



Community Vision Focus Groups

Frequently asked questions

What is a Community Vision?

A description of the community's aspirations for the future (next 20-30 years) of the shire. Having a Community Vision is a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020*. The Act also outlines that Council's four-year Council Plan and 10-year Financial Plan must address the Community Vision. In summary, this means that the Baw Baw Shire Community Vision will guide development of the Council and Financial Plans.

Why is Council holding focus groups?

Focus groups allow diverse thoughts to be heard about a single topic.

Independent facilitators are running a series of focus group discussions with individuals and organisations in Baw Baw to ensure the Community Vision is based on the varied backgrounds, life experiences and ideas of people in Baw Baw.

How will the focus groups be run?

The focus groups are facilitated by an experienced consultant and will be held virtually using Zoom.

Council is committed to supporting all members of the community to participate. If you are selected to be part of one of these focus groups and require support (e.g. translators, technical support etc) we will work with you to ensure you are able to participate.

How will the focus groups be selected?

Community members and stakeholders with a specific interest in one of the focus group topics will be invited to register their interest. Registration is via an online form on Council's website. The registration period is between **Wednesday 17 February** and **Tuesday 2 March 2021**. An independent consultant will then select up to 10 participants based on the focus group criteria.

What if I can't attend a focus group or I don't get selected – can I still contribute to the community vision?

You can still participate by filling in the Community Survey which can be found on Council's website (from 1 March to 2 April) or registering to participate in the Community Panel sessions (registration period is 3 March to 24 March).

What happens with the information provided by focus group members?

This information will be compiled and presented to the Community Panel who will consider insights collected from the focus groups and Community Survey in order to develop a Community Vision for Baw Baw Shire.

How will I know if I've been selected?

In early March, you will be notified if you have been selected to participate and an invitation will be emailed to the email address you have provided.

Do I have to prepare anything in advance?

No, but you will need access to the internet with reliable Wi-Fi. If this isn't available to you and you are selected for a focus group, we can assist you.