

COMMUNITY PLAN  
WEST  
COAST  
2025  
MID-TERM REVIEW SUPPLEMENT







WEST COAST | TAS

**The West Coast Community Plan 2025** (WCCP 2025) developed in 2015, represents a high-water mark of collaboration between the Community and the Council to develop a strategic plan, not just for the West Coast, but for the State. Since the conception of the plan it has provided a list of achievements that the Community, local business, and Council, can be proud of.

**COMPLETE INITIATIVES INCLUDE:**

- Development of a Community Engagement Strategy.
- Development of a Business Case for Strahan Airport.
- Commitment of Record Funding to West Coast Highways.
- Creation of the Aquaculture Hub.
- Development of a Strahan Waterfront Plan.
- Development of an analysis of regional tourism gaps and opportunities through the Destination Action Plan.
- Planning for tourism support through the Destination Action Plan.
- Investigations into potential centers of excellence on the West Coast.
- An improved NBN solution.

- A world class West Coast Brand.
- A focus on Education through the Education Training Advisory Committee that has resulted in millions of dollars of programs and grants here on the West Coast.
- An analysis of gaps in regional healthcare.

*The Local Government Act 1993* requires that the West Coast Council undertake a review of WCCP 2025 as it has now reached its halfway point. This document represents the results of that review. In undertaking the review, it was decided that what the community had said and the vision it articulated would not be changed. This is to recognise the strong community voice in the plan and the commitment Council made to the community.

With the community voice and vision remaining the same the review has focused on the “outcomes” in the plan. The aim of the review was not to change them, but to clarify. The review has worked to clarify the difference between outcomes and actions, to clarify the priority of each action, responsibility for actions, and, the role of the West Coast Council. Some outcomes and actions have been reworded, but only to ensure they were clear and discernible as an outcome or action. Some outcomes and action items have been consolidated to reduce duplication. Finally, action items that were complete have been removed to allow the community and relevant organisations to focus on future activities.

## OUTCOMES | WHAT WE WANT THE WEST COAST TO BE

### Our People Our Community

**WHAT WE SAID:** Our residents share a strong sense of place. We value the character and natural beauty of the area, its stories and history and see opportunity in ensuring these are reflected in the 'look' and 'feel' of the Region. As a community we said we wanted enhanced community wellbeing and quality of life for the people who live and work in our communities on the West Coast.

**OUR VISION:** To be a place where residents & visitors feel safe and connected to their community through access to appropriate and relevant services, activities and facilities.

- 1 The West Coast is accessible and safe for residents and visitors.
- 2 The West Coast is more connected and inclusive.
- 3 On the West Coast people participate in sport, recreation and leisure opportunities.
- 4 The West Coast is supported through the provision of a range of essential social and community services.

### Our People Our Community — Education

**WHAT WE SAID:** Retaining our youth through education provision and employment and training opportunities is of critical importance to our Region.

**OUR VISION:** To be a Community of Learners.

- 5 The West Coast's needs are met through the innovative provision of education.
- 6 The West Coast has a high standard of education facilities and infrastructure available — including schools, libraries and other areas of learning.

### Our People Our Community — Health, Aged Care and Liveable Communities

**WHAT WE SAID:** Our health care services are vitally important.

**OUR VISION:** To be a Healthy and Active Community.

- 7 The West Coast has access to effective medical care.
- 8 The West Coast has appropriate levels of infrastructure to meet the needs of the aged in our community.
- 9 The health and wellbeing of people on the West Coast is maintained or improved.

### Our Economy

**WHAT WE SAID:** The creation of employment opportunities is viewed as the top priority for the West Coast by our community who recognise a strong diverse economic base is a key element that will ensure the future sustainability of the Region. We recognise the two key drivers of our economy are mining and tourism and the benefits they have provided to our community in the past and will continue to provide into the future. We also recognise that the Region needs to strengthen and harness its competitive advantages and diversify its industry sectors by harnessing key emerging and developing industry sectors to ensure a sustainable foundation for future growth. Raising the profile and increasing awareness of the Region's offering will assist in attracting new residents, and investment.

