



BELLINGEN
SHIRE COUNCIL

Community Climate Action Plan – Draft April 2022

A Plan of actions developed by the
Community to reduce emissions,
support adaptation and mitigate the
impact of our changing climate.

Bellingen Shire Community Climate Action Plan

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Voices of Our Community

There are 15 organisations that are in the 'Bellinghen catchment' all working on separate parts of the country here, but imagine if we all came together under the one umbrella that sees and does the change... I'm all about unity, if you want to have a yarn about it, let's do it together as a beautiful people...

I must acknowledge what the Council has done to get this conversation right now unfolding is amazing from my perspective, this opportunity we have right now, for me this is a powerful change...

Bernard Kelly-Edwards, Gumbaynggirr Man, Founder BKE Consultancy

I would like to reaffirm the importance of cultural and heritage understanding for a whole lot of reasons but mostly because there's a lot to learn from Indigenous culture. Leading on from Bernhards comments we have the resources available within the Shire. We could use these resources to be pragmatic and to provide education to the Shire in relation to our First Nations People, and to increase our understanding of the history of this land prior to and from 1840 on. We would then be a step closer to understanding our treatment of the land and what we need to do going forward...

Cathy Thomas, Dorriggo Aboriginal Land Council

We are amongst the most privileged people on the planet because we have all the natural resources available to create a future of life...It boils down to some simple facts and that is that healthy country and clean water equals healthy people and the future of life. We have reliable rainfall, we are in a fertile subtropical climate, the forests in the headwaters are the most ancient forests on the planet and are self-maintaining, they literally make it rain, they keep moisture cycling, which means our rivers keep flowing and have reliable baseflow.

But while our native vegetation and forest is the key to our water security, in recent times there's been an accelerated clearance of native vegetation and the loss of the fabric of the Gumbanynggir country, even in really critical areas. In order to offset global-warming which is accelerating, we need to urgently revegetate at the landscape-scale so that we can maintain and improve our water quality and ensure a stable climate...

If we don't urgently and rapidly shift our land use to sustainable and water-conserving practices, then we will face a future where we do face critical water shortages and we accelerate the extinction crisis we are already in...

So these are really big picture, but urgent and emergency-type solutions, that involves everyone working together to protect, maintain and restore our life-support systems...

Mark Graham, Principal Ecologist, Bellinghen Nature Company

We are the people here today who are the engine - in the wheelhouse, the engine room and who are the spotters [for climate change risks] ... I think we should just all get on with it.

Peter Lynch, Director, Pelena Energy and Dorriggo Energy Centre

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

In March 2019, the Bellingen Shire Council declared a climate emergency and set out its response to the emergency in its [Climate Emergency Response Framework](#) (CERF) and [Corporate Carbon Plan](#) (CCP). The CCP described Council's ambitious targets for cutting carbon emissions and the pathway to reducing its contribution to climate change from council buildings, infrastructure and corporate operations. The CERF also made a commitment to work in partnership with our community to help build resilience to increasing climate risks and the unavoidable impacts of a changing climate. Council also committed to working with our community to support actions to reduce carbon emissions that are not under Council's direct control but that are related to the energy use of households, local industries, private transport and community waste.

The recent reports of the International Climate Change Panel on the [Physical Science Basis](#) of Climate Change tell us that climate change is already impacting our lives and the ecosystems on which we depend. Managing climate change-related risks is no longer about planning for future impacts. We need to plan now to adapt to the impacts that are already affecting our community and to work together to mitigate this risk into the future.

[AdaptNSW](#) presents evidence that communities across NSW are already experiencing significant impacts of climate-related events. Following on from the hottest and driest three-year period on record for NSW, from January 2017 to December 2019, NSW has been experiencing a succession of extreme rainfall events and associated flooding. The most recent and severe of these, during March and April 2022, led to unprecedented flooding, loss of life, massive property damage, and social and economic disruption.

This *Community Climate Action Plan* is a key outcome of a workshop held in February 2022 that brought together leaders of community and environmental groups from across our Shire to develop a community-led plan to respond to the climate emergency. This was a first step toward a whole-of-Shire collaboration between Council and our community as we transition to a net zero emissions future and build resilience to the impacts of the changing climate.

1.2 The changing climate

Council is basing its climate-related decision-making on the scientific modelling and projections provided by the NSW Government. The table below provides a summary of projected climate change impacts for the NSW North Coast. It is taken from [AdaptNSW](#), which is the NSW Government's on-line portal for the latest and best available climate science, policy and practical tools to support action on both climate change adaptation and mitigation. AdaptNSW uses the [NARClIM](#) climate model, which applies a high emissions scenario (ie current global emission levels) to regional climate projections.






	NEAR FUTURE 2020 to 2039	FAR FUTURE 2060 to 2079
	Projected temperature changes	
	Maximum temperatures are projected to increase in the near future by 0.4 – 1.0°C	Maximum temperatures are projected to increase in the far future by 1.5 – 2.4°C
	Minimum temperatures are projected to increase in the near future by 0.5 – 1.0°C	Minimum temperatures are projected to increase in the far future by 1.6 – 2.5°C
	The number of hot days will increase	The number of cold nights will decrease
	Projected rainfall changes	
	Rainfall is projected to decrease in winter	Rainfall is projected to increase in autumn and spring
	Projected Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) changes	
	Average fire weather is projected to increase in summer and spring	Severe fire weather days are projected to increase in summer and spring

Figure 1: [North Coast Climate Change Snapshot](#)¹ Projection timeframes: Near future refers to 2020 to 2039 and far future refers to 2060-79.

There's strong evidence the global climate is already in serious breakdown and we are at the commencement of an extinction crisis, there's a risk of getting caught up in the politics, but the reality is that the capacity of the local life-support systems of Bellingen Shire have already been exceeded and, in an emergency sense, we need to reach zero emissions as soon as we can possibly achieve it.

Mark Graham, Principal Ecologist, Bellingen Nature Company

A note on emissions scenarios:

The [NARClIM](#) model used by AdaptNSW (and referenced above) applies a warming scenario (A2 scenario) that is projected to result in warming by approximately 3.4°C by 2100. This is currently considered the most likely scenario and very close to actual current global emissions. Figure 2 below shows the contrast between the temperature projection required to meet the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to well below 2°C and the current trajectory that shows projected warming of well above this target range.

¹ <https://www.climatechange.environment.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-06/North%20Coast%20climate%20change%20snapshot.pdf?la=en&hash=2F4230DDA994155970B93869764CE637CC5BAE12>

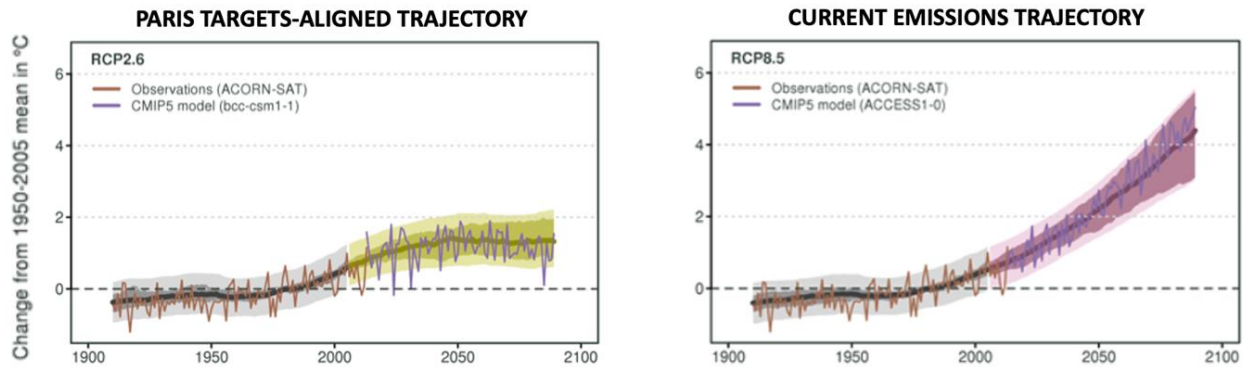


Figure 2: CSIRO emission and warming impact projections – comparing the trajectory of the Paris Agreement targets and the trajectory of Australia’s current emissions pathway²

Even 1.5°C matters

A report from the 2019 Chief Risk Officers Forum³ ([CRO Forum](#)) shows that the probability of achieving the Paris Agreement target of below 2 °C is now slim. In a 2022 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC](#)) the [UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres](#) advised the ‘window to keep global warming to below 1.5°C and to avert devastating climate impacts is rapidly closing’. Preventing the most severe climate impacts will require more ambitious emissions cuts than were agreed at the Conference of the Parties 26 held in Glasgow in November 2021. This means our Council and community must act urgently to reduce our carbon emissions and climate risk, whilst simultaneously building our resilience to the unavoidable impacts of the changing climate.

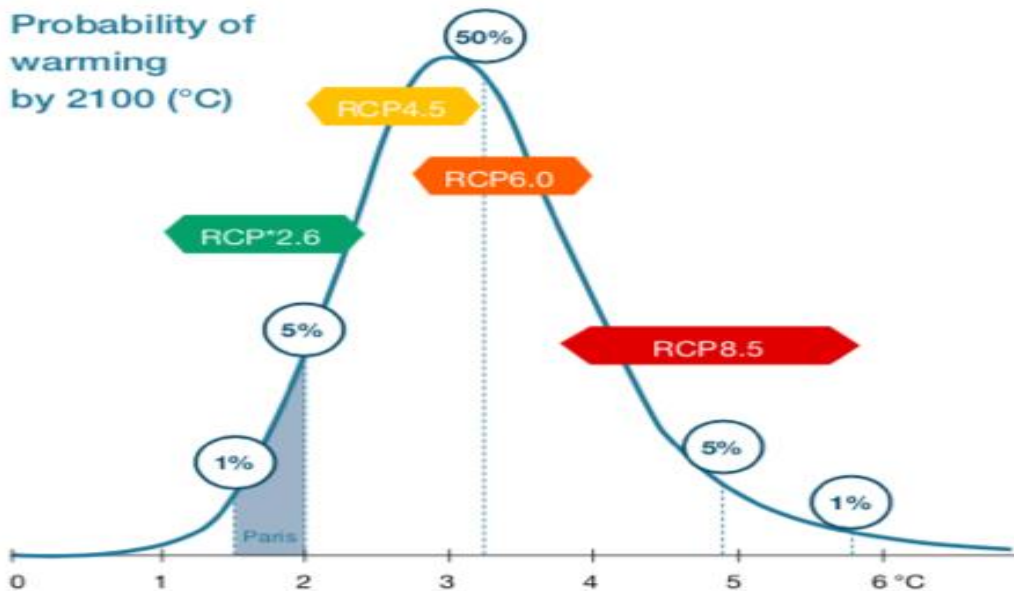


Figure 3: CRO Forum assessment shows low likelihood of meeting the Paris Agreement target

² <https://www.csiro.au/en/research/environmental-impacts/climate-change/climate-change-information>

³ <https://www.thecroforum.org/tag/climate-change/>

As Figure 4⁴ shows, a relatively small increase in average temperatures pushes more of the total into the extreme zone, which can have a big impact on extreme weather events.

