

The Vincentia Vibe

Proposed Vincentia Community Vision Statement and Strategic Development Guide

Purpose

The Vincentia Vibe is a community-led proposal to develop a Vision Statement and Strategic Development Guide that defines the character of Vincentia today and paints a picture of the future character our community aspires to. It aims to capture the identity, qualities, and lived expression of place held by the people who call Vincentia home.

Why a Strategic Development Guide for Vincentia

Vincentia is evolving, and the community wants to ensure that future change reflects the qualities residents value and aspire to. Other Shoalhaven villages have already created community-authored plans that articulate their identity and guide their future. Vincentia has its own **unique characteristics, coastal environment, local history, and village vibe**, and it is time to define and capture these clearly to create a guiding tool for strategic planning and decision making.

Why 'Vincentia Vibe'

The term character can feel technical or contentious. 'Vincentia Vibe' offers a more human, familiar way to talk about the essence of place—the identity, personality, and spirit of the village. It invites participation, encourages storytelling, and reflects the lived experience of residents. It is a working title that can evolve as the community shapes it.

What the Vincentia Vibe would do

- Capture the **coastal village feel** that residents value
- Describe the qualities that define Vincentia's identity
- Provide a shared reference point for future planning and advocacy
- Support thoughtful, place-sensitive development
- Lay the foundation for a future Community Strategic Plan if desired

What it might include

- **Sense of place**—beaches, foreshore, open spaces, bushland edges, residential neighbourhoods, village centres
- **Community values**—environment, walkability, safety, heritage, identity
- **Vincentia's distinctiveness**—what sets it apart from neighbouring villages
- **Stories and lived experience**—why people choose Vincentia
- **Future aspirations**—what residents want to protect, enhance, or change as the community grows

Objectives

- **Protect and enhance Vincentia's unique qualities**—natural setting, village scale, coastal vibe
- **Support development that respects the village feel**—ensuring growth aligns with community aspirations
- **Strengthen Vincentia's voice**—providing clear, community-endorsed guidance for future planning

How the process could work

If the community supports the idea, a small working group would guide a simple, staged process:

- Invite residents to share stories, photos, and identify the places, features, and qualities they value
- Hold a community meeting and workshop to explore themes and aspirations
- Summarise shared values and the emerging Vincentia Vibe
- Draft a community vision for review and refinement
- Finalise the statement and present it to Council for endorsement

Next steps

- Confirm whether VRRRA should explore the Vincentia Vibe concept
- Invite community interest and participation
- Form a small working group to shape the process