

## Media release

20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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### PLANNING UPDATE

We are a resilient and supportive community on the Cradle Coast, with a long history of facing and overcoming the challenges of dealing with occasional extremes of weather and dramatic economic cycles. However recent years have seen an amplification of these challenges that is testing even our ability to deal with them. The recent intense rainfall events that have battered our island are bringing home to us the challenges of living in a changing climate. Changes in our demography have meant we are an aging community which is increasingly vulnerable to illnesses which will diminish quality of life and stretch an already stretched health care system. Our abundant natural resources and long association with primary industries brings in great wealth but that wealth is very lumpy, creating booms and busts of population and investment that can be very disruptive for local economies.

On the other side of the coin increasing awareness of our amazing natural and community assets are attracting people to live and invest here. The enviable quality of life here is appealing to an increasingly mobile workforce that is no longer tied to the old centres of the economy.

Addressing these challenges and grasping these opportunities will need careful planning. We have sought to ensure that existing plans are reviewed, and new plans are prepared that allow the Cradle Coast to face the future with confidence and know our amazing assets are protected and the issues we face are being addressed.

To this end we have contributed to the State governments review of State Planning Provisions (in essence these are a consistent set of planning rules for each of the zones and overlays that can be applied by local councils to make decisions about what is and isn't allowed to be developed and where). We have also made a submission about the content and issues that the forthcoming Housing Strategy should address and made a submission about the draft Tasmanian Planning Policies (the principals governing planning in Tasmania).

We hope shortly to submit a revised Cradle Coast Regional Land Use Strategy that will, amongst other things, give the strategy a little more flexibility to ensure planning decisions are responsive to the rapidly changing context they are occurring within. This will allow the Strategy to stay relevant until a more comprehensive review can be completed. This will happen after the State government finalizes their guidance about these Strategies.

We are also preparing a series of briefing notes to identify and explore the key issues of our time, we do this not to tell people the answer but equip them with the information they need to find their own answers. So far, we have prepared briefing notes about:

- Staffing levels for planners across the region and some observations on our ability to plan effectively in the face of staff shortages
- An introduction to planning and urban design for new councilors to assist them to 'hit the ground running' after the current election.

*CCA is jointly owned by eight councils of western and north-western tasmania, to help them achieve regional outcomes and maintain strong local government, by working together.*



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- An outline of the relationship between health and wellbeing and the built environment so we might give this important issue the weight it deserves.

We are also working on briefing notes outlining some of the issues surrounding urban stormwater and drainage and the pros and cons of Councilors overseeing the planning process.

If you would like to suggest an issue we should address please let us know.

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# Community health, wellbeing and planning

## Some of the things that help us or hinder us from being healthy in our region

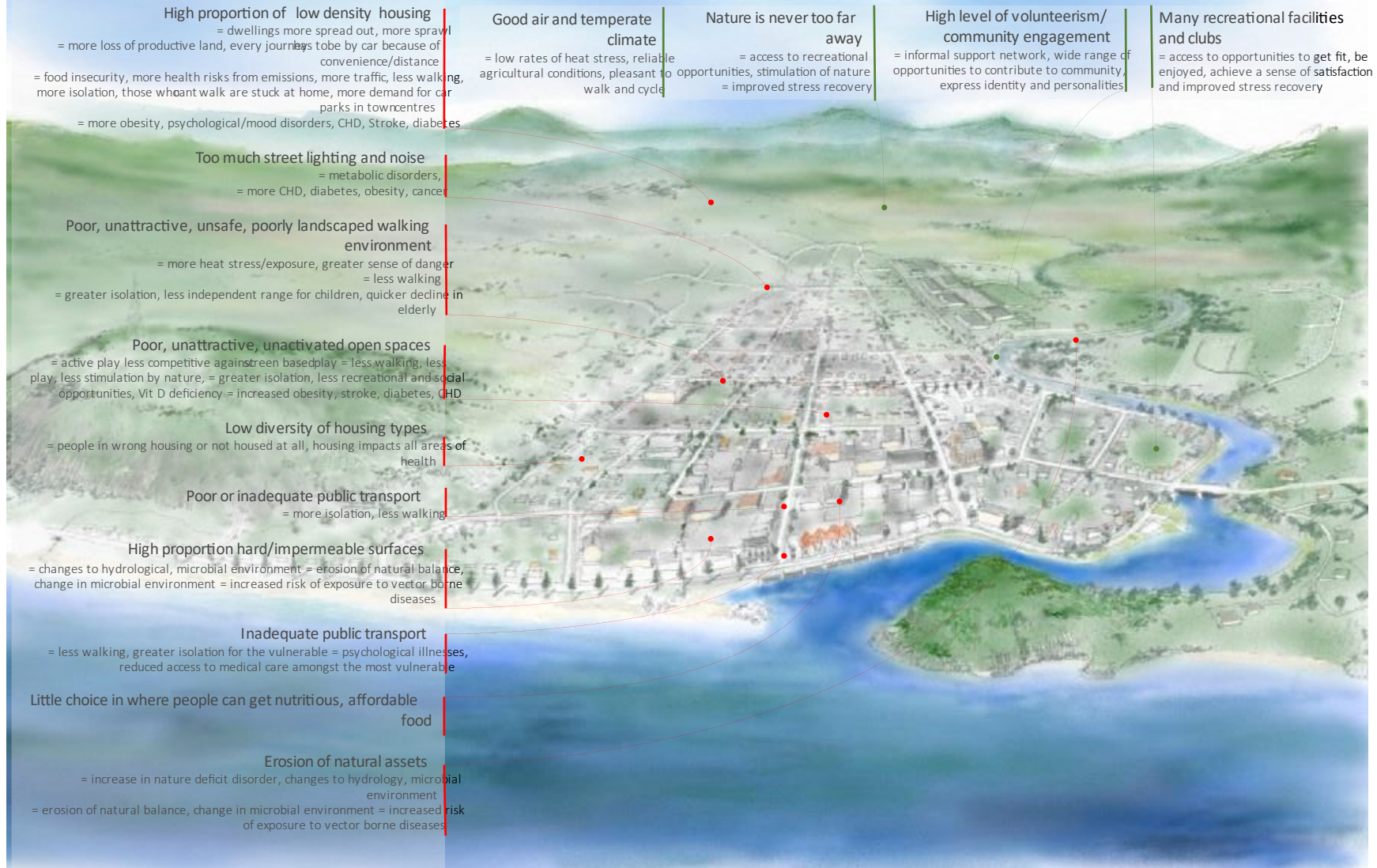


Illustration from briefing note about community health and wellbeing