

Summary of Submissions

The following tables provide a summary of the 16 submissions received and the response from Council and any recommended changes to the draft Ageing Strategy. The draft MidCoast Ageing Strategy was on exhibition from 14 October to 23 November 2021 and in total there were seven formal submissions and nine survey responses received.

Summary of Formal Submissions	Response and recommendation
<p>1 On the Draft MidCoast Ageing Strategy:</p> <p>Housing Choices should seek assistance from the State Government and the Disability Services. This seems to be a somewhat extended strategy with no real promise of achieving an outcome soon. This is a real issue.</p> <p>Getting Around Strategies could involve cycling groups and walking groups for a more comprehensive approach.</p> <p>Inclusive Communities Strategies should include the Dementia Peakbody for valuable advice on ground/floor surfaces and colours to reduce confusion.</p>	<p>Council acknowledges that housing availability and affordability is a huge issue in the MidCoast, as it is across NSW and the rest of Australia. Local Government has limited capacity and influence to fix this.</p> <p>Dementia Australia is an important stakeholder and is included in the document in the 'Who else can help' column in the Health and Wellbeing focus area of the Strategy. However, the submission makes a valid point about also including them in the 'Inclusive Communities' focus area.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include Dementia Australia in the 'Who else can help' column in the Inclusive Community focus area of the Strategy under 'The MidCoast is accessible and inclusive to everyone, including older people' objective.</p>
<p>2 My recommended additions to the draft strategy are:</p> <p>Page 17 Housing Choices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to lobby NSW Department of Housing and local state member to provide low rent public housing to satisfy the current and future waiting lists for public housing in LGA • Council to consider developing some of its surplus land to construct affordable retirement housing for aged people retirees, low income families, homeless and disabled members of the community. <p>Page 22 Inclusive Community Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to consider providing financial and marketing assistance to local clubs such as Great Lakes Art Society, Bridge Club, Arts and Crafts etc to assist their ongoing viability and ability to expand building assets (originally funded by club members) to suit increasing demand from the increasing aged population. . Council to meet with the subject clubs to assess their needs and to work cooperatively to assist in relevant grant applications <p>It would be great if you could please ring or email me to discuss these recommendations.</p>	<p>As above – local Government has limited influence in housing provision. Council can and does lobby for the provision of public housing but does not have any surplus land that is appropriate for development and this is not Council's core business.</p> <p>Council is unable to provide funding to these clubs as it sets a precedent and it is not viable to provide funding to every interest club in the MidCoast area, of which there are hundreds. There is funding available for community organisations through Council's Community Donations program. Registering on Grant Guru through Council's website ensures community groups are aware of all other funding opportunities. Council staff are available to provide advice and assistance with grant applications and Council regularly runs free grant workshops for community groups.</p> <p>MidCoast Council's Destination Management team provides marketing support to community organisations and regularly runs capacity building workshops and webinars –videos of which are available on Council's website.</p>

