



FREDERICKTON SUMMARY

21st APRIL 2021

Location:	Frederickton Hall
Number of attendees:	30
What we heard:	That the community loves the location, village atmosphere, access and safety are highly valued attributes to the residents of Frederickton. That the community wants to capitalise on its strengths and assets and create new opportunities for the future

Objectives

The purpose of the engagement was to provide feedback on progress with Council's services/works since the last 2018 Frederickton community catch-up, in the context of November 2020 community survey results, and provide feedback on the current community vision and future community priorities to inform the development of the new Macleay Valley Community Strategic Plan.

Catch-up Engagement Methods

The Macleay Valley 2036 Community Strategic Plan, June 2017 (CSP) is being reviewed by Kempsey Shire Council as required under the NSW Local Government legislation. It is important that the community is engaged in a variety of different ways and to provide input into this process.

To this end, the community catch-up was designed to provide context to the review, namely community survey and feedback information. It was also designed with three sessions to provide community feedback on: our current community's vision; ascertain the key themes of importance for the future Kempsey Shire Council area; and future community strategic plan themes.

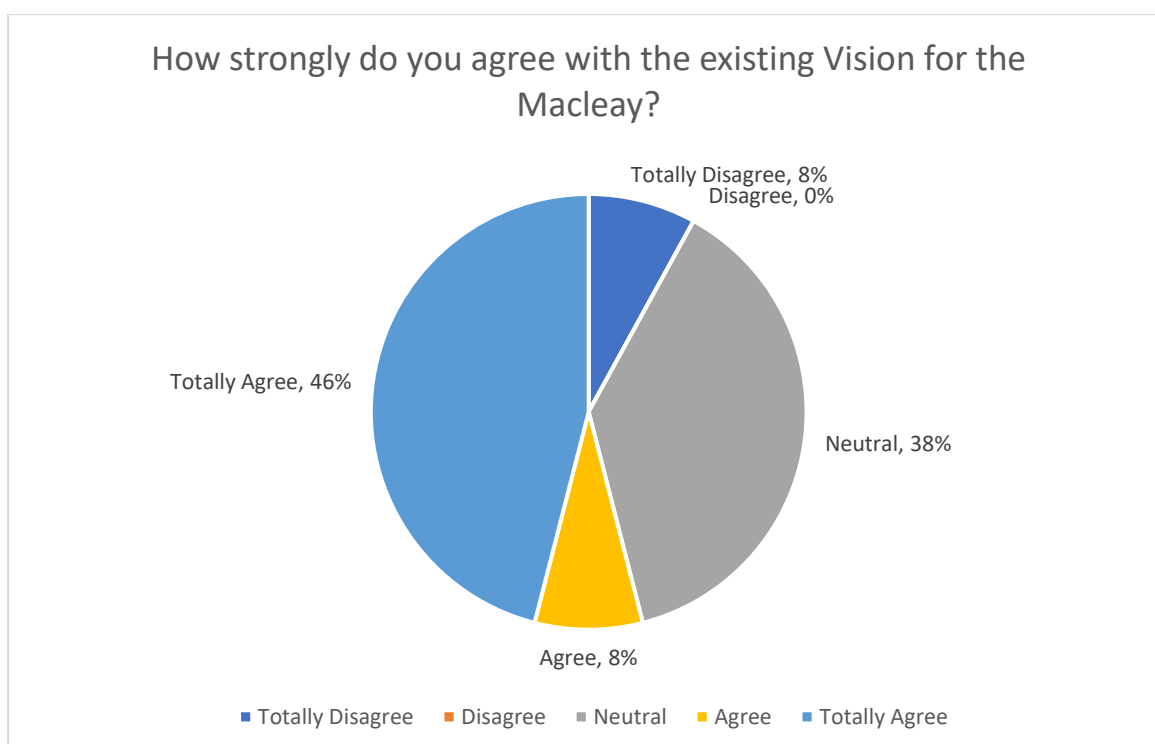
Results

- Participants were asked about their level of support for the current vision in the Macleay Valley 2036 Community Strategic Plan. The results of discussion and engagement on this question are shown in the table and in the graph.

