

Sussex Inlet & District strategic ACTION PLAN 2015-2030

(an initiative of the Sussex Inlet & District Community)



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Introduction

This strategic Action Plan for the Sussex Inlet & District is the outcome of over fifteen months of collaborative planning effort by members from various Sussex Inlet & District community members and groups, working with a research team from the School of Environment, Griffith University.

The Griffith University team of urban and regional planning specialists worked with the Sussex Inlet & District community through a series of six community workshops to identify a desirable and preferred future for the district. This process involved community members and groups from the Sussex Inlet & District and led to the creation of a Vision for the area's future and a strategic Action Plan to guide management actions and development toward that Vision. The intent of this whole-of-community Action Plan is to allow the community to consider long term strategic issues and opportunities to build resilience to future impacts from natural hazards and to engage with the various planning processes of local, state and federal government and non-government agencies. Hence, this Action Plan offers a perfect opportunity for the whole of the Sussex Inlet & District community to engage with government authorities to secure the long term future of area.



Figure 1: Sussex Inlet and District

The Sussex Inlet & District Vision

The strategic Action Plan for the Sussex Inlet & District relates to a generic area located on the New South Wales South Coast, approximately 200km South of Sydney and 45km South of Nowra. Located within the local government area of the City of Shoalhaven, the area comprises five small townships: Sussex Inlet, Swan Haven, Cudmirrah, Berrara, and Wandandian (see Map 1).

Residents and visitors of Sussex Inlet & District enjoy the wonderful natural environment of the area, and appreciate its thriving community spirit. Sussex Inlet & District represents a microcosm of the Australian society, where its past, present and future residents, and visitors alike, are diverse in

culture and background. The celebration of its history and cultural diversity engenders resilience through knowledge, understanding and inclusiveness. Community support is essential for the future preservation, sustainability and enhancement of all environmental, social and cultural assets of the area, which are expressed in the Vision Statement below:

Achieving the Vision

Vision Statement

Sussex Inlet and District remains a safe, strong, resilient, caring and sharing community respecting our natural environment whilst evolving into a more vibrant, inclusive, attractive, and inviting place, providing more economic and social opportunities through a variety of recreational, social and cultural infrastructure that highlights the area and its connection to the water.

The Vision provides a framework for the future development of the Sussex Inlet & District. Future Policies have been developed to help achieve this Vision, and are tabled below. These Future Policies relate to matters of disaster management, economic development, tourism, environment, youth, community development, town planning and infrastructure. The policies are interconnected and their cross-linkages have been identified in the Action Plan. For example, a community that is resilient to disasters also means that it has a strong economy and social networks that can assist its residents in avoiding, preparing, responding and recovering from potential impacts. A healthy local environment provides for social wellbeing and a thriving tourism industry.

Tourism is and will continue to be the main industry that supports the Sussex Inlet & District community. It is therefore important to retain the area's uniqueness by protecting its environment as highlighted in the Vision Statement. Namely, a pristine, diversified water system in a bushland setting. The implementation of the Policies should be guided by careful evaluation to avoid serious or irreversible damage to the environment and take a whole-of-community approach wherever

It also requires the integration of economic, environmental, social and equity considerations to provide for the needs of present generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Overall coordination of implementation, monitoring and reporting on the strategic Action Plan, together with mediation, will be the responsibility of the Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum, with support from existing Sussex Inlet & District community organisations. The responsibility for the implementation of individual Future Policies will be negotiated with relevant community organisations where they can be readily identified. In cases where no obvious organisation can be identified, the establishment of a new group or sub-group will be consideration. This Action Plan is a 'living' document and will be reviewed from time-to-time as circumstances change or as new information becomes available. The Forum has the overall responsibility of facilitating future reviews and upgrades of the Plan. This is a community plan, prepared entirely by a Working Group of community members drawn from interested Sussex Inlet & District

practicable. This includes an assessment of the risk-weighted consequences of various options, including unintended trade-offs that may be generated by some Policies.

community organisations. Anyone can join in to assist in implementing the policies included in the Plan so “don’t assume someone else will do it, because they are assuming that you will do it.”