Summary of Formal Submissions		Response and recommendation
		Recommendation: Include an objective, corresponding actions and measures, to the Inclusive Communities focus area; 'Provide information and raise awareness of Destination Management resources, webinars and workshops.'
3	<p>The Tea Gardens / Hawks Nest area has two issues concerning poor development that detract from inclusive community strategies:</p> <p>1. There is no "village" atmosphere.</p> <p>The twin suburbs of Hawks Nest and Tea Gardens have numerous small and divided amenity hubs, each without critical mass: the Coles shopping area; the shopping area divided by Myall Street, The Marine Drive area around the pub; the Hawks Nest IGA area, Booner Street Benchmark and Surf Club, not to mention facilities off-limit to non-residents in housing estates. Singing Bridge is dangerous to cross by bicycle and Myall Street is a major access road through Tea Gardens that divides shopping areas without a pedestrian crossing. Both residents and businesses suffer. The recommendation is that the council strategy be less nebulous and specifically addresses how these areas can be brought together.</p> <p>2. Exclusive Community Housing Developments</p> <p>Council approved housing developments such as Palm Lakes and now Perry's Cove make this situation worse by creating their own private facilities. Palm Lakes has shut out non-residents and Perry's Cove is non-committal on whether they will allow others access to their exclusive community facilities. Council should require inclusive community strategies for development approval.</p>	<p>MidCoast Council has an adopted 'Footpath Activities in Town Centres' policy which encourages business owners to activate their area. Council also provides support through the Economic Development team to do this.</p> <p>The Singing Bridge is listed as a project in the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan / Bike Plan and Council is actively pursuing designs for improvement at this location. Proposed marked pedestrian crossings are assessed against warrants which are set by Transport for NSW and Austroad standards. These warrants require a certain number of vehicle and pedestrian movements before crossings are permitted. Myall Street has been assessed multiple times and unfortunately has not met the requirements.</p> <p>The housing developments referred to are private developments on private land and access is restricted accordingly – this is the gated community concept. If people want access to these types of facilities, they need to purchase into the gated community.</p> <p>MidCoast Council's Community Participation Plan sets out how Council engages with the community about development applications. It is being reviewed this year (2022) and this feedback will be fed into the revision process.</p> <p>Recommendation: Feedback regarding Council's community engagement strategies for development approvals will be provided to the Community Participation Plan review.</p>
4	<p>If council want to encourage more older people to move here unless they have a lot of money they will be a bit out of town. That means they need to drive everywhere. A lot of them are really bad drivers with slower reflexes. Our roads aren't capable of supporting too many more cars, eg Head St + bridge in Forster. Worse than Sydney in tourist times. The Lakesway north from Tuncurry. Always stuck behind someone doing 65 in their barina and no chance to overtake. Intersection of (from) Failford Rd & Lakesway. Drivers are too nervous to turn right and hold up traffic. A lot have no idea how to use a</p>	<p>Council has no influence over the property market. The roads mentioned are under the care and control of Transport for NSW. Council will continue to advocate for works at these identified locations.</p> <p>Recommendation: No change</p>

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<p>roundabout, eg stop in the middle and give way to waiting vehicles or too nervous to venture onto the roundabout. So we really need to address road usage before even thinking about cramming more old people in. There is never going to be enough public transport, it will always be cars. I noted a lot of the solutions for objectives started with “seek funding” so not going to happen. Maybe we need to rely more on volunteers to run workshops as a lot have skills and a spare day a week. That would minimise training and make them feel useful which is very important. Disc: I am 72.</p>	
<p>5 For this section I refer to the table. Under the area "Who can help". Educational institutions can also help. They always need mentors and retired teachers to assist students with academic skills. I recommend that you add them in here under the Chamber of Commerce. This also aligns with the Economic Development strategy around education and skills development.</p>	<p>Agree with this comment</p> <p>Recommendation: Add ‘Education institutions’ to Working and Retiring focus area of the Strategy under the ‘Build capacity within local businesses and community groups’ objective.</p>
<p>6 These are my comments regarding several of the strategies you have indicated in your document.</p> <p><u>Health & Wellbeing Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambulance Stations to be closer to smaller towns / villages. In Harrington the ambulance either comes from Taree or Port from what I believe – not very satisfactory. • Medical Centres should be open over the weekends, especially where there is a high older population. <p><u>Getting Around Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You say 89% older people use cars – well that is now. What about in 1 years’ time or 2 years? Some of these “old” people should not be driving, they are okay around their village but certainly not if they drive from Harrington to Taree or Port. Most of the time they are frightened to turn onto the highway, and this can cause a build-up. • 65% say inadequate/dangerous footpaths. Can I say or even NO footpaths. There are footpaths that start on one side of the road and then at the next street its on the opposite side. With no pedestrian crossings it can be a challenge to get across the road. Some of the younger people drive like the road is a racetrack and don’t really consider anyone other than getting where they want to go. • 31% say better Public Transport. I have lived in Harrington for nearly 8 years and every time I want to go to Sydney by train, I have to ask someone to drive me. I could drive but no place to leave my car safely in Taree. For me to catch the morning train in Taree I would have to catch the 	<p>Council cannot influence the opening hours of medical centres as they are privately owned. Some centres receive Federal funding to be open over the weekends. Likewise, Council cannot influence the location of ambulance stations as this is the jurisdiction of NSW Health.</p> <p>The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan was developed to identify the priority paths in each locality and is the basis for seeking funding to action the works.</p> <p>Throughout the consultation period, feedback was received from people in more than 60 communities across the MidCoast. This feedback was used to develop the Ageing Strategy and the Strategy aims to benefit all communities across the MidCoast.</p> <p>Opal Cards are unable to be used as the transport companies in the MidCoast are privately owned. Opal Cards are a Transport NSW initiative.</p> <p>It is not within Council’s scope to provide public transport; however, Council can lobby for better provision of services. Feedback from the community highlighted the need for more public transport options across the local government area and this data will be used to advocate where appropriate.</p> <p>Recommendation: No change</p>

