



Council Plan 2021–2025: Annual Review 2023/24

The Council Plan is a four-year road map laying out the services, priorities and strategies we will pursue to ready the Shire for the future, and support community quality of life as we continue to grow.

It was adopted in 2021, and is reviewed and updated each year to make sure it remains aligned with the Community Vision's strategic objectives of a sustainable, healthy and thriving community and Shire.

New challenges

Baw Baw Shire is facing some significant changes and challenges.

Rapid population growth and changing demographics are putting increasing pressure on our kinders, our early years services, and our social infrastructure. The lingering impacts of the pandemic, inflation, supply chain disruptions and skills shortages are impacting service delivery and infrastructure costs. Climate change and severe weather events are impacting our natural and built environments.

As a Council, it is our privilege and our responsibility to play multiple roles in tackling these challenges. The initiatives below, introduced in this year's updated Council Plan, identify some of ways we will navigate those challenges through to 2025 and beyond.

Strategic Objective 1: A Sustainable Shire

- Implement the Environmental Sustainability Strategy and corresponding two-year Action Plan.
- Identification and assessment of significant trees for the development of a Significant Tree Register. The Register will be considered for future protection amendments in the Baw Baw Planning Scheme.
- Prepare for the introduction of Food Organics and Green Organics (FOGO) collection and investigate options for separate glass collection in Council's kerbside waste services.
- Develop and implement a Carbon Emissions Reduction Plan.
- Develop a Circular Economy Plan for Council consideration and implementation.



Strategic Objective 2: A Healthy Community

- Ongoing implementation of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and corresponding Annual Action Plan.
- Development and successful transition to new waste contracts, including community education and support.
- Continued advocacy for external funding to contribute to the Baw Baw Culture and Connection Precinct – Stage One – Library and Learning.
- Assess the existing network of paths, trails, and reserves in Precinct Structure Plans (PSP's) to identify opportunities for connections to growth areas. This project also includes the targeted assessment of street cross-sections in the PSP's and in some cases the potential impact on surrounding vegetation.
- Undertake review of Council's Open Space Strategy and begin the development of the Open Space Landscape Guidelines.



Strategic Objective 3: A Thriving Community

- Implement the Economic Development and Visitor Economy Strategy.
- Support the local community economy and vibrancy with the allocation of major events funding.
- Implement Creative Communities Strategy for Baw Baw Shire, supporting community vibrancy and engagement.
- Advocacy on Baw Baw road transport priorities including the Drouin Arterial Road Network Planning.
- Continued focus on Shire roads and delivery of Capital programs across Council's Gravel and Sealed Roads, and Road Safety projects.
- Increased resourcing to the Advocacy function to maximise the prospect of gaining external funding for strategic advocacy priorities.
- Increased resourcing to the Tourism and Events function to deliver outcomes included in the Economic Development & Visitor Economy Strategy.
- Advocate for State Government support towards the implementation of the Best Start, Best Life reforms, including increased access to funding for infrastructure and ongoing maintenance obligations for Early Years services.

Council supporting a Sustainable, Healthy, and Thriving community and Shire

- Development and delivery of an internal Future Ready Baw Baw program, to meet the future needs of the community. Focused on Information Technology (IT), Services, Workplaces, and People.
- Develop a Depot Strategy to ensure Council can continue to conduct works and deliver services that meet the needs of the community into the future.

