

Regional Economic &
Environment Plan 2040

ProspER Northern Rivers Themes Guide

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Introduction

ProspER Northern Rivers is structured around ten Domains of Action, but the region's most important opportunities do not always sit neatly within one theme, sector or organisation.

The ProspER Recommendations Register is designed to work as an interconnected regional package, rather than a collection of individual actions. Housing connects to workforce, infrastructure, health, liveability and investment. Environmental stewardship connects to agriculture, tourism, water, energy, resilience and community wellbeing. First Nations leadership, young people, industry transformation and regional connectivity are woven throughout the Plan.

This Themes Guide provides an index into the Recommendations Register for readers with a specific area of interest. Each theme brings together the Recommendations and Catalyst Projects most relevant to that interest, regardless of which Domain of Action they technically sit within.

The guide sits alongside, not instead of, the main Recommendations Register, where the full recommendation detail, evidence, strategic intent, priority action, timeline and investment notes live. The themes are not additional layers of the Plan and do not replace the Domains of Action. Instead, they provide an accessible view of how recommendations work together across sectors, outcomes and places, and highlight opportunities for partnership, investment and action.

Stakeholders may identify with one or more themes depending on their priorities, interests and role in supporting the future of the region. Most importantly, this guide helps make the connections easier to see, showing how ProspER turns opportunity into impact, and impact into lasting regional advantage.

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Theme 1 - Environment: Supporting the Natural Systems that Underpin Prosperity

Environmental stewardship is foundational to regional development. And the Northern Rivers' natural environment is one of the region's defining assets and underpins the liveability, productivity and resilience of communities, industries and places.

Stakeholders consistently recognised that healthy landscapes, waterways, biodiversity and natural systems support agriculture, tourism, community wellbeing, climate adaptation and long-term economic opportunity. Protecting and strengthening these assets is fundamental to sustainable regional development.

The ProspER Plan recognises that environmental outcomes are not delivered through a single recommendation or initiative. Opportunities are embedded across energy, housing, industry, agriculture, infrastructure, water, tourism and place planning.

Together, these recommendations aim to strengthen environmental stewardship, improve resilience and create practical pathways that support both ecological and economic outcomes while building long-term regional capability.

By supporting regenerative production, climate adaptation, renewable energy, water security and place-based approaches, the Northern Rivers and Tenterfield Shire have the opportunity to demonstrate how regional economies can grow while strengthening the natural systems that sustain them.

Through this approach, environment becomes a long-term enabler of prosperity.

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 2:** Healthy Country, Healthy People - Connect caring for Country, conservation and restoration with health and wellbeing outcomes.
- **Recommendation 12, 14 and 26:** Nature Access, Cultural Tourism and Sustainable Visitor Infrastructure - Connect recreation, tourism and visitor infrastructure to natural landscapes, Country, stewardship and environmental values.
- **Recommendation 36:** Climate Adaptation & Resilient Infrastructure - Embed climate and disaster resilience into infrastructure, planning and investment decisions.
- **Recommendation 37:** River & Catchment Health - Protect and restore the region's rivers and catchments, starting with the Richmond River.
- **Recommendation 38 - 40:** Energy, Reliability and Water Security - Strengthen renewable energy pilots, energy reliability, water security and environmental capacity.
- **Recommendation 42 - 43:** Regenerative Production, Circular Economy and Clean Technology - Support regenerative agriculture, bio-based systems, waste reduction and clean technology opportunity.
- **Recommendation 48:** Native Foods & Botanicals Development - Support First Nations-led native foods and botanicals through cultural governance and regenerative production.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C2:** Northern Rivers Local Energy & Resilience Pilot - Test practical local energy generation, storage and sharing models.
- **Catalyst C3:** Housing on the Ground Demonstration Network - Demonstrate climate-responsive and resilient housing pathways.
- **Catalyst C5:** Northern Rivers Food, Fibre & Regenerative Industries Hub - Accelerate regenerative agribusiness, native foods and circular bioeconomy opportunities.
- **Catalyst C8 - C9:** Rail Trail Completion and Visitor Economy Revitalisation - Support active transport, nature access, visitor dispersal, sustainable accommodation and experience-led destination value.
- **Catalyst C10:** Transformational Demonstration Projects - The ProspER Demonstration Engine - Test practical regional solutions that can inform investment and policy.

