



# Sussex Inlet and Districts COMMUNITY FORUM



*Incorporating Berrara, Cudmirrah, Sussex Inlet and Swanhaven*  
The Voice of the Community

## Sussex Inlet and Districts Community Forum -2020 Update

**During 2020 the Sussex Inlet and Districts Community Forum has worked hard to increase engagement with the community and consult widely to identify the key priorities and enhancement projects and we will be continuing to develop partnerships with Shoalhaven Council and other key stakeholder groups to increase community collaboration and facilitate greater community engagement in 2021**

**The Forum have conducted 4 Community Consultation sessions in 2020 focusing on our 4 strategic priority areas.**

### **Strategy 1 Disaster Management on August 17<sup>th</sup> Attended by 65 people**

- Establish regular communication mechanisms with key stakeholders to ensure that support for Sussex Inlet and district during disaster or emergencies is coordinated and effective
- Support Shoalhaven Council to get feedback from the community and to inform the community regarding planning and new initiatives to enhance community resilience to improve disaster management
- Develop communication strategies to share information that improve services for the community during emergencies
- Support projects that enhance disaster management responses for Sussex Inlet and District through targeted funding opportunities

**Key Stakeholder Groups to Engage with:** - Shoalhaven Council, Shoalhaven Emergency Management Committee, Bush Fire Brigades, Red Cross, Marine Rescue, SES, NSW Police, Berrara/Cudmirrah/Swan Lake Progress Association, RSL/Bowling Club, Thompson Street, General Community members

**Needs Identified:** Develop a Resilience Plan approved by Shoalhaven Emergency Management that will help guide all sections of the community and our visitors during emergencies such as flood and fire

#### **Next Step:**

- Implement the Resilience Plan with the Resilience Team and distribute to the community, visitors and businesses
- Apply for grant funding for key resources such as generators for local assembly point, solar sign boards, improved communication resources
- Continue to support Shoalhaven Council to develop effective strategies for one road in and one road out communities such as Sussex Inlet to increase options in times of emergencies

### **Strategy 2 Economic Development and Tourism on 14 September attended by 45 people**

- Continue to encourage and support diversification and innovation to build business resilience and viability
- Support the Shoalhaven Council and the Chamber of Commerce to continue to improve services and enhance marketing and tourism opportunities through targeted funding opportunities
- Support projects that enhance residents and visitors experience and stimulate economic development through Forum Economic Development and Tourism Working Group

**Key Stakeholder Groups to Engage with:** Shoalhaven Council Tourism and Economic Development Teams, Chamber of Commerce, Local Businesses, Tourism Operators, Fishing Clubs, Berrara/Cudmirrah/Swan Lake Progress Association, Regional Development South Coast, General community Members

**Needs Identified:** issues such as improved food capacity, tourism signage, availability of additional industrial land and increased support for businesses were identified as priorities

#### **Next Steps:**



# Sussex Inlet and Districts COMMUNITY FORUM



*Incorporating Berrara, Cudmirrah, Sussex Inlet and Swanhaven*  
The Voice of the Community

- Work with Business Chamber members to improve food options and experiences for community and visitors
- Work with Shoalhaven Council to develop strategies to increase economic development eg industrial land, housing development
- Support the Business Chamber and Shoalhaven Tourism to Increase tourism signage both in Sussex Inlet and on the highway and implement innovative social media strategies and web presence
- Support Business Australia and other key stakeholders to offer business planning workshops and mentoring for local businesses and training for hospitality staff

### **Strategy 3 Community Services on 19 October attended by 38 people**

- Engage with the community to identify improvements, enhancements and new initiatives for community services in Sussex Inlet and with support from Shoalhaven Council and key community groups ensure projects are included in annual Council works programs and budgets
- Identify and develop community services projects with support from Shoalhaven Council and key community groups to increase opportunities for groups such as seniors, vulnerable people, low income housing, youth and other priority groups in the community
- Continue to progress current Community Services projects including youth employment strategies, enhanced aged care, retirement village and home care services working with key partners and the Forum Community Services Working group

**Key Stakeholders to engage with:** Shoalhaven Council Community Development Team, Sussex Inlet Neighbourhood Centre, Inasmuch Community Ltd, Bendigo Bank Youth Strategy, schools, Job Active, TAFE NSW, Mission Australia Transition to Work and Sticking Together Project, Services NSW, Local Jobs Program, Pensioners groups, Red Cross and church groups and general community members

**Needs Identified:** Coordinated and more regular transport options, enhanced youth services and playgrounds and the need for library/tourism and community facility and local health services, housing

#### **Next Steps:**

- Work with Council to progress consultation for Library, tourism and community facility with an aim for construction to start in 2022
- Engage with NSW health regarding enhanced health services including telehealth, community and day respite and mental health
- Work with transport and local groups to identify options for improved transport services for Sussex Inlet residents
- Work with Council, local organisations and youth to identify increased services and activities for young people eg gym, PCYC services and Office of Sport activities and employment pathways
- Work with Council and Southern Cross Housing to identify and plan low income housing options for Sussex Inlet

### **Strategy 4 Environment and Planning on 16 November attended by 48 people**

- Work with Shoalhaven Council to review new development opportunities, engage the community to provide consultation and identify new initiatives to enhance the community
- Support and monitor the implementation of the Coastal Management plan to ensure Sussex Inlet and District is protected and maintained effectively
- Build networks with other key agencies and organisation to enhance environmental and town planning strategies
- Support projects that enhance environmental and planning initiatives through the Forum Environment/Planning Working group and to ensure projects are included in annual Council works programs and budgets



# Sussex Inlet and Districts COMMUNITY FORUM



*Incorporating Berrara, Cudmirrah, Sussex Inlet and Swanhaven*  
The Voice of the Community

**Key Stakeholder Groups to Engage with:** Shoalhaven Council Environment and Planning Team, SNAG, Fishing Clubs, Dept of Environment, NSW Fisheries and RMS, Bush Care Groups, Berrara/Cudmirrah/Swan Lake Progress Association, General community members

**On Agenda for discussion:** Improved management of crown reserves, more consistent maintenance of parks and reserves, shared pathways projects and improved coastal management, flood mitigation, future development

**Needs Identified:** Improved maintenance for parks and crown lands, increased engagement with Council planning department, speed limits, Swan lake fish management, storm water improvements, **playgrounds, pathways**

**Next Steps:**

- Work with council to progress planning and budget allocations for Sussex Inlet projects eg pathways, water front management, playgrounds, Thomson St, crown lands reserves and parks, storm water and flood mitigation
- Work with Campbell Page to progress the ECO Crews project that could provide additional resources for Shoalhaven Villages including Sussex Inlet for maintenance and enhancement of parks, reserves and pathways
- Develop effective working relationships with Coastal Management and Flood Plain committees to progress key projects and ensure effective Inlet management
- Work with Sheargold Group to assist with linking new Golf Course Village to Sussex community through bike and walking pathways
- Work with Shoalhaven Council to improve DA planning processes with Sussex inlet business and community with an aim to have a Planning Officer based in Sussex Inlet one day per month to increase services

**Next Forum Meeting Monday 21 December at RSL Sub Branch hall at 5.45 pm please come along and have your say and work with the Forum to enhance our community**