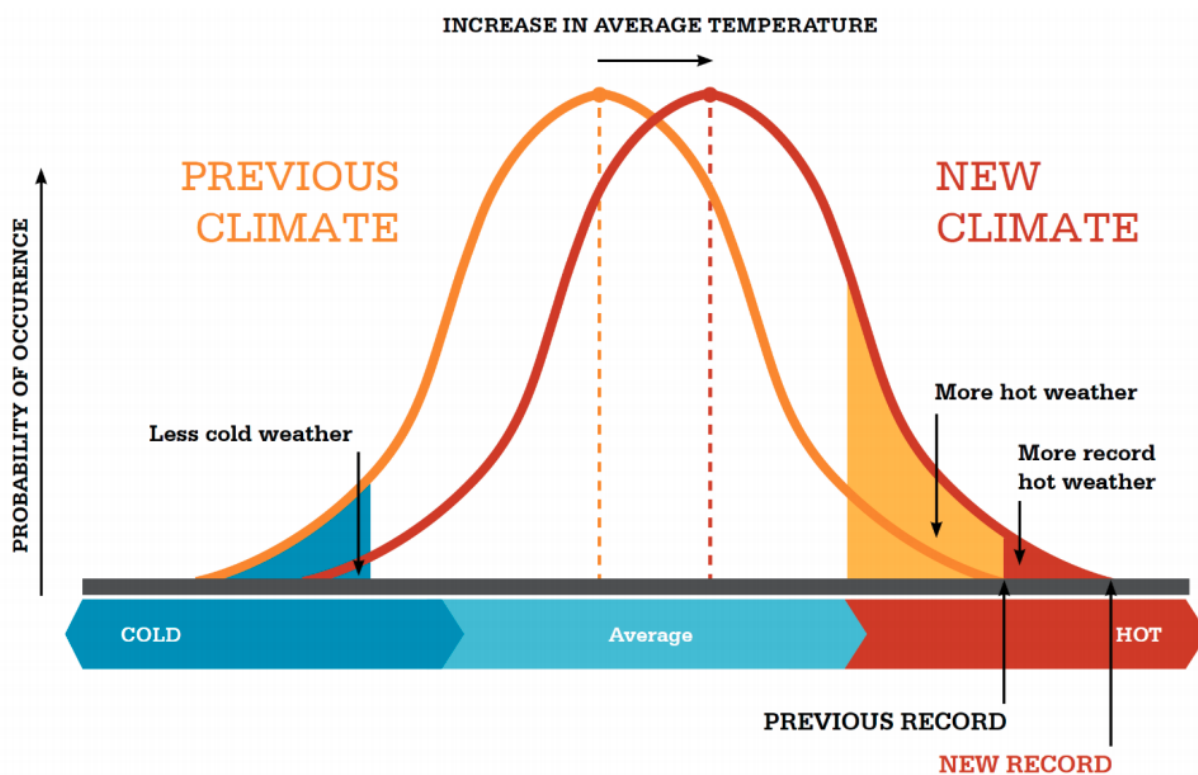


Figure 4: A small increase in the average temperature will have a big impact on extreme climate events¹

What do these climate projections mean for the Bellingen community?

Here are some of the key considerations when factoring climate change risks into Council and community climate adaptation actions:

- **Rainfall and flooding:** the likelihood of flooding will increase as our climate continues to change, resulting in increased risks to personal health and safety, damage to property, financial loss, loss of agricultural production, increased insurance premiums, disruption and dislocation of community.
- **Water resilience:** Overall rainfall is projected to decrease, so drought periods may increase in severity and duration, impacting our water security.
- **Biodiversity:** Local biodiversity is likely to come under pressure due to changes to seasonal and extreme temperatures as well as changes in the rainfall pattern.
- **Food security:** Agricultural productivity and access to supply of food will be impacted by climate change. While this will affect our entire community, impacts will be greatest for lower socio-economic groups.

⁴ <https://wsroc.com.au/media-a-resources/reports/send/3-reports/306-wsroc-urban-heat-planning-toolkit>

- **Heat:** An increase in the number of hot days will increase the incidence of illness and death – particularly among vulnerable population groups such as those with a disability or people who are older and have a pre-existing medical condition. The safety of outdoor workers, as well as participants in outdoor events and activities, will also be affected.
- **Access to Energy:** Extreme heat will lead to increased dependence on air conditioning at times when electricity is likely to be most expensive and the grid is under the most strain.
- **Sea level rise (SLR) and storm tide inundation (STI):** Increasing impacts from rising sea level are expected along coastal areas of the Shire. This will impact beaches and estuaries, and adjacent properties and infrastructure. King tides during flood events will exacerbate impacts on flood-prone communities and infrastructure.
- **Bushfire:** Bushfire weather is expected to increase in frequency and intensity across NSW, increasing the risk to lives and property as well as disruptions to services and infrastructure. Impacts from bushfire would also cause a reduction in air quality with impacts on health.

1.3 Developing the *Community Climate Action Plan*

Bellingen Shire Council has taken a collaborative approach to working with our community in the development of the *Community Climate Action Plan*. This collaborative process, described in more detail below and shown in Figure 5, involved bringing together the leaders of our Shire’s community and environmental groups, facilitating broad inclusivity across our community at a grassroots level.

As a signatory to the [Global Covenant of Mayors](#), Council’s initiative to work in partnership with our community recognises that in addition to Council’s Corporate Carbon Plan, individual and collective efforts across global communities will be required for us to live and prosper together under a changing climate ([GCoM 2021](#)). Council can help foster an enabling environment that supports our own community to develop and implement ambitious and inclusive community-led climate actions. By working together, we will strengthen our Shire’s capacity to respond to the climate emergency through harnessing the considerable expertise, experience and long-standing commitment of our community to taking climate action.

It is important to note that while Council provided the impetus for the workshop, including its facilitation by Hudson Worsley of [Presync](#), the underlying aim of this initiative was to provide the opportunity for our Shire’s community groups to come together to develop an Action Plan that would be both owned and driven by the community. In the words of Lisa Siegel, a workshop participant, development of the Action Plan *‘is a great opportunity to keep moving towards making our Shire more sustainable and a model shire for the rest of the country...’*



Council staff contacted over 30 local environmental and climate change-related community groups (Appendix 2).

Over 70 community members responded to a survey to build a picture of current and local climate actions and to gauge the priorities of potential future initiatives.

During the facilitated workshop, over 35 participants shared experiences of the impacts of climate change they were already experiencing. Participants then explored a range of ideas for how the community could improve its resilience to climate impacts. Case studies of community initiatives from other local government areas were presented to demonstrate the diversity of projects participants might consider.

An outline of each of the Project Proposals developed by the participants can be found in Chapter 3. The Proposals included the aims and objectives of the proposal, an outline of the steps involved, advice about enabling relationships with other organisations and the support that Council might be able to provide, such as access to facilities or seed funding.

During the second part of the workshop, participants considered whether the community should propose a Community Carbon Target. Chapter 4 presents the outcomes of the discussion.

Figure 5: Development process of the Bellingen Shire Community Climate Change Action Plan

2. Council’s climate actions

Bellingen Shire Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019. In response to the declaration, the Council developed a [Climate Emergency Response Framework](#) that outlines how Council will work together with our community to act on the climate emergency as quickly and as effectively as possible. Council has taken significant steps towards delivering the priority actions of the Corporate Carbon Plan and are well on track to meet the agreed goals of the [Conference of the Parties 26](#) held in Glasgow in November 2021.

Our corporate carbon emissions targets include:

- 100% renewable energy by 2030
- 45% gross emissions reduction by 2030 (based on 2010 levels)
- Net zero emissions (carbon neutral) by 2040.



Figure 6: Bellingen Shire Council has a strong history of planning and acting on climate change over many years. Key documents include:

- [Climate Emergency Response Framework](#)
- [Corporate Carbon Plan](#)
- Bellingen Shire Climate Action Plan
- Bellingen Emissions Reduction Program (BERP) 2010 – 2020
- Climate Risk Report 2009
- Climate Adaptation Strategy 2009

Complementary strategies & planning

There are several other related Council strategies relevant to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including the Bellingen Shire Biodiversity Strategy and the Lower Bellingen and Kalang Rivers Floodplain Risk Management Study that were released in November 2021.



Figure 7: Other relevant strategies including the [Bellingen Shire Biodiversity Strategy](#) and the [Lower Bellingen and Kalang Rivers Floodplain Risk Management Study](#)

Understanding Council’s role and interdependencies

For Council and Community to work effectively together to develop options for climate action requires community understanding of the role Council is able to play in responding to climate risks. It is important to recognise that Council does not have control of all the factors that contribute to managing all aspects of climate risk or adaptation and mitigation actions. Figure 8 below indicates how Council operates across a spectrum of direct control, influence and concern.

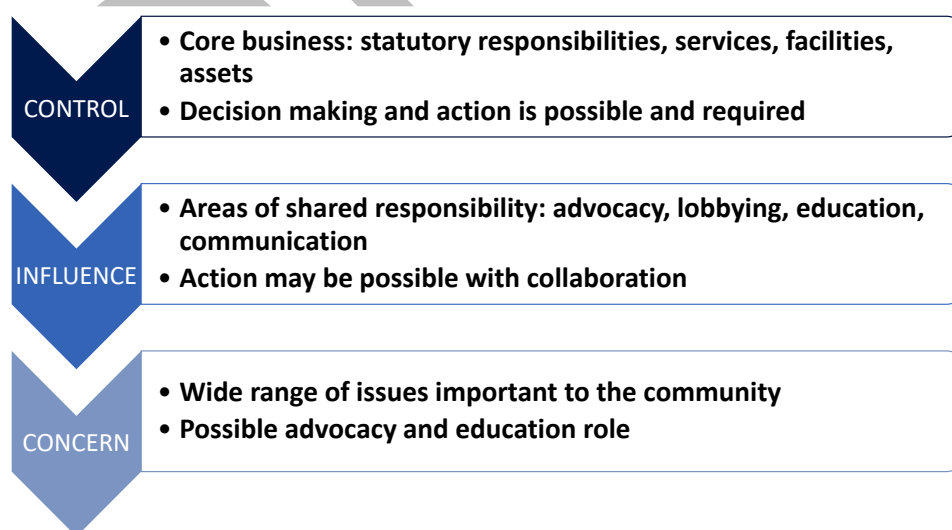


Figure 8: Local Government levels of control, influence and concern (adapted from “Adapting for Climate Change: A long term strategy for the City of Sydney”)

3. Current and Proposed Community Climate Actions

The Bellingen Shire community has a long history of being highly engaged and active in the protection and improvement of the natural environment and in tackling the challenges of climate change. During our initial engagement, community groups were asked to list projects and actions that are already underway, and the result was amazing – over 60 different groups, projects and activities were listed.