Contribution across the Plan

- Strengthen resilience to climate, disaster and changing environmental conditions
- Support productive landscapes and regenerative industries
- Improve energy security and local transition opportunities
- Restore river and catchment health as a foundation of community, cultural and economic wellbeing

Theme 2 - First Nations: Strengthening Leadership, Enterprise and Caring for Country

First Nations knowledge, culture, enterprise and leadership are enduring strengths of the Northern Rivers. First Nations voices throughout the ProspER process reinforced that long-term regional prosperity is strengthened through Aboriginal knowledge, culture, enterprise and leadership. Stakeholders identified opportunities to strengthen economic participation, support self-determination, create pathways into business and employment, and recognise the important role Caring for Country plays in shaping healthy communities, regenerative industries and long-term regional prosperity.

The First Nations-related recommendations recognise that outcomes are not delivered through a single initiative. Opportunities are embedded across industry, tourism, agriculture, workforce, liveability, partnerships and governance. Together, these recommendations aim to strengthen First Nations-led enterprise, increase participation in economic opportunity, elevate cultural leadership and create stronger pathways for First Nations voices to influence regional investment, decision-making and development.

ProspER recognises that First Nations prosperity and regional prosperity are interconnected. By strengthening partnerships, supporting Aboriginal-led initiatives and creating practical pathways into enterprise, procurement, employment and investment, the Northern Rivers has the opportunity to demonstrate how economic development, stewardship and cultural leadership can work together to create shared and lasting prosperity.

Through this approach, First Nations leadership helps shape not only stronger outcomes for Aboriginal communities, but a stronger future for the region as a whole.

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 2:** Healthy Country, Healthy People - Recognise Caring for Country as part of health, wellbeing, conservation and restoration.
- **Recommendation 14 - 16:** Cultural Tourism, Food, Culture and Creative Industries - Support First Nations-led experiences, storytelling, cultural enterprise and creative visibility.
- **Recommendation 37:** River & Catchment Health - Embed Aboriginal cultural knowledge, leadership and Caring for Country in river and catchment health.
- **Recommendation 48:** Native Foods & Botanicals Development - Develop native foods and botanicals through First Nations-led partnerships and cultural governance.
- **Recommendation 49:** First Nations Economic Development Group - Create a First Nations-led regional mechanism for economic participation and decision-making.
- **Recommendation 50:** First Nations Enterprise & Cultural Stewardship - Strengthen enterprise opportunities connected to culture, Country, stewardship, procurement and regional industries.
- **Recommendation 53 - 54 and 56:** ProspER Governance, Shared Delivery and Activation - Strengthen First Nations participation in implementation, shared regional direction and long-term decision-making.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C5:** Northern Rivers Food, Fibre & Regenerative Industries Hub - Strengthen First Nations participation in food, fibre, native foods and regenerative industries.
- **Catalyst C6:** Northern Rivers EDGE - Create a dedicated pathway for Aboriginal-led innovation, enterprise and future-economy participation.
- **Catalyst C8:** Northern Rivers Rail Trail Completion & Activation - Embed Aboriginal cultural interpretation, local stories and environmental education along the corridor.

Theme 3 - Young People: Shaping the Northern Rivers of Tomorrow

Young people are not only future beneficiaries of ProspER. They are contributors, leaders and decision-makers now.

Young people brought a future-focused perspective to the ProspER process and challenged the region to think beyond immediate priorities. Through the Youth Advisory Council, participants highlighted the importance of meaningful work, housing choice, leadership opportunities, stronger connections to place and the ability to influence decisions that shape their future.

Retaining and attracting young people requires a connected approach that creates pathways into employment, entrepreneurship, housing, leadership and participation, while strengthening the liveability and opportunity that make people choose to stay, return, lead and build their future in the region.