Current Vision

“We live in a community that provides opportunity to all, to prosper in an environment that supports well-being, connectedness and access to resources the community wants and needs”.

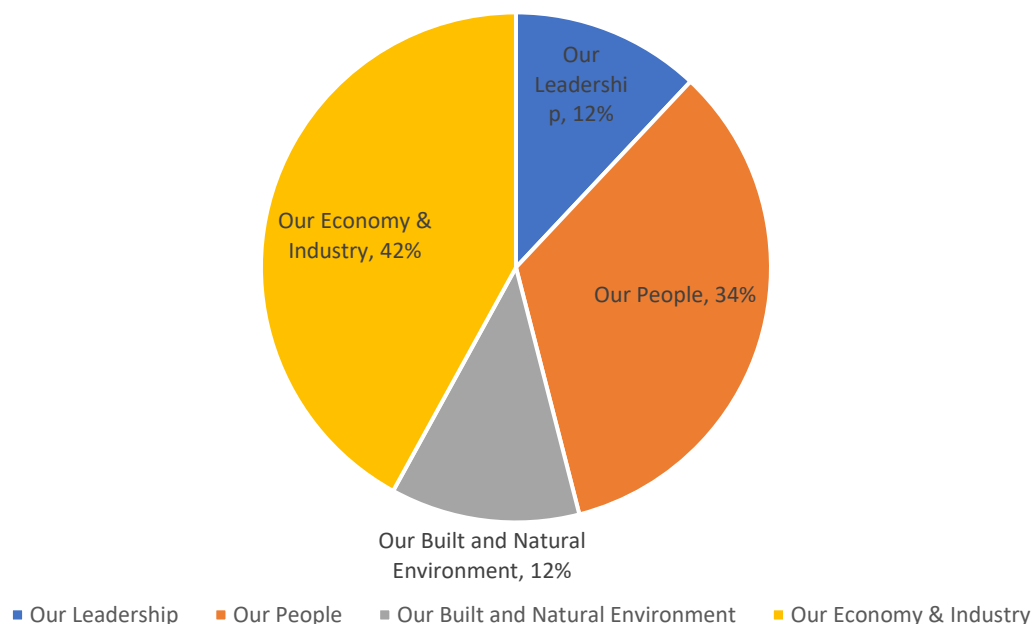
How strongly do you agree with the existing Vision for the Macleay?	Actual	%
Totally Disagree	2	8
Disagree	0	0
Neutral	9	38
Agree	2	8
Totally Agree	11	46
Totals	24	100



2. Participants at each table selected the top ten (10) words that described what they believed the community vision in 2050 should also consider. The responses for Frederickton and the Macleay Valley are shown in the table below:

Dream Big – Community Vision 2050 – What does your community look like?	
Health Care	Attract New Ideas
Community Facilities	Recreation
Transport	Opportunities for young people
Sustainable population growth	Community events
Employment and Jobs	Roads and Drains
Develop local skills	Tourism Events
Attracting new businesses	Having a Say
Good Infrastructure	Great place to live, work and play
Industry Development	Communications
Recycling	Celebration of the Macleay
Community Decision Making	Financially sustainable
Up-river public access	Business Opportunities
Safe	Education & Training
Asset maintenance	Natural environment
Good Council Services	Playgrounds
Health Care	Minimised risks
Employment and Jobs	Services for all
Exciting place to live	Strong community sector
Active Transport	Agribusiness Opportunities
Great community spaces	Water security

Dreaming Big: Community Vision 2050 - What does your community look like?



Comment

Community Catch-up attendees supported priorities related to the economy, notably attracting new businesses, employment, jobs, tourism and visitors. Education and training were also a priority and is related to this theme, as were jobs and opportunities for young people in the future.

In terms of other community priorities, infrastructure for community facilities, enabling Frederickton to remain a great place to live, work and play, as well as celebrating and building on the attractions and history (heritage) of the Macleay River, together with sustainable population growth were also discussed as important.

The environment, particularly sustainable development and protecting the natural environment were considered important, together with safe places, playgrounds and the built environment were prioritised.