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<p>bus from Harrington the evening before. Not sure how one would get to Port Macquarie Airport if needed to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be great to see more quantifiable measurements for these 3 Strategies especially. • As MCC has such a large area it is hard to know which regions/towns these strategies relate to. I am sure that each area will have different requirements, so any of my comments really relate to me and my area. • Public Transport needs to be co-ordinated with the train timetables in Taree, Gloucester, Wingham etc. • We should also be able to use the OPAL card. <p>Anyway, these are my comments and I hope they are of some help.</p>	
<p>7 Mid Coast Council Ageing Strategy 2021-2025</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>This submission is made on behalf of Arts Mid North Coast (AMNC). Arts Mid North Coast is the peak body for arts and cultural development across the Mid North Coast region of New South Wales, a region of over 325,000 residents in six local government areas, including Mid Coast Council. AMNC is an Incorporated Society with a Management Committee of six representatives appointed by the local Councils and six community members with a range of skills and involvement in arts and culture. One of 14 Regional Arts Development Organisations throughout the State this Network plays an important advocacy role for regional issues.</p> <p>Our Vision for the Region is <i>to ensure the Mid North Coast is a vibrant and diverse region embracing the creation, understanding and appreciation of the arts in fostering economic, community, cultural and environmental opportunities and benefits.</i></p> <p>An important characteristic of our region is its ageing population indeed it has one of the oldest demographic structures in Australia. To meet this challenge Arts Mid North Coast has been very active, with the support of Mid Coast Council in highlighting the benefits of creative ageing programs. Indeed we now have the first Regional Creative Ageing Plan in Australia.</p> <p>https://artsmidnorthcoast.com/projects/creative-ageing/mid-north-coast-creative-ageing-plan/ plus numerous other initiatives and actions, https://artsmidnorthcoast.com/projects/creative-ageing/</p> <p><u>The Mid North Coast Creative Ageing Festival has been recognised by the Baring Foundation in London as one of the 80 projects in the world it has featured while our SmartArt Creative Ageing Resources and our Creative Ageing Notebook have highlighted best practice examples from around the world.</u></p> <p>We congratulate and support Council on the excellent content and vision shown in the draft Ageing Strategy 2021 -2025 and make the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Strategy is central to enhancing the wellbeing of residents and liveability indices. 	<p>Council welcomes the suggestions and feedback from Arts Mid North Coast and takes into consideration comments relating to the importance of the Draft Ageing strategy to Council and recommended resources provided. Council also acknowledges that Arts Mid North Coast is an important stakeholder in the Creative Ageing Sector.</p> <p>Recommendation: Include Arts Mid North Coast and the Manning Regional Art Gallery in the ‘who else can help’ column in the Health and Wellbeing focus area of the Strategy under ‘Promote opportunities for Creative Ageing activities’.</p>

