

Tweed Youth Strategy and Action Plan

2013 - 2017

SPEAK OUT

A Youth Project by Tweed Shire Council





SPEAK OUT

A Youth Project by Tweed Shire Council

Acknowledgements:

This Plan has been prepared by Cred Community Planning and Tweed Shire Council.

The Plan was developed in close partnership with local young people, Tweed's youth services and local schools.

Tweed Shire Council and Cred Community Planning would like to thank all local young people, Kingscliff, Wollumbin and Murwillumbah High Schools, community service providers, parents and carers who contributed their time and insights into the development of this Plan. Council staff who have contributed to the development of this report are also acknowledged particularly Anne McLean, Community Development Coordinator, Sylvia Roylance, Community Development Officer – Youth, Robin Spragg, Community Development Officer – Social Planning, the Community Development Team and the Communication and Customer Services Section.

Contents

1 MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR	5	7 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS	22
2 DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS	6	7.1 DELIVERING THE YOUTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN	22
3 ABOUT THE TWEED YOUTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN	7	7.2 FUNDING THE STRATEGY	22
3.1 NATIONAL APPROACH TO YOUNG PEOPLE	8	7.2.1 YOUTH STRATEGY	22
3.2 HOW THE STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED	9	7.2.2 IMPROVED SERVICES FOR SHIRE YOUTH	22
3.3 ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN	10	7.2.3 SECTION 94 CONTRIBUTION PLANS	23
3.4 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES	10	7.2.4 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013/2023 (CSP)	23
3.5 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR YOUTH FACILITIES	11	7.3 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1	
4 TWEED SHIRE'S YOUNG PEOPLE	13	YOUNG PEOPLE ARE VALUED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENGAGED IN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM	24
4.1 A PROFILE OF YOUNG PEOPLE NOW	14	7.4 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2	
4.2 HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WILL LIVE HERE IN 2031?	15	YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL PROUD OF WHERE THEY LIVE, WITH ACCESS TO QUALITY PLACES AND SPACES	27
5 TWEED SHIRE – THE PLACE	17	7.5 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3	
5.1 YOUTH FACILITIES	18	YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN LOCAL EVENTS AND A RANGE OF CREATIVE, SPORTING AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	30
5.2 YOUTH SERVICES	18	7.6 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4	
6 WHAT YOU TOLD US: SPEAK OUT	19	YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO A RANGE OF LOCAL EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES	32
6.1 KEY THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM THE SPEAK OUT ENGAGEMENT	20	7.7 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5	
6.1.1 MORE INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL DECISIONS AND A POSITIVE PERCEPTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE	20	YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND VIOLENCE	34
6.1.2 SAFE PLACES TO HANG OUT, QUALITY FACILITIES AND A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS	20	7.8 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6	
6.1.3 MORE ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND FESTIVALS	20	YOUNG PEOPLE CAN GET AROUND, HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND HAVE AFFORDABLE PLACES TO LIVE	36
6.1.4 A GOOD EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	21		
6.1.5 SAFETY FROM VIOLENCE, DRUG ABUSE AND HOMELESSNESS	21		
6.1.6 IMPROVED TRANSPORT LINKS	21		
6.1.7 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICE COLLABORATION	21		

SPEAK OUT

A Youth Project by Tweed Shire Council



1 MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Council is proud to have produced the **Tweed Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2017** (the Strategy and Plan), which demonstrates our commitment to young people and our belief that their views and ideas are pivotal to our community's future.

The Strategy and Plan is based on nearly 12 months of engagement with young people, parents and carers, and local services through the 'Speak Out' campaign and are supported by extensive research. Tweed Shire will benefit from having a Strategy and Plan that tap into the creativity and resources, skills and interests, energy and enthusiasm of young people.

Currently, approximately 14 per cent of our population is made up of the 12-24 age group. Over the next 20 years, Tweed Shire's population will continue to age and the proportion of young people compared to older people, will decrease. Collectively this group contributes to local vibrancy, creativity, technology, economy, sense of place and the overall fabric of the Tweed. As a Council, our goal is to support and encourage our young people to remain in the Tweed, by making it a better place to live, work, study and play.

In a changing environment, young people hold the key to the future and Council is committed to providing them with the opportunity to participate in the decision-making that will shape our future. The Strategy and Plan set the framework and identify programs which will define Council's commitment over the next four years.

Cr Barry Longland
Mayor of Tweed

youth

2 DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

Child and Youth Friendly Cities Framework

UNICEF's Child Friendly City Initiative aims to guide cities and other systems of local governance in the inclusion of children's rights as a key component of their goals, policies, programs and structures. A child friendly city is the embodiment of the Convention of the Rights of the Child at the local level, which in practice means children's rights are reflected in policies, laws, programs and budgets. In a child friendly city, children are active agents; their voices and opinions are taken into consideration and influence decision-making processes.

Creative Industries

Creative industries have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent. They have the potential to create wealth and jobs through the generation and use of intellectual property. Creative industries can include music, performing arts, film, television, radio, advertising, games and interactive content, writing, publishing, architecture, design and visual arts.

Empty Spaces

The Empty Spaces program is funded by the NSW Government through Arts NSW and the University of Technology Sydney, to promote short-term reuses of empty shops and spaces for creative and community development.

Indoor Youth Space

An indoor youth space is a space dedicated to the activities of young people which is located within a multi-purpose community centre. The space could be recreational, educational, informal or formal depending on the needs of the local community. The space should be designed so it can be used for other community groups when young people are not using it.

Informal Youth Recreation Space

This is an outdoor space located as part of a park or open space area connected to other community facilities and spaces. Informal youth recreation spaces are important because they provide places for young people to hang out with their friends and families while being positively engaged in healthy activities. An informal youth recreation space could incorporate a multi-purpose court, a rebound wall, handball courts, tiered seating, skate elements and outdoor exercise equipment.

Multi-purpose Youth Plaza

A multi-purpose youth plaza is an outdoor integrated youth space that incorporates informal recreation elements for young people that could include a skate park, BMX track, amphitheatre, tiered seating, surfaces for events, multi-purpose courts and power outlets.

Youth Friendly

A youth friendly community is one where young people are treated with respect and where they feel safe, welcome and included. It is a community that encourages and recognises the participation and contributions of young people, supports youth development and provides youth friendly services, facilities and programs.

3 ABOUT THE TWEED YOUTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Tweed Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2017 (the Strategy) is a four-year plan addressing the issues and aspirations of Tweed Shire's diverse community of young people and identifies shared solutions and priorities to make the Tweed a great place for young people to live, work and 'hang out'.

Tweed Shire's young people are a diverse, creative and energetic group. They are concerned about their community and want to make the Tweed a great place for themselves, their friends and their families. The Strategy is Council's plan to help our young people achieve this goal based on the concepts of capacity building, partnership and empowerment. By participating in the planning and delivery of decisions that affect them, young people will have the opportunity to feel more connected to where they live.

"Give a day to kids where we can just walk into the Mayor's office and say what we think my community needs!" Kingscliff High School Workshop

"In short: We need more constructive youth facilities, more caring adults to help guide young minds, educational programs that actually cater to the needs of kids' individual needs, and to find some way to create a better overall attitude towards Tweed Heads." Parent/Carer Survey

"The Tweed has potential to be great; however there is not a lot of pride from people living here – especially youth. With the right improvements, I think that Tweed area could be really great." Youth Survey

3.1 NATIONAL APPROACH TO YOUNG PEOPLE

The Australian Government Department primarily responsible for young people is the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. Key policy and funding initiatives include:

- National Strategy for Young Australians
www.youth.gov.au/sites/youth/ayf/media/pages/nationalstrategyforyoungaustralians
- Building the Education Revolution
www.deewr.gov.au/building-education-revolution
- National Partnership Agreement for Youth Attainment and Transitions
www.deewr.gov.au/national-partnership-youth-attainment-and-transitions
- Headspace Centres
www.deewr.gov.au/national-partnership-youth-attainment-and-transitions

The Department of Education and Communities is the NSW Government Department primarily responsible for policies and planning relating to young people. The NSW Commission for Children and Young People is an independent statutory organisation within the State Government that advocates for children and young people of NSW.