3. Participants were asked about what major issues were important for them under the four key themes of:
- Our Leadership;
 - Our People;
 - Our Built & Natural Environment and
 - Our Economy & Industry.

The responses are shown in the tables below for both Frederickton and the Macleay Valley.

Our Leadership	
Frederickton	Macleay
Restoration of Town Hall	Made on the Macleay
Build a Hub – Promote Frederickton for business and tourism opportunities.	Annual Council Engagement Meetings – Meet the Councillors.
	Signage & Directory of Community Clubs and Organisations.
	Encourage Alcohol Free Zones – Clyde Street Mall.
	Streamline finance processes and payments, and make club accounts accessible to the wider community.
	Reform the Ratepayers Association with support from Council Staff.

Our People	
Frederickton	Macleay
Repurpose Tennis Courts to be suitable for all weather.	Parks
Retain the village atmosphere.	Networks & Friends
Public Space Plan (Frederickton specific) including recreational facilities.	Tourism & Visitation
Repurpose the unused netball courts and various facilities.	Safe Equipment & Places; Safety Signs
Exercise equipment to support a healthy and active community for the future.	Family Friendly Places
	Use social media and technology to engage with the community.

Our Built & Natural Environment	
Frederickton	Macleay
Bike Park and Skate Park	Upgrade and maintain all roads (dirt and tar)
Space for events	Indigenous Employment in fire hazard planning and prevention
Ferry and Watercraft	Minimise crime.
	Prevention of bushfires.
	Adventure Park, Arcade and TimeZone.

Our Economy & Industry	
Frederickton	Macleay
Industry and rail development	Tourism
Increase employment.	Events
Incentives to relocate here.	Expand on use of Slim Dusty Centre
	Boost TAFE courses relevant to the area
	Promote Kempsey as good area for Industry Development e.g. Cheap Land.

Comment

Further discussion gave feedback on the support for the economy, particularly building on the Macleay River uniqueness, for attracting new businesses, employment, jobs, tourism and visitors. Education and training (via TAFE, Country Universities Centre) was also a priority for all attending the community catch-up. Of particular importance was ensuring that the Aboriginal community had pathways for future employment, as were jobs and opportunities for young people in the future. In terms of other community priorities, infrastructure for a family friendly community, enabling Frederickton to remain a healthy and active place to live, work and play, as well as celebrating the Macleay River were considered important.

The environment, particularly sustainable population development and protecting the natural environment were also important in a future community plan, together with ensuring there were safe places to live, and visit. These were particularly playgrounds for a variety of kids, young people, and items of importance were Skateparks, Adventure parks, and a Timezone Arcade was suggested in town/ village centres.

Leadership was also discussed. Elements of 'civic leadership' considered important were being approachable, engaging, acting with integrity, honesty, and having good communications with a view to long-term planning. A variety of leadership ways to engage people were discussed and considered important, such as supporting ratepayer associations, committees, and having regular meetings with councillors. Being financially sustainable was also seen as an important outcome for Council's leadership to support in the future and keeping 'elected' promises.

Responses to Submitted Questions

ROADS	
Why aren't more road work funds allocated to Frederickton?	Road work funds are allocated on a priority basis, generally based on the number of traffic movements, condition, severity of the defect and safety impact. Council staff have invested a large amount of time in assessing road conditions as part of enhancing asset management practices and in the wake of recent flooding events. This will help inform current and future roadworks schedules.
Need more transparency of planned roads program.	Road works are determined annually, typically being based on 10-year forward programs, other strategic documents and projects where grants have been successfully obtained. Further work on forward programs is being undertaken as per the answer above. In addition to the long-term planning, Council provides a weekly works schedule that includes work completed and proposed works for the following week, providing insight into where Council staff are working. The weekly works is summarised in the Argus each Tuesday and published on the Kempsey Shire Council website .
Communicate changes to roads program.	Each year Council adopts an Operational Plan (OP) which establishes the works program and budget for Council for the financial year. For roads this program is based on 10-year forward programs, and other strategic documents and projects where grants have been successfully obtained. The Weekly Works Schedule is placed on Council's website each week and advises of works undertaken and works programmed. Regular Facebook updates promote works completed. Major works are also publicised via Council's website and Facebook.
The kerb and gutter work done on Macleay Street all of the storm water is now directed to the culvert on Remembrance Way being the culvert that was put in under the old highway in the 1950'S and this culvert is not designed to take this volume of water. This is resulting in flooding of all of the properties that back onto the drain and flooding across Chapman Street, Frederickton. This is a very dangerous situation that occurs with any rainfall. Once the water is able to pass under the culvert under the old highway it is supposed to end up	The culvert that passes under Remembrance Way (Macleay Valley Way) is now a Council asset, however until recently was a Transport for NSW asset. A hydraulic assessment of the catchment is in progress and will provide insight into the required capacity of the culvert, however any improvements to this structure would result in a high cost to Council. It is anticipated the hydraulic assessment will be completed by the end of June.

