

Creating a Vision for the future

Visioning is the process that a community can use to imagine the **future** it desires and plan how to achieve it. Maroochy **2025** will bring residents together from across the Shire to develop a shared image of what they want their community to become.

Through visioning, the community will be able to:

- > identify the trends and forces that are shaping the community;
- > better understand the values of the Shire;
- > develop a shared vision and set of community driven goals; and incorporate all this into planning and policy.

The Process



The Maroochy **2025** public participation process commenced in April 2003 with over 200 people gathering at the University of the Sunshine Coast to hear about and consider the need for the Maroochy Shire to create its vision for **2025**. The community overwhelmingly responded that there is a need for a vision. The visioning process adopted by Maroochy **2025** follows the Oregon Model used by Oregon, USA to establish their vision through four key stages designed to answer the four key questions detailed in the process chart (left).

The Vision

The project will enter Stage 2 in February 2004 where, through extensive public participation, a draft vision will be developed and validated based on what the community would prefer Maroochy to look like in the future rather than the probable scenario. This public participation will be undertaken through a series of community workshops across the region in February, focus groups, surveys and a Summit to validate the vision in April 2004.

Profile and Trends

The Maroochy **2025** visioning process is currently in Stage 1, assessing where we are now and where we are going if we continue on the same path. A profile of the community has been developed to identify the characteristics of the local area in terms of geography, natural resources, population, demographics, employers and labour force and political and community institutions. A probable scenario for Maroochy Shire in the year 2025 is currently being developed based on current and projected trends and their potential impact on the community.



Action plan

It is anticipated that the Maroochy **2025** vision will be completed by June 2004. This will lead into the third and final stage of Maroochy **2025** which will focus on how this preferred vision will be achieved, through developing actions plans to pave the way to the future the community desires. The established community vision will have a direct impact on the future of the Shire and will provide a community directed roadmap for the operations of Maroochy Shire Council. The outcomes of the Maroochy 2025 visioning project will significantly contribute to the development of Council's corporate plan which will set the direction for Council into the future and will impact on planning, policy, programs and services across the Shire.

The Community Task Force

A Community Task Force has been established for Maroochy **2025** consisting of 32 people from across the Shire aged 11 to 70 years of age who will work with the community to record their dreams for the future and prepare the draft vision for the community to consider.

Members of the Task Force (pictured below) are:

Russell Warner, Jade Rufford, Phillip Woods, David Coleman, Deb Voss, David Norris, Jim Irwin, Jocelyn Hahn, Ken Lyons, Mark Clissold, Bonnie Lindsay, Brendan Robbins, May Gallagher, Nicole Hunter, Tina Lathouras, Scott Patterson, David Brown, Leonore Lancaster, Lea Wiggins, Barbara Haddon, Ron Jones, Des Ritchie, Rob Matchett, Robert McNamara, Lee Campbell, Lauren Simpson, Amanda Poeppmann, Denise Daffara, Danny Stevens, Francis Howes, Gregory Black, Zac Ansley.



Francis Howes has been nominated to be the Spokesperson for the Community Task Force. Francis lives in Coolool and works as Director of Teaching and Learning at the Coolool Sunshine Institute of TAFE. As a long term resident of the Shire, Francis has extensive networks and experience in a number of fields as an educator, business person and community worker. Francis was recently awarded the 'Outstanding Sunshine Coast Business Woman of the Year' and is strongly committed to the development of the community vision. Francis said "for Maroochy **2025** to have real impact, 'ordinary' members of the community like myself need to get involved. In doing so, the ownership of the project lives with the community and has greater potential for overall acceptance."



Community Values Survey

484 residents of the Shire have recently been surveyed by the Maroochy **2025** project to understand their values, attitudes, perceptions and expectations. The results are still being analysed, however the three top responses to the current strengths and weaknesses of the Shire are shown in the graphs pictured right. A second survey will be completed in Stage 2 and will validate the draft vision statement, its goals, key initiatives and priorities. The surveys are being completed via telephone so if you receive a phone call in May 2004 please help by answering the questions and play a vital role in the process

