'reset' of the Operational Plan budget targeting 10% ongoing cash savings applied to the 2024-25 budget.
- A review of existing loans by value, time remaining, purpose, eligibility for payout, and a commitment to no new borrowings in the 2024 financial year.

- Improved financial reporting and community engagement with three Community Briefings in May 2023 to explain the financial health check, and a further six Community Briefings across April and May 2024 to explain the Finance Strategy and our future workplan.
- Endorsement of a grants strategy to formalise how and when Council seeks and applies for grant funding.
- A review of the annual capital works program resulting in a realistic and achievable works program completing above 85% of the revised budget for capital expenditure.

The Finance Strategy sets the Council on a good path for its next term to continue with the remaining actions in the strategy and focus on developing an achievable program of works that prioritises asset renewal based on asset condition and optimal renewal timeframes.

Next Steps

Where we are headed

From 1 February to 15 March 2024, a total of 2,777 residents of the Eurobodalla Shire engaged in the 'Towards 2042' Community Strategic Plan review. They contributed their aspirations and priorities through an online survey, pop-up stalls, discussion guides for community groups, drawing sheets for children, formal submissions, and the Regional Wellbeing Survey.

Participants were invited to have their say by answering questions about where we are now, if we're on track, what the main challenges are, and where we want to be in 10 years and beyond.

The engagement findings include:

- 84% of participants felt very happy, happy, or had neutral feelings for the current community vision.
- 65% of participants indicated that they had read the Community Strategic Plan with 43% agreeing with all the goals and a further 32% percent agreeing with some.
- The beautiful natural environment, lifestyle, peace and quiet, weather, and sense of community were what made the community a great place to live.
- The main challenges that participants shared were housing affordability and availability, Council's financial sustainability, development concerns, availability of services for future growth, and environmental sustainability.
- Housing for all, improved infrastructure, health and medical services, environmental stewardship, and sport and recreation were ranked highest when participants were asked what the one thing they would like to see achieved over the next 10 years.

- Participants would like to see health services, housing availability and affordability, climate change and adaptation, aged and disability services, and shared cycleways, pathways and footpaths prioritised over the next ten years.

The engagement will inform the review of our Community Strategic Plan - Our Eurobodalla 2042. The review is currently underway and aims to return an updated plan for public exhibition late 2024, and a final plan for endorsement in early 2025.

Challenges to consider in future planning

Eurobodalla's population is expected to grow by more than 14% to over 47,000 by 2036. This population growth will bring with it expected economic growth, but also a greater demand on resources and services. All household types are expected to grow, and our residents continue to voice their concerns about housing availability now and into the future. However, this growth, and its demand on housing, need to be balanced. Eurobodalla aspires to be **a sustainable shire that celebrates our natural environment and outdoor lifestyles** and residents consistently tell us what they value most about our shire is the natural environment, the cleanliness of our area, and the good lifestyle and peacefulness the region offers. Robust master planning and appropriate development control plans to manage growth, while maintaining our desirable amenity, will be key to this balance into the future.

The current median age for our region's residents is 54, and this has increased since the last census. Analysis shows that there is a lower proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) and a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years). Overall, 16.9% of the population was aged between 0 and 17, and 42.3% were aged 60 years and over, compared with 21.4% and 29.1% respectively for Regional NSW. Eurobodalla's unique age profile requires consideration when planning, providing, and advocating for services and community development initiatives to both attract and retain youth and families. At the same time, we must support our ageing population to ensure we work towards being **a community that welcomes, celebrates, and supports everyone**.

Recent significant grant opportunities have supported major infrastructure projects for Eurobodalla. These include the Bay Pavilions, Southern Dam, Mogo Trails, Coastal Headland Walking Trail, and Wagonga Inlet Living Shoreline, driving us towards being **a region of vibrant places and spaces**. However, as these major projects come online, their associated risks and ongoing operational and maintenance costs are borne by Council. A strategic approach to advocacy, acceptance and management of grants into the future must be guided by the recently adopted grants strategy, which details a set of guiding principles for these.

The maintenance of all Council assets and infrastructure continues to be a challenge for local government. At the end of this year, our infrastructure backlog ratio was 9.4%, which is outside the Office of Local Government's target of less than 2%. The ratio indicates the amount required to be spent on assets to bring them to a satisfactory condition. To reduce this, future planning and Council's works program will need to focus on renewing and maintaining assets - our recently developed Public Toilet Strategy is a great example of this approach.

Eurobodalla has also experienced an unprecedented run of natural disasters, including the devastating 2019-20 Black Summer Bushfires and numerous significant rain events since. Considered maintenance and preparedness of our infrastructure are critical to move further towards being **a connected community through reliable and safe infrastructure networks**.