Summary of Formal Submissions	Response and recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Strategy once approved should more closely be reflected in other strategic documents of Council. (See below) • The Strategy once approved could then be further enhanced in future years by more specific criteria, measures and funded projects and proposals. Arts Mid North Coast has through its Creative Ageing SmartArt resources and Plan further information and material that could expand and inform the Actions set out in Councils Strategy at pages 12.13, 21 and 22 e.g. our Reportage Policy for media • Mid Coast Council may find value in considering the many Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plans (MPHWP) that have been prepared by Councils in Victoria. The MPHWP sets the broad mission, goals and priorities to enable people living in the municipality to achieve maximum health and wellbeing. In preparing a health and wellbeing plan, the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 requires council MPHWP's to be consistent with the corporate plan of the council and the council land use plan required by the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) • Considerable assistance may also be found in strategic documents and guides used by local government in Victoria including: https://www.mav.asn.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/7083/Age-friendly-cities-and-communities-information-kit-for-local-government-Jul-2017.pdf <p>MidCoast Cultural Plan 2036</p> <p>As noted above to give full recognition of the value of the Ageing Strategy the principles recognised need to be reflected in all Council Strategic documents. There is very little if any in the recently approved Mid Coast Cultural Plan. This is now seen as more important with the 2021 release by the NSW Government of the NSW Creative Ageing Framework 2031</p> <p>The NSW Creative Ageing Framework has been developed to promote an increase in opportunities for creative participation among older people across NSW. It aims to help prepare government, the creative and cultural sector, the aged services sector and the community to meet an increasing need for services and age-friendly communities. The framework's objectives include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enhance the profile of creative ageing programs in NSW • show that creative ageing practice is relevant to a wide range of stakeholders • acknowledge the importance of sharing information and learning from good practice • endorse collaborative relationships and formal partnerships between stakeholders to increase resources for sustainable creative ageing programs. 	

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	<p>The framework has the ultimate aim of supporting older people in NSW to age well, to experience the benefits of living longer, and to enjoy opportunities to participate in, contribute to and be included in their communities. It encourages awareness of ways that participation might be promoted and how programs might be best designed.</p> <p>The three key focus areas set out in the framework are essential to future action to develop and provide sustainable and successful creative ageing programs across NSW: promoting awareness and participation; resourcing and sustaining programs; and collaborations and partnerships.</p> <p>The framework provides a broad overview, based on the NSW Ageing Strategy's approach that responding to the ageing population is everyone's business, including all levels of government, the private sector, not-for-profit organisations, communities and individuals.</p> <p>Arts Mid North Coast looks forward to working with Mid Coast Council as it progresses the options and opportunities provided by this invaluable report.</p>	

Summary of Feedback Survey Responses		Response and Recommendation
Section of Strategy: Health and Wellbeing		
Score/100	Why did you give this score?	
40	There needs to be a greater connection with NSW Health in promoting healthy ageing. For example, some existing community groups could facilitate NSW Health to deliver a range of community education programs and events in areas of high concentration of Seniors. We never see NSW Health out in the community connecting and providing information to groups of seniors. Myall U3A would be happy to facilitate this.	Council has no influence over the activities of NSW Health, however Council is represented by the Community Development team at Local Health Committee meetings and can provide this feedback. Recommendation: No change
40	This has been written as though all objectives have been met which isn't the case.	The wording for the measures indicates when that strategy has been implemented and is successful. Recommendation: No change
90	In the draft it mentions the need for older people to stay healthy and have active lifestyle. The need for a continual and safe cycle/pathway in Forster, separate from road traffic should be a priority. To not have to rely on a car to get around would be a huge bonus. Also, a good thing for the environment.	The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan was developed to identify the priority paths in each locality and is the basis for seeking funding to action the works. Recommendation: No change
90	Ageing and health and well-being has to be very important for our twilight years to give more lifestyle.	Agreed but no suggestions made for improving the document. Recommendation: No change
20	too vague	No suggestions made for improvement. Recommendation: No change

