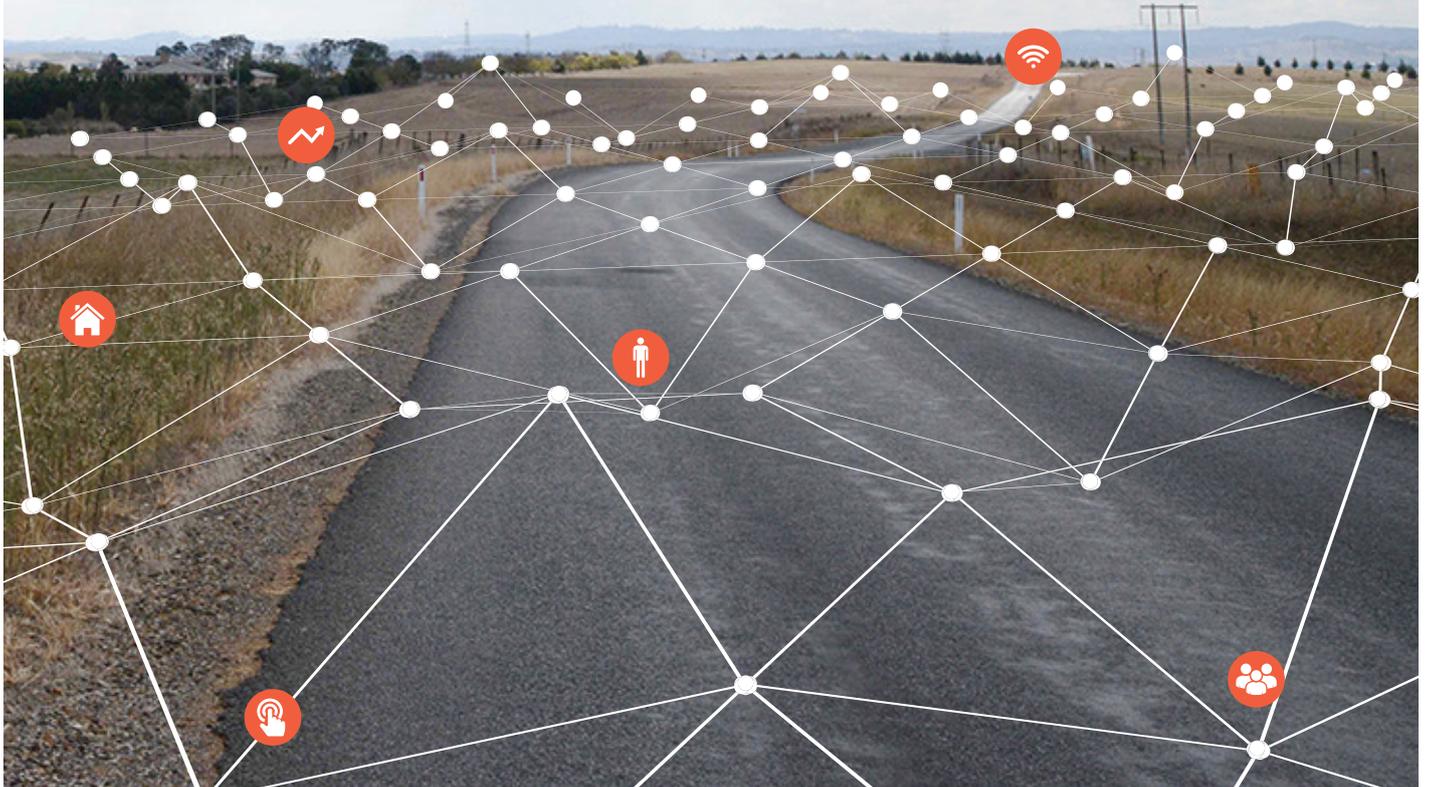


# Digital Yass Valley

Smart Region



# Introduction by Mayor

**Yass Valley is an exciting region, which combines lifestyle, landscape, opportunity and community. We aspire to be a digital leader where we welcome innovation, are future-oriented and focused on positive community development.**

Yass Valley strives to be a Smart Community which leverages digital technology to improve social outcomes, to deliver better local services, to increase economic opportunity and to unlock the creativity of our community.

The Digital Yass Valley, Smart Community Strategy is our plan to accelerate digital transformation. Our Strategy will chart our digital journey as a community and set our digital priorities to deliver positive outcomes for Yass Valley.

