



Housing Matters

ACTION GROUP INC

BELLINGEN SHIRE HOUSING INFORMATION SERVICE

WHAT WE DO

March 2023



Purpose

We help people who are thinking of building or renovating. This includes people who want to meet their own changing housing needs and those who want to create more long term, affordable, liveable and environmentally responsible housing in our community.

What we do

We meet with you and provide you with information so that you can make informed decisions. For free !

For many people a building project is a once in a life time experience.

We listen to your needs to understand your situation and provide you with information and resources which explain your options. We can help you find out information about planning regulations and engage with the experts in the Bellingen Shire Council.

We can pay for one initial consultation with a housing professional such as an architect, builder, town planner if needed. We can do this to help you get the information you need to make an informed decision about how to proceed.



What for?

- Home building
- Renovating
- Secondary dwellings
- Dual occupancy
- Shared ownership
- Retrofitting / sharing existing homes
- Other housing building projects we haven't thought of yet

Who for?

People living in the Bellingen Shire including:

- Home owners whose housing needs are changing and want to do something but are not sure what
- Friends creating housing together
- Families exploring intergenerational housing options
- People who are exploring housing possibilities

What we don't do

- We don't provide services that should be paid for, such as drawings and plans
- We don't provide advice – we only provide information
- We don't make decisions for people
- We don't get kick backs, incentives or commissions from the building industry



Why?

Because we care. We're in a national housing crisis. We know that it's increasingly difficult for people to find ways to create a safe and secure home. Even more so now with the frequent disasters like bushfires, floods and severe weather events that we are facing.

We believe that as a community we need to think laterally and use our resources to find ways to house ourselves and each other. Bellingen Shire Council approved an innovative 20 year Local Housing Strategy in 2020. We want to help Bellingen Shire residents make the most of the opportunities the housing strategy offers to create more housing choices across our Shire.



How the Housing Information Service Works

Book in

We are open by appointment only on Tuesday afternoons from 1 pm – 4 pm. We work from the Bellingren Sustainability Centre but with forward notice we can also meet you in Dorrigo or Urunga.

What happens?

The first step is to meet for about 45 minutes. This will give us enough information to do some research for you if we need to,

At the next appointment we will discuss your project more fully and if necessary a site visit will be arranged. We might bring in an expert from our panel of housing professionals at this point, with their fee covered by the Housing Information Service.

It takes time to consider options and make decisions and we want to support you through this process.

When you are ready to proceed you will engage housing professionals directly. You need to factor in a long lead time for most building projects because there is a shortage of skilled housing professionals such as builders, architects and planners etc.

We are happy to continue to be a sounding board if needed.

Our commitments to you



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Listen

We will always listen to your needs, ideas and priorities

Communicate

We will communicate effectively to make sure that potential options are mutually understood

Understand

We know that for many people these are once in a lifetime decisions and that support through the process can make a big difference.

Who we are

The Housing Matters Action Group was started by a group of active residents in 2017 who were concerned about how quickly housing stress was increasing in our area. We are now an incorporated association with a range of local housing projects aimed at increasing safe, secure, affordable, liveable and environmentally responsible housing in our region. We are proud to be supported by the Siddle Family Foundation.

Contact Information



6655 1121 - leave a message



info@housingmatters.org.au



Bellingen Sustainability Centre 6 Church St Bellingen. Rear of carpark behind ambulance station. But ring first.



www.housingmatters.org.au

This is a Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund project through the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Although funding for this product has been provided by the Australian and NSW Governments, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of either government



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SHIRE COUNCIL**