Key funding and policy initiatives include:

- Keep them safe: A shared approach to child well-being
www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au
- Community Builders and Early Intervention Placement and Prevention
www.community.nsw.gov.au/docs_menu/for_agencies_that_work_with_us/our_funding_programs/eipp.html
- Built 4 Kids - Children, Young People and the Built Environment
www.kids.nsw.gov.au/kids/resources/publications

The Northern Rivers Regional Action Plan NSW 2021 was informed by community meetings held in the region to identify what local individuals and groups considered to be priorities for the Northern Rivers. The plan aligns with NSW 2021, the NSW Government's 10 year plan to make NSW number one. The NSW Government, in partnership with the Northern Rivers communities, has a vision for the region that is:

- sustainable
- socially inclusive
- economically strong

The Regional Action Plan identifies the immediate actions the NSW Government will prioritise. The Regional Priorities and Actions are to:

- improve access to public transport and improve road safety
- support industry and grow local jobs
- improve education and training opportunities
- reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- build capacity and support vulnerable groups in the community
- age-proof the region and improve access to health services
- balance land use while protecting the natural environment
- improve housing affordability

The Strategy aligns with the policy directions and funding initiatives of the State and National Governments. It also provides a strong evidence base for Tweed Shire Council to gain funding for new programs, services and facilities and to inform other levels of government of the needs and aspirations of young people in the Tweed area, to ensure they are included in planning and policy decisions.

3.2 HOW THE STRATEGY WAS DEVELOPED

The Strategy was developed in close partnership with local young people and youth services and based on a strong evidence base. Supporting background papers have been prepared including:

- Tweed Youth Profile
- Tweed Youth Facilities Plan
- Tweed Youth Strategy Engagement Report
- Youth Case Studies



The principles of social justice, economic resilience and sustainability are central to this Strategy.

For young people, this means ensuring:

- fair distribution of economic resources and access to essential services to meet basic needs and to improve their quality of life
- their rights are recognised and promoted by Council and the community
- they have better opportunities for genuine participation and consultation about decisions affecting their lives
- their views are valued and listened to in Council deliberations
- there is balanced decision making in Council, based on social, economic and environmental goals

3.3 ALIGNMENT WITH COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The Tweed Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2013-2017 is Council's four-year strategic plan designed to integrate with Tweed's long-term Community Strategic Plan. The Tweed Shire Community Strategic Plan provides the broader strategic direction for Council to shape the Tweed community.

The Strategy addresses the many detailed issues and aspirations of its young people, and identifies shared solutions and strategic priorities that will help Council to deliver its vision that:

“The Tweed will be recognised for its desirable lifestyle, strong community, unique character and environment and the opportunities its residents enjoy.”

This Strategy is linked to Council's Community Strategic Plan, the four-year Delivery Program, the annual Operational Plan and associated Budget which is reviewed annually and placed on public exhibition for community to address the key themes of:

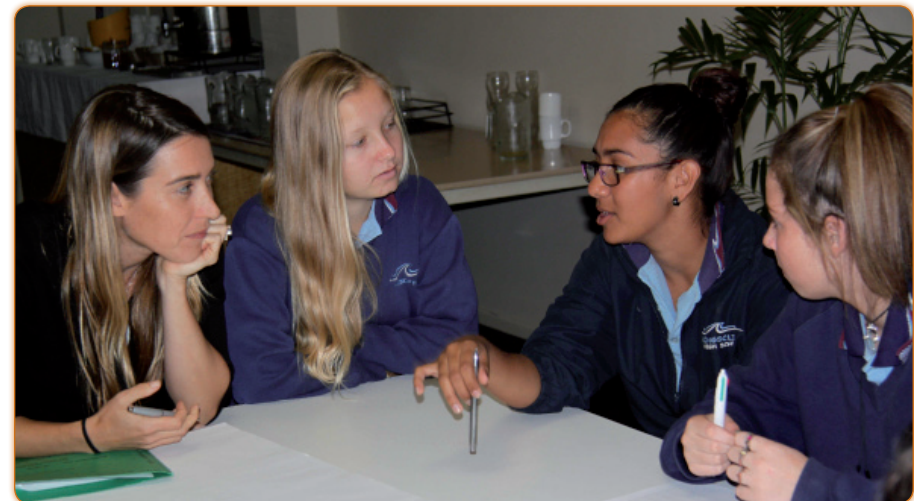
- **Civic Leadership**
- **Supporting Community Life**
- **Strengthening the Economy**
- **Caring for the Environment**

As the first youth-specific Strategy developed by Council, it will also inform other key strategies and plans developed across Council.

3.4 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES

Tweed's 'Young People':

- are valued members of the community and engaged in decisions that affect them
- feel proud of where they live, with access to quality spaces and places
- are involved in local events and a range of creative, sporting and social activities
- have access to a range of education, employment and career opportunities
- feel safe and protected from drugs, alcohol and violence
- can get around and have access to services and affordable places to live



3.5 STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR YOUTH FACILITIES

The Tweed Youth Facilities Plan prepared by Cred Community Planning for Council provides a detailed analysis of current facilities and recommends future community facilities to 2031 that will:

- support young people to build local connections and promote positive social and economic outcomes
- contribute to a local identity and create a community focal point
- be located in highly visible and safe places
- be socially, environmentally and economically sustainable places
- be planned for and designed considering the needs of young people
- be connected to public transport, bike and pedestrian paths
- contribute and relate to the public domain and a sense of place
- be integrated into the community and co-located nearby other community, cultural, or commercial activity and public transport
- be physically, socially, financially accessible and welcoming to all young people
- be multi-purpose, flexible and adaptable spaces integrating a range of services and programs





4 TWEED SHIRE'S YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people living in Tweed Shire are a vibrant part of the community. They are diverse and often defined by:

- where they live (rural, coastal, urban)
- where they go to school
- what they are interested in (dance, music, skating, gaming, horse riding)
- their families
- their socio-economic background, and
- who they hang out with

A survey conducted as part of the Strategy's engagement campaign, showed young people are involved in 'heaps' of activities: 63 per cent participate in a sport and 43 per cent are involved in a cultural activity. They are really interested in getting more involved with dance, music, multi-media, bands, skating, basketball and biking.

profile

4.1 A PROFILE OF YOUNG PEOPLE NOW

Between 2006 and 2011 the total population of Tweed Shire increased by 5,799 people (or 7.3 per cent), from 79,307 to 85,106 people. For the same period, the number of young people aged 12 to 24 years grew by only 288 people (2.4 per cent), from 11,823 to 12,111. There has been some growth in the youth population, but in many Tweed Shire suburbs, a high proportion of young people leave the Tweed when they reach 18 to access employment, study and other opportunities.

In 2011, there were 770 Indigenous young people living in the Tweed Shire representing 6.4 per cent of the total youth population. However, the Indigenous youth population represents a significant 26 per cent of the total Indigenous population. The majority of Indigenous young people live in Tweed Heads South–Banora Point and North Coast–Kingscliff statistical areas.

In 2011 Tweed's young people represented 14.3 per cent of the Tweed population, down from 14.9 per cent in 2006. One of the factors influencing the lower proportion of young people in the Tweed is the increasing proportion of people aged 60 years and over, who represented 29.7 per cent of the total population in 2011.

Apart from its Indigenous population, the Tweed Shire is not a culturally diverse community. In 2011 only 3.7% of the population was from non-English speaking countries. The three top countries for residents' birth of origin (not including Australia) were: United Kingdom (5,441), New Zealand (2,510) and Germany (433). These countries have remained the top three for countries of birth since 2001.

Young people who have a disability have the same goals and desires as the general youth population. The number of young people in Tweed who have a disability is similar in population to numbers in the Northern Rivers. There were 209 young people in Tweed between the ages of 15 and 24 years identified as having a disability. They represented 2.35 per cent of this age group. Since 2006, the number in this age group with a disability has increased by 65 persons, from 144 or 1.69 per cent of the age group.