Across the recommendations, young people influenced priorities relating to workforce pathways, future industries, housing, transport, health, liveability and regional leadership. By strengthening opportunities for participation, capability building and regional connection, the Northern Rivers can grow as a place where young people feel valued, empowered and confident about what comes next.

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 6 - 7:** Housing Supply and Choice - Build more homes and increase housing choice for young people and future workforce participation.
- **Recommendation 18:** Diverse Housing Pathways - Unlock new housing models, partnerships and investment pathways that help young people live, work and stay in the region.
- **Recommendation 9 - 10:** Transport, Services and Community Infrastructure - Improve access to education, work, opportunity, services and community life.
- **Recommendation 24:** Advancing Digital Connectivity - Support learning, remote work, enterprise, participation and future careers through better digital connectivity.
- **Recommendation 30:** Workforce Pathways & Industry Connections - Strengthen school-to-work pathways, apprenticeships and industry-connected learning.
- **Recommendation 31:** Youth Participation & Regional Futures - Give young people a genuine voice in shaping regional priorities.
- **Recommendation 32 - 35:** Talent, Skills, Entrepreneurship and Leadership - Support career pathways, professional networks, future skills, business capability and leadership.
- **Recommendation 44, 46 and 47:** Future Economy, Innovation and Applied Research - Connect young people with knowledge-intensive industries, innovation and future regional enterprise.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C3:** Housing on the Ground Demonstration Network - Demonstrate housing pathways that support future generations.
- **Catalyst C4:** Northern Rivers Regional Trade Training Centre - Create a flagship training pathway connected to regional careers.
- **Catalyst C6:** Northern Rivers EDGE - Create pathways into future industries through Northern Rivers EDGE and Northern Rivers 100.
- **Catalyst C11:** Brisbane 2032 Regional Transformation Initiative - Prepare young people and businesses for workforce, procurement and investment opportunities.

Contribution across the Plan

- Make it possible to stay in the region
- Create pathways, not just jobs
- Back ideas, enterprise and leadership
- Include young people in decisions
- Build a future worth staying for

Theme 4 - Liveability: Strengthening Everyday Life

Liveability is one of the region's greatest strengths and a key driver of attraction, retention and belonging.

Attracting and retaining people, supporting business sustainability and creating thriving communities depends on more than economic growth alone. Liveability is shaped by housing, services, transport, public spaces, culture, nature access and everyday experiences. These factors influence whether people choose to live, work, invest and build their future in the region.

The liveability-related recommendations recognise that strong communities are supported by places that are connected, inclusive and responsive to changing needs. They support public spaces, recreation, cultural expression, town and village centres, visitor experiences and access to nature. Together, these recommendations aim to strengthen everyday life across the Northern Rivers while supporting long-term liveability, regional capability and prosperity.

ProspER recognises that liveability does not mean every place should look or function the same. The Northern Rivers is strongest when its towns, villages and regional centres build on their distinct identities while contributing to a connected regional future. Through targeted investment and catalyst projects, the region can strengthen everyday experiences, support workforce attraction and retention, and create places that people choose to call home.

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 9:** Regional Transport Connectivity - Improve movement corridors that support people, businesses, freight, visitors and access to essential services.
- **Recommendation 10:** Essential Services and Community Infrastructure - Support the schools, childcare, health access, community facilities and essential services needed for growing communities.
- **Recommendation 11:** Liveability, Public Spaces & Community Connection - Invest in public spaces, community infrastructure and places that shape wellbeing and belonging.
- **Recommendation 12:** Walkability, Recreation & Nature Access - Make it easier for people to walk, ride, recreate and enjoy natural landscapes, waterways and public spaces.
- **Recommendation 13 – 16:** Arts, Culture, Tourism, Food and Creative Industries - Strengthen cultural identity, creative industries and authentic regional experiences that connect residents and visitors to place.
- **Recommendation 25 – 28:** Centres, Visitor Infrastructure, Accommodation and Mobility - Strengthen the centres, infrastructure and mobility that support vibrant places and visitor experiences.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C8:** Northern Rivers Rail Trail Completion & Activation - Complete and activate a signature regional asset that links communities, activates towns and strengthens place outcomes.
- **Catalyst C9:** Lifting the Stars Accommodation & Visitor Economy Revitalisation Initiative - Lift accommodation quality, visitor infrastructure and experience-led destination value.