The breadth of climate change-related community groups and activities is summarised below by themes. This is not an exhaustive list but provides an overview of the focus of many activities being undertaken across the Shire by our community:

- **Community resilience** programs
- **Food** growing, awareness, markets and distribution, permaculture, and resilience
- **Social housing**, incorporating affordable sustainability and climate resilience
- **Caring for country** and traditional lands management
- **Forest and biodiversity** protection, regeneration, and education
- **Waterway** health and protection – water security (quality and availability)
- **Bushfire** resilience and response

Noting our community is already deeply engaged in climate change-related activities, it is especially important for Council to work in collaboration with these groups to build Climate Resilience. The voices of the community below reflect the recognition of the great strength of the experience, capacity and ambition amongst the existing community and environmental groups, and that the workshop attendees were keenly aware of the need to tap into this rich resource in developing the *Community Climate Action Plan*.

There's a need for us, as a community with all these people, about 15 groups including the Gumbaynggirr Nation, to get together to look at the big picture and think strategically about what needs to be done in relation to water resilience and the health of our Shire's environment, and to do this better and faster... An outcome from this short gathering could be to get together, and come up with a number of strategies that could be implemented.

Kevin Evans, Local ecologist

With all these different groups, and there are some fantastic ideas, for me the important thing would be taking everybody with us on this journey, an education program, maybe kitchen table conversations to bring everyone along with us so nobody is left behind...

Colin Hutton, Dandarrga Landcare

I would welcome the opportunity to speak together about some of the ideas and ways we can look after the land in addition to what the Land Councils already have in place in the Shire. Working together and all putting our thinking hats on together, we will come up with a better outcome...

Cathy Thomas, Dorrigo Aboriginal Land Council

In declaring a climate emergency, Bellingen Shire Council acknowledged that everyone has a role to play in responding to the climate emergency. Development of the *Community Climate Action Plan* reflects how Council is working together with our residents, businesses and local organisations and groups, to develop a plan to adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and to reduce our community's carbon emissions.

Table 1 below provides an overview of the 17 project proposals developed by the workshop attendees. The wide range of proposals provides an indication of the tremendous richness of our Shire's community and environmental groups, their expertise, capabilities, and experience. The project proposals are ambitious and delivery would create firm foundations on which to build our community's resilience and meet our commitment to reduce emissions.

The project proposals include actions in relation to: the health of our ecosystems and biodiversity; resilience of our community, food and water security; affordable and sustainable housing that mitigates the impacts of climate extremes; renewable energy and energy efficiency of our homes, industries, transport systems, and waste management systems; as well as opportunities to bring our community together.

Each project proposal provided to Council included the aims and objectives of the proposal, an outline of the steps involved, advice about enabling relationships with other organisations, the resources needed, and an indication of the support that Council might be able to provide, such as access to facilities or seed funding. It is envisaged that the proponents, or their representative organisations, will lead the implementation of the respective projects, with Council committed to working together and providing assistance as requested, wherever possible.

The community-led project proposals in the table below provide a pathway toward local climate resilience and demonstrate the transformational change needed to achieve a net zero emissions future. The strong alignment between the proposed projects and current Visions, Strategies or Planning Documents developed either by the Bellingen Shire Council or NSW Government, is set out in Appendix 4.

Table 1: Project Proposals for Climate Action

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact
<p>1. Climate, Water and Food Security: Recognising, protecting and expanding critical natural infrastructure and protecting lives across the Bellingen LGA - Building Bellingen Shire's resilience to climate change</p> <p>To involve as many custodians, residents and stakeholders as possible in the development of a 'Bello Blueprint' which recognises, protects and expands on the natural infrastructure of the Bellingen Shire that sustains life, ensures water and food security and mitigates the impacts of climate change on our living environment and communities across the Shire.</p>	<p>Bellingen Nature Company Mark Graham, Principal Ecologist buckombil@yahoo.com.au</p>
<p>2. Bellingen Shire Landcare Group: building resilience of our natural environment and assets to climate change and mitigating the unavoidable impacts of extreme weather events</p> <p>1. Urban street tree revitalisation program Increase cover and extent of urban street trees in order to directly mitigate impacts of urban heat island effect</p> <p>2. Removal of invasive street trees (African Tulip Tree, New Zealand Kauri etc)</p> <p>3. Urban wildlife corridors Expand areas of urban vegetation along riparian zones to complete work of Bellingen Urban Landcare, Bellinger Landcare and other organisations to map and complete urban vegetation corridors.</p> <p>4. Native garden beds (i.e. on main street, to replace exotic species) Replace garden beds with suitable native species as part of regular replacement program.</p> <p>5. Reduce mowing area to reduce costs – increase revegetation and sowing native grass verges (previous BSC initiative)</p> <p>6. Plant a row of mature River Oaks and Weeping Lilly Pillys and Water Gums (in permanent tree guards) along riverbank at Lavender Bridge Park (shade and bank stabilisation river revetment and erosion control engineering works with community plan to keep rapidly degrading public space.</p> <p>7. Regular maintenance weed control works, downslope of town lookout / CWA (from corner of Short Street Lane and Church Street, opposite Kombu).</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire Landcare Group Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellinger Landcare Inc • Bellinger Urban Landcare • Dandarrga Landcare <p>Liz Brown, President, Bellingen Urban Landcare info@bellingenurbanlandcare.org.au</p> <p>Jason John, Bellinger Landcare Inc office@Bellingerlandcare.org.au</p>

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact
<p>3. Dandarrga Landcare Project to provide endemic plant species to Landcare groups in the Shire and provide maintenance, advice and education to build knowledge and skills within the community in the planting and maintenance of native trees and shrubs</p> <p>Plantings would be positioned to mitigate the impacts of climate change by providing shade for insects, animals, fish, humans and all living things so that they can adapt and survive an increase in hotter weather conditions and the uncertainty of water availability.</p> <p>The project would encourage the regenerative principle to encourage the growth of naturally propagated seedlings.</p>	<p>Dandarrga Landcare</p> <p>Annie Stanton dandarrga@gmail.com</p>
<p>4. Contributing to the Bellingen Shire Food Resilience Vision: Next steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage Bellingen Shire food producers in climate adaption strategies 2. Educate the community about the impact climate change on food production, processing, distribution and consumption 3. Establish a local food network 4. Research, fund and establish a local food hub 	<p>OzGreen - Community partnerships; Food Resilience</p> <p>Anna Joudvalkis anna@ozgreen.org.au</p>
<p>5. Bello Food Gardening Project: Easy and ongoing access to localised food gardening information via a dedicated website and printed book (phase 3)</p> <p>This project aims to be a comprehensive accessible written resource of food gardening information for backyard growers in this area. For community food resilience we will have a blueprint for growing locally suitable food plants appropriate for our specific and unique climate. Growing advice is based on the incredible body of oral local knowledge from experienced growers. On completion of phase 2, collecting and compiling this advice, the knowledge will need a way to be freely and easily available to the community.</p>	<p>Bello Food Gardening</p> <p>Fiona Morgan fi@wherfishsing.com</p>

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact
<p>6. The Harvest of Plenty is a constellation of projects woven around the central concept of sharing food, each project with great opportunities for intergenerational connections</p> <p>Project 1: Utilising existing resources and pathways to gather, pick and distribute surplus produce in the shire. There is food going to waste all over the shire on farms and rural blocks. The concept is to utilise the Neighbourhood Centres in Urunga, Bellingen and Dorrigo as drop off points.</p> <p>Project 2: The Bowl of Plenty - Food sharing is caring - community connectedness We could build on our existing food sharing, giving and receiving, to create opportunities to assess need and to connect people to other services in the community.</p> <p>Project 3: Disaster preparedness - like a fire drill to oil the machinery of sharing. In a disaster, we don't often have the time to stop the bus and figure out if there is a better, more efficient way to do things. This "peacetime" nature of these ideas will allow the action of identifying need and sharing surplus through pre-existing pathways to be practised. When a crisis hits, we will know who to turn to, to get things done.</p> <p>Project 4: Cook What Ya Got - Beyond the Recipe A great way to add value to this project is to build a series of cooking classes around how to cook with seasonal food.</p> <p>Project 5: Sharing the jam Intergenerational sharing of preserving techniques such as jam or marmalade making, pickling, bottling, or sauerkraut are events with great opportunities for intergenerational connection.</p>	<p>Connecting Neighbourhood Centres (Formerly, Neighbourhood Centres of Bellingen)</p> <p>Bruce Naylor, Community Development Officer community@ncobs.org.au</p>
<p>7. Homes that don't cost the earth</p> <p>The central concept of this project is a workshop program that would be focussed on welcoming new residents to the region, with a particular focus on those who were typically ex-urbanites, and improving their climate resilience. The program will showcase examples of homes that are both affordable and environmentally responsible. The program will also provide participants with simple 'climate actions' advice to help households reduce their carbon footprints.</p>	<p>Housing Matters Action Group</p> <p>Kerry Pearse, Chair Emma Belcher and Rose West info@housingmatters.org.au</p>

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact
<p>8. Run-of-River (RoR) micro-hydroelectric demonstrations on Dorrigo Plateau.</p> <p>To establish an international hub for RoR micro-hydro demonstration, development and testing, starting at the proposed Dorrigo Energy Centre. The hub would demonstrate the role of RoR hydro technology in a decarbonised future, particularly for rural areas along NSW’s Eastern Seaboard. There is potential for multiple small RoR hydros along the east coast of NSW to exceed the energy output of the Snowy Hydro.</p>	<p>Pelena Energy and Dorrigo Energy Centre</p> <p>Peter Lynch, Managing Director peterlynch@pelena.com.au</p>
<p>9. Bellingen Shire Energy Road Map to a Net Zero Future by 2030</p> <p>The citizens of Bellingen Shire are generally very interested in the promulgation of renewable energy technologies. However, there are lots of disparate things happening and many ideas that would benefit greatly from an ‘energy road map’ which could map the inputs from all the different players and identify possible sources of funding. The road map would include existing carbon strategies and review targets. It could form the base document that would guide us to a zero net position by 2030, enabling citizens to work with Council to achieve locally initiated, locally owned, locally maintained, big and small energy production or reduction projects.</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire Energy Alliance</p> <p>Donnella Bryce, Founder and Executive Member info@bsea.org.au ; donnellabryce@hotmail.com</p>
<p>10. E-bike paths: Promote e-bikes as a sustainable form of transport in Bellingen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a child-safe e-bike path network across Bellingen 2. Increase bike parking across the CBD 	<p>Kombu Wholefoods Bellingen</p> <p>Kevin Doye kevin@reidscreek.net.au</p>
<p>11. Composting bins for Dorrigo Major Events</p> <p>This project proposal supports the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy aim to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill in NSW by 2030 • achieve net zero emissions from organics to landfill in NSW by 2030 	<p>Dorrigo Aboriginal Land Council (alternative website: DALC)</p> <p>Cathy Thomas, CEO dpalc1@aapt.net.au</p>