in a ponding area down at the round abouts, these drains have not been properly cleaned since the bypass except for on small area that has recently been done. The ponding area is in dire need of being cleaned so that the water can pass through the outlets under the highway. When will this be done?	The drains leading into and following from this culvert, including the roadside drains near the holding pond have been cleaned and are functioning effectively.
Spooners – Narrow one lane bridge. Many trucks, semis included, are overloaded for bridges legal load limit, especially during a flood event as many local cattle farmers and beekeepers try to move stock to higher ground upriver.	This bridge is not a Council owned asset, it is owned by the Australian Rail Track Corporation and is operated by John Holland Rail. Through Transport for NSW, in conjunction with contractor John Holland Rail, a load limit assessment was undertaken in 2019 with an independent consultant. The review resulted in a decrease in limit for single axle from 6 to 4 tonne, but an increase in limits for tandem axles and tri-axles to 12 and 15 tonne respectively.
Road pavement failures - particularly Edgar Street, Chapman Street and William Street.	There are funds allocated to Edgar Street for drainage improvement works. Our design team is approximately 75% of the way through a detailed design for drainage upgrades including kerb and gutter and stormwater improvements. The commencement of construction of these works is expected mid this year. Some enhancement to the road pavement may be possible in association with these works, however it is noted that the focus of the work is to enhance stormwater. Bitumen patching shall occur for immediate needs within these streets. Council undertakes a program of heavy patching annually based on priority across the Shires roads.
Speeding traffic on Great North Road - I would like the Traffic Committee to discuss this situation.	Council investigated this matter during September 2020 and speed counts undertaken indicated a median speed of 56 km/h with 15 % traffic traveling at 65 km/h or higher. Council requested NSW Police to undertake further patrols of the Road and it is noted that this regularly occurs. A further reduction of the existing 50kmh speed zone is unlikely to be supported by Transport for NSW, the authority responsible for all speed zones within NSW. Council is seeking to request speed camera vehicles operate at the location.
Safety for pedestrians, school children, prams and for those with walking aids having to walk on the road.	Pedestrian access to the school is currently provided by existing concrete paths as follows; • On the southern side of Great North Road, between Macleay Street and Creek Street. • Along Macleay Street between Great North Road and Collombatti Road.

	Future footpath links for all towns and villages within Council's area are listed in Councils Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan (PAMP). The PAMP lists all footpath proposals as high, medium and low priority to assist Council in its determination of funding for future footpath works. The PAMP can be found here. The recently completed footpath at the northern end of Frederickton between the existing footpath in Macleay Street and Great North Road was listed as a medium priority project. A footpath link in Flanagan St between Great North Road and the sporting fields is currently listed in the PAMP as a low priority and as such is unlikely to be funded by Council within the next 3 to 5 years. Unfortunately, it is not possible for Council to fund in the short term all footpath works listed in the PAMP, currently estimated to cost in the vicinity of \$7 million. When the PAMP is next reviewed there will be an opportunity for additional locations to be included within work schedules where a need exists, however such a review is unlikely to occur within the next 3 years.
Footpath and kerb and guttering need to be completed along Great North Road.	There are planned footpath works within the 2021-2022 financial year, however this only represents a small extension of approximately 50m. Further footpath and kerb and gutter extensions need to be considered in keeping with other priorities around the Kempsey Shire LGA and funded accordingly, with no further funding currently identified within forward programs. As outlined in the previous question the PAMP outlines forward priorities for new footpath links.
Spooners - drainage pipe under road needs to be bigger as it cannot keep up with volumes of water coming down adjacent gullies with heavy rain which causes roadway to be flooded and washed out.	Further information is required to undertake further investigation. Please report the issue here, or by emailing ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au.
Drainage at the eastern end of Edgar Street - particularly the drain built by the "red scheme" and continues underneath the old Pacific Hwy through private property, which was always	Drains on private land that do not have a maintenance easement fall upon the owner of the property to maintain. Council staff are unaware of the previous arrangement