Theme 5 - Health: Growing Health, Capability and Opportunity

Health is both a social foundation and a major economic opportunity for the Northern Rivers and Tenterfield Shire.

Health emerged as a defining regional priority and one of the region's most significant opportunities for long-term prosperity. Stakeholders consistently identified access to healthcare, workforce shortages and growing pressure on services as factors influencing liveability, community wellbeing, workforce participation, business sustainability and regional attractiveness.

At the same time, the region's existing health assets, institutions and growing population create an opportunity to strengthen outcomes while building regional capability and economic opportunity. The health-related recommendations reflect the intent of the HealthiER Domain as a foundational element of ProspER. HealthiER recognises that healthy people, strong communities, healthy environments and equitable access to opportunity underpin long-term regional prosperity. Improving health outcomes requires more than increasing service availability.

The region must strengthen preventative approaches, workforce pathways, specialist services, private investment, care economy capacity and connections between healthcare, education, research and industry. Together, these recommendations aim to improve access to care, grow regional capability and position health as both a social and economic driver for the Northern Rivers.

By placing HealthiER at the foundation of the Plan, ProspER recognises that healthier people, healthier communities and healthier places create the conditions for all other outcomes to succeed

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** Preventative Health & Wellbeing - Shift toward early intervention, wellbeing and connected community approaches that reduce pressure on health and care systems.
- **Recommendation 2:** Healthy Country, Healthy People - Recognise care for Country, rainforests, rivers and natural systems as part of the region's health and wellbeing system.
- **Recommendation 3:** Private Health Investment, Specialist Services & Health Enterprise - Attract complementary private investment, specialist services and health-related enterprise.
- **Recommendation 4:** Health Workforce Attraction and Retention - Build the regional health and care workforce through attraction, retention and career pathways.
- **Recommendation 5:** Care Economy Growth - Grow ageing, disability, community care and wellbeing services as a major employment and community wellbeing opportunity.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C1:** Northern Rivers Health & Innovation Precincts - Build connected health, research, workforce and enterprise capability around the region's health infrastructure assets.

Theme 6 - Housing: Building the Homes the Region Needs

Housing is a core condition for workforce participation, business sustainability, liveability and long-term regional prosperity.

Housing emerged as one of the most significant challenges facing the Northern Rivers and Tenterfield Shire. Stakeholders consistently highlighted that housing is no longer simply a planning issue; it has become one of the most critical economic development and regional capability challenges facing the region.

The housing-related recommendations recognise that no single intervention will solve the challenge, and that significant work is already underway across government, industry and communities. Increasing supply remains essential, but the region must also deliver the right types of housing, remove barriers that slow delivery and create the investment and partnership conditions required to bring projects to market.

Together, these recommendations aim to build the homes the region needs, improve housing choice and strengthen delivery pathways that support long-term housing outcomes.

Through the Housing on the Ground Demonstration Network, the region can test and demonstrate new approaches to construction, climate-responsive design, financing, workforce development and project delivery while generating practical evidence for future regional and state action.

By combining practical delivery with systems improvement, the Northern Rivers has the opportunity to demonstrate how regional Australia can respond to one of its most pressing challenges

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 6:** Regional Housing Supply Acceleration - Build the homes the region needs to support workforce participation, business sustainability and prosperity.
- **Recommendation 7:** Housing Diversity & Choice - Provide practical and diverse housing options for workers, families, older residents, young people and changing households.
- **Recommendation 8:** Housing & Enabling Infrastructure - Prioritise water, sewer, transport, utility and energy infrastructure needed to unlock housing and employment growth.
- **Recommendation 17:** Housing Delivery Reform - Improve the delivery system by aligning planning, infrastructure, approvals and investment with local conditions.
- **Recommendation 18:** Diverse Housing Pathways - Unlock new housing models, partnerships and investment pathways suited to regional conditions.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C3:** Housing on the Ground Demonstration Network - Demonstrate practical housing delivery models that can accelerate supply and inform broader reform.

