



Kempsey Shire Council

Local Community Plan 2009 Frederickton and Collombatti



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The Vision

A healthy community is a form of living democracy: people working together to address what matters to them.

- Stephen B. Fawcett, et. al

In 2009, Kempsey Shire Council initiated a local community planning program to engage and work cooperatively with local communities to identify priorities and actions for improvement.

The Local Community Plans aim to make a difference through developing a relationship between communities and Council, solve problems through creative thinking and identify actions to bring about improvements. The foundation of the community plans are the visions and aspirations of the people who live in the Macleay Valley.

The Community Plans commit Council to work with their local communities to identify, promote and enhance the distinctive character of their local areas.

Finally, the Plans will aim to guide the development of partnerships between local communities, community organisations, and Kempsey Shire Council.

Kempsey Shire Community Strategic Planning Process

The Community Strategic Plan, developed in 2007, set out the long term vision for the whole of Kempsey Shire. The Plan is structured around key focus areas, and encompasses all of Council's actions and responsibilities. The key focus areas are:

- Economic and environmental sustainability
- Social, cultural and community relations
- Infrastructure
- Relationships
- Effectiveness, Efficiency and Accountability

Kempsey Council is now taking its Strategic Plan to the local level through the development of Local Community Plans. These plans have been developed for nine distinctive catchment areas throughout the Macleay Valley. These are Bellbrook, Crescent Head, Frederickton & Collombatti, Smithtown, Gladstone, Hat Head, South West Rocks, Stuarts Point and Willawarrin.

To access other Local Community Plans, go to the Kempsey Shire Council website www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au

The local community planning process for all of these catchment areas follows a similar path where the following questions are collectively discussed and responded to:

- Where are we now?
- Where are we going?
- Where do we want to be?
- How do we get there?
- Are we getting there?

Community Involvement

In 2009, Kempsey Shire Council set out to engage with local communities to identify the hopes, ideals and needs of the local residents that live in Frederickton and Collombatti.

The consultation included a community workshop and online survey with the local community. Many issues and suggestions were raised during the consultations, and resulted in the formation of common visions and identified actions to meet the needs of the future Frederickton and Collombatti community.

Council will respond to the community needs in a number of ways:

- Directly on planning matters and policy direction
- Directly as a service provider
- Collaboratively through partnerships with the community
- Indirectly as an advocate for the community

Community suggestions that have been incorporated into the Local Community Plans will be the subject of further and ongoing dialogue and cooperation between Council and the community. Council will hold community workshops in the future to review and monitor the outcomes and success of the Local Community Plans.

Get Involved

Kempsey Council looks forward to your involvement in the implementation of these Local Community Plans. Contributions or suggestions should be directed to Kempsey Shire Council on 6566 3200.

Frederickton and Collombatti in Focus

Frederickton & Collombatti Today

- Frederickton has a strong local identity and is located on the Pacific Highway approximately 5 kilometres north of Kempsey.
- Collombatti, has close ties with Frederickton, and is located a few kilometres west of Frederickton.
- A hotel and shops exist along the Pacific Highway rely on both local and passing trade.
- The town is predominantly residential with some sport and educational facilities.
- Recreational opportunities are organised sports including golf, netball, soccer, tennis and cricket.
- As part of the Pacific Highway upgrade, the town will be bypassed along with Kempsey, however there will be an off ramp located near the town. Residents are very supportive of the bypass and are looking forward to a reduced flow of traffic through the town.
- The Schools of Arts Hall is in need of expensive repairs, and Council is assisting with these repairs.
- The local abattoir is a major industry in the village.
- An aged care facility is planned for the village, and development has commenced.

Population

The population of Frederickton was 986 in 2006, increasing 7.4% since 2001 or twice the rate of Kempsey Shire population growth. The increasing population is a result of an ageing population and a greater proportion of internal migration to Frederickton from other areas within the Kempsey local government area. Frederickton population is still significantly younger and ageing more slowly than Kempsey Shire, with the average age in Frederickton being 35 in 2006.

The population of Collombatti was 362 in 2006, and the median age was 42 making the people of Collombatti slightly older than the general Kempsey population.

Many of the trends emerging across Australia are also evident in Kempsey, Frederickton and Collombatti, with a decline in families with children and sharp increases in one parent families and couples without children.

Education

The level of education of the population in Frederickton is comparable to Kempsey Shire with 22% of the Frederickton population completing year 12 compared to 21% for Kempsey. Collombatti, by comparison, had 21% of its population completing year 12 which is equivalent to the Kempsey average.

Economy and Employment

The 2001 and 2006 censuses indicate that the Frederickton population is employed in a diverse range of industries. There has been a significant decrease in retail trade employment in Frederickton with a drop from 22.3% in 2001 to 15.3% in 2006. Participation also decreased in property, business and manufacturing, however education, government, construction, wholesale, transport and storage and hospitality have all increased. By comparison the common industries of employment for Collombatti in 2006 were Public Order and Safety Services (6.2%), Residential Care Services (6.2%), School Education (4.7%), and Electrical and Electronic Goods Retailing (3.9%).

