

Annual Action Plan 2025–2026



A close-up photograph of a plant with long, narrow, green leaves and several bright red, brush-like flower heads. The plant appears to be a species of Melaleuca, commonly known as a paperbark. The background is a soft-focus view of the same plant, creating a layered effect.

Acknowledgement of Country

Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledges the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore.

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity.

Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Definitions for this plan

- Finalise:** Develop and present final draft to Council for consideration, or complete delivery of a project.
- Review:** Assess and update including developing recommendations for further action.
- Implement:** To deliver actions of the plan, strategy or project.
- Prepare:** Complete the final version of a plan, application, framework or a business case.

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Diversity and Inclusion

Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the diversity of our communities. We acknowledge and respect the skills, insights and life experiences of all community members irrespective of gender, ethnicity, ability, religious belief, sexuality or age.

Child Safe Statement

Bass Coast Shire Council is committed to child safety and wellbeing, actively working to prevent abuse by identifying and addressing risks early. This work is underpinned by Council’s Child Safe Statement, which guides our commitment to ensuring the safety, inclusion and wellbeing of every child.

Gender Impact Assessment

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was undertaken in developing the 2025–2026 Annual Action Plan, ensuring it reflects fairness, inclusivity and the diverse needs of our community.

About the Annual Action Plan 2025–2026

Every 4 years Council develops a Council Plan. Informed by a range of community engagement activities, the Council Plan identifies the priorities for the term of Council in order to work towards achievement of the Community Vision 2045.

The Annual Action Plan 2025–2026 outlines what Council plans to achieve by 30 June 2026, to support the delivery of the Council Plan 2025–2029.

Council will report on the progress of the Annual Action Plan quarterly, while the Annual Report will provide an end of year overview of Council’s performance including how it is tracking against the Council Plan Strategic Indicators.

The 4 Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan 2025–2029

**Naturally Beautiful**

Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment.

**Thriving Places**

Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Growth is sustainable and well planned. Our economy, agriculture, tourism and industries are resilient. Unique character is preserved.

**Vibrant Communities**

Communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected. Communities celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.

**Visionary Leadership**

Our communities flourish through leadership that is open and responsible, ensuring decisions serve the communities best interests, and comply with legislative obligations.

Operating Principle

Bass Coast Shire Council is committed to delivering good governance for the benefit and well-being of the local communities and future generations. This involves partnering with the communities to address current needs and be prepared for future challenges. In all that we do, Council is committed to being responsive, efficient, transparent and future focused.

About the role of Local Government

There are 3 tiers of government in Australia:

- Local (also known as council)
- State or Territory
- Federal (also called Commonwealth)

Each tier of government has an important role. They have different powers and responsibilities and work together to govern and provide services to the community.

The role of Council is to provide good governance for the benefit of current and future communities. Council provides a range of services and manages community assets that people use every day. Council's role is outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council undertakes a range of roles and functions to serve local communities. It is important for Council to work together with other levels of government, industry partners and communities to achieve the best outcomes.

Council makes decisions not just about today but for the future, set strategies to make a difference for the long term, balance competing demands and consider the best use of public funds.

There are many challenges facing Bass Coast that Council does not have direct control over. This includes areas under State and Federal Government jurisdiction, such as major transport infrastructure, public transport and arterial roads. However, Council actively works to influence and facilitate service and infrastructure provision.

The roles Council performs are listed below.

Provider

Deliver services, programs, infrastructure and support to individuals and groups.

Facilitator

Facilitate outcomes for communities through building partnerships, changing regulations, promoting opportunities, raising awareness, sharing information and building the capacity of community members and organisations.

Advocator

Raise awareness and show leadership for the interests of local communities to other decision makers, including advocating to State and Federal Governments for funding and delivery of services and infrastructure.

Regulator

Prioritise safety and regulate compliance of activities through local laws and legislation.

Planner

Use evidence, including community views to plan for current and future community needs and priorities.