**OUR VISION:** To be a region with a strong and diversified economic base that is recognised as a leading place in Tasmania to live, work and visit.

- 10 The West Coast has a strong economic base.
- 11 The West Coast has a sustainable business sector.
- 12 The West Coast has a diversified economy.

## Our Infrastructure

**WHAT WE SAID:** The provision of infrastructure such as public transport, roads, walking and bike paths, communications and digital networks that enables access for all in our community is highly regarded by our community. As the West Coast is geographically isolated, access to and around the Region is vitally important. The declining population is seen as a real threat to the ongoing sustainability of the Region and the provision of community infrastructure is critical to attracting new residents and businesses to the Region.

**OUR VISION:** To have a sustainable asset and infrastructure base to meet the lifestyle and business needs for residents, visitors and industry.

- 13** The West Coast has well-planned and resourced, assets and infrastructure.
- 14** The West Coast has a safe and reliable transport system to and around the region.
- 15** Infrastructure on the West Coast is sustainable both environmentally and financially.

## Our Environment

**WHAT WE SAID:** We recognise and value our natural assets, which contribute to the lifestyle attributes of the West Coast.

**OUR VISION:** That our natural assets are protected and enhanced for future generations through environmental leadership.

- 16** The West Coast's environmental assets are maintained and preserved for future generations.
- 17** The West Coast has a recognised and preserved historical and cultural heritage.

## Our Partnerships Our Leadership

**WHAT WE SAID:** As a community we recognised that the Plan is about the West Coast's future, a positive step in the right direction. We recognise our past frustrations as a community, however support and acknowledge that the Plan will be achieved through a strong network of partnerships and by fostering relationships. Every individual has a stake in the future of the West Coast. Working together as individuals, groups with all tiers of Government, we all contribute to achieving that future. Our Council is important to the people of the West Coast with the majority of our residents (70%) against amalgamations and view the development of a long-term plan for the Region as demonstrated proactive leadership in the best interest of the community.

**OUR VISION:** To be a community that welcomes and fosters partnerships. To have sound leadership, transparency and inclusive decision-making processes focused on delivering outcomes that best meet the needs of the whole West Coast.

- 18** The West Coast has strong and sound partnerships with Government, stakeholders, community organisations, and industry.
- 19** The West Coast community is connected to and collaborates with the West Coast Council.
- 20** The West Coast is an effective advocate for grants and other support.
- 21** The West Coast has a local government that is well managed, cost effective, operationally efficient and customer focused organisation.



# OUR PRIORITY ACTIONS | WHAT CAN BE DONE?

## A Note on Priorities

Priorities have been divided into three tiers: Critical Actions are the most important and we must undertake these to be successful in our outcomes, Significant Actions, are next tier and are actions that if are not done will make achieving the outcomes difficult; Beneficial Actions are the final tier, and are actions which will provide support to achieving the outcomes.

