

The way forward is clear

Our shire is a complex place, characterised by a diverse population, a vast area of land, and extensive infrastructure.

As a result, council operates within a challenging environment, engaging with over 50 pieces of State and Federal legislation and more than 20 government agencies.

The NSW government has introduced a reporting structure aimed at integrating a clear community vision into the strategies and plans for our shire, whether they originate from council or other agencies.

Rather than creating a separate plan for each activity, this process allows us to have a unified approach to planning and executing the community's vision and priorities while ensuring affordability, accountability, and transparency.

Now more than ever, we must effectively balance our limited resources - time, personnel, and finances. We utilise these documents to determine what is essential, what should be prioritised, what would be beneficial to undertake, and what falls outside our responsibilities.



ksc.pub/IPR

For everything you need to know about **Integrated Planning & Reporting** – visit the Kempsey Shire Council website.

Why should I care?

You play a vital role in shaping the vision and goals for our local area. These plans begin with our community and hold little meaning without your participation.

We encourage your input on these strategies and your feedback on the documents we create to communicate our vision and goals.

Our structured approach to planning is centered around a single vision. When the community's expectations align with the council's priorities, it will help make our shire a wonderful place to live and enhance it for future generations.



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Our plans for your Macleay



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This strategy sets out a whole-of-council commitment to how we will engage with and encourage participation from our community to contribute to council decision making.

We outline the key principles which define approach to engagement and how we decide when and on what we engage.

We recognise that we need to engage with a broad range of people in our diverse community.

While community opinion is a vital part of decision making, we also recognise that it is not the only consideration in our decisions.

Council also must consider things like cost, environmental implications, legal requirements, and risk factors.

Our commitment is to engage as effectively as possible and to continuously improve our engagement practices. We strive to ensure that every voice is heard and considered, even if the final decision may not align with every individual's preference.

As a part of the review of council's engagement approach, this new strategy combines and replaces the previous Community Engagement Strategy 2022 and Community Participation Plan.



What is IP&R?

Welcome to IP&R - local Government shorthand for Integrated Planning and Reporting.

Integrated Planning and Reporting is an umbrella term for a family of documents which together provide a structured, consistent approach to community planning. These include:

- Community Strategic Plan
- Community Engagement & Participation Strategy
- Delivery Program
- Workforce Management Plan
- Strategic Asset Management Plan
- Long Term Financial Plan
- Operational Plan
- Annual Report
- State of the Shire Report

Simply put, Integrated Planning and Reporting asks councils, and their communities, four questions:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How will we get there?
- How will we know when we have arrived?

This framework is used by all councils in New South Wales. At its heart it recognises that council plans, policies and actions should not exist in isolation. It guides all the planning carried out by our council. Crucially it links planning to resourcing and service delivery and then requires ongoing monitoring, evaluation and community engagement.

This integrated process draws all council plans together, so we understand how they impact each other and get the maximum out of them.

This enables council to plan and budget with a big picture in mind, to achieve the most community benefit.



The Community Strategic Plan 2045: Your Future, outlines the community's hopes, aspirations and dreams for the Kempsey Shire.

This is our community's Plan and vision of what we want Kempsey Shire to be in 20 years.

Feedback and data gathered from many community surveys, events and organisations has been captured and analysed by council to arrive at the long-term priorities for the future of our Shire.

The plan outlined in this document is based on collaboration between all levels of government, local agencies, residents and visitors to the shire.

It's an important reference tool for all levels of government, community organisations and businesses to plan and deliver their products and services to meet the identified community needs.

Although delivery of all the strategies in the plan is beyond council's authority, the document is a critical governance tool that sits at the peak of council's strategic planning framework and provides over-arching direction for the organisation to align delivery of programs, services and investment.