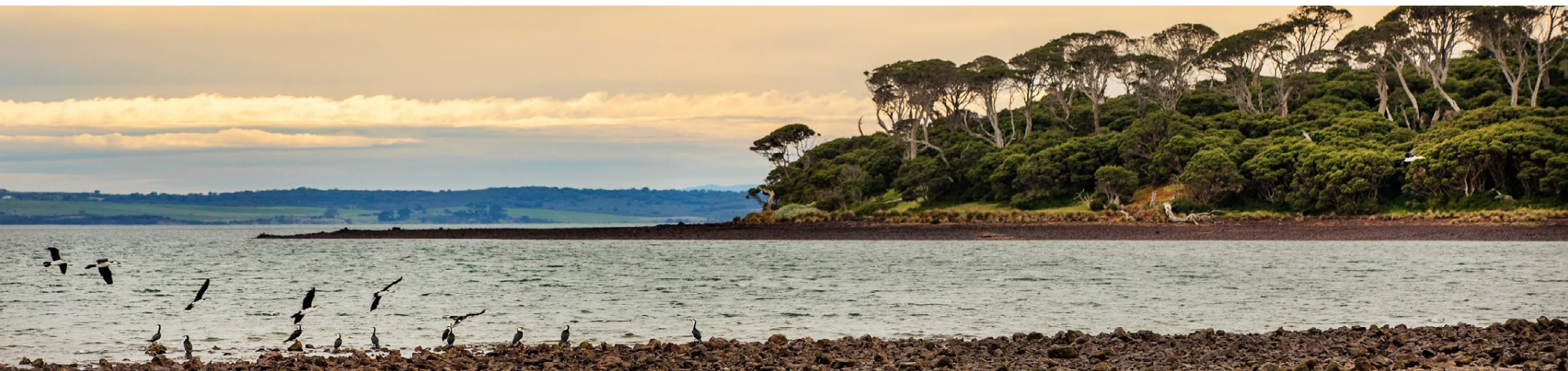




Strategic Objective: Naturally Beautiful

Together we build resilience and protect and enhance our natural environment.

Action	Aligned Priority	Lead Department
Deliver the Wonthaggi closed landfill capping project.	- Strengthening waste management - Supporting circular economy	Sustainable Environment
Undertake a mid-term review of the Bass Coast Climate Change Action Plan 2020-2030.	- Enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection - Increasing energy, disaster and climate resilience - Optimising water management	Sustainable Environment
Deliver a series of Living Lightly workshops promoting practical tips for a more affordable and sustainable lifestyle.	- Enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection - Optimising water management	Sustainable Environment
Deliver a Clean Energy Retrofit to a minimum of one community facility.	- Increasing energy, disaster and climate resilience	Sustainable Environment
Advocate for the protection of the Western Port Woodlands.	- Enhancing biodiversity and natural asset protection	Governance and Communications





Strategic Objective: Thriving Places

Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Growth is sustainable and well planned. Our economy, agriculture, tourism and industries are resilient. Unique character is preserved.

Action	Aligned Priority	Lead Department
Adopt the Road Management Plan review.	- Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Infrastructure Delivery
Adopt the Asset Plan 2025–2035.	- Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Infrastructure Delivery
Prepare a Functional Layout Plan for the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve.	- Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Major Projects and Property
Continue delivery of the Cowes Streetscape Project works including Thompson Ave North and The Esplanade.	- Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities - Supporting local industry, business and agriculture	Major Projects and Property
Commence detailed design for the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre (Wonthaggi).	- Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Major Projects and Property
Prepare and submit Bass Coast's application for Eco Destination Certification through Ecotourism Australia.	- Enhancing Eco Tourism	Economic Development
Commence a review of the Bass Coast Planning Scheme.	- Delivering well-planned townships	Strategy & Growth
Finalise construction of the Wonthaggi to Inverloch Shared Path.	- Delivering well-planned townships - Facilitating sustainable development	Infrastructure Delivery
Commence preparing the partnership framework, land use framework and business case for the former Wonthaggi School Site.	- Delivering well-planned townships - Facilitating sustainable development - Providing fit for purpose assets and facilities	Major Projects and Property





Strategic Objective: Vibrant Communities

Communities are healthy, inclusive, safe and socially connected. Communities celebrate opportunity, recreation, diversity, heritage and reconciliation.

Action	Aligned Priority	Lead Department
Adopt and commence implementation of the Healthy, Safe and Resilient Bass Coast Plan 2025 - 2029.	- Promoting healthy, active, safe and inclusive communities - Strengthening community connection and resilience - Support young people to live, learn, play and connect locally	Community Wellbeing & Culture
Commence implementation of the Public Art Strategy.	- Celebrating culture and history	Community Wellbeing & Culture
Co-design and endorse a First Nations Framework.	- Walking alongside our First Nations communities on the path to reconciliation	Community Wellbeing & Culture
Identify and strengthen strategic partnerships with housing and service providers and support those partnerships when delivering Council services.	- Advocate to increase in affordable housing and access to local services	Community Wellbeing & Culture





Strategic Objective: Visionary Leadership

Our communities flourish through leadership that is open and responsible, ensuring decisions serve the communities best interests, and comply with legislative obligations.

Action	Aligned Priority	Lead Department
Adopt the refreshed Community Vision.	- Driving innovation	Governance and Communications
Adopt the Council Plan 2025–2029.	- Driving innovation	Governance and Communications
Adopt the Long Term Financial Plan 2025–2035.	- Maximising alternative revenue	Financial Services
Adopt the Workforce Plan 2025-2029.	- Driving innovation	People and Culture
Review of Council's rating strategy and differential rates.	- Maximising alternative revenue	Financial Services
Enhancing the customer experience by improving engagement channels.	- Effective communication and engagement	Customer & Digital Experience
Continue to advocate and optimise strategic partnerships to improve community outcomes.	- Strong advocacy - Optimising partnerships	Governance and Communications
Commence the review of the Communications and Engagement Strategy.	- Effective communication and engagement	Governance and Communications
Commence the review of the Advocacy Strategy.	- Strong advocacy	Governance and Communications

