



INVEST IN EDEN AND HELP BUILD OUR FUTURE

Towards 2032 -Our Eden 10 Year Plan



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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters of the Bega Valley Shire, the people of the Yuin nation, and show our respect to elders past, present and emerging.

Acknowledgement of Funding

This is a Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund project through the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

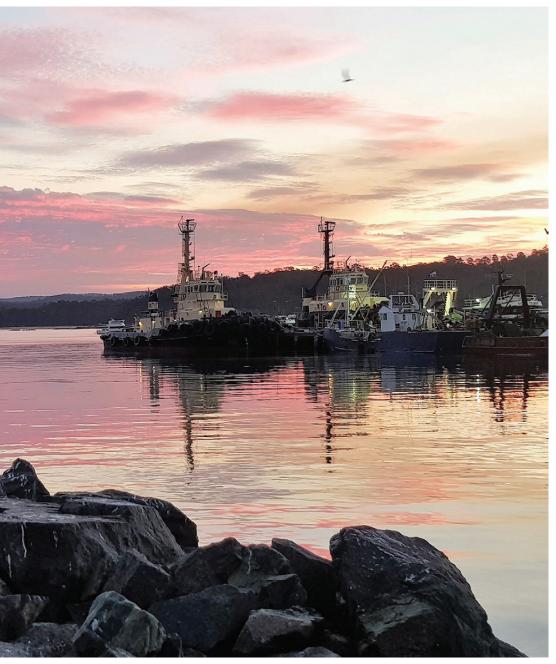
Although funding for this project has been provided by both the Australian and NSW governments, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of either Government.





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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Eden's is a strong and inclusive community, together we have an inspiring vision be able to work together to better withstand the economic, environmental, and social & cultural challenges of the future.

The Eden Chamber of Commerce are very grateful to have partnered with the Bega Valley Business Forum, who were successful in receiving grant funding that made our strategic planning sessions, community engagement day and our Eden 10-year planning possible.

This process of coming together to communicate, collaborate and work together as a community groups, individuals, and businesses to deliver Towards 2032 – Our Eden 10-year plan is something we should all be very proud of.

This plan provides a clear vision and outlines key projects and initiatives that will help the Chamber advocate for improvements, seek funding, and continue to strive for a future that is filled with opportunities for all. The plan is designed to provide Council, State and Federal Governments investors, business, and the community with knowledge to make confident investment decisions about the future of Eden.

I would like to thank all that contributed most importantly to those who gave up their time and actively participated in developing the Towards 2032 – Our Eden 10 Year Plan.

Let's continue to work together to pursue our vision, follow our plans and achieve our goals today, tomorrow and for the future.

Eric Wolske President Eden Chamber of Commerce

Snug Cove

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Background

The Towards 2032 – Our Eden 10 Year Plan has been developed in partnership with contributions from the Eden Chamber of Commerce, Eden Community Access Centre, Eden Visitor Information Centre, local businesses, local community organisations and interested residents.

This collaborative group known as the Eden Recovery & Resilience Alliance (ERRA) share a collective vision for Eden and have developed set of projects and strategic opportunities to achieve this.

1.2 Our Strategic Pillars

A detailed audit of existing strategies and place plans, targeted community engagement and a comprehensive strategic review of priorities have been completed to help identify (4) key strategic pillars to help guide the future priorities for Eden.