## Critical actions – without which the outcomes cannot be achieved.

Action No.	Action Item	Primary Responsibility	WCC Action Required (If Any)	Outcomes Supported
1.1	Create and maintain community infrastructure and open spaces that are sustainable.	WCC	Create and Maintain.	3, 13, 15, 16
1.2	Form partnerships to attract skilled medical professionals to the West Coast and Cradle Coast.	State Government	Advocate for and partner with.	7, 18
1.3	Develop strategies and plans that support economic development.	WCC	Develop.	10, 11, 12
1.4	Create and continually improve Council asset management plans and systems.	WCC	Create and improve.	8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21
1.5	Provide aged care that satisfies the needs of our ageing community.	Federal Government	Advocate for.	1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 14, 18, 19, 20.
1.6	Implement a Waste Management Strategy for the West Coast.	WCC	Implement.	9, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21
1.7	The road network meets the economic and social needs of the community.	Road Managers (Including WCC)	Plan, Maintain, Develop.	1, 2, 13, 14, 15.
1.8	Develop realistic and sustainable land use strategies for the Region within state and national frameworks and in consultation with the community.	WCC	Develop.	4, 5
1.9	Advocate on behalf of the West Coast on issues as they arise.	WCC	Advocate.	1-21
1.10	Assess and engage in resource sharing options for the region	WCC	Assess and engage.	13, 21
1.11	Maximise revenue from grants and other income sources to the West Coast.	Community (Including WCC)	Apply for, and support others.	19, 20
1.12	Provide adequate services for the ageing in the community.	Commonwealth Government	Advocate for.	8, 9
1.13	Promote inter-community cooperation and collaboration.	Community Organisations	Support.	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20
1.14	Foster the development of innovative practices in the education sector.	State Government	Advocate, Facilitate and Promote.	5, 6
1.15	Promote and support local industry development initiatives.	WCC	Promote and Support.	10, 11, 12, 18
1.16	Investigate, with State Government and the Federal Government, potential incentives (not necessarily financial) for people to move to and stay in the West Coast for work.	WCC	Investigate.	10, 11, 12, 18
1.17	Coordinate and plan for provision of new infrastructure in the region with a long-term strategic perspective.	Infrastructure managers (including WCC)	Coordinate.	13, 14, 15, 16, 18

## Significant actions – that will have a major impact on achieving the vision or an outcome/outcome.

Action No.	Action Item	Primary Responsibility	WCC Action Required (If Any)	Outcomes Supported
2.1	Create initiatives for the Regions youth.	Community	Promote and Support.	6, 19
2.2	Develop and implement a West Coast Beautification Program and associated Signage Strategy for the Region.	WCC	Develop and Implement.	1, 13
2.3	Provide sport and recreation infrastructure and programs that are relevant and efficient for the widest ranges of ages and abilities.	WCC	Provide and Support.	2, 3, 6, 13
2.4	Encourage best practice collaboration amongst health care providers, UTAS, industry sectors and suppliers inside and outside of the West Coast.	State Government	Advocate for and Facilitate.	18, 20
2.5	Encourage and facilitate greater service provision based on the needs of the region.	WCC	Advocate for.	18, 20
2.6	Ensure the provision of and promote online learning opportunities.	State Government	Advocate for.	5, 6
2.7	Coordinate and promote the education opportunities available on the West Coast.	State Government	Facilitate and Promote.	5, 6
2.8	Facilitate resource sharing and maximise the use of existing educational facilities (private and public).	State Government	Advocate for.	5, 6
2.9	Promote student's awareness of localised employment and career opportunities.	State Government	Advocate and Facilitate.	5, 6
2.10	Identify options for improved public transport in and between towns and villages and accessibility to and from the region generally.	State Government	Advocate for and Facilitate.	1, 2, 3, 4, 14, 15
2.11	Identify and protect investment in existing and planned major infrastructure corridors and sites against encroachment and threat to operation from other land uses and from natural hazards.	Infrastructure owners (including WCC)	Identify and Protect, and, Advocate for.	1, 15, 16, 17
2.12	Ensure ongoing provision of direct international shipping service to and from Tasmania.	Federal and State Governments	Advocate for.	10, 11, 12
2.13	Ensure sewerage systems have enough capacity for current and future growth requirements and comply with environmental standards.	TasWater	Advocate for.	8, 9, 10, 13, 18
2.14	Improve Drinking Water Supply Infrastructure.	TasWater	Advocate for.	8, 9, 10, 13, 18
2.15	Be responsive to environmental issues affecting the West Coast.	WCC	Monitor, Regulate, Advocate.	15, 16
2.16	Identify and preserve of the cultural heritage of the West Coast.	Heritage Tasmania	Advocate for and Support.	5, 15, 17
2.17	Plan for, and adapt to, the impacts of climate change.	State Government – Climate Change Office	Incorporate.	1, 5, 9, 13, 15, 16
2.18	Foster and initiate partnerships between Council and businesses.	WCC	Foster and Initiate.	10, 11, 12

Significant actions – that will have a major impact on achieving the vision or an outcome/outcome (continued) ...