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact
<p>12. Bellingen Sustainability Centre - Bellingen Shire Resilience Hub</p> <p>For the current Bellingen Sustainability Centre to move to a more central premises and expand its presence as a central hub for education for sustainability and resilience in the Shire. A wide variety of groups would be involved, delivering deeper community resilience through education and community building.</p>	<p>Centre for Ecological Learning (CEL) and Bellingen Shire Learning Alliance (BSLA)</p> <p>Lisa Siegel, Treasurer CEL info@cel.org.au</p> <p>Jason John bellingsustainabilitycentre@gmail.com</p>
<p>13. Healing Baailijen (Bellingen) Forum: Local solutions to the climate crisis</p> <p>The purpose of the forum is to bring us all together, led by the local Gumbayngiirr nation along with Landcare groups, Bellingen Shire Council, farmers, forestry, LLS and any other local aligned groups to share knowledge of the Bellingen Shire to review current approaches and potentially develop different strategies/techniques to inform our landscape restoration planning, implementation and ongoing stewardship of our lands to connect and heal Baalijin.</p>	<p>Centre for Ecological Learning (CEL) and Bellingen Shire Learning Alliance (BSLA)</p> <p>Lisa Siegel info@cel.org.au</p>
<p>14. Dawaandi Journey</p> <p>This journey is a place to come and see your beautiful self and slow down in Love of yourself and to see your own Shadow hold amazing connection to country. You will see yourself in a new way, you can then use your shadow self to reflect your feelings and connections to you and others. You will leave the Journey with a new way of being and live better in your truth more consistently and sustainably.</p>	<p>BKE Consulting, Gumbayngiirr Man</p> <p>Bernard Kelly-Edwards, Founder bkeconsultancy@gmail.com</p>
<p>15. Mylestom Sensory Garden</p> <p>Sensory experience/garden at Mylestom that will provide benefits for adaptation to and mitigation of our changing climate in addition to meeting Disability Inclusion Action Plan outcomes for local residents, the community of Bellingen Shire, and visitors to the region.</p>	<p>Active citizen in support of Community Resilience</p> <p>John Beswick beswick2011@yahoo.com</p>

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact
<p>16. Bellingen Shire Energy Warriors - an education program on renewable technologies for school students Primary school children will learn about renewable energy technologies. They will learn how to assess, measure, monitor and design energy saving strategies within their school and their home environments. The program will provide students with opportunities for understanding how to create efficiencies in the use of electricity in their own lives, within their home and in their school. It will also provide students with knowledge and inspiration to advocate for energy efficiency and conservation.</p>	<p>Active Citizen in support of Resilient/Sustainable Environment and Community (also Founder, Bellingen Shire Energy Alliance)</p> <p>Donnella Bryce info@bsea.org.au donnellabryce@hotmail.com</p>
<p>17. A Community Climate Action Fund A CAAF that seeks funding from community members and businesses to support the volunteers and volunteer reliant organisations within the shire that Endeavour to undertake Climate Action projects and initiatives that occur at the Street, Neighbourhood, Village, Township and Shire-wide levels.</p>	<p>Breakout Group 4 of the CCAP workshop: Resilient Communities lbarbagallo@bellingen.nsw.gov.au</p>

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4. Community Carbon Plan

The purpose of the Community Climate Action Plan workshop held in February 2022 was two-fold: firstly, for the community to develop a plan to increase its resilience to accelerating climate risks and, secondly, to consider the part our community might play in reducing our contribution to global carbon emissions. This chapter focuses on the discussion by workshop attendees about the role our community might play in developing a Community Carbon Plan, including the possibility of setting and adopting community-wide carbon emission reduction targets.

Council has already set carbon emissions reduction targets for its corporate operations including: 45% reduction in gross emissions by 2030 (based on 2010 levels) and net zero emissions by 2040. A Community Carbon Target would represent the community's view of appropriate carbon emissions from energy use of households, local industries, local transport and private vehicles. An important understanding for the community's considerations around the possibility of setting community carbon emission reduction targets, is that Council does not have the same direct control over emissions from these private and local industry sources of emissions, as it does over emissions from its own corporate operations. It is also very difficult to measure and monitor emissions from such diverse sources.

It should be noted that following on from the recent [Conference of the Parties 26](#) held in Glasgow in November 2021, the [New South Wales Government](#) set a state-wide emission reduction target of 50% by 2030 (based on 2005 levels) and net zero emission by 2050. While the Bellingen Shire LGA is inside NSW, and the State's targets apply to Bellingen Shire, we can see that our Council's Corporate targets are more ambitious. At a national level the [Australian Government](#) has also set an emission reduction target of 26–28% below 2005 levels by 2030. Despite these state and national targets, the participants at the workshop agreed there would be merit in setting local community emissions reduction targets.

To ensure the workshop discussion was evidence-based, the most-recent emissions profile for the Bellingen Shire was presented to the attendees. Total estimated greenhouse gas emissions for the Shire in 2016/17 was 170 kt CO₂-e⁵. The breakdown of this total is shown in Figure 9, which shows that stationary energy and transportation make up the vast majority of emissions.

⁵ 170 kt CO₂-e = 170,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalents (the standard unit of greenhouse gases)

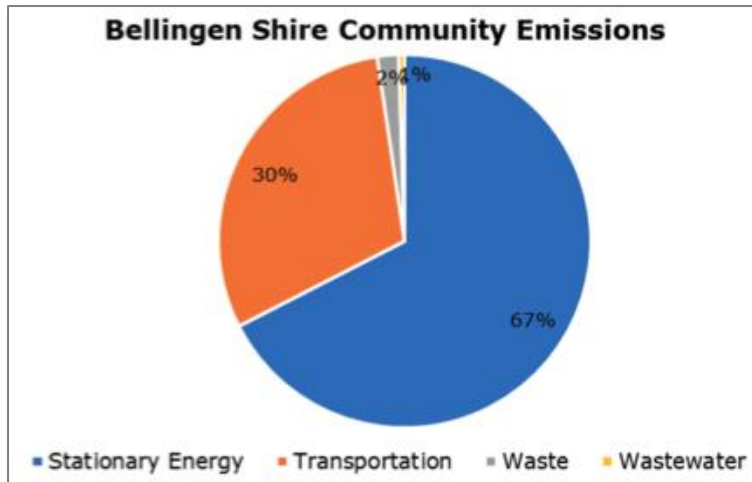


Figure 9: Bellingen Shire Council Community Emissions Profile Report, 2019
Ironbark Sustainability

After discussing the concept of a Community Carbon Target, the workshop attendees considered several pros and cons.

Advantages included:

- A locally-specific target would demonstrate leadership and communicate a community vision
- It would inspire and drive action
- A target would also provide a benchmark against which to measure and communicate success.

Disadvantages were also raised:

- The Council & community cannot influence all emission sources within the LGA.
- Reaching a decision on the target and establishing data monitoring is potentially time consuming & distracting while action is needed.
- Different local, state and National targets could confuse messaging.
- Accurate emissions data will be hard to obtain.

Overall, and after considering the advantages and disadvantages above, the workshop attendees were in favour of the community setting its own community-determined carbon emissions reduction targets. However, the decision about what these targets might be was not reached at the workshop. Instead, it was proposed that workshop attendees would continue to work together after the workshop to identify the targets that would then be put forward to the broader community for their consideration and collective decision.

The following voices reflect the discussion amongst the attendees, including the call from Bernard Kelly-Edwards, a Gumbaynggirr Man, that a community-based carbon target be initiated by our community that ‘blends cultural-based and science-based and ethical practices to come up with the targets and that this is done from a point of unity and love’.

While Council is doing what they can do, I know their hands are tied in relation to a lot of things, and what is played out and seen is that this community has so many passionate views of individuals or groups of people who have a collective narrative and that's to see this place remains the way it should be for our children and our children's children, now this is values and beliefs that have been handed down from our ancestors from where we are right now. And I honestly believe that if we do create a community-based carbon target initiated by our community, there's also a beautiful opportunity to blend cultural-based and science-based and ethical practices based on doing this from the point of unity and love.

We have so much to lean into beautiful people, and whether it is council-generated or community-generated to me it doesn't matter, what needs to happen is a unified approach, and if it means Council collaborates with the Land Councils, us as community can only control what's in our control, I don't have the power to make anyone do anything apart from me, if we take this into our thinking then we are winning already... I'm backing the community approach, because the council is only born of community...

Bernard Kelly-Edwards, Gumbaynggirr Man and Founder BKE Consultancy

I am questioning who sets this community target. If it's a community-generated target that is generated by a collective of all the groups in the Shire that are working towards lowering our climate emissions, through a forum with genuine representation, I think that would be a really important step, not only in setting the target, but also including everyone along the way to make that happen. This is a great opportunity towards getting off the grid completely, which is a goal we've been talking about for a while in the Bellingen Shire - not just in terms of electricity, but also food, water, and waste - and towards making the Shire more sustainable and a model for the rest of the country.

Lisa Siegel, Centre for Ecological Learning

We have few people here today who are very committed to doing something but you have a whole population busy with their own lives, raising their families and paying their mortgages, and we have to provide leadership as well as try to bring everyone along and you need to set a target if for no other reason than show them what the leadership is, then of course the community will do its own thing, but the main thing is we do need a community approach and I hope that this group stays together and drives that community approach...

Peter Holding, Farmers for Climate Action

I fully agree we should have a local target, but I'm also sympathetic to matching the NSW Government's Carbon Reduction Targets because they're scientifically-driven and I think it helps with advocacy up to government if we have similar commitments. I also think that if this process is being driven by community, and there's been strong messaging this process is being driven by us, then maybe we don't need to negotiate a target, but that we continue this dialogue and put forward a target from the community. If the expert participants here at this workshop, who are gathered by the Council, are coming forward with a specific target, then that would be a compelling argument to adopt that target...

Peter Lynch, Pelena Energy and Dorrigo Energy

5. Next steps – Working together

Council will support the community to deliver the proposed projects.