Disaster Management. It is important to have community involvement to supplement the existing statutory incident management system and improve the community's resilience to future disasters, including its preparedness and recovery.

Policies	Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
1. Establish a local liaison group of experienced community members to be available before, during and after emergencies to provide local advice and improved community liaison, communication and coordination between combat agencies and the local community	<p>Current system advising communication, coordination and delegation during emergencies between combat agencies and supporting services agencies is improved.</p> <p>To assist combat and support agencies in the communication and coordination of emergencies, local resident groups will be encouraged to join and/or liaise with agencies to provide local knowledge in the Planning, Operations and Recovery phases of emergencies.</p> <p>Note: Combat agencies are activated according to the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN): https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/about-us/semc/nsw-emergency-management-arrangements.html</p>	Local [Shoalhaven] Emergency Management Committee (Note: This Committee is established at the local government level and its membership includes the heads of Emergency Services organisations at the local government level)	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	<u>Infrastructure 27</u> (improved communication service is needed to guarantee communication is enabled during emergencies)
2. Investigate the establishment of a permanent local SES unit to assist in disaster response	<p>The local SES unit would provide local support to the community during emergencies. It will also be available to provide ancillary services and local advice to combat agencies.</p> <p>Note: The local SES unit could be located at the Thompson St Sports Complex; Sussex Inlet Marine Rescue is also to be included.</p>	State Emergency Management Plan; Illawarra District Disaster Plan; St Georges Floodplain Risk Management Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	<u>Community Development 18</u> (SES unity will require consistent number of volunteers to be successful)
3. Establish collaborative protocols and partnerships between regional and local emergency services	<p>Emergency response crews, particularly from outside the Shoalhaven area, are informed about the local community and its features by designated local emergency services personnel (e.g., alternative evacuation routes, known flood prone streets, existing local services that can be activated such as Sussex Inlet Marine Rescue, etc.).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shoalhaven City Council is encouraged to undertake community engagement through the combat agencies to improve the planning and understanding which is in place for emergency. <p>Note: Establishment of a point of contact with local knowledge with clear responsibilities spelled out.</p>	Local [Shoalhaven] Emergency Management Committee; Illawarra District Disaster Plan; Shoalhaven District Bushfire Risk Management Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	<p><u>Infrastructure 24</u> (protocols will need to include reference to alternative all-weather access routes to community services);</p> <p><u>Infrastructure 26</u> (protocols will need to inform location of local roads subject to flooding)</p>
4. Improve continuous communication, support and early warning to local community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about individual and agencies' responsibilities before, during and after emergencies, as well as existing education programs on flood and bushfire safety is continuously disseminated to residents, second homeowners and visitors. Social gathering/ meetings/ events continue to be promoted by local community groups to enable people to meet each other and develop networks that can be used during emergencies (e.g., alternative accommodation during emergencies, check who needs help with evacuation, etc.). Identify front line combatants whose families and homes might be vulnerable. Diverse communication techniques and methods to address different age groups are explored. Community members are actively encouraged to attend/participate in the Community Education programs provided by the Council & Emergency Agencies. Community members are encouraged to make use of the National Emergency alerting system for flooding. 	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	<u>Disaster Management 5</u> (vulnerable areas and people need to be considered by communication and early warning strategies)
5. Establish a community mechanism to assist vulnerable people before, during and after emergencies	<p>Disaster vulnerable areas within the District are identified, including areas where vulnerable people may need assistance during emergencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accessible infrastructure and sustainable community bonds and processes are established to assist vulnerable people such as those who are isolated, disabled or elderly to be identified and supported more easily before, during and after emergencies 	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum in association with Department of Health	Medium-High	<p><u>Disaster Management 4</u> (vulnerable areas and people need to be considered by communication and early warning strategies)</p> <p><u>Disaster Management 6</u> (access to medical services during emergencies needs to take into account vulnerable people and vulnerable areas)</p> <p><u>Disaster Management 7</u> (high standard emergency services should be enabled to also include assistance to vulnerable people)</p> <p><u>Town Planning 22</u> (building codes must be enforced in vulnerable areas)</p> <p><u>Infrastructure 25</u> (connectivity in the District should consider enabling/improving access to vulnerable areas)</p>

Disaster Management. It is important to have community involvement to supplement the existing statutory incident management system and improve the community's resilience to future disasters, including its preparedness and recovery.