Figure 31 Our priorities for Eden

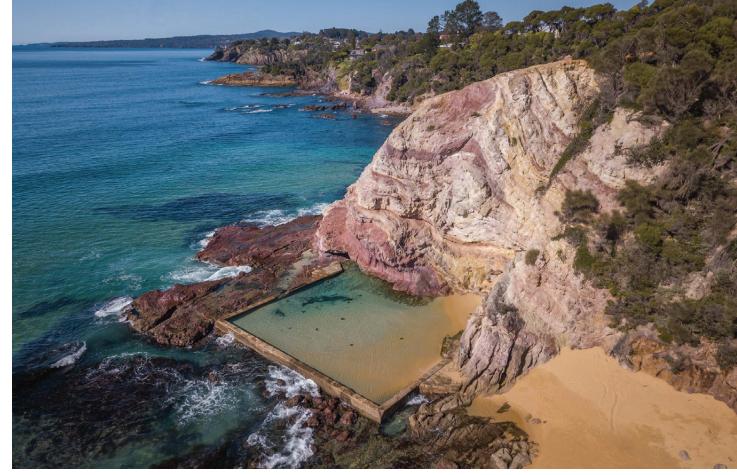
1.3 Eden Character Statement

Eden is on the traditional lands of the Djiringanj people. Eden is bounded by the localities of Lochiel, Greigs Flat and Broadwater and the Pambula River in the north, the Tasman Sea in the east, the State of Victoria in the south, and the localities of Towamba and Wyndham, Burragate, Rocky Hall and Nullica in the west.

Often described as a natural paradise, the gateway to sparkling Sapphire Coast of NSW, Eden's attractions range from spotting humpback whales in the deep blue waters of Twofold Bay to learning about the region's whaling heritage and bushwalking in nearby National Parks.

Eden is home to 3,983 residents with some distinct demographics including.

- People ages 65 to 69 make up the dominant age profile.
- The largest increase in persons between 2021 and 2026 is forecast to be in ages 75 to 79.
- 7.6% of the population reported needing assistance with core activities, compared with 6.3% for Bega Valley Shire.
- A larger percentage of people with Australian Aboriginal ancestry (6.9% compared to 3.6%) the rest of the Bega Valley Shire.



Eden Rockpool

Eden's top three industries are retail trade, accommodation, and food services (tourism) and health care & social assistance. Followed closely by forestry, agriculture, and fishing.

The major differences between qualifications held by the population of Eden Coast and Bega Valley Shire were:

• Larger percentage of persons with no qualifications (45.7% compared to 39.7%) and a smaller percentage of persons with Bachelor or Higher degrees (9.4% compared to 15.0%)

• smaller percentage of persons with Vocational qualifications (22.0% compared to 23.8%) and a smaller percentage of persons with Advanced Diploma or Diplomas (7.2% compared to 8.3%).

Source: ABS Census 2021 Data



The Chamber has limited resources, however by establishing ERRA and working together we can provide considerable value through mobilising our network and connecting people and opportunities in Eden and surrounds. Key organisations will be allocated parts of the plan to support based on their strengths and areas of interest and expertise.

The existing Bega Valley Business Forum comprises six Chambers of Commerce across the Shire and has regular meetings. This forum will be used to promote and advocate for some of the projects outlined in this Plan.

There is approximately \$20,000 to help support some of the actions identified within this plan.

This Plan can be refined using inputs from our members and partners and used to guide the Chamber's future efforts and engagements. It will adapt to the challenges and opportunities that emerge, in addition to applying our learnings along the way.

1.4 Our Eden 10 Year Plan

To address common challenges and achieve the future priorities, a comprehensive Eden 10 Year Plan was developed using the ideas and initiatives presented at the engagement day. The engagement day was held was held in conjunction with a place-based audit of existing plans and strategies and a comprehensive analysis of key priorities conducted by members of the Eden Recovery & Resilience Alliance (ERRA).

1.5 How it will be delivered

The Chamber will support the delivery of the projects in partnership with the primary owner of the initiative. The Chamber's support will be provided through facilitating discussions to activate opportunities, participating in lobbying efforts, contributing to plans, gathering inputs from our members and seconding funding requests.

2. PURPOSE

In early September 2022, we invited our members and the wider community across Eden and its surrounding villages to attend a town summit which took the form of a Sconeversation Day with the aim helping to develop a 10 Year Action Plan that will guide our decision making and actions over the next 10 years.

The intent is that this Plan articulates shared strategic pillars, targeted projects, responsible organisations and the levels of investment that is required to achieve our goals.