This may involve some, or all of the following, as requested:

- sourcing funding opportunities
- provision of venues
- professional advice
- use of promotional channels to share information
- partnership where projects align with endorsed strategic goals such as those in the Biodiversity Strategy and Coastal Zone Management Plan

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Appendix 1 – Key Terms

Term	Definition
Physical risk	The impact of climate hazards, both shocks such as flooding, extreme heat and bushfires, and stresses such as drought and habitat loss.
Transition risk	The disruptive changes that will occur in the transition to the low carbon economy, eg stranded assets, changes to regulations, obtaining insurance, shrinking markets.
Liability risk	Risks for those associated with and responsible for contributing to, or not acting to address, climate change risks.
Interdependent risks	Risks (and solutions) that are dependent on other organisations, systems and infrastructure
Mitigation	Reducing and soon eliminating emissions that contribute to climate change
Adaptation	Adjustment which moderates harm or exploits opportunities
Shocks	Acute events with direct impacts, such as extreme heat, bushfires and floods.
Stresses	Chronic phenomenon with longer-term and drawn out impact, such as drought and changes in habitat.
Greenhouse gas	Greenhouse gases are those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of terrestrial radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere itself, and by clouds. Water vapour (H ₂ O), carbon dioxide (CO ₂), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), methane (CH ₄) and ozone (O ₃) are the primary greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere.
Scope 1 emissions	Direct emissions from owned or controlled sources, ie fuels burnt on site and manufacturing process emission
Scope 2 emissions	Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy, ie emission shipped in via electricity
Scope 3 emissions	All indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions, supply chain and embodied carbon
Carbon neutral & Net-zero emission	Carbon neutrality, or having net-zero emissions, refers to achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing carbon emissions reductions and carbon removal (sequestration).

A further, more detailed glossary of climate change terms is available from the CSIRO at: <https://www.climatechangeinaustralia.gov.au/en/support-and-guidance/glossary/#A>

Appendix 2: Attendees of the Bellingen Shire Community Climate Action Plan Workshop

Organisation, Group, or individual represented at the workshop	Workshop attendees
1. Bellingen Nature Company	Mark Graham, Principal Ecologist buckombil@yahoo.com.au
2. Great Eastern Ranges Ltd	Kevin Evans, Non-Executive Director williewagtail@bigpond.com
3. Jaliigirr Biodiversity Alliance	Chris Ormond (Alternative for James Birnie – apology; jimmieb53@gmail.com)
4. Bellingen Shire Landcare Group Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellinger Landcare Inc • Bellingen Urban Landcare • Dandarrga Landcare 	Liz Brown, President, Bellingen Urban Landcare info@bellingenurbanlandcare.org.au Chris Ormond, Bellinger Landcare Inc Bonnie Dough
5. Dandarrga Landcare	Colin Hutton, Member dandarrga@gmail.com (Alternative for Annie Stanton, an apology)
6. Bellingen Environment Centre	Cath Jones (Alternative for Catherine Eaglesham, Chair - apology) bellingenec@gmail.com
7. OzGreen	Anton Joudvallis, CEO anton@ozgreen.org.au (Apology: Sue Lennox, Founder and Director, slennox@ozgreen.org.au)
8. OzGreen - Bellingen RiverWatch	Amy Denshire, Riverwatch Program Manager riverwatch@ozgreen.org.au
9. OzGreen - Community partnerships; Food Resilience	Anna Joudvallis, Partnerships Manager anna@ozgreen.org.au
10. OzGreen – Community Resilience	Alison Heeley, Local Coordinator Nambucca Valley alison@ozgreen.org.au

11. Bello Food Gardening	Fiona Morgan fi@wherfishsing.com
12. Bellingen Growers Market	Cynan Dowling bellogrowersmarket@gmail.com (Alternative for Cas Selby, an apology)
13. Northbank Community Garden	Alison Heeley, President heeleyaj@gmail.com
14. Farmers for Climate Action	Peter Holding, Member peter@farmersforclimateaction.org.au
15. Neighbourhood Centres of Bellingen	Bruce Naylor, Community Development Officer community@ncobs.org.au bnc.reception@ncobs.org.au
16. Neighbourhood Care Network	Gabi Curwood, Deputy Chair gabi@internode.on.net https://www.neighbourhoodcarenetwork.org.au/contact (Alternative for Kerry Pearse, Chair, an apology)
17. Three Headlands 'Caring for Country' Collective	Amanda Norman amandacnorman@hotmail.com
18. Housing Matters Action Group	Emma Belcher and Rose West info@housingmatters.org.au (Alternatives for Kerry Pearse, Chair, an apology)
19. Mission Australia Housing, Coffs Harbour	Alison Heeley heeleya@missionaustralia.com.au
20. Sustainable buildings - Ecologically Sustainable Design	Jessica Hogg, Architect
21. Pelena Energy and Dorrigo Energy Centre	Peter Lynch, Managing Director peterlynch@pelena.com.au
22. Buildings.Evolved	Arne Hansen, Director arne@buildingsevolved.com
23. Bellingen Shire Energy Alliance	Arne Hansen, President Donnella Bryce, Founder and Executive Member info@bsea.org.au donnellabryce@hotmail.com
24. Kombu Wholefoods Bellingen	Kevin Doye (Apology, but Project Proposal provided) kevin@reidscreek.net.au

<p>25. Gumbaynggirr Man, First Nations Elder</p> <p>http://www.cel.org.au/uncle-michael-jarrett/</p>	<p>Uncle Michael Jarrett, Gumbaynggirr Man michael.jarrett@det.nsw.edu.au</p>
<p>26. Gumbaynggirr Man, BKE Consultancy</p>	<p>Bernard Kelly-Edwards, Gumbaynggirr Man Founder, BKE Consultancy bkeconsultancy@gmail.com</p>
<p>27. Coffs Harbour Aboriginal Land Council</p>	<p>Chris Spencer, CEO admin@coffsharboursalc.com.au Matt Smith programs@coffsharboursalc.com.au</p>
<p>28. Dorigo Aboriginal Land Council and https://www.jaliigirr.com.au/partner/dorrigo-local-aboriginal-land-council/</p>	<p>Cathy Thomas, CEO dpalc1@aapt.net.au</p>
<p>29. Centre for Ecological Learning (CEL) and Bellingen Shire Learning Alliance (BSLA)</p>	<p>Lisa Siegel, Treasurer CEL info@cel.org.au Jason John bellingsustainabilitycentre@gmail.com</p>
<p>30. Bellingen Shire Chambers of Commerce</p>	<p>Arne Hansen, Treasurer Bellingen CoC, (Alternative for Libby Park, President, an apology) president@bellingenchamber.com.au</p>
<p>31. Active Citizen in support of a Resilient/Sustainable Environment and Community</p>	<p>Donnella Bryce donnellabryce@hotmail.com</p>
<p>32. Active citizen in support of a Resilient Environment and Community</p>	<p>John Beswick beswick2011@yahoo.com</p>
<p>33. Active citizen in support of a Resilient Environment and Community</p>	<p>Peter Warman peterwarman@icloud.com</p>
<p>34. Newry Forest Blockade, Active Citizen in support of a Resilient/Sustainable Environment and Community</p>	<p>Tom Howell howellman@protonmail.com</p>

Appendix 3: References to Plans and Strategies

Bellingen Shire Council (2016) Shire of Bellingen 2027 - Community Vision: Connected, Sustainable and Creative. Community Strategic Plan.

<https://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/Your-Council/Community-Vision-2027>

Bellingen Shire Council (2017) Bellingen Shire Council Coastal Area Koala Management Strategy

<https://beta.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/files/plans-amp-strategies/bellingen-shire-council-coastal-area-koala-management-strategy-and-plan.pdf>

Bellingen Shire Council (2020) Bellingen Shire Local Strategic Planning Statement 2020-2040

[Link to PDF / https://create.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/bellingen-shire-local-strategic-planning-statement-2020-2040](https://create.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/bellingen-shire-local-strategic-planning-statement-2020-2040)

Bellingen Shire Council (2020) Bellingen Shire Housing Strategy

<https://create.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/homes-for-our-future/widgets/198990/documents>
(Link to PDF)

Bellingen Shire Council (2020) Bellingen Shire Housing Strategy – Action Plan

<https://create.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/homes-for-our-future/widgets/198990/documents>
(Link to PDF)

Bellingen Shire Council (2021) Bellingen Shire Biodiversity Strategy

https://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/files/environment/bellingen-biodiversity-strategy_v4.pdf

<https://www.bellingen.nsw.gov.au/Services/Our-Natural-Environment/Biodiversity>

Coffs Coast Waste Services (2015) Coffs Coast Region Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy, 2015 - 2027

<https://www.coffsharbour.nsw.gov.au/files/sharedassets/public/your-council/publications/strategies/ccws-waste-strategy-2015-2027.pdf>

NSW Department of Planning and Environment (2017) North Coast Regional Plan 2036

<https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Plans-and-policies/north-coast-2036-regional-plan-2017.pdf?la=en>

Appendix 4: Alignment between Project Proposals and Plans and Strategies

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact	Alignment to Visions, Strategies and Plans
<p>1. Climate, Water and Food Security: Recognising, protecting and expanding critical natural infrastructure and protecting lives across the Bellingen LGA - Building Bellingen Shire's resilience to climate change</p> <p>To involve as many custodians, residents and stakeholders as possible in the development of a 'Bello Blueprint' which recognises, protects and expands on the natural infrastructure of the Bellingen Shire that sustains life, ensures water and food security and mitigates the impacts of climate change on our living environment and communities across the Shire.</p>	<p>Bellingen Nature Company Mark Graham, Principal Ecologist buckombil@yahoo.com.au</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire's Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 1: Resilient economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are a disaster resilience community ○ We have a sustainable local farming sector that provides us with healthy, fresh food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local food growing, sharing and education initiatives are supported and developed ➤ Alternative farming systems are employed with examples including cooperative farming and Landshare ➤ Farming practices are financially and environmentally sustainable. <p><u>Vision 2: Community Wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Groups actively communicate and collaborate ➤ We actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of Aboriginal people. <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change ○ We work together to protect and enhance our environment ○ We protect and enhance our biodiversity ○ We have clean water which is protected and used sustainably <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our waterways and wetlands are valued, protected and enhanced <p>Bellingen Shire's Strategic Plan 2020-2040</p>