Policies	Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
					<u>Infrastructure 27</u> (communication services should reach out to both people located in vulnerable areas and vulnerable people)
6. Ensure access to critical health services during emergencies	<p>Critical health services are progressively relocated outside flood and bushfire prone areas to ensure they are accessible during emergencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency services personnel (e.g., Red Cross, Anglicare staff) have access to database containing contact details from medical professionals and pharmacists to assist evacuees to obtain essential/ critical medication Safe physical access to medical services is enabled to emergency services personnel 	Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Regional Development Australia Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan; Shoalhaven District Bushfire Risk Management Plan; St Georges Floodplain Risk Management Plan; Illawarra District Disaster Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	<u>Disaster Management 5</u> (access to medical services during emergencies needs to take into account vulnerable people and vulnerable areas)
7. Continue to maintain high level of community involvement for emergency services in the District	The local capacity of emergency services is maintained. This includes human resources, training, and equipment supporting Ambulance, RFS, SES, Red Cross, Anglicare, Sussex Inlet Marine Rescue.	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan; Local [Shoalhaven] Emergency Management Committee; Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan; Shoalhaven District Bushfire Risk Management Plan; St Georges Floodplain Risk Management Plan; State Emergency Management Plan; Illawarra District Disaster Plan	Emergency services	Low	
8. Review asset protection zones	Asset protection zones are reviewed and comments sent to relevant Emergency Plans to enhance asset protection planning and mitigation, including of critical infrastructure such as primary school, sewerage treatment plant and communication towers.	Shoalhaven District Bushfire Risk Management Plan; State Government's Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP) Guidelines; Illawarra District Disaster Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	

Economic Development. A strong economy is a prerequisite to the success of all policies included in the Sussex Inlet & District strategic Action Plan 2015-2030.

Policies	Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
9. Encourage and support business diversification and innovation	More support for the establishment of innovative businesses in the area will be investigated to create more employment opportunities for locals, including young people.	Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Development Australia Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum with Chamber of Commerce	Medium -High	<p><u>Tourism 11</u> (townscape improvement scheme should be designed to also support business innovation and diversification)</p> <p><u>Environment 12</u> (quality of natural assets in the area need to be maintained to support economic activities relying on tourism)</p> <p><u>Youth 17</u> (business diversification and innovation is critical to provide training and employment opportunities for young people)</p> <p><u>Infrastructure 25</u> (improved connectivity in the District will contribute to supporting economic activities)</p> <p><u>Infrastructure 27</u> (improved communication services is critical to supporting and enabling economic activities, including business innovation and diversification)</p>

Tourism. Tourism is the main draw card for the District, hence it is important to ensure the area is desirable, welcoming, accessible and safe to visitors and residents alike.

Policies	Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
10. Establish a multi-purpose visitors information centre (physical and virtual)	The multi-purpose visitors information centre will be integrated with the second business centre complex to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform visitors and tourists about the features of the area (e.g., beaches, walking tracks); accommodation, dining and entertainment options House community services for residents, visitors and tourists such as the CTC Inform residents, visitors and tourists about water, flood and bushfire safety Provide rest area with picnic and BBQ facilities. 	Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; South East Local Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum, Chamber of Commerce, and all business owners	High	<u>Economic development 9</u> (visitors information centre should be designed to support business innovation and diversification as well as economic activities broadly) <u>Environment 12</u> (quality of natural assets in the area need to be maintained to support tourism industry)
11. Implement a townscape improvement scheme for all towns in District	Townscapes will be beautified through: cohesive landscaping; reduced littering; improved signage; art work; decoration for special dates such as Christmas; thematic decoration for other events; refurbished commercial precincts such as caravan parks; recreational and non-recreational infrastructure to cater for families with young children.	Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum with Council, Chamber of Commerce	High	<u>Economic development 9</u> (townscape improvement scheme should be designed to also support business innovation and diversification and economic activities broadly) <u>Town Planning 23</u> (townscape improvement scheme need to be planned in conjunction with planned retreat and establishment of second business centre to avoid overinvestment of existing business)

