

Public Health Plan – Community and Stakeholder Survey

Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Introduction

The Shire of Cocos (Keeling) Islands is developing its first Public Health Plan. This initiative will identify key health priorities and provide a roadmap for actions that improve the long-term wellbeing of our unique community.

Your voice is essential. By sharing your thoughts, you help us understand what matters most to the people who live and work here.

Understanding Our Priorities

While we want to achieve the best possible outcomes for everyone, the Shire operates within a set business plan and an annual budget. In many cases, our role is to act as your advocate—working with outside agencies and government departments to secure the grants and support needed for larger projects.

To ensure we spend our limited resources where they are needed most, Council uses a "Hierarchy of Needs" (based on Maslow's model). This helps us ensure that "the basics" are covered before we move toward aspirational goals.

The Priority Pyramid

We invite you to keep this hierarchy in mind as you complete the survey. Generally, we must address the bottom of the pyramid (survival and safety) to create a foundation for the top (growth and fulfillment).

Level	Need Category	What this means for our community
5	Self-Actualisation	Personal growth, creativity, and reaching full potential.
4	Esteem	Confidence, achievement, and feeling respected/valued.
3	Belonging	Friendship, family, social connection, and cultural inclusion.

2	Safety	Security, health services, financial stability, and protection.
1	Physiological	The Essentials: Clean air, water, food, and shelter.

A Note on Balancing Needs:

The bottom four levels are considered "Deficiency Needs." When these aren't met, it creates stress and prevents us from thriving. The top level represents "Growth Needs." While we always aim for growth, the Shire's primary responsibility is to ensure the foundation—our health, safety, and essential services—is secure first.

Your feedback will help Council to:

- Understand community health concerns and needs
- Identify gaps in services, facilities, and programs
- Set priorities for future planning and investment

This survey takes approximately 5–10 minutes to complete.

All responses are anonymous and will be used for planning purposes only.

Please tick the option that best reflects your view. Comments are welcome throughout.

Section 1: Health and Wellbeing Issues

How concerned are you about the following issues in your community?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not concerned
- Not applicable / Unsure

Health behaviours

- Smoking and vaping
- Harmful alcohol use
- Physical inactivity
- Poor nutrition / unhealthy diet

Health and wellbeing

- Mental health and wellbeing

Environment and safety

- Drinking water quality and reliability
- Extreme heat, storms, and coastal impacts on health and safety
- Food safety and hygiene at local premises and events

Services and systems

- Access to health and wellbeing services
- Emergency preparedness and response capacity

Equity

- Groups in the community facing greater barriers to good health

Additional comments:

Top three health or wellbeing issues Council should prioritise over the next 5 years:

(You may rank them if you wish)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Section 2: Community Services, Facilities and Programs

How important are the following to you, and how satisfied are you with current provision?

- Very important
 - Somewhat important
 - Not important
 - Satisfied with current services
 - Not satisfied / needs improvement
 - Not applicable / Unsure
- Community and recreational facilities
 - Alcohol-free and smoke-free events
 - Healthy food options at community events

- Community education programs for healthy lifestyles
- Community mental health and wellbeing programs

Comments or suggestions for improvement:

Section 3: Built Environment and Infrastructure

How concerned are you about the following?

- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not concerned
- Not applicable / Unsure

Infrastructure and transport

- Walking and cycling infrastructure
- Public transport services (air, ferry, and bus)

Open space and environment

- Parks and public open spaces
- Waste management
- Vermin and pest control (e.g. mosquitoes, wasps, termites)

Housing and planning

- Housing availability and quality
- Future planning for Home Island Kampong and land tenure issues

Safety and resilience

- Emergency management and community resilience

Comments or suggestions for improvement:

Section 4: Equity and Inclusion

How concerned are you about the following?

- Very concerned
 - Somewhat concerned
 - Not concerned
 - Not applicable / Unsure
- Employment opportunities
 - Access for people with disability to facilities and services
 - Availability of rental housing
 - Access to health services (including visiting or remote services)

Comments or suggestions for improvement:

Section 5: Community and Culture

How concerned are you about the following?

- Very concerned
 - Somewhat concerned
 - Not concerned
 - Not applicable / Unsure
- Mutual respect within the community
 - Support for cultural activities and events

Comments or suggestions for improvement:

Section 6: Healthy Living and Lifestyle

1. **What would help you become more physically active in your daily life?**
(e.g. facilities, programs, safety, cost, environment, time)

2. **What changes, services, or facilities would most improve health and wellbeing in your community?**

3. **Do you represent an agency, community group, or sporting organisation?**

Yes No

If yes, please specify:

Section 7: Agency / Stakeholder Questions

(For organisations, service providers, and agencies only)

1. What do you consider the most significant current public health risks affecting the Cocos (Keeling) Islands community?

2. What emerging or long-term public health risks (next 5–10 years) should Council be aware of?

3. What role can Council most effectively play in improving public health outcomes?

4. Are there any local reports, datasets, or evidence sources Council should consider in developing the Public Health Plan?

5. What barriers affect your organisation’s ability to deliver services in the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (if applicable)?

Section 8: About You (Optional)

Gender:

Male Female Prefer not to say

Age group:

16–25 26–35 36–45 46–55 56–65 66–75 76+

Location (optional):

West Island Home Island Other

Length of residence (optional):

<1 year 1–5 years 5–10 years 10+ years

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Your feedback will help shape the Shire's first Public Health Plan and improve health and wellbeing outcomes across the Cocos (Keeling) Islands community.