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact	Alignment to Visions, Strategies and Plans
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Planning Priority 1</u> –To support a vibrant and ecologically sustainable rural economy that is transitioning towards a regenerative model of rural land use ○ <u>Planning Priority 8</u> – Biodiversity conservation occurs at a landscape scale <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ landscape elements that provide important biodiversity functions are the Shires waterways and riparian zones. Bellingen Shire residents place a high value upon the importance of water quality for a range of ecological, recreational and employment functions. ○ <u>Planning Priority 9</u> – Council’s policy framework for dealing with natural hazards recognises risks associated with climate change and avoids additional exposure. <p>NSW North Coast Regional Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Direction 1</u> – Deliver environmentally sustainable growth ○ <u>Direction 2:</u> Enhance biodiversity, coastal and aquatic habitats, and water catchments ○ <u>Direction 3:</u> Manage natural hazards and climate change ○ <u>Direction 11:</u> Protect and enhance productive agricultural lands ○ <u>Direction 13:</u> Sustainably manage natural resources1 <p>Bellingen Shire’s Biodiversity strategy</p> <p><i>Key Focus Areas for action:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>KFA 1:</u> Juungambala and Caring for Country: building a living agreement with Gumbaynggirr custodians and understanding our connection to the landscape ○ <u>KFA 2:</u> Native Vegetation: protecting, managing and restoring native vegetation ○ <u>KFA 3:</u> Waterways: managing and conserving river systems, wetlands, riparian land, coastal and estuarine health ○ <u>KFA 4:</u> Corridors and Connectivity: enhancing landscape linkages

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact	Alignment to Visions, Strategies and Plans
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>KFA 5</u>: Public Spaces: Managing our reserves to promote biodiversity and community interaction ○ <u>KFA 6</u>: Protecting habitat and managing biodiversity across the landscape ○ <u>KFA 7</u>: Species preservation: protecting and maintaining habitats of high profile threatened species and provision of education about threats and opportunities for biodiversity programs in Bellingen. <p>NSW SEPP 44 – Koala Habitat Protection Bellingen Shire’s Koala Management Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prevent lost, fragmentation and degradation of koala habitat ○ ‘maintain and improve contiguous forested landscapes’ ○ apply conservation and management strategies to assist koalas to adapt to Climate Change affects <p>Bellingen Shire’s Housing Strategy Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Strategy 7</u>: Environmental protection and Sustainable Living, including strategies to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protect ecologically sensitive areas from development and emphasis an environmentally-sustainable approach to growth. ○ Continually improve environmental performance and be a leader in sustainable living. ○ Mitigate and adapt to climate change, and support community sustainability initiatives.

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact	Alignment to Visions, Strategies and Plans
<p>2. Bellingen Shire Landcare Group: building resilience of our natural environment and assets to climate change and mitigating the unavoidable impacts of extreme weather events</p> <p>1. Urban street tree revitalisation program Increase cover and extent of urban street trees in order to directly mitigate impacts of urban heat island effect</p> <p>2. Removal of invasive street trees (African Tulip Tree, New Zealand Kauri etc)</p> <p>3. Urban wildlife corridors Expand areas of urban vegetation along riparian zones to complete work of Bellingen Urban Landcare, Bellinger Landcare and other organisations to map and complete urban vegetation corridors.</p> <p>4. Native garden beds (i.e. on main street, to replace exotic species) Replace garden beds with suitable native species as part of regular replacement program.</p> <p>5. Reduce mowing area to reduce costs – increase revegetation and</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire Landcare Group Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bellinger Landcare Inc • Bellingen Urban Landcare • Dandarrga Landcare <p>Liz Brown, President, Bellingen Urban Landcare info@bellingenurbanlandcare.org.au</p> <p>Jason John, Bellinger Landcare Inc office@Bellingerlandcare.org.au</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027 <u>Vision 3: Places for People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have a diversity of beautiful spaces that foster community happiness and wellbeing ○ We are connected and able to move around in a safe, accessible, health and environmentally friendly way <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ we live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change ○ We work together to protect and enhance our environment ○ We protect and enhance our biodiversity <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Plan 2020-2040</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Priority 1 –To support a vibrant and ecologically sustainable rural economy that is transitioning towards a regenerative model of rural land use. ○ Planning Priority 8 – Biodiversity conservation occurs at a landscape scale; includes Council efforts to conserve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Action 8.1 Implement the Biodiversity Strategy to conserve biodiversity across the Shire. ○ Planning Priority 9 – Council’s policy framework for dealing with natural hazards recognises risks associated with climate change and avoids additional exposure. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Biodiversity Strategy <u>Key Focus Areas for action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>KFA 1:</u> Juungambala and Caring for Country: building a living agreement with Gumbaynggirr custodians and understanding our connection to the landscape

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact	Alignment to Visions, Strategies and Plans
<p>sowing native grass verges (previous BSC initiative)</p> <p>6. Plant a row of mature River Oaks and Weeping Lilly Pillys and Water Gums (in permanent tree guards) along riverbank at Lavender Bridge Park (shade and bank stabilisation river revetment and erosion control engineering works with community plan to keep rapidly degrading public space).</p> <p>7. Regular maintenance weed control works, downslope of town lookout / CWA (from corner of Short Street Lane and Church Street, opposite Kombu).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ KFA 2: Native Vegetation: protecting, managing and restoring native vegetation ○ KFA 3: Waterways: managing and conserving river systems, wetlands, riparian land, coastal and estuarine health ○ KFA 4: Corridors and Connectivity: enhancing landscape linkages ○ KFA 5: Public Spaces: Managing our reserves to promote biodiversity and community interaction ○ KFA 6: Protecting habitat and managing biodiversity across the landscape ○ KFA 7: Species preservation: protecting and maintaining habitats of high profile threatened species and provision of education about threats and opportunities for biodiversity programs in Bellingen. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Housing Strategy Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action 5.1 Parks, Community Facilities and Public Spaces Strategy ○ Action 6.7 Greening programs: Bellingen Shire’s spectacular natural environment can be protected and enhanced through tree planting and landscaping in public residential areas (street trees, verges and in parks) ○ Strategy 7: Environmental protection and Sustainable Living, especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Action 7.6 Support Biodiversity in our public spaces and backyards ➤ Action 7.9 Cooling urban areas, including introduction of planning controls such as mandated area and tree planting to reduce impacts of urban heat.
<p>3. Dandarrga Landcare Project to provide endemic plant species to Landcare groups in the Shire and provide maintenance, advice and education to build knowledge and skills within the community in the</p>	<p>Dandarrga Landcare</p> <p>Annie Stanton dandarrga@gmail.com</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 3: Places for People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have a diversity of beautiful spaces that foster community happiness and wellbeing <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment –</u></p>

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact	Alignment to Visions, Strategies and Plans
<p>planting and maintenance of native trees and shrubs</p> <p>Plantings would be positioned to mitigate the impacts of climate change by providing shade for insects, animals, fish, humans and all living things so that they can adapt and survive an increase in hotter weather conditions and the uncertainty of water availability.</p> <p>The project would encourage the regenerative principle to encourage the growth of naturally propagated seedlings.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ we live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change ○ We work together to protect and enhance our environment ○ We protect and enhance our biodiversity. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Biodiversity strategy <i>Key Focus Areas for action:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>KFA 2</u>: Native Vegetation: protecting, managing and restoring native vegetation ○ <u>KFA 3</u>: Waterways: managing and conserving river systems, wetlands, riparian land, coastal and estuarine health ○ <u>KFA 4</u>: Corridors and Connectivity: enhancing landscape linkages ○ <u>KFA 5</u>: Public Spaces: Managing our reserves to promote biodiversity and community interaction ○ <u>KFA 6</u>: Protecting habitat and managing biodiversity across the landscape ○ <u>KFA 7</u>: Species preservation: protecting and maintaining habitats of high profile threatened species and provision of education about threats and opportunities for biodiversity programs in Bellingen. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Housing Strategy Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Action 5.1</u> Parks, Community Facilities and Public Spaces Strategy ○ Strategy 7: Environmental protection and Sustainable Living, especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ <u>Action 7.6</u> Support Biodiversity in our public spaces and backyards ➢ <u>Action 7.9</u> Cooling urban areas, including introduction of planning controls such as mandated area and tree planting to reduce impacts of urban heat.

Project proposal for climate action	Organisation/group and Contact	Alignment to Visions, Strategies and Plans
<p>4. Contributing to the Bellingen Shire Food Resilience Vision: Next steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage Bellingen Shire food producers in climate adaption strategies 2. Educate the community about the impact climate change on food production, processing, distribution and consumption 3. Establish a local food network 4. Research, fund and establish a local food hub 	<p>OzGreen - Community partnerships; Food Resilience</p> <p>Anna Joudvalkis anna@ozgreen.org.au</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 1: Resilient economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are a disaster resilience community ○ We have a sustainable local farming sector that provides us with healthy, fresh food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local food growing, sharing and education initiatives are supported and developed ➤ Alternative farming systems are employed with examples including cooperative farming and Landshare ➤ Farming practices are financially and environmentally sustainable. <p><u>Vision 2. Community Wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are a learning and Creative community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are opportunities for lifelong learning including regaining and retaining traditional skills ○ We are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community groups actively communicate and collaborate ➤ There is connection between and across our communities ○ Our children, youth and seniors are valued, involved and supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Opportunities exist to share the experience and wisdom of seniors <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment</u> – We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Plan 2020-2040</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Planning Priority 1</u> –To support a vibrant and ecologically sustainable rural economy that is transitioning towards a regenerative model of rural land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We have a sustainable local farming sector that provides us with healthy fresh food

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local food growing, sharing and education initiatives are supported and developed. ➤ Farming practices are financially and environmentally sustainable. <p>NSW North Coast Regional Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Direction 11 NRCP – Protect and enhance productive agricultural lands. <p>Bellingen Shire Local Housing Strategy Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Strategy 8</u>: Farmland and the rural character of the Shire is protected and offers regenerative farming opportunities. Objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The community has access to fresh, health and affordable locally-produced food and local food producers and smallholders provide food security ➤ Farmland is protected for future generations.
<p>5. Bello Food Gardening Project: Easy and ongoing access to localised food gardening information via a dedicated website and printed book (phase 3)</p> <p>This project aims to be a comprehensive accessible written resource of food gardening information for backyard growers in this area. For community food resilience we will have a blueprint for growing locally suitable food plants appropriate for our specific and unique climate. Growing advice is based on the incredible body of oral</p>	<p>Bello Food Gardening</p> <p>Fiona Morgan fi@wherfishsing.com</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 1: Resilient economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are a disaster resilience community ○ We have a sustainable local farming sector that provides us with healthy, fresh food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local food growing, sharing and education initiatives are supported and developed <p><u>Vision 2. Community Wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are a learning and Creative community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are opportunities for lifelong learning including regaining and retaining traditional skills ○ We are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community groups actively communicate and collaborate ➤ There is connection between and across our communities

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<p>local knowledge from experienced growers. On completion of phase 2, collecting and compiling this advice, the knowledge will need a way to be freely and easily available to the community.</p>		<p>Alignment to Visions, Strategies and Plans</p> <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment</u> – We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint. <p><u>Vision 5. Civic Leadership</u> – Our community is informed and engaged with a strong sense of community leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The community is engaged in decision-making and implementation using modern communication methods. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Plan 2020-2040</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Priority 1 –To support a vibrant and ecologically sustainable rural economy that is transitioning towards a regenerative model of rural land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local food growing, sharing and education initiatives are supported and developed ➤ We have a sustainable local farming sector that provides us with healthy fresh food <p>Bellingen Shire Local Housing Strategy Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Strategy 8:</u> Farmland and the rural character of the Shire is protected and offers regenerative farming opportunities. Objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The community has access to fresh, health and affordable locally-produced food and local food producers and smallholders provide food security.