This Strategy puts our community first and central, not technology. Our Strategy was developed in consultation with the community and presents our digital priorities and affirms our commitment to smart collaboration, planning, design and local services. Our Strategy reinforces Yass Valley's profile as a forward-looking region, which helps position us to participate in the Australian Government's Smart Cities and Suburbs Program.

Rowena Abbey  
Mayor, Yass Valley





# Vision

Yass Valley is a progressive region using technology to deliver opportunity, better services and liveability for our community.

# Principles

## Community First

This Strategy puts community first and central not technology. To create a smart community, people must be the focus. Council will work with the community to target digital technology that provides better local services, increases economic opportunities and makes Yass Valley an even better place to live.

## Accessibility and Participation

We want everyone in our community, regardless of age, gender, income, education or location, to share the benefits of smart technology. Yass Valley Council is committed to the principles of digital participation, inclusion, accessibility and literacy.

## Partnership and Collaboration

Realising our smart community aspirations will require the expertise, enthusiasm and engagement of many partners - our community (first and foremost), local businesses, other councils and governments, national and international companies, researchers, and innovators. Yass Valley Council is committed to delivering this Strategy through collaboration and partnership.

## Agility

The digital world moves at pace, with new possibilities and vulnerabilities continually emerging. Yass Valley Council will apply agility to this Strategy, remaining focused on community outcomes, and responding to new digital innovations, risks and opportunities.

## Leadership and Advocacy

Yass Valley Council will lead by example with the proactive introduction of smart technologies. We will also promote the digital aspirations and achievements of Yass Valley to attract ideas, skills and investment.

Creating a smart community depends on many players. Where Yass Valley Council does not have direct authority or control, we will continue our role as advocate for better digital outcomes for our region.



# Objectives

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## 1

### **Enhanced Connectivity**

Digital connectivity is a pillar of a smart community and the Yass Valley Community has emphasised the importance of this issue.

Other players, for example - NBNco, telecommunications companies and the Australian Government have a lead role in providing and maintaining connectivity.

Yass Valley Council remains committed to working with the community:

- an advocate for better local connectivity and performance
- to leverage higher performance from existing infrastructure
- to explore new connectivity options, such as free public Wi-Fi

## 2

### **Improving Online Services**

Digital technology is transforming services the world over, improving user experience, responsiveness, convenience, cost efficiency and reliability.

Mobile phone payments, real time information and 24/7 service access are reducing transaction costs and leaving more time for business, leisure, friends and family.

Yass Valley Council is committed to building the breadth and quality of our online services.

## 3

### **Promoting Digital Inclusion**

This Strategy extends the principle of Yass Valley being an inclusive community.

Digital accessibility, training and literacy, participation and engagement will be embedded in our digital projects and programs.

Digital inclusion allows everyone to personally benefit from digital transformation, while collectively building a stronger, more resilient and cohesive community.

# Objectives

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## 4

### **More Vibrant Yass Valley - For Residents and Visitors**

Smart communities use smart technology to increase vibrancy, activation, knowledge and bring people together.

We are committed to leveraging digital technology that:

- improves communication to local residents about services, activities, opportunities, events and community assets
- attracts more visitors to Yass Valley and helps them discover everything our region has to offer.

## 5

### **Delivering Smart Planning and Smart Assets**

Smart technology brings new possibility to the planning of towns and regions and the management of their public infrastructure.

3D models are enhancing town planning outcomes, convenience and community engagement. Sensors, data analytics and real time information are being used to monitor roads, parks, street-lights, vehicles and water treatment plants to improve asset outcomes, optimise maintenance and reduce costs.

Yass Valley Council is committed to integrating smart technology into town planning and asset management to achieve ongoing benefits for our community.

## 6

### **Strengthening our Digital Economy**

The digital revolution is changing economic patterns globally, bringing new opportunities, as well as challenges.

Yass Valley Council is committed to taking advantage of this revolution and growing our local digital economy.

Building our digital capabilities, encouraging innovation and life-long learning, facilitating smart working, reaching out to the global marketplace, forging new partnerships and creating new digital jobs will ensure our economy remains strong and resilient.



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## What the community said ...

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Yass Valley should fully embrace the digital revolution .....

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Better local service and more job opportunities

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An app that allows access to services and information digitally



## What the community said ...

Smart metering for water and electricity

Smart working hubs/office space for working remotely

Accessibility for all ages



# Initiatives / Actions

## Better Digital Services - Smart Transactions, Engagement and Communication

Yass Valley is committed to improving the breadth and quality of our online services to provide tangible, everyday benefits to our community.