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70	I don't know what is meant by community development	This is the name of the relevant section of Council responsible for this action. Recommendation: No change
50	Generally, one size may not fit all	Agree with comment Recommendation: No change
50	There does not appear much consideration for people with a disability. Also, despite the availability of a large number of aged Care organisations, most are not based in the area & work on a sub contract basis.	MidCoast Council has a Disability Inclusion Action Plan which is designed to focus on people living with disability in the region. Council has no influence over how Aged Care organisation are run as they are privately owned. Aged Care organisations must comply with rigorous accreditation processes. Recommendation: No change
60	Community nursing / home healthcare services are a wonderful and essential support service to provide elders' health needs in their own homes	Agree with comment Recommendation: No change

Summary of Feedback Survey Responses		Response and Recommendation
Section of Strategy: Working and Retiring		
Score/100	Why did you give this score?	
60	No Focus on working into the later years of life. With the high unemployment rate and increase in casual work there are no incentives or focus on engaging mature aged workers to 'fill the gaps'. Research necessary to identify income and wealth issues in later life. Eg some seniors would love to top up their savings or pensions by doing casual work! 'Wouldn't that be a great solution to our current economic dilemma'!	Employment is a Federal Government responsibility. Council cannot influence outcomes in this space. The Department of Education, Skills and Employment provides all funding packages to promote incentives such as that suggested, for example, the Restart Program, to encourage the employment of mature workers. Recommendation: No change
50	As above	As above Recommendation: No change
50	Retired after working for 40 years, hobbies and volunteering interest me.	Council's Community Directory might help to identify opportunities. Recommendation: No change
50	I am not interested in working due to age and disability, I have been retired for 19 yrs need lifestyle to enjoy.	Council's Community Directory might help to identify lifestyle activities. Recommendation: No change
20	too vague	Recommendation: No change
70	our area has to be recognised as having the highest over 65 year old and so activities and environments need to match that	Agreed – The Ageing Strategy aims to address this; however, the provision of activities and environments is not entirely Council's responsibility. The 'Who else can help' column in the Strategy identifies other agencies that can impact and improve this. Recommendation: No change

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50	Age is an inaccurate measurement , health and physical capacity is more reliable	It is not possible to measure health and physical capacity. Age is the most convenient measurement and is the only data Council has access to. Recommendation: No change
50	Transport requirements outside the major town is poor & it is necessary to travel long distances in order to get to centres where work exists.	Council does not provide public transport. Council will continue to lobby for improved service provision in the MidCoast area. Recommendation: No change
70	Small business ownership should be continually promoted as it allows owner and family to stay involved in it as owners get older. Ageing employees can also be involved, but to a lesser extent than owners. The more small businesses in the LGA the better for ageing participation in the workforce. Farmers, retail, manufacturing, service providers, all can safely and productively include older people beyond retirement age if wanted.	Most businesses in the MidCoast Council area are small businesses. Council's Economic Development team provides support and small businesses should consider joining their local Chamber of Commerce. Recommendation: No change

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Section of Strategy: Housing Choices		
Score/100	Why did you give this score?	
50	With the legislation for not allowing homes to have modifications subsidised, more people will have to go into managed care. And this will lead to isolation and over reliance on aged care sector and people living in their homes being more vulnerable to falls etc and over reliance on our stretched Health Services!	Housing diversity: A wide range of housing is permissible in our residential zones and we have flexible residential zones to help achieve housing diversity. Council needs developers to put development applications in and take up these opportunities. The Housing SEPP - https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Housing/Housing-SEPP - introduces a number of new types of development, including co-living housing which is small private rooms, complemented by shared indoor and outdoor spaces which encourage residents to come together to relax and socialise. A big challenge is encouraging the private sector and developers to utilise this new legislation to provide a variety of housing options. Recommendation: No change
60	As above	As above Recommendation: No change
80	Depending on your health and mobility will determine the need change housing.	Some aged care packages can help with home modifications to enable ageing in place. Recommendation: No change
80	As aging & disability has been a big point in the community, I think there is a need for more affordable private villas in a community setting for downsizing at an affordable rate. Note some places are too expensive for older aged people after they sell their homes. The simple easier living	Council is aware of the need for greater diversity in housing stock, and the growing trend for lifestyle living. Council has examined future residential zones to be applied across the MidCoast and tried to provide increased flexibility, so a range of housing outcomes can be provided.