Theme 7 - Workforce: Building Capability, Participation and Opportunity

Workforce development is about pathways, participation, aspiration, belonging and confidence in the future.

Workforce emerged as a strong theme across the ProspER process and one of the region's most important opportunities for long-term prosperity. Stakeholders highlighted workforce shortages, changing industry needs, housing pressures, skills availability and competition for talent as factors influencing business sustainability, service delivery, investment attraction and future regional capability.

At the same time, the Northern Rivers has significant strengths to build on through its education providers, entrepreneurial culture, diverse industries and strong sense of place.

The workforce-related recommendations recognise that workforce outcomes are not delivered through training alone. Creating long-term opportunity requires stronger pathways between education, industry and employment, improved participation across all stages of life, and more coordinated approaches to attracting, retaining and developing people within the region.

Together, these recommendations aim to strengthen workforce capability, support future industries and create meaningful opportunities for people to live, work and build their future in the Northern Rivers.

By strengthening career pathways, supporting leadership and entrepreneurship and creating opportunities connected to housing, liveability and regional identity, the Northern Rivers can become a region where people not only find work, but choose to build careers, contribute and stay connected over time

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 4:** Health Workforce Attraction and Retention - Strengthen attraction, training, retention and career pathways across health and care sectors.
- **Recommendation 10:** Essential Services and Community Infrastructure - Support childcare, schools, health access and community infrastructure as core workforce enablers for families, skilled workers and growing communities.
- **Recommendation 7, 17 and 18:** Housing Choice, Reform and Delivery Pathways - Support workforce and key worker housing through better supply, diversity and delivery models.
- **Recommendation 30:** Workforce Pathways & Industry Connections - Connect schools, training providers, universities, employers and industry to meaningful regional employment.
- **Recommendation 31 - 35:** Youth, Talent, Skills, Entrepreneurship and Leadership - Build participation, future skills, business capability and a stronger regional leadership pipeline.
- **Recommendation 47:** University-Industry & Applied Research Collaboration - Translate education, research and industry capability into stronger workforce and enterprise outcomes.
- **Recommendation 52:** Cross-Border Systems & Workforce Alignment - Reduce practical cross-border workforce, training and service barriers.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C1:** Northern Rivers Health & Innovation Precincts - Support health workforce development and innovation pathways.
- **Catalyst C3:** Housing on the Ground Demonstration Network - Test housing models that support workforce participation.
- **Catalyst C4:** Northern Rivers Regional Trade Training Centre - Create a flagship training pathway connected to housing, infrastructure, renewable energy and future trades.
- **Catalyst C6:** Northern Rivers EDGE - Build a pipeline of future-economy ideas, enterprises and opportunities.
- **Catalyst C11:** Brisbane 2032 Regional Transformation Initiative - Prepare businesses and workers to capture Games-related workforce, procurement and investment opportunities.
- **Catalyst C12:** Northern Rivers Strategic Investment Campaign - Attract enterprise, talent and investment by lifting the region's visibility and showcasing future opportunity.

Contribution across the Plan

- Create stronger pathways into meaningful work and participation
- Improve connections between education, industry and opportunity
- Support workforce readiness for future industries and changing markets
- Strengthen attraction, retention, leadership and participation across communities and generations

Theme 8 - Transport, Freight & Regional Connectivity: Moving People, Goods and Opportunity

Connectivity underpins productivity, access, visitor movement, service delivery and everyday participation. Transport, freight and regional connectivity are critical to the prosperity, liveability and resilience of the Northern Rivers. The ability to move people, goods and services efficiently across the region affects workforce access, freight reliability, visitor movement, service delivery, industry growth, investment attraction and participation in community life.