Environment. The Sussex Inlet & District host a wonderful natural environment which needs to be protected and appreciated to enhance the experience of visitors and residents alike.

Policies	Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
12. Establish an environmental education program	An environmental education program is established to enable the community to deal with change and respect the environment in hazards situation. The program will target the general community, including visitors and tourists, school children and youth. Program activities may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sessions and news articles about environmental protection, weed management, restricted activities, etc. Interpretive signage such as map of local attractions/ walking trails. Guided bushwalks. Bush regeneration, including improved pathways to reduce erosion and habitat destruction. Inform local residents of the option to participate in bushcare groups as part of fulfilling the conditions for receiving Centrelink's New Start Allowance. Disseminate environmental awareness through local media (eg Sussex Inletter, South Coast register, local radio) 	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan; South East Local Strategic Plan	Bushcare group supported by Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	Medium – high	<u>Youth 13</u> (identified volunteering options for youth need to include environmental-related activities) <u>Youth 14</u> (identified volunteering options for youth need to include environmental-related activities) <u>Youth 15</u> (identified volunteering and training options for youth need to include environmental-related activities)

Youth. It is vital to have more youth involved in revitalising and maintaining the future stability of the District.

Policies	Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
13. Create a youth forum	The forum aims to revitalise youth engagement in volunteering across a whole range activities: sport clubs, bushcare, emergency services, etc.	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	<u>Environment 12</u> (identified volunteering options for youth need to include environmental-related activities)

Youth. It is vital to have more youth involved in revitalising and maintaining the future stability of the District.

Policies		Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
14.	Provide pathways to youth to engage in volunteering activities	The participation of more young volunteers in community groups such as Life Saving Guards will be encouraged. Volunteering activities will be promoted as opportunities for young people to improve their skills set and training that can be added to their cv.	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan	Rotary youth section supported by Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	<u>Environment 12</u> (identified volunteering options for youth need to include environmental-related activities) <u>Community Development 19</u> (identified volunteering options for youth need to include cultural heritage-related activities)
15.	Improve employment opportunities for young people	A local Green Army corps will be established to provide employment opportunities for young people. Liaise with local businesses to prioritise employment and provision of work experience for local youth from the District. Encourage Council, state government agencies and large developers to prioritise employment of local youth from the District for future major infrastructure projects within district.	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan; South East Local Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum with support from Bushcare group	Medium	<u>Economic Development 9</u> (business diversification and innovation is critical to provide training and employment opportunities for young people) <u>Environment 12</u> (identified volunteering and training options for youth need to include environmental-related activities)
16.	Establish a Youth Centre	A Youth Centre will be established (possibly at the Thompson St Sports Complex) to provide more recreational and entertainment activities for children and youth. (Activities may include theme park, bowling, circus, performance location, gymnastics, fitness, boxing, men shed for young people, arts and craft, kids day, computer training courses, mini golf). Note: to be linked to youth forum to reflect their preferences and needs.	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum with council	Medium	
17.	Explore the expansion of training opportunities for trades locally to help retain youth in the area	Local members will be lobbied to secure more training opportunities for local trades to provide employment and apprenticeship opportunities for young people.	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum with Chamber of Commerce	High	<u>Economic Development 9</u> (business diversification and innovation is critical to provide training and employment opportunities for young people)

Community Development. The lifeblood and backbone of a community is community connection which is supported through the celebration of its history and cultural diversity.