2.1 Geographical Scope

This plan is focused on Eden and the surrounding villages, it also recognises the importance of Eden as key community and tourism asset for the Shire, and the benefits the proposed actions may bring to the region.

Therefore, Eden township is noted as the area of focus and the Bega Valley Shire Council Local Government Area (the Shire) is the area of influence for the Plan and its delivery. Being located on the New South Wales and Victorian border there is also significant cross border opportunities.

2.2 How we will use this Plan

We will use this Plan to share our vision for Eden, to support the efforts of our members in progressing projects, highlight related opportunities and to support funding applications.

We want this Plan to complement the plans and strategies delivered by our partners at Bega Valley Shire Council (BVSC), local businesses, as well as our local elected and our industry representatives. The Plan outlines key investment priorities over the next 10 years and forms a key document to advocate for investment in the shire from the Australian and NSW governments.

This Plan has been designed to ensure everyone can contribute and will continue to inform community decision making so Eden can continue to achieve great things, leverage funding opportunities, and maintain momentum.



Main street of Eden



Snug Cove



3. OUR PRIORITIES

"A strong, inclusive and unified community able to work in harmony to withstand social & cultural, environmental and economic challenges of the future"

The Eden community engagement sessions sought to bring together our key projects for Eden and surrounds across the next 10 years.

The process consisted of a stakeholder engagement survey, desktop analysis and an interactive community drop in day.

Through discussing the issues and opportunities we established a set of priorities that can guide the development of our key initiatives and actions). Collectively these priorities form a vision for Eden.

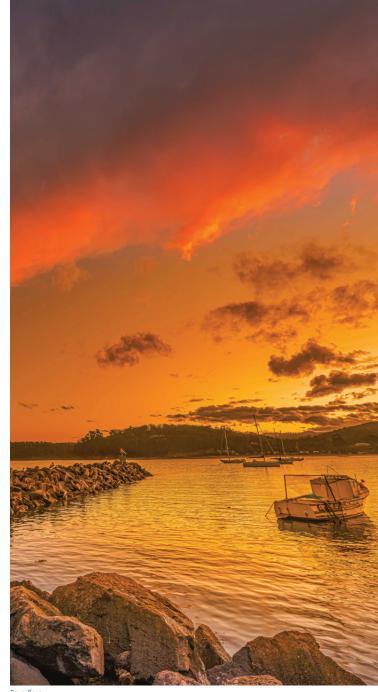


Scone-versation day

3.1 Strategic Alignment

These priorities help to support the delivery of the following Local, State and Federal strategies:

- ✓ 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW
- ✓ Regional Development Framework
- ✓ South East and Tablelands Regional Plan
- ✓ NSW State Infrastructure Strategy
- Far South Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy and Bushfire Addendum
- Cultural Infrastructure Plan
- Canberra Region Joint Organisation Strategic Plan
- South Coast NSW Destination Management Plan
- ✓ NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy
- Regional NSW Youth Action Plan
- NSW Government Strategy Beyond Digital
- ✓ Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan

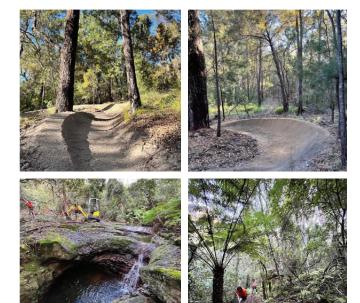


Snug Cove

4. HOW WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR VISION

The Eden Scone-versation Day aimed to provide an opportunity for the community to identify priorities for the town and surrounds to focus on the for the next 10 years.

The day covered a wide range of ideas, these were then prioritised as key projects for the next 10 years.



