

# Federal Village MASTERPLAN

## Vision, principles, charater statement and actions

**Final draft for review**

Prepared by  
Federal Village Masterplan Steering Committee  
November 2021

In association with  
Byron Shire Council



Federal Community  
Centre

# VISION

Federal village is a welcoming and inclusive meeting place, with people and nature at its heart. We embrace our rural village lifestyle within the hinterland, and champion a future where our community flourishes, with each generation.

## PRINCIPLES

### **A vibrant people**

We are bound by our strong sense of community, where diversity and creativity are celebrated, and our neighbourhoods are safe and welcoming for all.

### **A thriving hinterland**

We treasure our hinterland environment — acknowledging the Widjabul Wia-bal people as its first custodians, its Big Scrub origins, productive farms and regenerating forests — and we actively seek to protect and enhance the biodiversity of Federal.

### **A long-term focus**

We foster a determination for a sustainable future and want long-term thinking to underpin all growth in Federal.

### **A living village**

We are proud of the distinctive unassuming character of our village and the intangible spirit of place, and keenly support the places and the occasions which bring community together.

# CHARACTER STATEMENT

Federal is a low-rise community surrounded by an undulating hinterland that also bears its name. At the centre of the village, smaller residential blocks on recent rural subdivisions are accessed from curved cul-de-sacs. Bordering the village are acreage allotments, which, in turn, are fringed by working farms and stretches of regenerating bushland.

At the heart of Federal village is a small commercial strip on one side of the main road, with shops and services catering primarily to the needs of the residents of both the village and its outlying areas, as well as the visitors drawn to Federal. On the other side is extensive parkland and open space with thriving rainforest plantings and a meandering creek, along with community-owned assets including a tennis court and a child-care centre, as well as two of the oldest buildings in the village — an 1895 School of Arts hall and an adjacent repurposed church building — that together provide a well-used and -loved community hub.

Almost all the village's buildings are single-storey and most are clad in timber with pitched metal roofs, eaves and protected verandas. Some of these timber and tin buildings date back to the early 20th Century when selectors settled here and cleared the Big Scrub to make way for dairy farms. Newer housing stock features lightweight cladding or brick, which is sometimes bagged or rendered. All are self-sufficient in terms of water collection and wastewater treatment. Allotment sizes vary, but allow for lush gardens that screen the buildings from the streets and each other.

Throughout the village, which is interlaced with greenery, development is low-rise, small-scale and low-density. Paths for walking and cycling wander through the parkland and connect the village to its outskirts. Wide streets are lined with native trees, including the main street, which is the bustling heart of the community. Here the street's layout and its extensive landscaping calm the traffic and provide shady places for people to gather.

# ACTIONS

## **Movement and access**

### **Action 1**

Upgrade the Federal main street to create a safer pedestrian friendly street and a green, functional centre for the community that alleviates existing issues between cars, buses and pedestrians while emphasising the unpolished character.

### **Action 2**

Improve connectivity in and around the village with safe, pedestrian-friendly paths and cycleways.

### **Action 3**

Install welcome signage and minor landscaping in the public road reserve at the entrances/ gateways to the village, to help define the edges of the village and to support a low-speed traffic environment.

### **Action 4**

Upgrade the intersection of Coorabell and Binna Burra Roads to resolve safety issues.

## **Sustainable development**

### **Action 5, 5a and 5b**

5: Update the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan to reflect the vision, principles, and character statement of the Federal Village Masterplan.

5a: Ensure that all developments in and around the village incorporate integrated green space in their design that links to and complements the existing community green space of the village.

5b: Promote the Federal Village Masterplan to ensure it is considered by Council, community and developers – especially during the period prior to Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan updates.

# ACTIONS

## **Sustainable development cont.**

### **Action 6**

Contain commercial development to one clearly zoned area and reinforce planning controls accordingly (extent to be determined during detailed planning).

### **Action 7 and 7a**

7: Ensure additional housing on land that is already zoned for residential (RU5 Village) is environmentally responsive and verify appropriate supporting controls are in place.

7a: Encourage more affordable/attainable housing within the existing village zone area through investigations with Council and landowners.

### **Action 8**

Collaborate with Council and native title claimants to get the best outcome for claimants and community on Crown Land (Lot 89 DP755697 Public Reserve 105960 and Lot 90A DP 374765 Public Reserve 228590).

## **Community green space**

### **Action 9**

Incorporate the vacant block on the corner of Roses Road and Federal Drive (Lot 1 DP1003205) into the village life of Federal by: a) instituting planning controls, or the like, to ensure the best possible development outcome with maximum community benefit; b) if the vacant block came up for sale the community would consider purchasing it and managing it as a community asset for open space, sport, overflow event parking, etc.

### **Action 10**

Upgrade Federal Park and develop a Landscape Plan to incorporate the following: more seating; path improvements; increased planting; updated children's play/sports equipment; a performance space.

# ACTIONS

## **Community development**

### **Action 11**

Install an interpretative sign that acknowledges the traditional custodians and provides a brief history of the village and surrounds (supported by online/hard copy information).

### **Action 12**

Facilitate an annual/bi-annual community art exhibition/sale and/or music event at Jasper Corner to support local artists, raise funds for the community facility and provide events for the local community to enjoy (in addition to the existing annual 'Park Party').

## **Government and funding**

### **Action 13**

Incorporate Federal and surrounds as its own area under the Byron Shire Development Contributions Plan to ensure future populations are appropriately serviced.

### **Action 14**

Pursue other funding opportunities that support the implementation of Masterplan actions.

### **Action 15**

Establish an ongoing Federal Village Masterplan community-led implementation team to progress actions, provide annual reports to the community, and initiate a review of the Masterplan after five years.

**Thank you.**

If you've not yet submitted any feedback on the Vision, Principles or Actions, and would like to, please visit

**[www.bit.ly/federalmasterplan](http://www.bit.ly/federalmasterplan)**