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<p>6. The Harvest of Plenty is a constellation of projects woven around the central concept of sharing food, each project with great opportunities for intergenerational connections</p> <p>Project 1: Utilising existing resources and pathways to gather, pick and distribute surplus produce in the shire.</p> <p>There is food going to waste all over the shire on farms and rural blocks. The concept is to utilise the Neighbourhood Centres in Urunga, Bellingen and Dorrigo as drop off points.</p> <p>Project 2: The Bowl of Plenty - Food sharing is caring - community connectedness</p> <p>We could build on our existing food sharing, giving and receiving, to create opportunities to assess need and to connect people to other services in the community.</p> <p>Project 3: Disaster preparedness - like a fire drill to oil the machinery of sharing.</p> <p>In a disaster, we don't often have the time to stop the bus and figure out if there is a better, more efficient way</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Centres of Bellingen</p> <p>Bruce Naylor, Community Development Officer community@ncobs.org.au</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire's Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 1: Resilient economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are a disaster resilience community ○ We have a sustainable local farming sector that provides us with healthy, fresh food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local food growing, sharing and education initiatives are supported and developed ➤ Alternative farming systems are employed with examples including cooperative farming and Landshare ➤ Farming practices are financially and environmentally sustainable. <p><u>Vision 2. Community Wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are a learning and Creative community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are opportunities for lifelong learning including regaining and retaining traditional skills ○ We are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community groups actively communicate and collaborate ➤ There is connection between and across our communities ○ Our children, youth and seniors are valued, involved and supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Opportunities exist to share the experience and wisdom of seniors <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment</u> – We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint <p>Bellingen Shire's Strategic Plan 2020-2040</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Priority 1 –To support a vibrant and ecologically sustainable rural economy that is transitioning towards a regenerative model of rural land use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We have a sustainable local farming sector that provides us with healthy fresh food

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<p>to do things. This “peacetime” nature of these ideas will allow the action of identifying need and sharing surplus through pre-existing pathways to be practised. When a crisis hits, we will know who to turn to, to get things done.</p> <p>Project 4: Cook What Ya Got - Beyond the Recipe A great way to add value to this project is to build a series of cooking classes around how to cook with seasonal food.</p> <p>Project 5: Fruit squad A social enterprise where a team of volunteers harvest the fruit for the farmer, taking some of the harvest, and then distribute through the market as a fund raiser, or donate to OzHarvest or process through pickling, or preserving for later sale.</p> <p>Project 6: Sharing the jam Intergenerational sharing of preserving techniques such as jam or marmalade making, pickling, bottling, or sauerkraut are events with great opportunities for intergenerational connection.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Local food growing, sharing and education initiatives are supported and developed. <p>Bellingen Shire Local Housing Strategy Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Strategy 8</u>: Farmland and the rural character of the Shire is protected and offers regenerative farming opportunities. Objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The community has access to fresh, health and affordable locally-produced food and local food producers and smallholders provide food security.

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<p>7. Homes that don't cost the earth</p> <p>The central concept of this project is a workshop program that would be focussed on welcoming new residents to the region, with a particular focus on those who were typically ex-urbanites, and improving their climate resilience. The program will showcase examples of homes that are both affordable and environmentally responsible. The program will also provide participants with simple 'climate actions' advice to help households reduce their carbon footprints.</p>	<p>Housing Matters Action Group</p> <p>Kerry Pearse, Chair Emma Belcher and Rose West info@housingmatters.org.au</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire's Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 3. Places for people –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have a mixture of affordable sustainable housing options for all in our community. <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint ➤ Alternative forms of energy are embraced ○ We work together to protect and enhance our environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and educated on environmental issues, threats and opportunities. <p>Bellingen Shire's Housing Sustainability Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Strategy 4. Affordability</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Action 4.6 a) Reduce ongoing costs through design and resilience-building: Investing in climate change adaptation and community resilience through housing that is designed to be adaptable, water and space efficient and made of durable materials that are cheaper to run (including retrofitting). ➤ Action 4.6 b) Reduce cooling and heating costs – promote house design measures and resident actions that reduce energy use and cost while maintaining comfort and reducing emissions. ○ <u>Action 6.9: Local character in greenfields areas</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – new housing areas to prioritise environmental protection, sustainable living and neighbourhood character. ○ <u>Strategy 7: Environmental protection and Sustainable Living, especially</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 7.2 Looking after water

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 7.4 Planning controls and processes review – enable sustainable living Actions ➤ 7.5 Climate-responsive house design ➤ 7.6 Support biodiversity in our backyards ➤ 7.8 Mainstream sustainable living and reduce consumption impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Of note: ‘Council will promote sustainable living within its plans and policies and advocate for increased investment in sustainability across the property industry and by other levels of government. Council will provide information to residents (in the form of factsheets and online resources) that encourage sustainable house design, eco-conscious living practices and actions to reduce consumption impacts.’ ➤ 7.9 Cooling urban areas including introduction of planning controls such as mandated area and tree planting to reduce impacts of urban heat. ○ <u>Action 8.6</u> Information about moving to rural areas ○ <u>Action 8.7</u> Support for local food production and small farmers
<p>8. Run-of-River (RoR) micro-hydroelectric demonstrations on Dorrigo Plateau.</p> <p>To establish in Dorrigo an international hub for RoR micro-hydro demonstration, development and testing, starting at the proposed Dorrigo Energy Centre. The hub would demonstrate the role of RoR hydro technology in a decarbonised future, particularly for rural areas along NSW’s Eastern Seaboard. There is potential for multiple small RoR</p>	<p>Pelena Energy and Dorrigo Energy Centre</p> <p>Peter Lynch, Managing Director peterlynch@pelena.com.au</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 1. Resilient Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have meaningful work and vibrant businesses within our community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are a disaster resilient community ➤ Our families are able to support themselves locally ➤ Our community has a diversity of businesses and new industries ➤ Businesses within our Shire are ethical and sustainable ○ We have balanced, sustainable tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our Shire offers a broad range of experiences for visitors <p><u>Vision 2. Community Wellbeing</u> – We are a learning and Creative community</p> <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment</u> – We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change</p>

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<p>hydros along the east coast of NSW to exceed the energy output of the Snowy Hydro.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint ➤ Alternative forms of energy are embraced. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Plan 2020-2040</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Planning Priority 3</u> – To provide meaningful opportunities for local employment, sustainable business establishment and growth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Action 3.1 Council will complete a new Employment Lands Strategy that considers the employment opportunities that may arise from circular economies and industries that harness or develop renewable energy technologies and will aspire towards an employment profile that displays a level of economic self-reliance, and resilience to external forces. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>Specific projects that may be pursued for Dorrigo, subject to funding and other opportunities, includes An Energy Centre that draws upon the hydro power legacy within the town, and that demonstrates the respective merits of a wide range of energy sources, in the context of a changing climate and changing resource availability. P.56</i></p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Planning Priority 6</u> –To meet most of the housing needs of a wide cross section of the community through well designed infill housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage sustainable building design <p>NSW North Coast Regional Plan 2036</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Direction 4</u>: Promote renewable energy opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Action 4.1 Diversify the energy sector by identifying renewable energy resource precincts and infrastructure corridors with access to the electricity network. ➤ Action 4.2 Enable appropriate smaller-scale renewable energy projects using bio-waste, solar, wind, small-scale hydro, geothermal or other innovative storage technologies.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Action 4.3 Promote appropriate smaller and community-scale renewable energy projects. ○ <u>Direction 8</u>: Promote the growth of tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Action 8.2: Facilitate tourism and visitor accommodation and supporting land uses in coastal and rural hinterland locations through local growth management strategies and local environmental plans. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Housing Strategy Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Strategy 7</u>: Environmental protection and Sustainable Living, including strategies to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Protect ecologically sensitive areas from development and emphasis an environmentally-sustainable approach to growth. ➤ Continually improve environmental performance and be a leader in sustainable living. ➤ Mitigate and adapt to climate change, and support community sustainability initiatives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 7.4 Planning controls and processes review – enable sustainable living ○ <u>Action 8.2</u> Country town and village revitalisation for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ attraction of new industries and jobs, especially rural-related and in health, education, and green jobs (enviro-focused) ➤ promotion of tourism that benefits local people, economy and environment ➤ recognition of community members and groups doing great things in our rural communities, sharing of stories and experiences.