Some of Tweed Shire's young people face significant social, economic and physical barriers. According to the Australian Socio-Economic Index, Tweed Shire is a relatively disadvantaged area, with the most significant disadvantage experienced in Tweed Heads West, Tweed Heads, North Coast - Kingscliff, Murwillumbah and District, South West Tweed-Uki and Tweed Heads South - Banora Point.

Other indicators of disadvantage:

- In 2011, 16.1 per cent of Tweed Shire's labour force aged 15 to 24 years was classed as unemployed compared to 12.9 per cent in Regional NSW. Proportions ranged from a low of 0.0% in Mid Coast - Casuarina to a high of 38 per cent in South West Tweed - Uki. In 2006, 12.8 per cent of young people in the labour force aged 15 to 24 years were unemployed.
- In 2011, 12.1 per cent of Tweed Shire's population aged 15 to 24 years were not employed or attending an education institute compared to 11.6 per cent in Regional NSW. Proportions ranged from a low of 4.8 per cent in Terranora to a high of 19.4 per cent in Tweed Heads West. Those 15-24 year olds who have failed to engage with either the employment or education system are a particularly vulnerable group in need of targeted services to assist them in gaining a foothold in society.

4.2 HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE WILL LIVE HERE IN 2031?

With major development planned, the total population of Tweed Shire is forecast to increase significantly by around 43,029 people, to 128,135 by 2031. For the same period the number of young people aged 12 to 24 years is forecast to increase by 5,070.

However, due to higher increases in retirement and working-age people moving into new housing in the area, the proportion of young people aged 12 to 24 will decrease from 14.3 per cent to 13.4 per cent of the population. By comparison, people aged 60 years and over will represent 32 per cent of the population. The most significant growth in the number of 12 to 24-year-olds is forecast to occur in:

- Cobaki – Piggabeen +1493
- Bilambil – Bilambil Heights +999
- Mid Coast - Casuarina +676
- South Coast - Pottsville +427
- Murwillumbah and District +460
- North Coast - Kingscliff +395

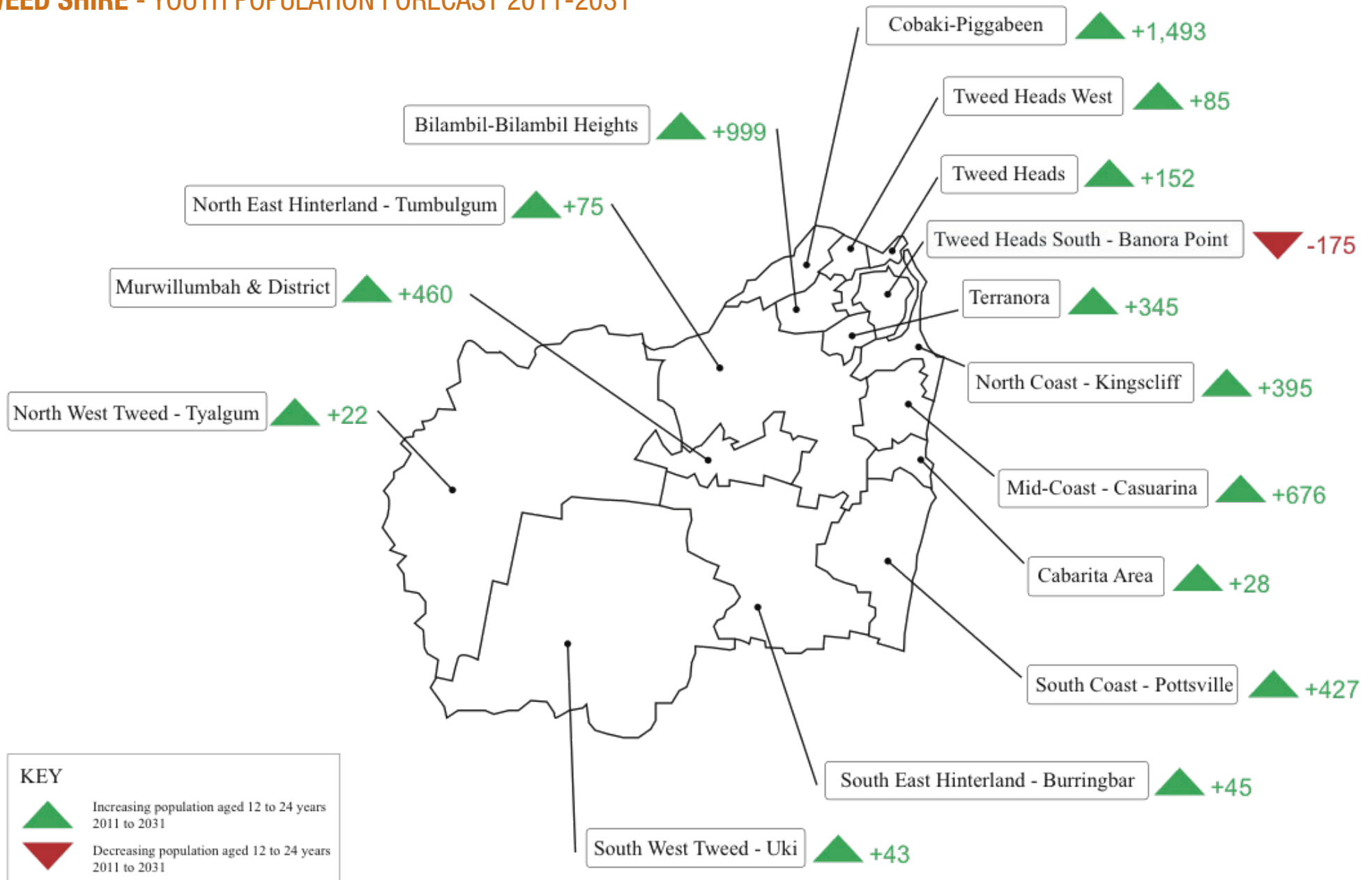
The most significant decrease in 12 to 24-year-olds will be:

- Tweed Heads South – Banora Point -175

Increased growth in the number of young people means there will be higher demand for new and improved facilities, services and employment opportunities for young people, to improve their quality of life and support them to stay in the Tweed or move back to Tweed Shire.



TWEED SHIRE - YOUTH POPULATION FORECAST 2011-2031



5 TWEED SHIRE - THE PLACE

Tweed Shire is a large and diverse geographical area and includes rural areas, national parks, beaches and coastal areas, and growing residential and rural-residential areas. The Tweed's urban areas are concentrated in the northeast corner (Tweed Heads), with an inland urban centre at Murwillumbah, and several smaller towns and villages. The Tweed encompasses a total land area of about 1300 square kilometres. Getting from the north of Tweed Shire to the south can take up to an hour by car.

The area's natural landscape is diverse, including significant areas of coastline, national park, wetland and forest. During the 'Speak Out' campaign, young people identified the Tweed's natural beauty as one of the best reasons to live here.

There are 81 geographically, socially and economically diverse towns and localities in the Tweed. They are home to diverse groups of people, including creative and cultural groups, Indigenous people, farmers, urban dwellers and surfing communities. Young people live in all these areas, with unique and diverse needs and aspirations, and differing levels of access to facilities, services, employment, transport and programs. Therefore, planning for young people needs to consider geographical barriers and opportunities based on where they live.

“You can go for a surf then hop out, get changed and go to the skate park, local movie theatres, beaches, youth centres....” Youth Survey

“I love living in Tweed because we live in such a varied environment. We have the lush rain forests around the Murwillumbah area and Uki. Then we have the pristine coast of Coolangatta 25 minutes away.” Youth Survey

5.1 YOUTH FACILITIES

An audit of community facilities detailed in the Tweed Youth Facilities Plan identified 50 community facilities in Tweed Shire that can be accessed by young people. Fourteen of these are dedicated youth facilities:

- Three youth centres
- 10 high schools
- One short-term youth accommodation facility

The other 36 facilities are generalist facilities that can be used by other community members, including youth.

Some areas of the Tweed have no facilities provided locally and it's difficult to access nearby facilities due to a lack of transport. Growth areas such as Cobaki - Piggabeen, Bilambil Heights, and Mid Coast - Casuarina have no facilities.



In addition to community facilities, there are currently 54 sport and recreation facilities located in Tweed Shire that are accessible by young people. Five of these are youth-specific facilities:

- Four skate parks
- One BMX track

The other 49 facilities are generalist facilities that can be used by other community members, including youth.