Policies		Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
18.	Develop a Volunteer Succession Strategy	A volunteer strategy is developed to encourage and maintain on going recruitment and participation of volunteers across all different groups, committees, consultative bodies and Volunteer Emergency Services, which will include the development of a skills register for each group. The strategy will also target the participation of youth, second home/holiday owners and women.	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum with support from all community groups	High	<u>Disaster Management 2</u> (SES unity will require consistent number of volunteers to be successful) <u>Environment 12</u> (environmental related activities need to be included in pool of volunteering options and training) <u>Youth 14</u> (volunteering activities need to target youth to expand training options for youth and broader volunteering pool)
19.	Strengthen the community through cultural heritage programs	Cultural heritage (e.g., Indigenous, Asian, European, etc.) is celebrated and respected (e.g., invite local indigenous groups to share their knowledge about bushcare management). Explore the potential of creating a Cultural Centre (art gallery, local aboriginal cultural centre) in the multi-purpose visitors centre.	Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan; South East Local Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	Low	
20.	Create a young families forum	Integration between existing community groups and young families is improved. The forum will provide opportunity to address issues that concern the younger generation and give them a platform to be involved in the decision making and implementation.	Shoalhaven City Council Community Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	

Town Planning. It is important to maintain the area's uniqueness through appropriate planning mechanisms, including its pristine diversified water system and bushland setting.

Policies		Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
21.	Ensure Shoalhaven City Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP) encourages	The land capacity of the District is considered in future development plans. This includes the area's environmental capacity in terms of maintaining its character as well as reducing risks and impacts of	Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Regional Development Australia Illawarra	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum (lobby local / elected	High	<u>Tourism 10</u> (location of multi-purpose visitors information centre should consider risks from current and future natural hazards)

Town Planning. It is important to maintain the area's uniqueness through appropriate planning mechanisms, including its pristine diversified water system and bushland setting.

Policies		Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
	sustainable development of the District in light of natural hazards risk	natural hazards.	Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan; Shoalhaven District Bushfire Risk Management Plan; St Georges Floodplain Risk Management Plan; State Government's Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP) Guidelines; State Emergency Management Plan; Illawarra District Disaster Plan; South East Local Strategic Plan	members)		<p><u>Town Planning 23</u> (land use planning need to occur in accordance to findings from land capability study to minimise risks from current and future natural hazards)</p> <p><u>Infrastructure 24</u> (LEP should consider provisions to support all-access weather routes to improve community services, particularly during emergencies)</p> <p><u>Infrastructure 25</u> (LEP needs to make provisions to improve connectivity and access within the District)</p> <p><u>Infrastructure 27</u> (LEP needs to make provisions to support improved communication services in the area)</p>
22.	Enforce building codes	Relevant building standards for bushfire and flood prone areas are enforced. Ensure improved monitoring of private certifier's assessment.	Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; State Government's Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP) Guidelines	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum to lobby Shoalhaven City Council	Medium	
23.	Undertake a land capability study to investigate how natural hazards will impact the area to inform its future development	<p>The study will investigate feasibility of implementing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned retreat of businesses and houses currently located in flood prone areas; A second business centre nearby new subdivision areas (e.g., proposed future developments away from flood prone areas); Infrastructure investment to address future sea level rise; Building codes to reflect increased intensity of natural hazards risk; Diverse accommodation choices targeting upmarket customers; A review of current land tenure for future housing on a limited, low-risk number of areas within the District 	Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Regional Development Australia Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan; Shoalhaven District Bushfire Risk Management Plan; St Georges Floodplain Risk Management Plan; State Government's Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP) Guidelines; State Emergency Management Plan; Illawarra District Disaster Plan; South East Local Strategic Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum in association with Shoalhaven City Council	Medium	<p><u>Economic Development 9</u> (planned retreat and establishment of second business centre should consider potential overinvestment of existing business)</p> <p><u>Tourism 11</u> (townscape improvement scheme need to be planned in conjunction with planned retreat and establishment of second business centre to avoid overinvestment of existing business)</p> <p><u>Town Planning 21</u> (land use planning need to occur in accordance to findings from land capability study to minimise risks from current and future natural hazards)</p> <p><u>Infrastructure 25</u> (infrastructure works related to improved connectivity and access within the District need to be aligned with findings from land capability studies, particularly to avoid areas at risk from current and future natural hazards whilst supporting economic development)</p>

Infrastructure. Improving the District's infrastructure is critical for revitalising and maintaining the safety of the District.