Income and Affordability

Average family incomes in Frederickton and Collombatti are slightly higher than those of Kempsey Shire, however average housing repayments are less, indicating a better housing affordability in Frederickton and Collombatti than Kempsey Shire in general. However, average rent is greater in Frederickton and Collombatti than in Kempsey Shire and only 23.1% of dwellings are being rented in Frederickton, and 8.2% in Collombatti as compared with 26.3% in Kempsey Shire.

Services

Both Frederickton and Collombatti have limited infrastructure. Frederickton supports a primary school, post office / newsagency, public hall, sports venues and several retail businesses including a pub and butcher.

For most services and facilities, residents must travel to Kempsey. A bus enroute to South West Rocks operates three to four times a day on weekdays, and twice on Saturdays.

In 2006, 7.5% of households in Frederickton had no vehicle, and all households in Collombatti owned a vehicle. For the residents of Frederickton 71% travelled to work by car as a driver or passenger, while for Collombatti 74% used a car to get to work.

What do the community love about living in Frederickton and Collombatti?

- The community spirit.
- Frederickton has “grown up”.
- Both Frederickton and Collombatti have a unique character.
- The towns are not big like Kempsey, but close enough to access required services.
- It is quiet and peaceful.
- The town has a lot of heart!
- The school.

What are the challenges for Frederickton and Collombatti?

- Children don't have enough to do after school.
- Access throughout the area for children is difficult due to a lack of footpaths.
- Crossing Macleay St is dangerous.
- Residents feel like they live in the shadow of Kempsey.
- Residents are concerned about the construction of the levy (as part of the bypass) and how this will impact visually on Frederickton.

What changes have been seen in Frederickton and Collombatti in the last few years?

- The development of a large aged care facility.
- The bypass will have a positive economic impact on Frederickton.

Community Visions for Frederickton and Collombatti

The community workshop and feedback session that were held in Frederickton drew out the common community visions for the future of the area. Below is an overview of the community visions, and the community suggestions for action.

Community Vision	Community suggestions to be considered
Activities for Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install a skate ramp , BMX track in Frederickton • Investigate upgrading existing sports field complex (suggestions include: improved road access, field surface upgrade, basketball court, football field, swimming pool and cleaning around the centre on vacant blocks) • Upgrading existing Tennis Court facilities
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of more footpaths and cycleways, improve safety. • Investigate the provision of access across Macleay Street in particular for people crossing the Highway from the new Thompsons Nursing Facility
Culture & Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frederickton to develop into a town similar to Gladstone • Art gallery, arts centre, artists in residence • Activities for family and friends who are coming to visit residents at the aged care facility • Increased tourism promotion • Need to plan for what Frederickton will be like after the bypass • Adaptive reuse of the heritage buildings • More utilisation of river for tourists – somewhere to relax, eat and be near river • Promotion of Indigenous culture – playgroup, stage plays • Include Frederickton on Art Trail • Investigate the provision of community markets for Frederickton
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light industrial development so that there are more job opportunities for young people • Encouraging industries that offer apprenticeships • Encourage commercial activities within the CBD of Frederickton including Chemist, Wine bar as part of Cheese Factory, Gourmet Food Centre and Bakery
Town facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate vacant land adjacent to the Frederickton Hotel for a travel rest stop, overnight point for travellers and car park for CBD • Investigate provision of bike racks outside shops in the CBD and the sports fields.

Community Vision	Community suggestions to be considered
Local Government Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Town Prioritisation Committee • Utilise the Town Improvement program
Beautification, Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautification of main street of Frederickton • Improve accessibility to Hall • Conserve heritage of buildings (Post Office, Cheese Factory) • Maintain village atmosphere, ie pub, blues and roots festival • Clean up the Macleay River • Upgrade War Memorial • Increased provision of bins and removal of graffiti at playground • Investigate the placement of a skip bin in the car park of the sports fields • Controlled development, not ad hoc, as the village needs to maintain its identity

The Plan

The Plan has been developed from the outcomes of the community consultation undertaken during 2009. The Plan highlights specific actions to be implemented in order for the community visions to be reached. The timeframe for the plan is 2009 – 2012. Priority ratings were allocated according to the community’s view on how urgently actions needed to be addressed. The priority ratings that have been given to actions are as follows:

- Low Priority - action commenced within 4 years
- Medium Priority – action commenced within 2 years
- High Priority – action commenced with 1 year

The Council role will vary from action to action. The Council role will be one of the following:

- Direct involvement through the provision of services and/or infrastructure
- A collaboration role by teaming with the community and/or relevant industry organisations
- An advocacy role by speaking on the behalf of the community to relevant groups and bodies.