Some areas of the Tweed are underserved in terms of youth sport and recreation facilities. These areas include the growth area of Cobaki and Mid - Coast Casuarina. High levels of disadvantage also exist in developed areas such as Tweed Heads West and South West Tweed - Uki. Young people in Terranora have access to a small oval but Tweed Heads West has no youth sport and recreation facilities. By 2031, Terranora is forecast to have 892 young people and Tweed Heads West is forecast to have 885 young people.



5.2 YOUTH SERVICES

There are 28 community services in the Tweed that provide a service to local young people. However, there are only seven youth-specific services across the Shire. Youth services meet regularly as part of a Youth Network coordinated by Council.

6 WHAT YOU TOLD US: SPEAK OUT

Council and Cred Community Planning representatives went out and spoke to young people, community services, parents and carers about issues and aspirations for the Tweed's young people. The engagement showed that young people are interested in and care about where they live.

Speak Out	What we did	Total participants
Three workshops	Workshops with students at Kingscliff, Wollumbin and Murwillumbah High Schools	100
Two workshops	Workshops with young people at St Joseph's Youth Service and Mending Fences project	30
Speak Out website	A website for Tweed's young people to chat, upload photos and videos and do the survey	57 registered users 3137 site visits 1778 visitors
Youth survey	A survey for Tweed's young people aged 12 - 24 years	237 completed
Vox pops	Filmed interviews with young people at Tweed City and Murwillumbah. Uploaded to Facebook and website	25 young people interviewed
Speak Out postcards	Postcards about Speak Out Campaign distributed to all high schools	Young people at all schools received (6013)
Two workshops	Workshops with services at Tweed Shire Youth Network (pre-strategy preparation and post-strategy review)	20
One forum	Tweed Shire Child and Family Interagency	15
Parents and carers survey	Survey with parents and carers of Tweed Shire's young people	61 completed
Community services online survey	Community services that work with Tweed Shire's young people	23 completed
Speak Out Facebook page	A Facebook page for interested Tweed young people, residents or service providers	61 'likes' At peak 8000 reach
Information Sessions with Councillors and Council Officers	Pre-strategy preparation and post-strategy review: Business & Economic Development; Communication & Customer Services Section; Community and Cultural Services Unit; Corporate Governance Unit; Human Resources Unit; Information Systems & Technology Unit; Planning & Infrastructure Section; Planning & Regulation; Recreation Services Unit; Regulatory Services Unit	25
	1:1 discussion with Executives	5
	Workshop for Executive Team and Councillors (3 Executive, 6 Councillors)	9
	Infrastructure Coordination Committee	1
Meeting	Banora Point Seniors	10
One youth forum	A forum with young people attended by the Mayor, General Manager, Director Community and Natural Resources, Manager Recreation Services, Communication & Customer Services Section and Community Development Staff to feed back the outcomes of the Speak Out campaign and develop actions to address priority issues.	40

Above everything, friends and family are central to what is important to them. They are keen to get more involved in their community and local planning; would like better quality and more facilities; safer 'hang out' spaces and streets; more cultural and creative events and programs; employment opportunities and less drugs and alcohol. Young people think the Tweed is a great place because of its natural environment, beaches, mountains, friends and family.

The survey found 57 per cent of young people surveyed think Tweed Shire is pretty good or awesome. However, 39 per cent think it's OK, four per cent think it's terrible, and 54 per cent of young people surveyed see no future for themselves in the Tweed. Young people said the things they'd most like to change about the Tweed are: **more things to do; better transport; more public places to hang out** and **less drugs or alcohol**.

6.1 KEY THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM THE SPEAK OUT ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN

6.1.1 MORE INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL DECISIONS AND A POSITIVE PERCEPTION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people want to belong and be part of the decision-making processes in their community. Many feel they are not listened to or they are let down when they are involved. They suggested making use of communication methods such as social media and face-to-face engagement.

Young people also need access to information in formats they are comfortable with, so they are informed about available opportunities and where to go for support and advice.

Many young people thought there was a need for a better relationship between themselves, people of other ages and people in authority, so they can be seen as a positive part of the community. Many felt like they were stereotyped as law breaking, or as hanging out in gangs.

6.1.2 SAFE PLACES TO HANG OUT, QUALITY FACILITIES AND A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Young people, parents/carers and various services voiced the need for

improvements at South Tweed Skate Park, Knox Park and other places where young people hang out. There were recurring comments about facilities, public spaces and youth specific places not being safe, poorly maintained and not being activated.

Young people talked about wanting to be proud of where they live. However, they felt their neighbourhoods looked bad and had poor public amenity. Facilities and services that keep up with the rate of population growth and meet existing local needs are important. There was a desire for more youth centres/spaces, cultural facilities (dance, arts, theatre), BMX tracks and skate parks - that are well designed, vibrant and linked to other services and multi-purpose places.

6.1.3 MORE ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND FESTIVALS

Access to organised activities, events, recreation and programs after hours and on weekends were identified as important. Young people also stated they genuinely want to have increased access to, and be involved in, creative and cultural programs and events.

6.1.4 A GOOD EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A good education and opportunities to develop practical skills and to gain meaningful employment were highly valued. Opportunities for employment are important so fewer young people face unemployment or leave the area in search of work.

6.1.5 SAFETY FROM VIOLENCE, DRUG ABUSE AND HOMELESSNESS

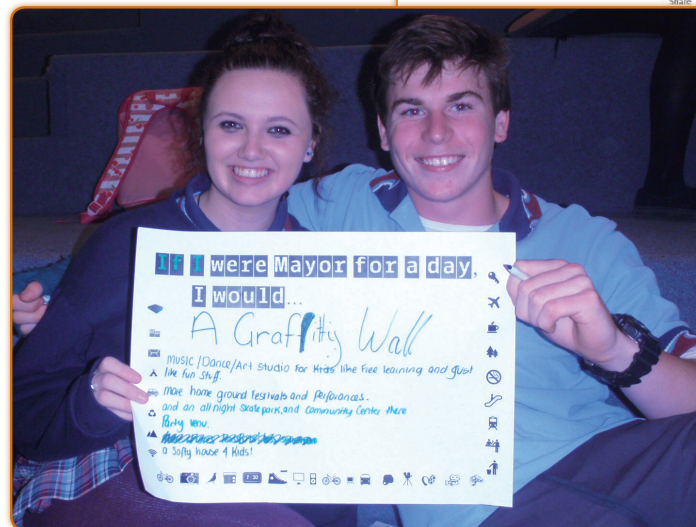
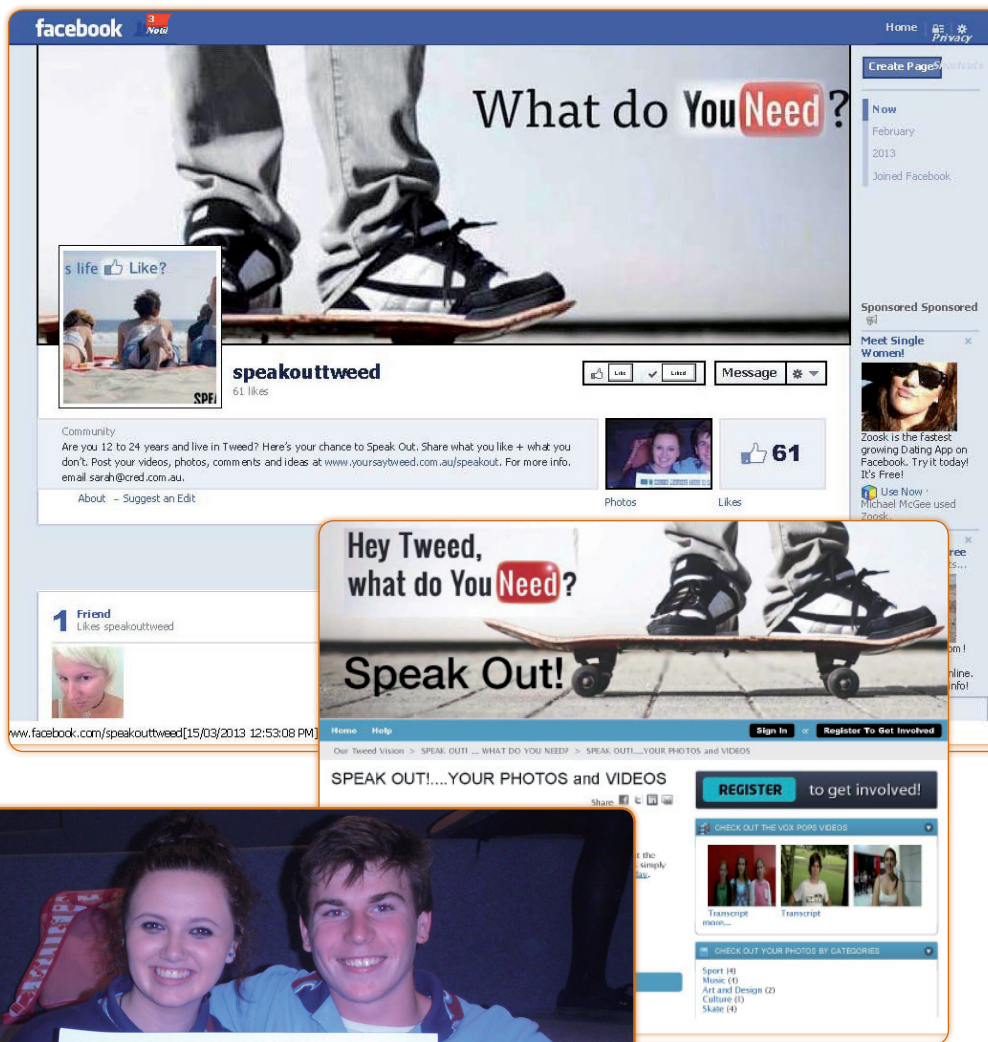
Safety was raised consistently, including the need for measures to protect against violence, drug abuse and homelessness. Major concerns about drugs and alcohol were also raised by young people, parents, carers and service providers. Young people feel strongly that there is overuse of drugs in the Tweed and it is hard to get away from. There was also significant concern that young people in trouble at home have nowhere to go and could end up homeless, alone and at risk.