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		Downsizing can be achieved by developing over-sized residential blocks in towns like Taree, Wingham and Bulahdelah, while towns like Forster, Tuncurry, Old Bar and Tea Gardens can provide sites that can be redeveloped for multi-story apartments. Recommendation: No change
20	needs some substance	No suggestions made Recommendation: No change
80	there are many who need low cost rentals	NSW Department of Communities and Justice is responsible for providing social/community housing. While they undertook extensive housing developments in Taree around 2010, there has been limited development for several years. Council will continue to lobby for affordable housing, where appropriate. Recommendation: No change
50	Downsizing is but one alternative, choosing to stay in existing accommodation surrounded by friends and community is most important	Aged care packages can assist with this. Recommendation: No change
50	There is little thought given to housing developments to reduce the cost of living. Most new houses are developed to use air-conditioning in order to maintain the insulated boxes we now call homes, there are no trees left in most developments so no possible use of natural shade or use of the sun to heat the building using Thermal Mass. Many areas do not have decent access roads and so are fire prone.	When designing a new residential building in NSW, the Building Sustainability Index (BASIX) needs to be addressed. It sets performance requirements for residential development concerning greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption and thermal comfort. The BASIX is a minimal requirement. Landowners can always implement more design features to further control the heating/cooling of their building to reduce the need for air conditioners. The removal of trees during the construction of residential subdivisions is always difficult, given the impacts associated with building roads, sewage, water and stormwater connections and dwellings. Council is looking to improve vegetation clearing controls through the new MidCoast Development Control Plan, which will be developed over 2022. While subdivisions have landscaping requirements, they can take years to establish and provide the shade benefits. Bushfire assessments are an important consideration for new subdivisions. The problem is often retrofitting existing towns. Council and landowners work with the Rural Fire Service to have in place preventative measures for bushfires. Recommendation: No change
100	Usually (not just now) there are reasonable numbers of new homes being built, older ones being renovated throughout the LGA. Rentable homes are usually available and are far more affordable than in the big cities to the South.	There is a housing shortage across NSW and the MidCoast is feeling the effects. There has been an increase in property purchases, particularly from people in the metropolitan areas, which have increased property

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	<p>Future minimum lot size of Rural land sees Gloucester locality being decreased from 100 ha to 40 ha that will be developed over time to provide more semirural lifestyle blocks that provide a house and an active lifestyle for the older people who hopefully by then have saved enough to buy and develop them.</p> <p>Coastal hinterland is yet to be fully developed so should also provide future house sites.</p> <p>The increasing sea / tree change drift helps bring in people with fresh ideas, money to invest and spend, and thankfulness to have discovered the serenity and space here on the MidCoast. They arrive wanting to be part of social activities, small business, community groups etc and help to provide capital to build housing and affording the expense to be attractive for more retirement homes and nursing homes. (as in Gloucester just of late)</p> <p>I have no knowledge of commission homes' availability, perhaps more is needed?</p>	<p>prices significantly and reduced the availability of rentals. The housing losses from the bushfires and floods further reduced our housing stock, and increased the demand on tradespeople to repair and rebuild homes. Council will continue to work with the development industry and the NSW Government to increase the provision of housing across the MidCoast. Future minimum lot size of Rural land sees Gloucester locality being decreased from 100 ha to 40 ha that will be developed over time to provide more semirural lifestyle blocks that provide a house and an active lifestyle for the older people who hopefully by then have saved enough to buy and develop them.</p> <p>It is agreed that there are benefits from people moving to the MidCoast area and contributing to the community activities and increasing the need for additional services and facilities. The current issue is that the demand for housing for people moving into this area outweighs the supply. Council will continue to work with the development industry and the NSW Government to increase the provision of housing across the MidCoast to meet this demand.</p> <p>NSW Department of Communities and Justice is responsible for providing social/community housing. While they undertook extensive housing developments in Taree around 2010, there has been limited development for several years.</p> <p>Recommendation: No change</p>