Councils across NSW face challenges to remain financially sustainable, with many of our neighbouring councils applying for substantial special rate variations. Eurobodalla Council has not applied for a special variation recently, but like many councils across the state, we are forecasting an ongoing operating deficit in our general fund and needed to create a Finance Strategy this year to help guide us towards a financially resilient future. We are advocating for a better model of funding for local government and will need to continue partnering with our community now and into the future as we take these steps. These actions and conversations are vital to becoming **an engaged community with progressive leadership**.

Appendix A

Community indicators and performance measures

The Community Strategic Plan – Our Eurobodalla 2024 lists indicators and performance measures in the aim to help assess progress toward achieving the plan's long-term vision and goals. They are a gauge for stakeholders to determine whether the community is moving closer to, or further away from, the vision.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI1	Energy Use	Total MWh	Decreasing	174,824 MWh	190,124MWh

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from Regulatory Reports and Network Information. www.essentialenergy.com.au

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI2	Alternative energy Use	Number of solar installations	Increasing	6,080	8,402

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from the Australian Government's Clean Energy Regulator. www.cer.gov.au

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI3	Greenhouse gas emissions	Total greenhouse emissions	Decreasing	438,000 tonnes	371,000 tonnes

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from Eurobodalla, NSW: Snapshot based on 2021-22 data which is the latest available data from this source. www.snapshotclimate.com.au

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI4	Electric vehicles	Number of electric vehicles and charging stations	Increasing	-	-

There was no centralised source of data identified for this measure. We are investigating to identify a robust data source.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI5	Household waste generation	Residual waste materials generated by households per capita and collected by Council	Decreasing	3.5kg/cap/wk	3.5kg/cap/wk

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan and the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from Council's data.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI6	Household recycling	Recyclable waste generated by households per capita	Increasing	2.2kg/cap/wk	2.94kg/cap/wk

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan and the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from Council's data.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI7	Household resource recovery	The amount of waste diverted from landfill shown as a percentage of the total domestic waste generated	Increasing	61.77%	62.62%

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan and the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from Council's data.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI8	Water consumption	Total water usage for Eurobodalla	Stable or decreasing	3,567ML	3,302ML

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan and the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from Council's data.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI9	Quality of life	Percentage of people self-reporting quality of life living in Eurobodalla as excellent or very good	Increasing	78%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, 90.8% of respondents indicated that they were 'completely satisfied' or 'moderately satisfied' when asked, 'How satisfied are you with your standard of living?'

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI10	Appreciation of diversity	People who agree or strongly agree that people coming to live here from other countries enrich Eurobodalla's cultural life	Increasing	70%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, 33% of respondents indicated that they disagreed in response to the statement "Some groups in this community aren't made to feel welcome."

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI11	Self-reported health	Percentage of people self-reporting health as excellent or very good	Increasing	44%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, 37% of respondents indicated that their health was 'excellent' or 'very good' when asked, "How would you rate your general health?"

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI12	Availability of health services	Percentage of people who experience problems accessing health services	Decreasing	5%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, 54% of respondents rated access to general health services (such as GPs and drop-in centres) as poor.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI13	Feeling part of the community	Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that their community feels like home	Increasing	73%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, 71% of respondents indicated that they were 'completely satisfied' or 'moderately satisfied' with feeling part of their community when asked, "How satisfied are you with feeling part of your community?"

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI14	Trust	Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that most people can be trusted	Increasing	61%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's Regional 2023 Wellbeing Survey, 93% of respondents indicated that they were 'completely satisfied' or 'moderately satisfied' in response to the question "How satisfied are you with how safe you feel?"

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI15	Social support	Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree that when they need someone to help them out they can usually find someone	Increasing	71%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, 59% of respondents indicated that they 'never' or 'hardly ever' felt isolated from others when asked, "How often do you feel isolated from others?"

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI16	Volunteering	Percentage of people who have volunteered as a member of a community organisation or group in the past 12 months	Increasing	38%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's Regional 2023 Wellbeing Survey, 65% of respondents indicated that they volunteered 'all the time' or 'occasionally' in their local community for groups like fire brigades, sport clubs, school canteen, meals on wheels, and festivals.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI17	Early childhood development	Percentage of children who are developmentally vulnerable on two domains according to the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI)	Decreasing	11.4%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was based on 2018 data, while the 2024 State of the Shire used 2021 data from the Australian Early Development Census .