6.1.6 IMPROVED TRANSPORT LINKS

Transport is central to accessing education, employment and recreation opportunities. Improved transport connection between the major town centres and rural/suburban areas is needed, particularly to Tweed Shire's surrounding villages.

6.1.7 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND SERVICE COLLABORATION

Being located on a state border, Tweed Shire cannot always access funding because it is difficult to demonstrate demand and utilisation by local residents for additional services and facilities. Lower levels of funding opportunities mean services are often competing against each other instead of working collaboratively to advocate for increased funds to deliver targeted services across the area.



7 STRATEGIC OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

7.1 DELIVERING THE YOUTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Council has a leadership role in initiating, preparing and implementing the Strategy on behalf of the Tweed community. Developed by Council in partnership with the community, the Strategy's success will depend on:

- Council's good governance and strong leadership
- the participation and actions of residents, business, service providers and community members
- effective resourcing to achieve outcomes associated with the Strategy's objectives and actions

The objective of the Strategy is to build a resilient youth population and to provide opportunities for them to reach their full potential. Council will support young people to assist in delivering the Strategy's outcomes.

The Strategy will be delivered in an integrated way across all its operational Units. Council is committed to work in partnership with all levels of government, non-government agencies, the community, local business and, most importantly, local young people.

The following tables detail each Strategic Outcome and associated actions to address issues identified during the Speak Out campaign. Each table has the following headings:

Strategic Outcome - a definition of the outcome and why it is important to young people

Strategic Actions - actions identified to achieve the outcome

Leader - the section of Council responsible for initiating the action

Partners - the section(s) of Council, government, community organisations and young people identified to assist the leader

Funding - impact of Strategic Actions on Council's budget

7.2 FUNDING THE STRATEGY

Resources identified in the Strategic Action Tables are drawn from the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) which provides the budget for the Community Strategic Plan 2013/2023 (CSP) and includes Youth Strategy Funding, Improved Services for Shire Youth and Section 94 Contribution Plans. External Funding, to be sought via grant applications as available, is another potential source of funding. Further detail is provided below:

7.2.1 YOUTH STRATEGY

Originally funded from Council's 7 Year Infrastructure and Services Plan (up to June 2013), the Long Term Financial Plan allocates \$50,000 per annum for the next 10 years to the Youth Strategy. The 7 Year Plan was built around priorities identified through the Community Perceptions Survey. Key project areas identified in the consultations included facilities supporting community life.

7.2.2 IMPROVED SERVICES FOR SHIRE YOUTH

Originally funded from Council's 7 Year Infrastructure and Services Plan (up to June 2013), the Long Term Financial Plan allocates an ongoing annual salary for the Community Development Officer - Youth (CDO-Y) as the key point of contact between Council, the youth sector, service providers and government agencies to initiate, coordinate and facilitate project development. The CDO-Y is responsible for the implementation of the Strategy across Council.



7.2.3 SECTION 94 CONTRIBUTION PLANS

Development Contributions are payments made by developers to enable Council to provide public amenities and services required for new residents and businesses. Section 94 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* is the principal legislation enabling Councils to levy contributions for public amenities and services. Section 94 Contributions are imposed as a condition of development consent or complying development, and can be satisfied by:

- dedication of land
- a monetary contribution
- a material public benefit, or
- a combination of some or all of the above.

The Act also makes provision for Council to enter into voluntary planning agreements as the means through which these additional community facilities are provided. Under these agreements, Council enters into a legal contract with a developer to construct public facilities and infrastructure or provide public services as part of the conditions of development consent.

7.2.4 COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013/2023 (CSP)

The Community Strategic Plan is the community's 10-year vision for the Tweed, to protect the qualities that make Tweed Shire a great place to live and to create communities which are strong and well connected. This plan creates a framework to implement Council's four-year Delivery Program and annual Operational Plan, which will align the community's aspirations with the necessary strategy development, planning and resourcing required to achieve the long-term vision and deliver the outcomes.



7.3 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE VALUED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENGAGED IN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM

“Kids need a safe place that’s ‘cool’ to hang out at. Kids need to feel like they do mean something and given respect.” Youth Survey

“I think it could be really good but there doesn’t seem to be enough people involved in making it better. The youth’s voice is not heard or listened to enough.” Youth Survey

“They promise us stuff like fix the skate park or the toilets and yet they don’t do it and I wish that they would do it because we get so happy and excited and then they let us down.” Youth Survey

Why is this important?

The Strategy has a strong emphasis on meaningful and ongoing engagement with young people, and provides a vehicle for young people to voice their concerns and influence Council decisions. Encouraging partnerships with Tweed Shire’s young people promotes mutual respect and provides opportunities for them to participate in civic life and contribute to the Tweed in a positive and meaningful way.

Many young people do not feel their voices are heard in Tweed Shire, and the anti-social behaviour of some in the community negatively impacts on outcomes for all of them. Young people should be celebrated as talented, vibrant and creative members of the community and kept informed of their rights and opportunities. They would love to be involved in planning a new park, a BMX track or a community centre, but also to be involved in the follow-up activation and programming of that place to make sure it is cared for. Research shows if young people are involved in the planning, design

and management of spaces they use, participation will be higher and incidents of vandalism greatly reduced.

There are many mechanisms for involving and informing young people. The youth survey identified that engagement through schools, consulting with young people in places they hang out, and utilising social media such as Facebook are the preferred communication methods for many young people. However, a number of young people also talked about setting up more formal communication models to participate in local decision-making. Engaging and involving young people in local government exposes the organisation to youthful optimism and innovative ideas while creating deeper roots and stronger loyalties among younger citizens.