Our digital service strategy will focus on enhancing:

- smart transactions, including payments, smart forms, applications and access to rates and property information
- digital interaction, including community engagement, real-time feedback and the ability to register and track customer service requests
- real time information, including emergency communications, project updates, local service notifications, road closures and council performance reporting

## Leveraging Data

Yass Valley Council understands the value of data, and will work to improve the collection, management, analysis and accessibility of our community's data.

In particular, we will:

- establish an open data initiative to support innovation and transparency.
- leverage existing data sources to improve planning and service delivery.
- embed digital data collection and analysis into new projects to grow our information assets and drive continuous improvement.

## Digital Activation

Yass Valley Council will investigate digital options that promote our region locally, nationally and internationally and improve the resident and tourist experience. This might include use of social media, mobile apps, web analytics and digital partnerships.



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## Smart Water Management

Protecting and managing our water resources is a core responsibility for Yass Valley Council and digital technology can play a valuable role.

Yass Valley Council will investigate smart water management options for our region, including smart metering (e.g. real time consumption information), sensor based network assessment (e.g. water pressure and leak detection), real-time water quality monitoring and smart irrigation.

## Free Public Wi-Fi

Yass Valley Council will seek proposals for a free public Wi-Fi network to support digital access for residents and visitors.

We will consult with the community about the best locations for this new service, which may include town centres, public spaces, parks, popular venues, sporting grounds, tourist attractions and transport hubs.

## Smart Waste Management

Yass Valley Council has a long-term commitment to sustainability and improved waste management practices.

We will examine smart waste options to determine the value and application in our region. Such options may include sensor-equipped bins (to better manage collection cycles) and enhanced data collection to inform waste programs.

## Smart Working

Many residents of Yass Valley travel long distances daily for work and education. Digital connectivity and technology provide greater opportunity to work closer to home, saving time and transport expenses and increasing productivity.

Yass Valley Council is committed to supporting smart working opportunities for our region and will continue to:

- ensure existing facilities such as our libraries can accommodate occasional smart working.
- build awareness of smart working possibilities and collaborate with regional employers (especially in the ACT) to support smart working practices.
- work with the local community and partners to investigate the option of a dedicated smart working facility in Yass Valley.

## Smart Street-Lights

Yass Valley Council will examine options to progress smart street-lighting in our region. This may include upgrade to energy efficient LED luminaires, remote monitoring and management of lighting assets, sensor-based activation of lighting and integration with other smart capabilities (such as EV charging, CCTV and Wi-Fi) and policy development for new urban release areas.

Such initiatives can deliver large energy, financial and CO2 emissions savings, while improving lighting outcomes.

## Digital for Roads

Yass Valley Council will investigate digital technology options to improve the planning, management and safety of our local roads.

This might include remote smart signage to provide real time safety warnings, road condition digital monitoring techniques and enhanced analytics for improved road maintenance programming.

## Advocacy for Digital Yass

Yass Valley Council will continue to engage with our community about digital service and connectivity concerns. We work with elected officials, government agencies, communication companies, other councils, and peak bodies to advocate for better outcomes and innovative solutions.

## Digital Education Programs

Getting the most from digital technology depends on digital education, awareness and literacy - for individuals, groups, organisations, businesses and Council itself.

Yass Valley Council will work with our community, educators and training providers to target digital skills gaps and promote programs to build capability, confidence and leadership.

## Smart Planning

Yass Valley Council, in collaboration with the community and developers, will examine opportunities to improve planning and development processes and outcomes using digital technology.

Yass Valley is aiming for a modern planning system that delivers convenient online interaction, streamlined processes, more transparent decision-making, improved sustainability and liveability and enhanced consultation.



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## What the community said ...

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Better Wi-Fi coverage

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Fast and complete digital connectivity for the whole community...

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Wi-Fi hot spots for tourist and local use

## Our smart community should deliver ...



Better local services



Increased job & economic opportunities



Improved town & village vibrancy  
(for locals & tourists)

