

Community Vision

Borough of Queenscliffe 2021-2031



Borough of Queenscliffe
Queenscliff & Point Lonsdale, Victoria, Australia



Bellawiyn is the Wadawurrung name for the lands where the Borough of Queenscliffe is located.

Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of these lands, waters and skies, the Wadawurrung People.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing connections to their lands, waters, skies, culture and the contribution they make to the life and spirit of our community.

We pay respect to their past and present Elders and their emerging leaders, and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

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About our Borough

A safe haven for locals and visitors alike; where history, culture and the natural environment meet in ways that delight and surprise; an involved and caring community – these are the features that make the Borough of Queenscliffe a special, restorative place for everyone.

Located at the eastern tip of Victoria's Bellarine Peninsula, the Borough of Queenscliffe is Victoria's smallest local government area and Australia's only Borough.

Formally designated in 1863, the Borough contains the townships of Queenscliff and Point Lonsdale. The Queenscliff township was built first and foremost for government purposes, providing postal, customs, health and telegraph services, lighthouse and signal services, military and defence establishments and the sea pilot's service. The well-preserved heritage buildings are one of the area's key tourism assets.

Perched above the point where Port Phillip meets Bass Strait, Point Lonsdale boasts both sheltered bay beaches and a dramatic and breathtaking strip of rugged ocean frontage where the western Victorian surf coast begins.

As well as being of high ecological value, the foreshore and marine environments contribute to the municipality's urban and landscape character, which attracts many people to the area.

The Borough of Queenscliffe community is close-knit. It enjoys a highly active community life through volunteering and participation in sport, recreation, arts, cultural and civic events.

Creating the Vision

For the first time, the Victorian *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils in Victoria to create a Community Vision in addition to a Council Plan. The goal of the Community Vision is to produce a consistent, long-term vision for a community's future that successive councils and the community as a whole can work towards.

By its very nature, the Borough of Queenscliffe Community Vision isn't just a Council document – it's a document for everyone in our community to aspire to. We think a vision for our whole community should be created by our whole community – that's why we worked closely with residents and ratepayers from across the Borough to develop the pillars and goals in this document.

We worked with the community to develop this vision in three stages:

1. The first stage involved collecting ideas from as many members of our community as possible. Through an online survey, open houses, and interactive sessions with schools and community groups, we heard ideas from 264 people.
2. These ideas were collected and organised for the second stage of engagement, which involved 25 local residents joining a community panel. This panel, which also included the Borough's Councillors, created a draft Community Vision using the ideas we received in the first stage.
3. Finally, the draft created by the panel was shared with the broader community for another opportunity to provide feedback. 33 people shared their thoughts on which parts of the draft they liked and which parts they thought could be improved. This feedback was then used to finalise the Community Vision, which is presented in this document.

About the Vision

While a Community Vision can take many forms, the community panel determined that the Borough's would contain a central statement and five supporting pillars.

The central statement encapsulates the kind of place our community wants the Borough to be in 2031. The statement speaks to the things that make the Borough special, and the core values that should define our community ten years from now.

Supporting this central statement are five pillar statements. The five pillars provide more detail on the values and goals outlined in the central statement. These five pillars are:

- *Enhancing health and wellbeing*
- *Protecting Country and our natural environment*
- *Supporting business and community prosperity*
- *Encouraging an inclusive and engaged community*
- *Protecting and celebrating Wadawurrung and Borough heritage*

Each pillar includes a goal statement outlining how the pillar will be present in our community ten years from now.



Our Community Vision

The Borough is a special and restorative place, renowned for its distinctive coast, rich living heritage and vibrant culture.

Our community is caring, and welcoming to visitors.

We have a deep respect for the Wadawurrung People and are taking action to protect Country.



Enhancing health and wellbeing

Our community encourages an active and outdoor lifestyle and nurtures the welfare of all



Protecting Country and our natural environment

We mitigate and adapt to the risks of climate change and preserve our ecosystems and biodiversity



Supporting business and community prosperity

We have a thriving local economy and community that is underpinned by high quality infrastructure and services



Encouraging an inclusive and engaged community

We have a welcoming, connected and diverse community that is supported by informed and consultative leadership



Protecting and celebrating Wadawurrung and Borough heritage

Our cultural and built history is conserved and celebrated



Enhancing health and wellbeing

OUR GOAL:

Our community encourages an active and outdoor lifestyle and nurtures the welfare of all.