Community Vision	Community suggested actions to be considered	Priority	Council Role	Progress as at 15 October 2010
Activities for Youth	Install a skate ramp, BMX track in Frederickton	Medium	Direct Involvement	Council to determine priority and funding
	Investigate upgrading existing sports field complex (suggestions include: improved road access, field surface upgrade, basketball court, football field, swimming pool and clearing around the centre on vacant blocks)	Low	Direct Involvement / Collaboration with the community	Council to determine priority and funding
	Upgrade existing Tennis Court facilities.	Low	Direct Involvement	Council to determine priority and funding
Accessibility	Undertake needs analysis and construction of more footpaths and cycleways, so as to improve safety	Medium	Direct Involvement	Council to determine priority and funding

Community Vision	Community suggested actions to be considered	Priority	Council Role	Progress as at 15 October 2010
	Investigate the provision of access across Macleay Street in particular for people crossing the Highway from the new Thompsons Nursing Facility	High	Direct Involvement / Collaboration with the community	No further action: Thompson Health Care was requested to consider this action as part of their DA. They indicated that residents would not have a need to cross the highway / road.
Culture & Arts	Development of an art gallery, arts centre, artists in residence	Medium	Advocacy / Collaboration with the community	Council to determine priority and funding
	Activities for family and friends who are coming to visit residents at the aged care facility	High	Advocacy / Collaboration with the community	Council to determine priority and funding
	Increased tourism promotion, via Council's website	High	Direct Involvement	Background Information: The Macleay Valley Coast Tourism Website www.macleayvalleycoast.com.au is the website for tourism promotion. Recommendation Council to determine priority and funding
	Undertake strategic planning process for Frederickton following construction of the bypass	High	Direct Involvement	Commenced: An internal Bypass Committee is currently looking at the implications of the bypass on Kempsey and Frederickton
	Increased utilisation of river for tourism	Low	Advocacy	Council to determine priority and funding
	Adaptive reuse of the heritage buildings	Low	Advocacy	Council to determine priority and funding

Community Vision	Community suggested actions to be considered	Priority	Council Role	Progress as at 15 October 2010
	Creation of a playgroup (for stage plays) to promote Indigenous culture	Low	Advocacy / Collaboration with the community	Council to determine priority and funding
	Include Frederickton on Art Trail	High	Direct Involvement	Background Information: The Arts Trail brochure was developed in conjunction with Nambucca Valley by Economic Development. Currently there is no funding allocated to update the brochure Recommendation: Council to determine priority and funding
	Investigate the provision of community markets for Frederickton	Low	Collaboration with the community	Council to determine priority and funding
	Encourage light industrial development	Low	Direct Involvement (through planning controls)	Council to determine priority and funding
Economic Development	Encourage industries that offer apprenticeships	Low	Advocacy	Council to determine priority and funding
	Encourage commercial activities within the CBD of Frederickton including Chemist, Wine bar as part of Cheese Factory, Gourmet Food Centre and Bakery	Low	Advocacy / Collaboration with the community	Council to determine priority and funding
	Investigation into vacant land adjacent to the Frederickton Hotel for a travel rest stop, overnight point for travellers	Medium	Direct Involvement	Council to determine priority and funding
Town facilities				

Community Vision	Community suggested actions to be considered	Priority	Council Role	Progress as at 15 October 2010
	and car park for CBD			
	Investigate provision of bike racks outside shops in the CBD and the sports fields.	High	Direct Involvement	Council to determine priority and funding
Local Government Consultation	That a Frederickton Town Prioritisation Committee is established	High	Direct Involvement / Collaboration with the community	Council at it's meeting of 13 July 2010 resolved the committee structure for the organisation. All infrastructure issues will be considered by the Goal 3 Infrastructure Committee
	That findings in this plan be incorporated into the Town Improvement Program	High	Direct Involvement / Collaboration with the community	Council at it's meeting of 13 July 2010 resolved the committee structure for the organisation. All infrastructure issues will be considered by the Goal 3 Infrastructure Committee and then prioritised internally
Beautification, Heritage	Beautification of main street of Frederickton	Medium	Direct Involvement	Council to determine priority and funding
	Improve accessibility to the Hall	High	Direct Involvement	Council to determine priority and funding
	Conserve heritage of buildings (Post Office, Cheese Factory)	High	Direct Involvement	The draft Kempsey Based Community Heritage Study lists a number of priorities within Frederickton for conservation. Any development of these

Community Vision	Community suggested actions to be considered	Priority	Council Role	Progress as at 15 October 2010
				buildings would be undertaken in conjunction with the recommendation of this study
	Maintain village atmosphere	High	Advocacy / Collaboration with the community	No action be taken - subjective
	Clean up the Macleay River	Low	Direct Involvement	Council to determine priority and funding
	Upgrade War Memorial	Low	Advocacy / Collaboration with the community	Council to determine priority and funding
	Increased provision of bins and removal of graffiti at playground	High	Direct Involvement	Council to determine priority and funding
	Investigate the placement of a skip bin in the car park of the sports fields	Low	Direct Involvement / Collaboration with the community	Council to determine priority and funding
	Controlled development, not ad hoc, as the village needs to maintain its identity	Medium	Direct Involvement	Commenced: The Kempsey Residential Land Release Strategy incorporating the land release strategy for the whole shire has been on exhibition for the past year. It is hoped that this will be finalised by the end of the calendar year.