Stakeholders consistently identified transport constraints, freight bottlenecks and limited connectivity between places as barriers to regional productivity, business growth and access to opportunity. The transport and logistics-related recommendations recognise that regional connectivity is not only about roads. It includes freight and logistics efficiency, public transport access, cross-border rail connectivity, active transport, first and last mile movement, visitor access and stronger connections between communities, centres, employment lands and key destinations.

A key part of this future is aligning transport planning and investment with housing, employment land, visitor economy, health access, industry development and regional growth priorities. Better connectivity can deliver both economic and community outcomes. Improving freight and logistics efficiency can help producers, manufacturers and freight-dependent industries reach markets more reliably and competitively. Strengthening regional and cross-border mobility can help people access jobs, education, health services, cultural experiences and visitor destinations.

Through coordinated advocacy, stronger evidence and alignment with state, regional and local transport planning, the Northern Rivers can build a more connected, accessible and competitive regional future.

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 9:** Regional Transport Connectivity - Strengthen transport corridors and movement networks across the region.
- **Recommendation 20:** Freight & Logistics Efficiency - Improve supply chain reliability, market access and competitiveness for producers and freight-dependent industries.
- **Recommendation 28:** Cross Border & Regional Mobility - Improve access to employment, education, services, visitor experiences
- **Recommendation 19:** Industrial Land & Servicing - Connect employment land, freight routes, housing growth and local business ecosystems.
- **Recommendation 24:** Advancing Digital Connectivity - Strengthen digital connectivity as part of a more connected, resilient and future-ready region.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C8:** Northern Rivers Rail Trail Completion & Activation - Strengthen active transport, visitor movement, regional dispersal and town centre activation.
- **Catalyst C10:** Transformational Demonstration Projects - The ProspER Demonstration Engine - Test integrated approaches to transport, infrastructure, housing, resilience and economic development.
- **Catalyst C11:** Brisbane 2032 Regional Transformation Initiative - Align connectivity, workforce and visitor economy opportunities with Brisbane 2032 legacy planning.

Theme 9 - Industry: Growing Capability, Enterprise and Future Opportunity

Industry growth is about strengthening existing sectors while creating pathways into future regional opportunity.

Industry is central to the prosperity, identity and resilience of the Northern Rivers. The region's economy is built on strong foundations across agriculture, construction, health, manufacturing, visitor economy, creative industries and professional services, alongside growing capability in knowledge-intensive and emerging sectors.

Stakeholders consistently identified the importance of strengthening existing industries while creating the conditions for enterprise, innovation and future opportunities to emerge and respond to changing markets, technology, workforce needs and environmental expectations.

The industry-related recommendations recognise that long-term prosperity will come from both strengthening existing capability and accelerating pathways into future opportunities. This includes supporting productivity, value-add opportunities, innovation and enterprise while building stronger connections between industry, education, research, investment and commercialisation.

A key part of this future is positioning the Northern Rivers as a regenerative and knowledge-enabled economy that builds on regional strengths to grow capability, create value and attract investment.

ProspER recognises that the Northern Rivers does not need to replicate other regions to succeed. The region has an opportunity to build from its strengths and values to create a distinctive regional economy that attracts talent, enterprise and investment.

Through targeted catalyst projects and coordinated action, the Northern Rivers can demonstrate how provenance, sustainability, creativity and regional capability can become drivers of long-term prosperity. Initiatives such as Northern Rivers EDGE and Northern Rivers 100 provide visible pathways to turn ideas into opportunity and demonstrate the region's future economy in action.

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 15 - 16:** Food, Provenance, Creative Industries and Regional Identity - Strengthen food, creative and cultural industry opportunities connected to place and regional identity.
- **Recommendation 19 - 23:** Industrial Land, Freight, Procurement and Investment Facilitation - Enable development-ready employment land, stronger supply chains, local procurement, regional investment intelligence and facilitation pathways.
- **Recommendation 29:** Creative Production Infrastructure - Enable the spaces, studios and infrastructure needed for creative production, enterprise and cultural innovation.
- **Recommendation 34:** Entrepreneurship & Business Capability - Build the capability and networks that help founders and businesses start, adapt and grow.
- **Recommendation 41 - 43:** Manufacturing, Value-Added Systems, Circular Economy and Clean Technology - Strengthen productivity, innovation, circular economy and new forms of regional value creation.