Category	Projects/initiatives
Social & Cultural Projects	 Bundian Way Whale Dreaming Trail Stage 2 Disaster Preparedness Eden Community Hub & Library Upgrade Lake Curalo access improvements Nullica Lodge community housing Improved social & sporting club facilities Timber Workers Memorial Park improvement Youth activities
Economic Development Projects	 Snug Cove Precinct Redevelopment Eden Mountain Bike Trails EV Fast Charging Stations Micro Grid and Community Battery Storage Better presence at Trade Shows Supporting Social Enterprises eg community & market gardens Improved town signage and welcome points Upgrading local walking tracks RV Dump Point Aslings Beach accessibility upgrade
Environmental Projects	 Lake Curalo sediment control Micro grid community energy project Tomra recycling facilit
Advocacy for Strategic Opportunities	 Social and Community Housing/ Affordable Housing Marine Research and Development (R&D) Hub Fast Tracking Infrastructure Upgrades at Boyd's Tower and opening of Light-to-Light Walk and Upgrades to the Public Prepare and advocate for regionalisation of relevant government departments

Mountian Bike Track

Table 41 Eden Priority Snapshot

5. OUR EDEN 10 YEAR PLAN

We have taken on board the ideas shared through the community engagement activities and created a high-level project plan aimed at focusing our support and partnership efforts to support the vision for Eden and surrounding villages.

The Projects are in the categories (social & cultural wellbeing, economic prosperity, environment protection and advocacy)

Each Project within the defined categories has its own commentary (Challenge, Proposed Solution, Goal/Outcome, Who Benefits, Cost and Strategic Alignment

Each project has defined `responsibility'; ie: Chamber led, Community-led, Council, State Gov, Federal Gov are presented with projected timeframes. While the Chamber is not responsible for all these activities, we will provide targeted support and collaborate with other groups to ensure our collective vision for the future can be realised.















Social & Cultural Project & Challenge/Description	Cost	Proposed Solutions	Progress or Outcomes	Who Benefits	Strategic Alignment
Eden Community Hub and Library upgrade Collaboration between the BVSC Library and ECAC to redesign and redevelop the Eden Gateway Centre as a Community Hub where the community can connect to a range of business and social services: Responsible Bodies: Eden Community Access Centre, Bega Valley Shire Council	\$85,000 planning and design \$8-\$10m construction	 Multi use space Disaster response and recovery coordination centre, including with alternative power, communications and video conferencing Community Hall Put in place state of the art video conferencing facilities at the proposed Community Hub Include art space facilities, Child Care Space, hot desking facilities etc Library Social enterprise 	Planning underway: (Jan 22) BVSC conducting heritage groundwork, Concept plan to be developed then community consultation will commence	Community, People with a Disability, Seniors, Children & Youth, Health, Families, Local Business/ economy, Job Creation, Bega Valley Shire Council	 Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan Regional NSW Youth Action Plan 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW
Disaster Preparedness Develop local disaster resilience and leadership with community organisations Responsible Bodies: ECAC, ERRA	Requires funding to implement actions \$300,000 - \$500,000	Disaster planning and communication Identify and coordinate community assets incl evacuation & recovery Centre's, support agencies	\$300,000 funding received from BLER to Appoint Coordinator, Focus groups formed, regular meetings, Communications strategy developed, Ongoing Community consultation Leadership training delivered	Community, Emergency Services, People with a Disability, Seniors, Children & Youth, Health, Families, Local Business/ economy, Bega Valley Shire Council	 ✓ Far South Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy and Bushfire Addendum ✓ Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan
Nullica Lodge The growing housing crisis in the Bega Valley Shire and RSL Life Care's decision to close its residential aged care business at Nullica Lodge have prompted discussions about the future of the facility. There is potential to return the asset to its original status as a community-based hostel providing affordable accommodation for seniors and supported accommodation for people with a disability.	\$2M	 Proposed concept: Self-care hostel Affordable rental accommodation for seniors in an independent living model Supported accommodation for people with disabilities Currently the vision for the facility is for it to be operated as a self- care hostel; one that does not fall under the aged care legislation. 	Currently holding discussions with key stakeholders including RSL Life, BVSC, Anglicare, Social Justice Advocates, State & Federal MP's	Aged, people with a disability, vulnerable, community, families, Job Creation	 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW Regional Development Framework Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan

