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## FROM THE COAST

### Strategic Community Plan

#### Deputy President Natalie Bowman

We asked, you spoke and we put together the plan, but did we get it right?

The Esperance Community Strategic plan 2017 – 2027 draft has been released for community comment for the last time before it is finalised. We're excited to be able to present this draft plan to the community and would like to encourage everyone to have a look through it and let us know if there are any more adjustments you would like to see.

This plan brings together everything we heard from the community during the last 6 months of consultation, workshops and surveys about where we want to take Esperance in the next 10 years. It is a high level document outlining our visions and goals. This is all about the 'where we want to be' and 'what we want it to look like'.

Underneath this plan comes the Shire's Long Term Financial Plan, Corporate Business Plan, Annual Budgets and a multitude of other information that sets out the 'how we will get there'.

It's interesting to see how much the visions of the community have changed in the 5 years since the first Community Strategic Plan was released in 2012. This time our community has indicated a strong desire for the Shire to be more involved in tourism and economic development, a desire which was not a feature 5 years ago.

The plan provides our vision 'the Esperance Community is vibrant, welcoming and supportive and values it's social connections and natural landscape'. If we're clear on where we are steering the ship, it is easier to make sure we are rowing in the same direction.

This is the community's plan; it is more than just the Shire's direction. It should be able to be used by any agency or group in the Esperance region to assist them in achieving the goals of the community.

As a Council we have this plan in the forefront of our minds with every decision we make and continually ask ourselves 'is this activity, project, budget spend or request helping us to achieve our ultimate vision?'

Achieving goals takes many tiny steps made by the many feet in our community. Working together towards a shared vision can help make this amazing place we call home, even greater. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this plan. We would love you to have a read and please let us know if this plan inspires you to come on this journey with us.