Action No.	Action Item	Primary Responsibility	WCC Action Required (If Any)	Outcomes Supported
2.19	Collaborate with other Councils on a regional and statewide level.	WCC	Collaborate.	1-21
2.20	Develop long term financial planning, management and reporting.	WCC	Develop.	18, 19, 20, 21
2.21	Meet all statutory requirements.	WCC	Meet requirements.	21
2.22	Develop workforce strategies to attract a motivated and skilled Council workforce.	WCC	Develop.	21
2.23	Manage Council resources appropriately.	WCC	Manage.	21

## Beneficial actions – that will have benefits to the achievement of outcomes.

Action No.	Action Item	Primary Responsibility	WCC Action Required (If Any)	Outcomes Supported
3.1	Develop and implement a best practice Emergency Management Framework in partnership with relevant organisations.	State Government	Participate and meet legislated expectations.	18
3.2	Develop appropriate levels of public transport to and from each of the communities especially considering the needs of the less able and socially disadvantaged.	State Government	Advocate for and Support.	1, 14
3.3	Support and create opportunities for inter-community participation.	WCC	Support and Create.	2, 14
3.4	Improve the access to, arts and cultural heritage in the Region.	Community	Promote and Support.	18, 19
3.5	Encourage and recognise volunteering which supports a range of community safety, recreational, sporting and cultural activities.	WCC	Encourage and Recognise.	4, 19
3.6	Assess and support E -health and new technologies, systems and processes in the health care industry.	State Government	Advocate for.	18, 20
3.7	Maintain the high standard of library facilities and services to the community.	State Government	Advocate for.	6, 18
3.8	Provide essential social and community services.	Community	Support.	7, 9
3.9	Enhance and expand business and information networks that increase the exchange of knowledge and encourage partnerships and collaboration between businesses within and across industries.	Business and Industry Groups	Promote and Support	10, 11, 12,



*Beneficial actions – that will have benefits to the achievement of outcomes (continued) ...*

Action No.	Action Item	Primary Responsibility	WCC Action Required (If Any)	Outcomes Supported
3.10	Plan for the provision of serviced commercial, industrial and residential land through appropriate land use planning strategies.	WCC	Plan for.	11
3.11	Advocate for increased resources for business development.	Businesses and Business Groups	Support.	10, 11, 12
3.12	Investigate and attract investors to capitalise local business and product development opportunities.	Businesses and State Government	Advocate for and Support.	10, 11, 12
3.13	Increased draw on the local population for employment.	Businesses and Industry Groups	Advocate for and Support.	10, 11, 12
3.14	Encourage new and existing businesses to incorporate environmentally sustainable practices that minimise environmental impacts and adhere to best practice initiatives.	State Government	Support.	11, 16, 18
3.15	Foster and support partnerships and collaboration between Tourism operators within the Region and regional tourism organisations.	Tourism Organisations (Tasmanian, Regional, Local)	Support.	1, 2
3.16	Advocate on fly-in fly-out and drive-in drive-out worker impacts, and resource boom and bust effects on communities.	WCC	Advocate.	6, 8, 9, 12, 13
3.17	Provide local industry training programs for residents.	State Government	Advocate for.	5, 6, 11, 12, 18, 20
3.18	Road users within the Region demonstrate a high level of road safety awareness.	Community (including Road Users)	Promote.	1, 2, 9
3.19	Support community based environmental protection initiatives.	WCC	Support.	16, 19, 20
3.20	Protect and enhance the Natural Wilderness areas on the West Coast.	State and Federal Government	Advocate for.	2, 16, 17, 18, 20
3.21	Increase community awareness programs on efficient energy management practices.	State Government	Support.	4, 5, 9, 15, 16