Tweed Shire also has the opportunity to join other local councils throughout the world to adopt UNICEF’s Child and Youth Friendly Cities Framework and demonstrate its commitment to these principles.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1 - YOUNG PEOPLE ARE VALUED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENGAGED IN DECISIONS THAT AFFECT THEM

ACTION	LEADER	PARTNERS	FUNDING	IMPLEMENTATION YEAR				
				2013 2014	2014 2015	2015 2016		
1	Update Council's Youth Policy to adopt UNICEF's Child & Youth Friendly Cities Framework.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Councillors Executive Corporate Governance Unit	Youth Strategy (CSP)		✓		
2	Establish a Youth Council to act as an advisory committee and respond to issues relevant to young people aged 12 to 24 years.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Local schools	Youth Strategy (CSP)		✓		
3	Coordinate the Youth Council	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Local schools	Youth Strategy (CSP)		✓	✓	✓
4	Involve young people in the Master Planning process for parks.	Recreation Services Unit	Community and Cultural Services Unit Community stakeholders Government stakeholders Youth Council	N/A	Ongoing			
5	Work with local committees, for example surf life savers, to include young people on boards to develop civic leadership.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Community stakeholders Youth Council	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
6	Educate young people about Council's role in the community.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Communication and Customer Services Section Youth Council	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
7	Actively promote positive stories and images of young people in the media.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Communication and Customer Services Section Youth Council	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
8	Implement social media channels to engage young people to connect and share information as identified in Council's Community Engagement Strategy as governed by Council's Online and Social Media Policy 2012.	Communication and Customer Services Section	Community and Cultural Services Unit Youth Council	Not funded	Ongoing			
9	Provide youth information and establish a dedicated Youth Council page on Council's website, including links to official social media pages.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Information Technology Unit Communication and Customer Services Section Youth Council	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
10	Establish a monthly column in the Tweed Link to provide youth and Youth Council information.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Communication and Customer Services Section Youth Council	Youth Strategy (CSP)	Ongoing			



7.4 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2

YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL PROUD OF WHERE THEY LIVE WITH ACCESS TO QUALITY PLACES AND SPACES

“A good hang out space has nice grass, bubblers, sitting areas, shade, is safe, has food, is hygienic, close to home, has fun activities, no drugo’s, somewhere to sleep, able to play music, a place to be loud, inclusive.” Kingscliff High School

“This town desperately needs an indoor sports stadium (sports facility/centre)!” Parents and Carers Survey

“Sports beyond the mainstream; give these kids an indoor sports venue, foster healthy sport and exercise options.” Parents and Carers Survey

“There is a need for places where youth can go and hang out in a safe, alcohol and drug free environment on the weekends that is not costly and transport is available.” Parents and Carers Survey

“I think that it would be wonderful to have more youth events and to further establish cultural facilities such as galleries, etc. It would be great to have somewhere young people can study quietly - the libraries in the area are quite outdated and dark.” St Joseph’s Youth Service

Why is this important?

Young people like to hang out with their friends. They are not old enough to go to licensed venues and don’t have enough money to pay entry into commercial facilities, but are getting too old to play in playgrounds. They want to socialise with their peers in safe, attractive and inclusive places.

Across Tweed Shire, there are not many outdoor free facilities for young people to hang out and very few youth-specific indoor facilities. Many young people also don’t feel welcome in public places because of a local perception about ‘youth gangs’.

In some of the places they can hang out, many young people don’t feel safe and they feel these places look run-down and uncared for. They are often located in sites that are not visible and where anti-social activities are easy to engage in, such as Knox Park and South Tweed Skate Park.

Tweed Shire is a geographically large area and many young people don’t have equitable access to recreation, social and cultural facilities. Those community facilities that are close by, such as community halls, are not being utilised for youth programs.

Over the next 20 years, there is going to be significant growth in population along the Tweed Coast, including an increase in the number of young people. The timely provision of free outdoor places with a range of activities (multi-purpose courts, skate elements, adventure playgrounds, bike tracks, hand ball walls, tiered seating and Wi-Fi/power outlets) will be important to keep young people safe, active and healthy. There will also be a need for indoor youth spaces within multi-purpose facilities for the delivery of youth programs and services for young people to meet and get connected with their community. For some, these places also provide a place away from home to get some help, be listened to, cared for, and to stay out of trouble.

Engagement identified that young people are really aware of their surroundings, of graffiti that is left on facilities for long periods of time, of a lack of bins to throw their rubbish in and unclean areas in their neighbourhoods. They want to feel proud of where they live and hang out; they want to feel part of their community.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2 - YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL PROUD OF WHERE THEY LIVE WITH ACCESS TO QUALITY PLACES AND SPACES

ACTION		LEADER	PARTNERS	FUNDING	IMPLEMENTATION YEAR			
					2013 2014	2014 2015	2015 2016	2016 2017
1	Develop a Master Plan for Knox Park to include an accessible multi-purpose youth plaza to complement the Murwillumbah Youth Centre.	Recreation Services Unit	Community and Cultural Services Unit Community stakeholders Youth Council	Section 94 – Contribution Plan 5	✓			
2	Construct an accessible multi-purpose youth plaza at Knox Park in accordance with the Master Plan.	Recreation Services Unit	Community and Cultural Services Unit Community stakeholders Youth Council	Section 94 – Contribution Plan 5 RDAF	✓	✓	✓	
3	Seek grant funding to improve South Tweed Skate Park as a multi-purpose youth plaza linked to other community infrastructure.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Community stakeholders Youth Council	External - to be sourced	Ongoing			
4	Investigate models for sponsorship of free Wi-Fi in informal youth recreation spaces.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Information Systems and Technology Unit	CDO-Y (CSP)		✓		
5	Seek external funding for sponsorship of free Wi-Fi in informal youth recreation spaces.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Information Systems and Technology Unit	External - to be sourced			✓	
6	Continue the development of youth-friendly spaces within libraries, including free Wi-Fi.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Richmond-Tweed Regional Library	Libraries (CSP) External - to be sourced	Ongoing			
7	Utilise accessible Council-owned facilities for creative arts, social, educational and recreational activities.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Community stakeholders Youth Council	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
8	Advocate for an accessible indoor youth space as part of the proposed multi-purpose community centre at Terranora (Area E).	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Developer Youth Council	CDO-Y (CSP)		✓	✓	
9	Seek grant funding for an accessible indoor youth space as part of the proposed multi-purpose community centre at Terranora (Area E)	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Developer Youth Council	Section 94 - Contribution Plan 15 External - to be sourced				✓
10	Explore options for an accessible multi-purpose youth plaza in Kingscliff.	Recreation Services Unit	Community and Cultural Services Unit; Community stakeholders; Youth Council	External - to be sourced			✓	✓

continued STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2 - YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL PROUD OF WHERE THEY LIVE WITH ACCESS TO QUALITY PLACES AND SPACES

ACTION	LEADER	PARTNERS	FUNDING	IMPLEMENTATION YEAR				
				2013 2014	2014 2015	2015 2016	2016 2017	
11	Advocate for the inclusion of a multi-purpose youth plaza as part of casual public open space for the Casuarina Beach/Kings Forest development, connected to the youth centre and other community facilities.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Developer Youth Council	CDO-Y (GSP)	Ongoing			
12	Seek grant funding for an accessible multi-purpose indoor youth plaza as part of casual public open space for the Casuarina Beach/Kings Forest development, connected to the youth centre and other community facilities.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Community stakeholders Youth Council	Section 94 – Contribution Plan 19 External - to be sourced			✓	✓
13	Prepare Les Burger Field Master plan to incorporate an accessible informal youth recreation space.	Recreation Services Unit	Community and Cultural Services Unit Community stakeholders Youth Council	Section 94 – Contribution Plan 15		✓		
14	Seek grant funding to construct informal youth recreation space as part of Les Burger Field Master Plan.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Community stakeholders Youth Council	Section 94 – Contribution Plan 15 External - to be sourced			✓	✓
15	Advocate for the inclusion of an accessible multi-purpose youth plaza as part of casual public open space for the Cobaki development, connected to the youth centre and other community facilities.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Developer Youth Council	CDO-Y (GSP)	Ongoing			
16	Seek grant funding for an accessible multi-purpose indoor youth plaza as part of casual open space for the Cobaki development, connected to the youth centre and other community facilities.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Community stakeholders Youth Council	Section 94 – Contribution Plan 10 External- to be sourced			✓	✓
17	Seek grant funding to improve the Tyalgum Skate Park to make it a more usable informal youth recreation space.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit; Wollumbin High School staff and students; Tyalgum Primary School; Tyalgum District Community Association; Community stakeholders	CDO-Y (GSP)		✓		
18	Assist in the coordination of youth events, particularly on Friday night and weekends, at the Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) and Salvation Army Sports Lifestyle Centre.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Police and Citizens Youth Club Salvation Army Community stakeholders Youth Council	CDO-Y (GSP)	Ongoing			

7.5 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN LOCAL EVENTS AND A RANGE OF CREATIVE, SPORTING AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

“Play music in the street and music festivals that under 18s can attend, and places or events for teens under 18 that are drug and alcohol free.” *Kingscliff High School Workshop*

“We want to organise our own events with some support and a budget, a youth festival etc, and gain some new skills and experience.” *Kingscliff High School Workshop*

“Young people need access to a broader range of activities and safe stimulating constructive environments. Young people are generally far more intelligent creative and motivated than society gives them credit for.” *Parents and Carers Survey*

“This is a diverse area and the talent of some of our young people in creative, musical and sporting endeavours is outstanding. We need to support these people in the pursuit of these interests in any way we can.” *Parents and Carers Survey*

Why is this important?