maintained by Council - clarify whose responsibility and if it's the owner when was this decision made and who was notified?	regarding Council cleaning the private owned section of drain and hence cannot comment on the communication of this decision.
Spooners – Cars speeding along straight causing severe dust issues for residents; Blind narrow corner causes cars to travel on the incorrect side of the road; Poor drainage and multiple potholes.	Grading work on Spooners Avenue has recently been undertaken to improve road conditions. Council may request the NSW Police to patrol the location, however such activities are typically rarely undertaken on gravel roads across the Shire At the April 2021 Council meeting the construction and sealing for Spooners Avenue was considered. Council resolved to; 1. Affirm Spooners Avenue as a high priority road for upgrading that needs construction and sealing; 2. Council pursues grant funding to expedite the works; and 3. If suitable grant funding is not obtained before the adoption of Council's Delivery Program for 2022-2025 that the pursuit of grant funding for this road will be considered for inclusion in the Delivery Program for 2022-2025. The behaviours of drivers and dust issues would be improved should the road be sealed. In line with this resolution, Council will investigate grant funding opportunities where assessment criteria align closely with benefits of sealing the road. Council's resolution from the May 2019 meeting is also of relevance to determining priorities for grant funding related to roads. A link to the relevant report is available here.
I would like to know when Remembrance Way, Frederickton will have the remediation work completed with the gutters and the footpaths and all that was supposed to be done. This was planned when the funding was allocated by the RTA but was placed on hold when the plans for the service station were submitted to Council on the Cnr of Great North Road and Remembrance Way. Also, with all of the kerb and gutter work done on Macleay Street all of the storm water is now directed to the culvert on Remembrance Way	Council designers are undertaking an assessment of culvert capacity under Remembrance Way. This shall determine the current level of service it provides and any deficiencies that exist with its capacity. Maintenance work was undertaken on surrounding drainage via both an adjoining landowner and Council as mentioned. Further consideration shall be given to the need for additional work at this location.

being the culvert that was put in under the old highway in the 1950'S and this culvert is not designed to take this volume of water. This is resulting in flooding of all of the properties that back onto the drain and flooding across Chapman Street, Frederickton. This is a very dangerous situation that occurs with any rainfall. Once the water is able to pass under the culvert under the old highway it is supposed to end up in a ponding area down at the roundabouts, these drains have not been properly cleaned since the bypass except for on small area that has recently been done. The ponding area is in dire need of being cleaned so that the water can pass through the outlets under the highway. When will this be done?	
DEVELOPMENT	
What are the different development zones in Frederickton?	The different development zones can be found here within the Kempsey Local Environmental Plan 2013. There are a small range of zones from RU1 Primary production to RU5 Village for the town, IN1 General Industrial would be the auto spares site. The new aged care estate is in R1 General Residential. The Duty Planner is available on Wednesdays 10am-3pm by phoning: 02 6566 3200.
Are flood heights going to be changed now that bypass and highway are finished? Is a survey going to be done to measure Flood Heights? Is there a stock flood refuge?	The Lower Macleay Flood Study can be found here. The Lower Macleay Flood Risk Assessment and Management Plan is expected to be completed in 2022 with a detailed community engagement process to be rolled out. This will be promoted widely and community members will be encouraged to provide feedback. Travelling Stock Reserves (TSR) are managed by Local Land Services (LLS). The TSR's in the vicinity of Frederickton can be found here. Landowners should contact LLS on 1300 795 299 to find out more information regarding access arrangements.
Is Frederickton getting a return and earn point?	The decision for return and earn locations rests with TOMRA Cleanaway and not Council. The TOMRA Cleanaway Hotline is the one-stop destination for all support needs for the NSW Return and Earn scheme including assistance, reporting feedback or having a general question. You can contact the TOMRA Cleanaway Hotline by emailing