Economic Development Project & Challenge/Description	Cost	Proposed Solutions	Progress or Outcomes	Who Benefits	Strategic Alignment
Snug Cove Redevelopment Short and long-term redevelopment of the snug cove restaurant and other facilities. Buildings demolished early 2021 Need more information on future plans (State Agency landowners). Responsible Bodies: Eden Chamber of Commerce	towards the total \$700k	Ongoing communication with POEM Ongoing representations to State, Federal and Local Government Ongoing representations to State Labor & Liberal candidates prior to and post Feb bi-elections	BLERF & BCRRF application submitted by Eden Chamber of Commerce to install restaurant/cafe containers at the site as a short to medium term solution. Successful \$650k ECOC grant application submitted and liaison with Property/MIDO: - 4 x Containers for business use	Local Business, Tourism, Job Creation, Community	 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW Regional Development Framework South East and Tablelands Regional Plan Canberra Region Joint Organisation Strategic Plan South Coast NSW Destination Management Plan Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan
Micro Grid and Community Battery To improve resilience and reduce electricity costs for residents, explore the potential of a local micro grid or community battery. Responsible Bodies: ERRA	\$1.06M for Feasibility and Engineering Study	Explore efficiencies to have a community battery facility along- side alternate renewable options such as wind and pumped hydro	Concept plan developed. Working with Essential Energy, IP Power and experts to seek funding for a feasibility study. Ongoing discussions with industry experts and other communities. Funding application with Regional NSW August 2022 for Feasibility Study	Community, Seniors, Children & Youth, Families, Environment	 ✓ Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan ✓ Canberra Region Joint Organisation Strategic Plan
Aslings Beach Rockpool & Accessible Walkway At least 25 years in the planning and built as a war memorial, the pool replaced the town's original 1904 Thompson's Point facility. Incumbent of the local community to ensure this unique attraction is reinstated to its rightful place as yet another of the iconic treasures that make our Eden so special. Responsible Bodies: ERRA, Eden Chamber, EVIC	Planning \$20,000 Upgrade \$50,000 Maintenance \$TBD	To improve activity offerings to locals and visitors Maintain depth/ minimise sand build-up Access to beautiful rock formations Build access walkway from Hosies Rd	Business plan to be developed Community support is strong Community Project proposal submitted 2020 not endorsed by Council	Community, People with a Disability, Tourism, Environment	 Cultural Infrastructure Plan South Coast NSW Destination Management Plan Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan Canberra Region Joint Organisation Strategic Plan
Social Enterprise Development of an employment and training social enterprise, along the lines of those in other regional localities such as Corryong (Bakery) Responsible Bodies: ECAC, Campbell Page, ECoC	Planning \$40,000k (\$1600pm commercial lease)	Provide employment opportunities, support business viability Support successful development of the Eden Mountain Bike Trails	Not yet progressed	Community, People with a Disability, Local Businesses, Job Creation	✓ Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan

Economic Development Project & Challenge/Description	Cost	Proposed Solutions	Progress or Outcomes	Who Benefits	Strategic Alignment
Town Signage and Entry Points Upgrade entry signage and exit statements to Eden with entry and advance warning signage: Recognise and respect the indigenous heritage, including flying the indigenous flag permanently	Eden Entry Points \$5,000 for concept planning	 Eden Entry Points 1. Map of streets, services, beaches etc 2. Off road parking and seating Indigenous Flag To include in development of community hub concept plans 	Indigenous Flag: Representation to Eden Killer Whale Museum and council outcomes were: "Unable to site the flag on present flagpole due to space and safety issues"	Aboriginal People, Tourism, Local Businesses, Community	 Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan South Coast NSW Destination Management Plan
Target Conferences and improve video conferencing capability1. Invite peak bodies to have their AGM/ conferences/team building events in EdenResponsible bodies: EVIC, ECAC	\$25,000 for equipment	Suitable facilities are the main issue to be addressed	Not yet progressed	Local Businesses, Job Creation,	 Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan NSW Government Strategy - Beyond Digital
Youth Activities Growing youth unemployment is set to exacerbate existing problems and socio-economic disadvantage Responsible Bodies: ECAC, ERRA, BVSC	\$75,000	Development of a range of youth activities in Eden and surrounding communities. Partnership with local services (Marine Rescue, RFS, SES etc) to encourage training and volunteering leading to employment outcomes	EOI submitted to Business events Grants Nov 2020 Ongoing consultation with Campbell Page BVSC Recovery Grant application \$2500 submitted Feb 2022 for "Coding Classes"	Community, Children & Youth, Families, Job Creation, Local Businesses	 ✓ Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan ✓ Regional NSW Youth Action Plan