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Section of Strategy: Getting Around		
Score/100	Why did you give this score?	
40	<p>With poor appropriate transport for seniors and most services located in regional CBD's it is much harder for people to get around. Also, infrastructure planning should work closer with community to provide age appropriate facilities for seniors to access. Greater consultation and connectivity to community would lead to communities that are accessing and connecting to people and services.</p>	<p>It is not within Council's scope to provide public transport; however, Council can lobby for better provision of services. Feedback from the community highlighted the need for more public transport options across the local government area and this data will be used to advocate where appropriate.</p> <p>The Ageing Strategy, and the Disability Inclusion Action Plan aim to improve this where possible and within Council's sphere of influence.</p>

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		Recommendation: No change
10	This is disgraceful especially given the aging population. There are few public transport options in Forster and reading the draft it looks highly unlikely there will be any. Again, it's written as though things are being done and advocacy as needed. Not good enough and changes very little.	It is not within Council's scope to provide public transport; however, Council can lobby for better provision of services. Feedback from the community highlighted the need for more public transport options across the local government area and this data will be used to advocate where appropriate. Recommendation: No change
90	With a shared cycle/pathway separate from road traffic a lot of Forster could be covered without the need for a car. A fast train From Taree to Sydney would be huge game changer for the region and becoming more and more patronized over time.	The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan was developed to identify the priority paths in each locality and is the basis for seeking funding to action the works. Recommendation: No change
90	Need for more community transport as there is a lot of older people giving up their driving independence So they need the security to go to Drs shopping, outings at an affordable and reasonable amount, not like some company's charge.	Council does not have influence over community transport options, as they are privately owned businesses or funded by Government departments. Recommendation: No change
20	Affects all community members not just ageing. Total lack of footpaths in many area and transport is poor intra & inter regional	The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan was developed to identify the priority paths in each locality and is the basis for seeking funding to action the works. Recommendation: No change
50	As many drivers are about the area the roads need to be maintained well to assist the aging drivers. There are many who like riding pushbikes in this area so again the roads need to be maintained, bike paths provided and more curb and guttering needed	Road renewal and maintenance programs are prioritised around high-use / high-risk roads. Recommendation: No change
30	Inefficient local / community transport Duplication courtesy transport supplied by licenced club as a service to members. Needs Coordinated approach.	Council does not have influence over this as the service clubs are privately owned. Recommendation: No change
50	Insufficient roads & community bus services once outside towns. No footpaths or cycleways in most areas.	Council does not provide public transport; however, Council will continue to advocate where possible. The Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan was developed to identify the priority paths in each locality and is the basis for seeking funding to action the works. Road renewal and maintenance programs are prioritised around high-use / high-risk roads Recommendation: No change
100	Agree with the paper	Recommendation: No change