	enquiries@tcnsw.com.au or calling 1800 290 691.
Impact on local landowners who use land during floods & future leasing arrangements of the Kempsey Saleyards.	At its 18 May 2021 meeting, Council resolved to lease the saleyards to Kempsey Stock & Land for a period of 10 years with a further 10-year option. The lease agreement contains a requirement that the Kempsey Regional Saleyards be maintained as a stock refuge during periods of a declared emergency event. The council resolution relating to the lease of the Saleyards can be accessed from the 18 May 2021 Council minutes as follows: http://www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings/2021/2021-05-18/pubs/2021-05-18-draft-minutes.pdf
Agents talking about changes to the lease, maybe taking it out of the town and taking the money with it.	Please see response above. Additionally, the lease agreement contains a requirements for the Kempsey Regional Saleyards to be maintained and operated as a Saleyards at its current location.
OTHER	
If one of the councillors complain it seems as if the crew and equipment are moved around to make them happy and this is inefficient	The community have many avenues to lodge a request, including contacting Council's customer service, submitting a snap send solve, or interacting with Council via the website .
Safety concerns around both parks and no shade at new park.	There are currently no plans to install shade sails on any recently installed playgrounds. Consultation with user groups has resulted in the preference for further equipment to be installed over shade sails. Staff design playgrounds with natural shade as a priority, the use of tree plantings in strategic locations will provide shade in a cost-effective manner for the long term. Although in the early stages of a playground's lifecycle, shade may be limited, in the long-term shade will be provided naturally and with less ongoing maintenance burden. Further funds will be required in future playground installations, alongside a maintenance allocation if shade sails are to be installed.
Sports field upgrade seems the current fields are perfect for a multi complex incorporating a swimming pool skate park soccer and football fields as well as netball and indoor basketball centre, obviously the road need to be sealed so that is an issue.	Council is currently reviewing and developing its long-term Community Strategic Plan and this feedback will be provided to help inform the development of the new long-term plan for the Macleay Valley. More information or to make a submission can be found on Your Say Macleay at https://yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/strategy .

I'd like to see the riverbank cleaned up its overgrown kids and locals have nowhere to swim or fish maybe even a wharf Fredo had one in the 60s why not now the old piers are still there it would be nice to have somewhere to tie a boat up or fish off.	Council is only able to undertake maintenance of the footprint of the boat ramp itself. Council is not able to work on any structures that are currently in the river without necessary licencing in place via Crown Lands. For any navigation issues residents should direct their concerns directly to the NSW Roads and Maritime Services (waterways) as they deal with all navigational issues such as these. Regarding the riverbank, these areas controlled by NSW Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) and the Department of Crown Lands, and as such Council may not be able to undertake works on these sites. Council will explore whether some work may be able to be undertaken adjoining the boat ramp to assist with river access.
An electric BBQ for people to use would help the only place to eat is the pub and it's no good for families as kids can't be running around maybe the old tennis court at the park could be turned into a shelter shed with seats and electric BBQs or something along the lines.	A BBQ is allocated for the future upgrade of the Tennis Court Park, which will be completed in keeping with upgrades required on other facilities within the park. The upgrades are not currently funded. Grant funding would be unlikely to be available for purely provision of BBQ facilities. Typically, such funding is available for more significant upgrades or recreational infrastructure of which a BBQ may be included as part of such a project. This location would be a consideration for pursuing such opportunities were they available, noting there are many other facilities across the Shire where similar grant funding opportunities would also be considered.
Original correspondence with Council in 2011 and job number allocated regarding the water management issues, Hughes Place now has a second storm water collection drain, however the placement angle does not allow for collection in heavy rain, the water misses the grate and diverts onto properties.	Further information is sought to undertake further investigation. Please report the issue here, or by emailing ksc@kempsey.nsw.gov.au.