Environmental Project & Challenge/Description	Cost	Proposed Solutions	Progress or Outcomes	Who Benefits	Strategic Alignment
Lake Curalo sediment control Development of a plan for improvement and better use of the lake and walk. Sediment control is the major issue. Depth of the Lake in places is less than 500mm deep (from in excess of 7m) . Responsible Bodies: ECAC, BVSC	TBC	Improve management of waterways and catchments, odours and rubbish, and biological assessments Trash Trap installations	Clean up and revitalisation planned for May 2021. Grant \$2,250 Rec'd from BVSC. Representations to BVSC to act on plans already developed to mitigate contamination of the lake. No reply to date. Councillor Joy Robin now representing on the Coastal Waterways Management Plan	Environment, Tourism, Community	 ✓ Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan ✓ South Coast NSW Destination Management Plan
Tomra Recycle Facility. Bottle, glass and plastics recycling to contribute to environmental responsibility, fundraiser for local NFP's, low income earning capacity Responsible Bodies: Eden RSL, Eden Country Club		A recycling facility easily accessible to community to help reduce waste going to landfill and generate funds for community groups.	Not yet progressed.	Environment, Community, Children & Youth	 NSW Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan

Strategic advocacy	Cost	Proposed Solutions	Progress or Outcomes	Who Benefits	Strategic Alignment
Social and Community Housing/ Affordable Housing One of the most disadvantaged communities in NSW, Eden has a housing problem. This is compounded by growing levels of unemployment and an aging population. Construction of new social or community housing is warranted. Considerable restrictions are now being felt in both employment opportunities and the construction industry. The extent and characteristics of the problem is somewhat unknown, for instance the numbers of young, working, unemployed or retired who experience housing stress needs to be researched to decide whether social or community housing is more appropriate and to recommend strategies. Responsible Bodies: BVSC, NSW Dept. of Communities and Justice, ECAC, Uniting Church, Social Justice Advocates, ERRA,	Local Scoping study \$20,000+	Advocate that Bega Valley Shire Council progress: 1. Crown land usage needs to include options for social/ community housing 2. Housing developments include a % of affordable and/or social housing Address `under-lived homes' in Eden (25% of homes in Eden are vacant for 98% of the year)	Identified as top priority project for disadvantaged groups, employment housing provision. Eden Community Development Officer attending the homelessness forum monthly. Ongoing discussion and representation with Local, State & Federal Members	Community, People with a Disability, Seniors, Children & Youth, Health, Families, Local Business	 20-Year Economic Vision for Regional NSW Regional Development Framework Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan
Lake Curalo boardwalk access, enhancement and maintenance Development of a plan for improvement and better use of the lake and walk. Emergency maintenance of existing walkway is required. Responsible Bodies: ECAC, BVSC	\$2 million	Opportunities for recreation, and natural interpretive features. Improved access and usability including more seating and rubbish bins.	Can be linked to the Bundian Way `Gateway' project initiated by the Eden Local Aboriginal Land Council in 2022	Community, People with a Disability, Seniors, Children & Youth, Health, Families, Environment	✓ Bega Valley Shire Community Strategic Plan

6. EVALUATION AND UPDATING THE PLAN

This plan is to be considered a living document to be reviewed annually and updated as projects are completed, and new opportunities emerge.



Thank you TO ALL CONTRIBUTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWARDS 2032: EDEN 10 YEAR PLAN