## Let's use digital technology to improve local services ...



Online services



Smart/remote working facilities



Planning and development

## The biggest digital challenges for Yass Valley are ...



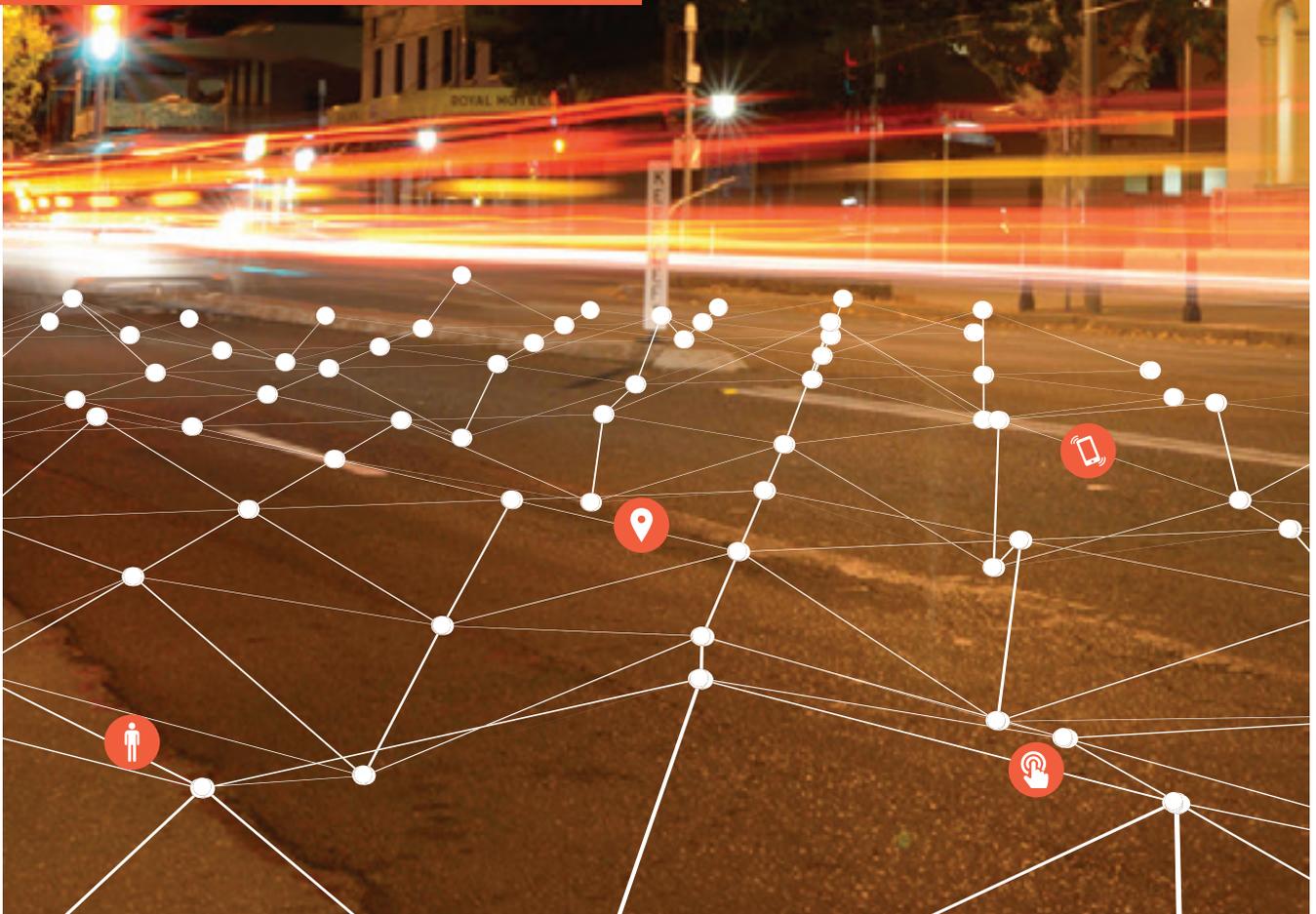


## What the community said ...

.... huge opportunities for Internet of Things (IoT) in regional towns which the community could get involved in ....

Smart street lighting in new town and village developments

Improve Yass Valley Council's website



# Implementation

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**To ensure this Strategy delivers real results for our community, Yass Valley Council is committed to a robust implementation plan.**

Key elements of this plan will include:

- ongoing engagement and communication with the community
- establishing responsibilities for coordination and management of digital projects within Yass Valley
- developing a performance and assessment framework to monitor and measure progress of digital projects
- embedding sound Digital Yass Valley governance arrangements that include all stakeholders
- preparing an application to the Australian Government's Smart Cities and Suburbs Program
- integrated change management strategies and actions
- a complementary program of modernising Council policy and business processes and lobby State and Federal Governments as required
- building smart partnerships, locally, nationally and internationally
- continuing advocacy for better digital outcomes for Yass Valley
- developing robust business cases to prioritise projects and investment
- building digital skills, awareness and capability
- regular progress reporting and updates online
- periodic review and revision of this Strategy

**CONTACT DIGITAL YASS VALLEY**

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