Summary of Feedback Survey Responses		Response and Recommendation
Section of Strategy: Inclusive Communities		
Score/100	Why did you give this score?	
30	State funding is very very hard to access for seniors' services and programs. And non for profits do a valuable job of increasing access to services, increasing links to people and generally keeping people connected. Smaller non- for-profit community-based services like U3A should be provided Federal funding to sustain them and to continue to fill a gap in community-based services that meet a greater need.	Council does not have any influence over State or Federal funding. Council has funding opportunities available through the Community Donations program and Grant Guru (available through Council's website) identifies other opportunities. Recommendation: No change
50	As above	As above Recommendation: No change
60	Nice to have inclusive communities.	This Strategy aims to improve this where possible. Recommendation: No change
80	I think being in touch with Community is very important to keep up with digital future and social life.	Council continues to improve engagement with the community and find new ways to provide information. Recommendation: No change
30	pretty general again	No suggestions for improvement. Recommendation: No change
80	you can't please everyone!	Recommendation: No change
30	Important to retain inclusive communities, not the developer profit motive faculties that currently are allowed	This Strategy aims to improve this where possible. Recommendation: No change
50	Insufficient public information on what is available, there should be a more than once a year activity by council.	Council produces a weekly e-newsletter to update subscribers on Council business and projects. Council also has a Community Directory with information about health and wellbeing services available in the area. Council continues to improve engagement with the community and find new ways to provide information and seek feedback. Recommendation: Include an objective, corresponding actions and measures, to the Inclusive Communities focus area; 'Reach a wider audience/percentage of the community with Council's e-newsletter'
70	Lots happens in Gloucester for oldies. Am not sure about over on the coast	Recommendation: No change

Summary of Feedback Survey Responses	Response and Recommendation
Do you have any further comments?	
Follow up and more Council driven connectivity plans and activities to strengthen the relationship and reduce barriers between local Government and communities. Higher profile and Commitment from MCC.	Council's Community Strategic Plan recognises our communities are diverse in their needs and aspirations and Council recognises it needs to work with communities in ways that are meaningful to them. Council continues to improve engagement with the community and find new ways to provide information and seek feedback. Recommendation: No change
The draft doesn't recommend any concrete or practical steps that the council is taking to make things better for the community. Very disappointing and meaningless document wasting everyone's time.	Many of the issues raised are outside of Council's scope and therefore there is little Council can do other than advocate. Where Council can make a difference, the strategies are more robust. Recommendation: No change
Hospital system needs should be meet to cope with the increase in the population and ageing people.	Council will continue to give feedback to the Local Health Committees and advocate for increased access to health services in the area. Recommendation: No change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The 25 page publication is difficult to read due to the nature of the font chosen? Appears very feint right from p3. * P.24 thankyou is not one word it is two. * I would hardly describe it as a "comprehensive action plan" - much of it is nonspecific and the measurements are vague and often non-quantifiable. * The services etc required are often outside the scope of local government control. Need more action at federal and state levels. Which means more funding and the likelihood of this eventuating is low? * Many of the issues/matters affecting an ageing community actually affect the whole community. * re inclusion - collate info about ALL currently existing organisations/groups/programs available for the 55+ * I don't recognise anyone in the photos. Are they stock images or? 	It is important to Council that documents are accessible, and this feedback is appreciated. Council will make changes to make it more legible. Many of the issues raised are outside of Council's scope and therefore there is little Council can do other than advocate. Where Council can make a difference, the strategies are more robust. These are complex issues requiring significant funding and resourcing. This Strategy is a piece of a bigger picture and does not aim to solve all issues overnight. Recommendation: Change font if necessary
<p>Since amalgamation the local understanding controls seems to have been lost Eg Gloucester had six or more councillors , now we have one representative after amalgamation. One size fits all , does certainly not apply in the smaller rural communities, where large local government is not the answer when community and their occupants are concerned Uninformed too far away from understanding</p>	Agree that one size does not fit all. Council was pleased to have a spread of responses from many communities across the LGA and has developed an Ageing Strategy that aims to benefit communities across the MidCoast. Recommendation: No change
Make the most of the current city to rural regions drift and hope to attract more retirees with their enthusiasm for the regions, their capital released from sale of city homes at ridiculous prices and their desire to see the regions lift up a bit to be better services and communities	Council continues to plan for population increase. Recommendation: No change

Survey Questions:

Q1. How well do you think each priority meets the identified needs of the MidCoast community?

(scale responses below)

Health and wellbeing (pages 11-12):

Why?

Working and retiring (page 15)

Why?

Housing choices (page 17)

Why?

Getting around (page 19)

Why?

Inclusive communities (pages 21-22)

Why?

Q2. Do you have any further comments or suggestions for the Draft MidCoast Ageing Strategy 2022-2026?