- **Recommendation 44:** Northern Rivers Knowledge & Regenerative Economy - Grow knowledge-intensive and regenerative industries into a distinct, investable sector.
- **Recommendation 45 - 48:** Digital Services, Innovation, Research Collaboration and Native Foods - Enable innovation, enterprise, applied research, service exports and future regional opportunity.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C5:** Northern Rivers Food, Fibre & Regenerative Industries Hub - Accelerate value-add manufacturing, food, fibre, native foods and regenerative industries.
- **Catalyst C6:** Northern Rivers EDGE - Demonstrate the future regional economy through Enterprise, Discovery, Growth and Environment.
- **Catalyst C7:** Northern Rivers Film & Content Foundations - Grow a nationally competitive screen, digital content and creative production ecosystem.
- **Catalyst C12:** Northern Rivers Strategic Investment Campaign - Lift national visibility and connect enterprise, talent and capital to regional opportunity.

Theme 10 - Transformation: Building the Northern Rivers of Tomorrow

Transformation is about building from existing strengths while creating the confidence and capability to adapt, lead and thrive.

The Northern Rivers is already changing through shifting markets, technology, climate pressures, workforce expectations and changing community needs. Stakeholders identified both the opportunity and responsibility to respond in ways that strengthen long-term prosperity while protecting the values, identity and strengths that make the region distinctive.

The transformation-related recommendations recognise that long-term prosperity will not come from preserving the status quo or pursuing growth at any cost. It requires the region to strengthen capability, support innovation, embrace new opportunities and create the conditions for industries, communities and places to evolve.

This transformation is grounded in ProspER's focus on **People, Planet and Place**. It is about supporting people and communities to adapt with confidence, strengthening the natural systems that underpin prosperity, and shaping places that remain distinctive, resilient and full of opportunity.

ProspER recognises that transformation is not about becoming something different. It is about building from existing strengths and creating the confidence and capability to adapt, lead and thrive.

Through local energy pilots, housing demonstrations, delivery testbeds and Northern Rivers EDGE, the region can demonstrate how a regional economy can remain connected to its values while creating opportunity for future generations.

Related Recommendations

- **Recommendation 17 - 23:** Systems, Investment and Delivery Conditions - Enable planning, investment, delivery and facilitation approaches that support change and reduce friction.
- **Recommendation 36 - 40:** Adaptation, Resilience, Energy, Water and Catchment Health - Build climate adaptation, disaster resilience and natural systems readiness into regional decisions.
- **Recommendation 41 - 48:** Industry Transformation and Future Economy - Strengthen innovation, enterprise, knowledge industries and future regional opportunity.
- **Recommendation 53 - 56:** Governance, Coordination, Monitoring and Activation - Keep ProspER active, accountable, adaptive and implementation-focused over time.

Related Catalyst Projects

- **Catalyst C2:** Northern Rivers Local Energy & Resilience Pilot - Demonstrate locally generated, stored and shared energy models that strengthen resilience.
- **Catalyst C3:** Housing on the Ground Demonstration Network - Test new approaches to housing delivery, construction, finance and project delivery.
- **Catalyst C6:** Northern Rivers EDGE - Demonstrate future-economy ideas, enterprises and opportunities.

- **Catalyst C10:** Transformational Demonstration Projects - The ProspER Demonstration Engine - Test new planning, governance, investment and delivery models through place-based projects.
- **Catalyst C12:** Northern Rivers Strategic Investment Campaign - Position the region nationally for next-generation enterprise, talent and investment.

ProspER is a shared regional platform, and its success will depend on continued participation, collaboration and partnership.

For more information, to discuss the Plan or to explore opportunities in bringing **ProspER** to life, please contact:

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The online home for
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navigation of the Plan.

NOTE: The Recommendations Register is complemented by the Prosper Summary Presentation, the Prosper Themes Guide and Prosper website