Young people are genuinely interested in getting more involved in local events, cultural and creative activities, sporting and social activities. Programs such as National Youth Week activities, Battle of the Bands etc targeting young people specifically are delivered by Council’s Community Development Team and by local youth services. But there are opportunities to improve access and youth involvement in local programs and events. These include working with local business, community and cultural groups, and through service and agency collaboration to foster skill development of local young people.

There are already opportunities for young people to get involved in local markets and festivals, such as the Banana Festival, Ukitopia Festival or connecting to local theatre, arts and sporting groups. Young people showed

a keen interest to be involved in more cultural and creative programs and to have more youth activities at local events and markets.

Young people, parents and carers also wanted more opportunities for young people to attend alcohol and drug-free programs at night and on weekends. Research has shown that in areas with high youth crime, the rates of youth crime decrease when diversionary activities are held on a Friday night.

It is well documented that young people have a stronger sense of belonging to their community when given opportunities to participate in local activities, programs, markets and festivals. Through these experiences young people learn new skills and connect with local business that can translate into employment opportunities and a happier social life. Young people add vibrancy to the Tweed Shire, enriching community life both culturally and economically.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3 - YOUNG PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED IN LOCAL EVENTS AND A RANGE OF CREATIVE, SPORTING AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

ACTION	LEADER	PARTNERS	FUNDING	IMPLEMENTATION YEAR				
				2013 2014	2014 2015	2015 2016	2016 2017	
1	Seek grant funding for a Youth Projects Officer to coordinate the Youth Council (Strategic Outcomes 1.2 and 1.3 refer).	Community and Cultural Services Unit	St Joseph's Youth Service Community stakeholders Youth Council	Youth Strategy Funding External - to be sourced	✓			
2	Coordinate a Youth Projects Grant to seed-fund young people's initiatives (dependent upon appointment of Youth Projects Officer).	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Corporate Governance Unit Youth Council	Youth Strategy		✓	✓	✓
3	Partner with community service groups to deliver programs and activities for young people in Council halls, parks and youth centres (dependent upon appointment of Youth Projects Officer).	Community and Cultural Services Unit	St Joseph's Youth Service Coolheads Community stakeholders Youth Council	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
4	Partner with Tweed Regional Art Gallery and Margaret Olley Art Centre to provide spaces and programs for creative activities for young people.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Arts Northern Rivers Community stakeholders Youth Council	Art and Culture (CSP) External - to be sourced	Ongoing			
5	Collaborate with existing groups to establish 'pop-up' creative incubators in suitable locations across the Tweed (dependent upon appointment of Cultural Development Officer).	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Business and Economic Development Communication and Customer Services Section Community stakeholders Combined Chambers of Commerce Youth Council	Art and Culture (CSP) External - to be sourced		✓	✓	✓
6	Enhance partnerships to create opportunities for young people to get involved in community events and activities, for example, International Day of People with a Disability, Seniors Week, NAIDOC Week, Youth Week.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Communication and Customer Services Section Community stakeholders Government stakeholders Youth Council	Community Development (CSP) CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
7	Identify opportunities for youth involvement in local events supported by Council's Event Strategy 2011-2016.	Communication and Customer Services Section	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Communication and Customer Services (CSP)	Ongoing			
8	Foster partnerships with local sporting clubs to sponsor youth at risk to participate in a range of organised sport.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Community stakeholders Government stakeholders Youth Council	CDO-Y (CSP) External - to be sourced	Ongoing			

7.6 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO A RANGE OF LOCAL EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

“Youth driven event or festival for local businesses – opportunity for youth to learn about budgeting, use and develop skills and ideas, workshops about barriers of being young so businesses could understand what it’s like to be young.” St Joseph’s Youth Service Workshop

“I really value living in such a beautiful and open area, however I believe there is much room for improvement in terms of catering for young people ... Students would be inclined to strive harder at school if they had an understanding of what they were competing against in the HSC. We need to allow young people the opportunity to be involved in programs which are centred in metropolitan areas. Those who endeavour to be involved in such programs should be better recognised for their efforts.” Youth Survey

Why is this important?

The Tweed’s population continues to grow because of new development. However, the proportion of young people living here is decreasing, while the proportion of older people is increasing. This indicates that many young people are leaving the area at 18 in search of employment, career and educational opportunities. This has been reflected in the ‘Speak Out’ survey, which showed that 54 per cent of young people see no future for themselves in Tweed Shire. While many rural areas expect their young people will leave after school and it is important for them to explore new

horizons, some of the young people who stay become unemployed and disengaged at higher rates than other areas.

Disengaged young people, a loss of local youth and an ageing population can mean a loss of vibrancy, creativity and talent, and a loss of service, trade and retail workers. This can be negative for the Tweed’s economy, community and culture. The quality of local community life, access to employment and training opportunities and the prosperity of local economies are linked.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 4 - YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS TO A RANGE OF LOCAL EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

ACTION	LEADER	PARTNERS	FUNDING	IMPLEMENTATION YEAR			
				2013 2014	2014 2015	2015 2016	2016 2017
1 Support work experience, apprenticeship/traineeships, work placement and internship opportunities for young people within Council.	Human Resources Unit	Department of Education TAFE ACE Community Colleges Universities Skilled	Human Resources and WHS (CSP)	Ongoing			
2 Advocate for entry-level positions for young people in local business and the service sector.	Business and Economic Development	Combined Chambers of Commerce Destination Tweed Government stakeholders	N/A			✓	✓
3 Advocate for secondary schools to support students' participation in external learning and training pathways, including cultural and creative industries, for example, TAFE/RTOs/ACE courses.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Department of Education TAFE ACE Community Colleges RTOs Arts Northern Rivers	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
4 Advocate for secondary schools to support young people's engagement in leadership and mentoring opportunities, for example, Youth Council, Kids in Community, Max Potential, Wollumbin Dreaming, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Department of Education	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
5 Identify opportunities for Council staff to participate in young people's mentoring and leadership programs, for example, Youth Council, Kids in Community, Max Potential.	Human Resources Unit	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Human Resources and WHS (CSP)	Ongoing			
6 Create an annual Business Industry Award with a category acknowledging organisations that have provided opportunities for young people, for example, work experience, employment opportunities, sponsorship of youth programs.	Business and Economic Development	Communication and Customer Services Section Combined Chambers of Commerce Destination Tweed	Business and Economic Development (CSP)	Ongoing			
7 Explore a 'Tweed Empty Spaces' initiative by promoting the provision of affordable studio spaces and creative industries incubator facilities in empty shop fronts for young people, artists and craft workers (dependent upon appointment of Cultural Development Officer).	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Business and Economic Development Community stakeholders Arts Northern Rivers	Art and Culture (CSP)		✓	✓	
8 Advocate for a 'Drivin' 4 Employment' program to support young Indigenous people to get their driver's licence.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Planning and Infrastructure Section Community stakeholders Government stakeholders	CDO-Y (CSP) External - to be sourced	✓	✓		

7.7 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5

YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND VIOLENCE

“I see many great aspects: the environment, the culture, sporting facilities but I also see negative aspects like the lack of jobs for young people, the abuse of drugs and alcohol in close proximity to the public and some activities being unavailable.” Youth Survey

“Support for issues such as bullying, drug use, and depression; need a confidential counsellor who is young enough for youth to relate to.” School Workshops

“A dream come true would be to set up a Drop-in Youth Centre, where doctors and youth workers are there working all round. I know it's an expensive thing to run but when you think about it having kids on the streets all hours of the night, people too scared to leave home, kids in MAJOR depression and feeling like no one is there, they are the kids we need to target. They need to feel loved, welcomed and like someone cares.” Youth Survey

“My friends and family are great here. I love my school and my education is good. I have a job where I got promoted to a higher rank position. Some of the people in Tweed are quite aggressive and ruin a lot of opportunities for us people who do the right thing.” Youth Survey

“The positives in Tweed are messed by the negatives. The skateparks are full of drugs, alcohol and violence.” Youth Survey

Why is this important?