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<p>9. Bellingen Shire Energy Road Map to a Net Zero Future by 2030</p> <p>The citizens of Bellingen Shire are generally very interested in the promulgation of renewable energy technologies. However, there are lots of disparate things happening and many ideas that would benefit greatly from an ‘energy road map’ which could map the inputs from all the different players and identify possible sources of funding. The road map would include existing carbon strategies and review targets. It could form the base document that would guide us to a zero net position by 2030, enabling citizens to work with Council to achieve locally initiated, locally owned, locally maintained, big and small energy production or reduction projects.</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire Energy Alliance</p> <p>Donnella Bryce, Founder and Executive Member info@bsea.org.au ; donnellabryce@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 2. Community wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community groups actively communicate and collaborate. <p><u>Vision 3. Places for people –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have a mixture of affordable sustainable housing options for all in our community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sustainable housing and retrofitting of existing housing stock <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint ➤ Alternative forms of energy are embraced ○ We work together to protect and enhance our environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The contributions of our community groups are fostered, supported and celebrated. <p><u>Vision 5. Civic Leadership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Council is proactive in representing the needs of our community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong partnerships exist with all levels of government, peak bodies and the community ○ Our community is informed and engaged with a strong sense of civic leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Civic leadership is recognised, supported and rewarded ➤ The community is engaged in decision-making and implementation <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Plan 2020-2040</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Planning Priority 3</u> – To provide meaningful opportunities for local employment, sustainable business establishment and growth.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Action 3.1</u> Council will complete a new Employment Lands Strategy that considers the employment opportunities that may arise from circular economies and industries that harness or develop renewable energy technologies and will aspire towards an employment profile that displays a level of economic self-reliance, and resilience to external forces. ○ <u>Planning Priority 6</u> –To meet most of the housing needs of a wide cross section of the community through well designed infill housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage sustainable building design <p>NSW North Coast Regional Plan 2036</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Direction 4</u>: Promote renewable energy opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Action 4.1 Diversify the energy sector by identifying renewable energy resource precincts and infrastructure corridors with access to the electricity network. ➤ Action 4.2 Enable appropriate smaller-scale renewable energy projects using bio-waste, solar, wind, small-scale hydro, geothermal or other innovative storage technologies. ➤ Action 4.3 Promote appropriate smaller and community-scale renewable energy projects.
<p>10. E-bike paths: Promote e-bikes as a sustainable form of transport in Bellingen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a child-safe e-bike path network across Bellingen 2. Increase bike parking across the CBD 	<p>Kombu Wholefoods Bellingen</p> <p>Kevin Doye kevin@reidscreek.net.au</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 3. Places for people –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are connected and able to move around in a safe, accessible, affordable, healthy and environmentally friendly way <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We have a network of cycleways which reduce our car dependency. ➤ Our local infrastructure supports electric vehicles and non-motorised forms of transport. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Plan 2020-2040 and North Coast Regional Plan</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Planning Priority 4</u> –To provide the necessary infrastructure for people to lead physically active lives within their communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We have a network of cycleways, footpaths and walking trails, supported by maps and signage which encourage active transport and reduce car dependency <p>Bellingen Shire’s Housing Sustainability Action Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3.1 Implement the Bellingen Shire Pedestrian and Bike Plan ○ 3.2 Seek funding opportunities for strategic cycleway projects ○ 3.3 Develop Street Design Standards that provide for the needs and safety of people riding bicycles, including providing parking spaces. ○ 3.8 Support and encourage Ride or Walk to School Programs
<p>11. Composting bins for Dorrigo Major Events</p> <p>This project proposal supports the NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy aim to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • halve the amount of organic waste sent to landfill in NSW by 2030 • achieve net zero emissions from organics to landfill in NSW by 2030 	<p>Dorrigo Aboriginal Land Council (alternative website: DALC)</p> <p>Cathy Thomas, CEO dpalc1@aapt.net.au</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 4. Living environment</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We reduce, reuse, recycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community has access to convenient recycling facilities and services ○ We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint <p>Coffs Coast Waste Management Strategy 2015 to 2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Key area of focus 1</u>: Avoid and reduce waste generation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide opportunities to prevent waste – composting food waste <p>NSW Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Halve the amount of organic waste to landfill in NSW by 20340

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<p>12. Bellingen Sustainability Centre - Bellingen Shire Resilience Hub For the current Bellingen Sustainability Centre to move to a more central premises and expand its presence as a central hub for education for sustainability and resilience in the Shire. A wide variety of groups would be involved, delivering deeper community resilience through education and community building.</p>	<p>Centre for Ecological Learning (CEL) and Bellingen Shire Learning Alliance (BSLA)</p> <p>Lisa Siegel, Treasurer CEL info@cel.org.au Jason John bellingsustainabilitycentre@gmail.com</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 1. Resilient Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We have a disaster resilient community ➤ Our families are able to support themselves locally <p><u>Vision 2. Community Wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We are a learning and Creative community ○ We are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Groups actively communicate and collaborate ➤ There is connection between and across our community ➤ We actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of Aboriginal people. ➤ Opportunities exist to learn about our Aboriginal language, history and culture <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint ➤ Alternative forms of energy are embraced ○ We work together to protect and enhance our environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The contribution of our community groups is fostered, supported and celebrated ➤ Our community is informed and educated on environmental issues, threats and opportunities ➤ The guidance of the custodial people is recognised. <p><u>Vision 5. Civic Leadership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our community is informed and engaged with a strong sense of community leadership

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The community is engaged in decision-making and implementation using modern communication methods. ○ Council is proactive in representing the needs of our community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong partnerships exist with all levels of government, peak bodies and the community. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Plan 2020-40 <u>Planning Priority 11</u> – Council will work with proponents, and proactively seek opportunities, to advance projects and initiatives that are consistent with the narratives contained within the LSPS. The Strategic Plan notes (p53):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bellingen residents are particularly concerned with matters of environmental and social sustainability and envisage a future for the town that embraces the challenges of a changing climate and the need to develop local solutions and adaptations. ➤ Key community assets such as the Youth Hub and the Memorial Hall will continue to deliver valued social outcomes and the built and landscaped form of the town will evolve to provide environmentally sustainable living opportunities.
<p>13. Healing Baailijen (Bellingen) Forum: Local solutions to the climate crisis The purpose of the forum is to bring us all together, lead by the local Gumbayngiirr nation along with Landcare groups, Bellingen Shire Council, farmers, forestry, LLS and any other local aligned groups to share knowledge of the Bellingen Shire to review current approaches</p>	<p>Centre for Ecological Learning (CEL) and Bellingen Shire Learning Alliance (BSLA)</p> <p>Lisa Siegel info@cel.org.au</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community vision 2027 <u>Vision 2:</u> Community Wellbeing – We are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Groups actively communicate and collaborate ➤ There is connection between and across our community ➤ We actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of Aboriginal people. <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment</u> –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change

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<p>and potentially develop different strategies/techniques to inform our landscape restoration planning, implementation and ongoing stewardship of our lands to connect and heal Baalijin.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint ➤ Alternative forms of energy are embraced ○ We work together to protect and enhance our environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The contribution of our community groups is fostered, supported and celebrated ➤ Our community is informed and educated on environmental issues, threats and opportunities. <p><u>Vision 5. Civic Leadership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our community is informed and engaged with a strong sense of civic leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The community is engaged in decision-making and implementation. ➤ Strong partnerships exist with all levels of government, peak bodies and the community. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Plan 2020-40 <u>Planning Priority 11</u> – Council will work with proponents, and proactively seek opportunities, to advance projects and initiatives that are consistent with the narratives contained within the LSPS. The Strategic Plan notes (p53):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bellingen residents are particularly concerned with matters of environmental and social sustainability and envisage a future for the town that embraces the challenges of a changing climate and the need to develop local solutions and adaptations.

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<p>14. Dawaandi Journey</p> <p>This journey is a place to come and see your beautiful self and slow down in Love of yourself and to see your own Shadow hold amazing connection to country. You will see yourself in a new way, you can then use your shadow self to reflect your feelings and connections to you and others. You will leave the Journey with a new way of being and live better in your truth more consistently and sustainably.</p>	<p>BKE Consulting, Gumbaynggirr Man</p> <p>Bernard Kelly-Edwards, Founder BKE Consultancy bkeconsultancy@gmail.com</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 2. Community Wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We value, honour and actively acknowledge our Gumbaynggirr culture and heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of Aboriginal people. ➤ Opportunities exist to learn about our Aboriginal language, history and culture ➤ We have regular Aboriginal events, activities and storytelling in an appropriate cultural space. ○ We are a learning and creative community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are opportunities for lifelong learning including regaining and retaining traditional skills. ○ We are connected, safe and healthy with a strong sense of community: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community Groups actively communicate and collaborate ➤ There is connection between and across our community. <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We work together to protect and enhance our environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The guidance of our custodial people is recognised. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Planning 2020-40</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning Priority 5 – To integrate Gumbaynggirr cultural considerations into land use planning decision making processes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We value, honour and actively acknowledge our Gumbaynggirr culture and heritage ➤ We actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of Aboriginal people

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Opportunities exist to learn about our Aboriginal language, history and culture. <p>NSW North Coast Regional Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The North Coast Regional Plan aims for socially inclusive communities and the development of partnerships with aboriginal communities to protect heritage and provide opportunities for economic advancement.
<p>15. Mylestom Sensory Garden</p> <p>Sensory experience/garden at Mylestom that will provide benefits for adaptation to and mitigation of our changing climate in addition to meeting DIAP outcomes for local residents, the community of Bellingen Shire, and visitors to the region.</p>	<p>Active citizen in support of Community Resilience</p> <p>John Beswick beswick2011@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 1: Resilient economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have balanced, sustainable tourism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our Shire offers a broad range of experience for visitors and our assets are enhanced. <p><u>Vision 2. Community Wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We value, honour and actively acknowledge our Gumbaynggirr culture and heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We actively engage with and include the perspectives and knowledge of Aboriginal people. ➤ Opportunities exist to learn about our Aboriginal language, history and culture ○ We are a learning and creative community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The benefits of lifelong learning are promoted. <p><u>Vision 3. Places for People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have a diversity of beautiful spaces that foster community happiness and wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We have a variety of passive (and active) recreational spaces including riversides, parks and reserves. <p><u>Vision 4. Living Environment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We work together to protect and enhance our environment

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The guidance of the custodial people is recognised. ➤ Our community is informed and educated on environmental issues, threats and opportunities. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Strategic Plan 2020-40</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Strategy 6: Places for people</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aspires to have a diversity of beautiful spaces, facilities and services to be a healthy, happy and active community. <p>Bellingen Shire’s Housing Strategy Action Plan</p> <p><u>Action 8.2</u> Country town and village revitalisation for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ parks and public spaces investment ➤ attraction of new industries and jobs, especially rural-related and in health, education, culture and green jobs (enviro-focused) ➤ promotion of tourism that benefits local people, economy and environment <p>Bellingen Shire’s Biodiversity Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Key Focus Area: Public Spaces: Managing our reserves to promote biodiversity and community interaction.</u>
<p>16. Bellingen Shire Energy Warriors - an education program on renewable technologies for school students Primary school children will learn about renewable energy technologies. They will learn how to assess, measure, monitor and design energy saving strategies within their school and their home</p>	<p>Active Citizen in support of Resilient/Sustainable Environment and Community (also Founder, Bellingen Shire Energy Alliance)</p> <p>Donnella Bryce info@bsea.org.au donnellabryce@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Bellingen Shire’s Community Vision 2027</p> <p><u>Vision 2. Community wellbeing –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Our children, youth and seniors are valued, involved and supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong partnerships between schools and our community are in place ○ We are a learning and creative community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The benefits of lifelong learning are promoted. <p><u>Vision 4. Living environment –</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We live sustainably and reduce our ecological footprint and contribution to climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our community is informed and acts to reduce our ecological footprint

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<p>environments. The program will provide students with opportunities for understanding how to create efficiencies in the use of electricity in their own lives, within their home and in their school. It will also provide students with knowledge and inspiration to advocate for energy efficiency and conservation.</p>		<p>➤ Alternative forms of energy are embraced.</p>
<p>17. A Community Climate Action Fund A CAAF that seeks funding from community members and businesses to support the volunteers and volunteer reliant organisations within the shire that Endeavour to undertake Climate Action projects and initiatives that occur at the Street, Neighbourhood, Village, Township and Shire-wide levels.</p>	<p>Breakout Group 4 of the CCAP workshop: Resilient Communities lbarbagallo@bellingen.nsw.gov.au</p>	