Some ideas from our community for what this might look like:

“A connected, engaged, health focussed, age-inclusive community”

“Outdoor facilities for children from 6-18 years old and adults alike that are second to none”

“A high-energy and inclusive sporting community that caters for all age groups”

“More opportunities for aged care, with staff continuity”

“Great free places to gather, play and socialise – including improved playgrounds and a bike track”

“More disability parking”

“Better footpaths/walking tracks for all-access, more arranged activities for kids”

“Caring for our community health and wellbeing”





Protecting Country and our natural environment

OUR GOAL:

We mitigate and adapt to the risks of climate change and preserve our ecosystems and biodiversity.

Some ideas from our community for what this might look like:

“We would be a far more environmentally connected community, with our unique environmental spaces protected and our emissions mitigated at least 100%”

“Carbon neutral, green, friendly, supportive, innovative, with a culture where vehicle drivers cede priority to bikes [and] pedestrians”

“A community that has developed its own renewable power sources for a sustainable future”

“Keeping our trees and open space for the betterment of the environment and the community”

“The Borough will be a location that others look to for inspiration for the way it has planned for and acted to build a resilient and prosperous community in the face of a changing climate”

“Sustainability – sustainable community – residents, local business and visitors”





Supporting business and community prosperity

OUR GOAL:

We have a thriving local economy and community that is underpinned by high quality infrastructure and services.

Some ideas from our community for what this might look like:

“Improving life in the Borough, while ideally creating financial and career opportunities that directly impact local residents”

“Buoyant, resilient economy and built environment”

“I’d like to see significant tourism based on the Borough’s strengths – its history, and the natural environment”

“A thriving high street with a balance of magnetic food and fashion”

“A financially viable self contained Borough and business environment”

“Sustainable businesses which continue to be regarded as essential to the wellbeing of our community”





Encouraging an inclusive and engaged community

OUR GOAL:

We have a welcoming, connected and diverse community that is supported by informed and consultative leadership.

Some ideas from our community for what this might look like:

"A more and better informed and connected community"

"Brave, visionary responsible leadership. Balanced, safe, engaged, connected, inclusive community"

"Strengthened community engagement in current and future development and community activities"

"Facilitates and ideals as a community that benefit and appreciate all views"

"Making our home a happy place to live"

"A caring community that is inclusive"

"A genuine village style community that is inclusive and respects the traditional owners"

"A good place to live, a caring community, good facilities for visitors, putting on interesting events"





Protecting and celebrating Wadawurrung and Borough heritage

OUR GOAL:

Our cultural and built history is conserved and celebrated.

Some ideas from our community for what this might look like:

“Strategic planning for the best looking heritage township or quality and easy living”

“To be a model for maintaining the liveability, character and identity of this historically important place”

“Definition and preservation of existing heritage and environmental assets”

“Through our close partnership with Wadawurrung Traditional Owners we understand local Indigenous cultural heritage and jointly protect this special place with Traditional Owners”

“I would like to see the historic buildings maintained and improved, so we maintain the historic feel in Queenscliff”

“The Borough should be visibly respectful of its historic roots while presenting a modern, clean and beautiful presence for both residents and visitors”

“Be conscious of the need to maintain the historic appearance of the town by devising a building code”





Using this Vision

The Borough of Queenscliffe Community Vision is for everyone in the Borough. Whether you're a community group, a business owner, or a local resident, there are ways you can incorporate this vision into your long-term planning, like:

- Aligning your community group's goals to those listed in the Vision
- Identifying opportunities in the Vision for collaboration between Council and your business
- Using the Vision statements in discussion with students and children about the future of our community
- Considering actions you can take at home to support the values outlined in the Vision.

Council will use the Community Vision to guide the development of other strategic documents, including the 2021-2025 Council Plan that will guide all our work for the rest of this term of Council. Over the next ten years, we'll check our work against this Vision to make sure we're incorporating community aspirations into everything we do.



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