The safety of local young people and the community in general - particularly in public parks, skate parks and neighbourhood streets - was a consistent theme for all people engaged as part of the Youth Strategy. There is a perception that safety in public places is not being addressed from a whole-of-community perspective. Knox Park and South Tweed Skate Park have particularly been identified as unsafe.

Young people feel they are often blamed for the drinking, drugs and violence in public places. However, the majority of young people spoken to feel alienated from these spaces because they are unclean, unsafe and

they get hassled by people pushing drugs and alcohol. Some young people said their friends turn to drugs and alcohol when they are going through troubled times at home and they don't have anyone to talk to.

Issues of public drinking, drug taking and violence are being addressed individually. However, an integrated approach to local issues such as graffiti prevention, alcohol and drug consumption in parks and anti-social behavior should be developed with long-term solutions that require action from across different areas of Council. Strong partnerships between local services, police, community groups and young people need to be formed to target problem areas and make the Tweed a safe place for all people to live.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 5 - YOUNG PEOPLE FEEL SAFE AND PROTECTED FROM DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND VIOLENCE

ACTION	LEADER	PARTNERS	FUNDING	IMPLEMENTATION YEAR				
				2013 2014	2014 2015	2015 2016	2016 2017	
1	Develop a Memorandum of Understanding with Tweed/Byron Local Area Command (LAC) to undertake Community Safety Audits targeting known hot spots across Tweed Shire, including Knox Park, Tweed Heads and Tweed Coast.	Executive Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Regulatory Services Section Tweed/Byron LAC Neighbourhood Watch Community stakeholders Business stakeholders	CDO-Y (CSP)	✓			
2	Develop a Shirewide Community Safety Plan informed by the findings of a Community Safety Audit	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Regulatory Services Section Tweed/Byron (LAC) Neighbourhood Watch Community stakeholders Business stakeholders	Community Safety (CSP) External - to be sourced		✓	✓	
3	Implement a Shire-wide Community Safety Plan.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Regulatory Services Section Tweed/Byron (LAC) Neighbourhood Watch Community stakeholders Business stakeholders	Community Safety (CSP) External - to be sourced				✓
4	Advocate for improved education programs in primary and secondary schools to reduce the incidence of alcohol and drug use.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Planning and Infrastructure Section Tweed/Byron (LAC) School Liaison Officer Community stakeholders School Staff	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
5	Develop a Graffiti Management Policy and related documents that address graffiti prevention and management.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Recreation Services Unit Works Unit Neighbourhood Watch Community stakeholders	CDO-Y (CSP)		✓		
6	Implement a Graffiti Management Policy	Works Unit Recreation Services Unit Regulatory Services	Neighbourhood Watch Community stakeholders Community and Cultural Services Unit	Whole of Council (CSP) External - to be sourced			✓	✓
7	Support 'CoolHeads' after-hours binge drinking program in areas where young people are engaging in anti-social activities at night, including Knox Park, Cabarita Headland and other identified hot spots.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	St Joseph's Youth Service (CoolHeads) Tweed/Byron (LAC) Community stakeholders	Youth Strategy (CSP) External - to be sourced	Ongoing			

7.8 STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6

YOUNG PEOPLE CAN GET AROUND, HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND HAVE AFFORDABLE PLACES TO LIVE

“Transport should be more accessible, more frequent, and less expensive. Also, other alternative transport options such as youth free shuttle bus services.” School Workshops

“Youth crisis accommodation and more youth housing is needed. Homeless kids don’t want to leave the area; they want to stay near their friends.” Tweed Youth Strategy Workshop - Network

“There’s nowhere for young people to go when they are in trouble. A 12-year-old asked me for somewhere to stay the other day in town.” Vox Pops

“If you want to go anywhere on the weekends from Mur’bah, it’s so hard to get there and back. We get stuck out here.” Vox Pops

“More job opportunities for the youth maybe to be advertised a little better, programs to teach kids how to live a nice healthy life and just to let them know you’re there and not going to give up on them.” Youth Survey

Why is this important?

Being located on a State Border means that funding can be difficult to access and residents living on borders are impacted by policies of State and Local Government Areas (LGA). This can affect how services are funded, allocated and operate across the Tweed. In some cases residents have to travel across the LGA to access essential services.

Tweed Shire is also a large geographical area and getting around is not easy if you don’t have a car. Many young people travel by bus to school from the village areas in which they live, taking around an hour for each one-way trip. After school and on weekends, there is no public transport in or out of these areas, and young people can feel isolated. It also makes it difficult for them to get a job or participate in community, sporting and cultural activities.

Local Indigenous young people can be further disadvantaged, with lower

levels of access to cars and licensed drivers to learn to drive. There are examples of alternative transport systems for young people, like the Bat Bus which provides low-cost bus transport for young people in groups at night and on weekends, and driver training programs such as ‘Drivin’ 4 Employment’. These types of programs will be addressed through this Strategy.

The issue of homelessness was of concern to many young people, some of whom had friends who are ‘couch surfing’ or looking for places to stay during troubled times at home. There are only a small number of short-term accommodation beds available in the Tweed and no crisis accommodation for people of any age group.

A lack of affordable and safe housing options for young people in trouble and for young people trying to make a start in life, find a job or go to university, impacts on their quality of life, their ability to stay near friends and family, and the future of Tweed Shire.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME 6 - YOUNG PEOPLE CAN GET AROUND, HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND HAVE AFFORDABLE PLACES TO LIVE

ACTION	LEADER	PARTNERS	FUNDING	IMPLEMENTATION YEAR				
				2013 2014	2014 2015	2015 2016	2016 2017	
1	Seek grant funding to establish a subsidised youth transport service similar to 'Bat Bus', 'Yaxi' and 'Yowi', which are operating in neighbouring LGAs.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Planning and Infrastructure Section Tweed Byron Ballina Community Transport Private bus services	CDO-Y (CSP) External - to be sourced	Ongoing			
2	Engage with private bus companies about extending their services to weekends and evenings in areas where there currently is no service.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Planning and Infrastructure Section Private bus services	CDO-Y (CSP) External - to be sourced	Ongoing			
3	Continue facilitating the Tweed Shire Housing and Homelessness Network to find solutions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> youth homelessness housing affordability youth crisis accommodation 	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Tweed Shire Housing and Homelessness Network Community stakeholders Government stakeholders	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
4	Include youth issues in representations made to the Cross Border Commissioner and in discussions with City of Gold Coast Officers.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	City of Gold Coast Youth Council	CDO-Y (CSP)	Ongoing			
5	Advocate for a 'Drivin' 4 Employment' program to support young Indigenous people to get their driver's licence.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Planning and Infrastructure Section Community stakeholders Government stakeholders	CDO-Y (CSP) External - to be sourced	Ongoing			
6	Advocate for agencies to provide support for young people and their families using an outreach service delivery model.	Community and Cultural Services Unit	Community stakeholders Government stakeholders	CDO-Y (CSP) External - to be sourced	Ongoing			



Customer Service | 1300 292 872 | (02) 6670 2400

tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au
www.tweed.nsw.gov.au
Fax: (02) 6670 2429
PO Box 816
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

youth strategy