In 2018, 11.4% of children in their first year of school were identified as developmentally vulnerable in two domains, according to the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI). In 2021, the measure, which no longer specified 'in the first year of school,' was 15.2%. www.aedc.gov.au/data-explorer

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI18	Education qualification	People with no post-school qualifications	Decreasing	-	37%

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from the 2021 data from Eurobodalla Shire Council Community Profile. www.profile.id.com.au

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI19	Youth engagement	Disengaged youth (aged 15-24 not employed or in education)	Decreasing	-	11.6%

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from the 2021 data from the Eurobodalla Shire Council Community Profile. www.profile.id.com.au

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI20	Socio-economic status	Index of relative socio-economic disadvantage	Decreasing	-	985 SEIFA

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from the 2021 data from the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) of disadvantage for Eurobodalla Shire Council Community Profile. www.profile.id.com.au

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI21	Perceptions of safety	Percentage of people who agree or strongly agree they feel safe in their own home at night	Increasing	92%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, 59% of respondents indicated that they were moderately or highly satisfied when asked "How satisfied are you with how safe you feel?"

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI22	Road safety	Annual average of:	Decreasing		
		Fatal crashes		3.8	4.6
		Crashes resulting in serious injury		24.4	23.2
		Crashes resulting in moderate injury		41.8	64.2
		Crashes resulting in minor injury		11.2	22.2

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from Safe System Analytics – Transport for NSW, five year average 2018-22.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI23	Crime	Number of offences based on 17 major offences	Decreasing	1,530	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the crime statistics available at the time of publication.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research for Eurobodalla now categorises major offences based on 13 offence types. In 2020-21 there were 1,529 occurrences of the 13 major offence types, in 2023-24 there were 1,779.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI24	Illicit drug use	Number of offences	Decreasing	358	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the crime statistics available at the time of publication.

The NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research for Eurobodalla lists 6 possession/use drug offence types. In 2020-21 there were 238 occurrences, in 2023-24 there were 287.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI25	Economic growth	Gross domestic product	Increasing	\$1,684M	\$2,247M

This measure is sourced from the Eurobodalla Shire Council Economic Profile. The updated measure shows 2022-23. www.economy.id.com.au/eurobodalla

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI26	Employment	Labour force unemployment rate	Decreasing	-	4%

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from the 2024 data for the June quarter from the Eurobodalla Shire Council Community Profile. www.economy.id.com.au/eurobodalla

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI27	Business	Number of GST registered businesses	Stable or increasing	3,031	3,629

This measure is sourced from the Eurobodalla Shire Council Economic Profile. The updated measure shows the data available as of August 2024. www.economy.id.com.au/eurobodalla

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI28	Property development activity	Number of development applications submitted	Stable or increasing	634/year	789 in 2023-24

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan and the 2024 State of the Shire were sourced from Council's data.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI29	Housing affordability	Housing stress	Decreasing	-	20% of respondents reported the cost and availability of housing as the most important issues facing the community. 10% of survey respondents agree that housing in the area is affordable.

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from the results of the 2023 Community Satisfaction Survey as commissioned by Eurobodalla Shire Council and conducted by Micromex Research.

Visit www.esc.nsw.gov.au and search 'community research'.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI30	Events participation	Percentage of residents who attended a festival or community event in the last 12 months.	Increasing	47%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, 76% of respondents indicated that they attended community events such as farmers markets and community festivals 'regularly' or 'sometimes.'

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI31	Events participation	Percentage of residents who attended a festival or community event in the last 12 months.	Increasing	47%	-

This measure for the 2022 Community Strategic Plan was sourced from the 2021 Micromex Wellbeing Survey which is the latest available data from this source.

According to the University of Canberra's 2023 Regional Wellbeing Survey, 76% of respondents indicated that they attended community events such as farmers markets and community festivals 'regularly' or 'sometimes.'

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI32	Active transport	Number of people who rode or walked to work on census day	Increasing	-	3.6% (3% for walked plus 0.6% for rode)

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Census All persons QuickStats for Eurobodalla. www.abs.gov.au/census

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI33	Internet access	Households with an internet connection	Increasing	-	-

The Australian Bureau of Statistics ceased measuring internet access by household as of the 2016 Census.

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI34	Mobile phone coverage	Number of mobile phone towers	Increasing	-	59

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from the Radio Frequency National Site Archive (RFNSA). www.rfnsa.com.au

Number	Community indicator	Measure	Desired trend	2021 Community Strategic Plan	2024 State of the Shire
CI35	Voting turnout	Local government election turnout	Increasing	83.28%	81.86%

This measure for the 2024 State of the Shire was sourced from the NSW Electoral Commission for the 2024 Local Government Elections. www.vtr.elections.nsw.gov.au