Policies		Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
24.	Provide alternative all-weather access routes to improve community services (including use during emergencies)	Alternative access/egress road from Cudmirrah to Bendalong road.	Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Regional Development Australia Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; Shoalhaven Coastal Zone Management Plan; Shoalhaven District Bushfire Risk Management Plan; St Georges Floodplain Risk Management Plan; State Emergency Management Plan; Illawarra District Disaster Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum (lobby Federal member)	Medium	<p><u>Disaster Management 3</u> (protocols will need to include reference to alternative all-weather access routes to community services);</p> <p><u>Town Planning 21</u> (LEP should consider provisions to support all-access weather routes to improve community services, particularly during emergencies)</p> <p><u>Town Planning 23</u> (infrastructure works related to providing alternative all-weather access routes to improve community services need to be aligned with findings from land capability studies, particularly to avoid areas at risk from current and future natural hazards)</p>
25.	Improve connectivity and access within the District	Proper standard cycle ways and paths are installed to interconnect the different areas around town, including Sussex Inlet foreshore and beaches. This includes access for pedestrians, cyclists as well as wheelchair and motorised scooters.	Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Regional Development Australia Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; State Government's Planning for Bushfire Protection (PBP) Guidelines	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	Medium- High	<p><u>Disaster Management 5</u> (connectivity in the District should consider enabling/improving access to vulnerable areas)</p> <p><u>Economic Development 9</u> (improved connectivity in the District will contribute to supporting economic activities)</p> <p><u>Town Planning 21</u> (LEP needs to make provisions to improve connectivity and access within the District)</p>

Infrastructure. Improving the District's infrastructure is critical for revitalising and maintaining the safety of the District.

	Policies	Description	Implementation process	Responsibility	Priority	Cross-linkages
						<u>Town Planning 23</u> (infrastructure works related to improved connectivity and access within the District need to be aligned with findings from land capability studies, particularly to avoid areas at risk from current and future natural hazards whilst supporting economic development)
26.	Review the need for road signage in low-lying areas subject to flood	Flood depth indicators are installed in low-lying areas subject to inundation within the District.	Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; St Georges Floodplain Risk Management Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum	High	<u>Disaster Management 3</u> (protocols will need to inform location of local roads subject to flooding)
27.	Improve communication services	Communication services are improved, including mobile phone and internet coverage to cope with increased demand during peak holiday season and ensure early warning systems are communicated during emergencies.	Illawarra/ South Coast Regional Action Plan; Illawarra Regional Strategy 2006-2031; Regional Development Plan Illawarra Regional Plan 2010-2015; Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan; State Emergency Management Plan; Illawarra District Disaster Plan	Sussex Inlet & District Community Forum (lobby State/Federal Government)	High	<p><u>Disaster Management 1</u> (communication during emergencies is critical and requires improved communication services)</p> <p><u>Disaster Management 4</u> (vulnerable areas and people need to be considered by communication and early warning strategies)</p> <p><u>Disaster Management 5</u> (improved communication in the District should reach out to vulnerable areas and vulnerable people)</p> <p><u>Economic Development 9</u> (improved communication services is critical to supporting and enabling economic activities, including business innovation and diversification)</p> <p><u>Environment 12</u> (improved communication services are essential to disseminate environmental awareness initiatives)</p> <p><u>Community Development 19</u> (improved communication services are essential to support community development initiatives)</p> <p><u>Community Development 20</u> (improved communication services are essential to support community development initiatives)</p>