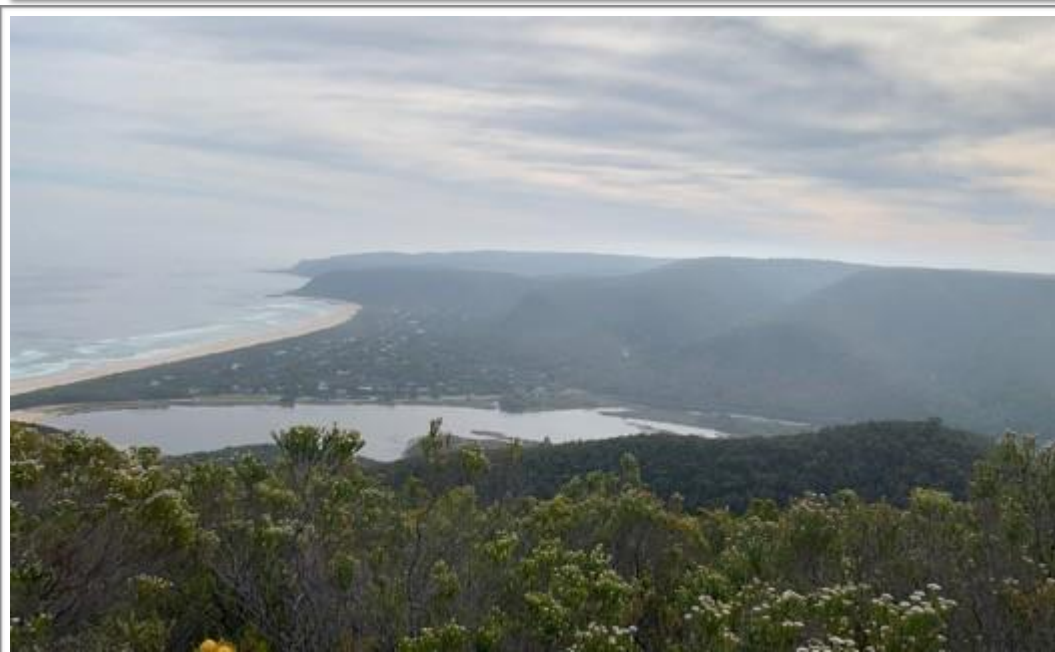




Special Rating Area planned for Natures Valley

After years of baboon invasions and recent successes in implementing a baboon management plan funded by a large group of affected property owners in Natures Valley, Bitou Municipality is now developing a bylaw which is currently planned to be approved by Council in April 2022. The bylaw is a means by which Bitou will facilitate applications for SRAs from interested communities. An application by Natures Valley Ratepayers will be the first application to be considered by Bitou. Approval would facilitate the funding of agreed SRA services through the inclusion of an additional rate/levy by the municipality.

In anticipation of the gazetting of the bylaw, work is about to start on establishing a Special Rating Area (the NV-SRA). Preparatory activities have included:

- The establishment of an SRA Steering Committee to manage the process comprising Dave Owen, Rob Nichol, David Evans, Roy Parkhurst and James Martin. Support will also be provided by the Natures Valley Trust
- Clarification of the broad scope of the SRA with Bitou Municipality as well as the development of an outline plan for application submission
- The development of an SRA specific website to communicate progress, make available relevant documents, support the public participation process, etc
- The development of a community perception survey to be issued in March

What services are included in the SRA?

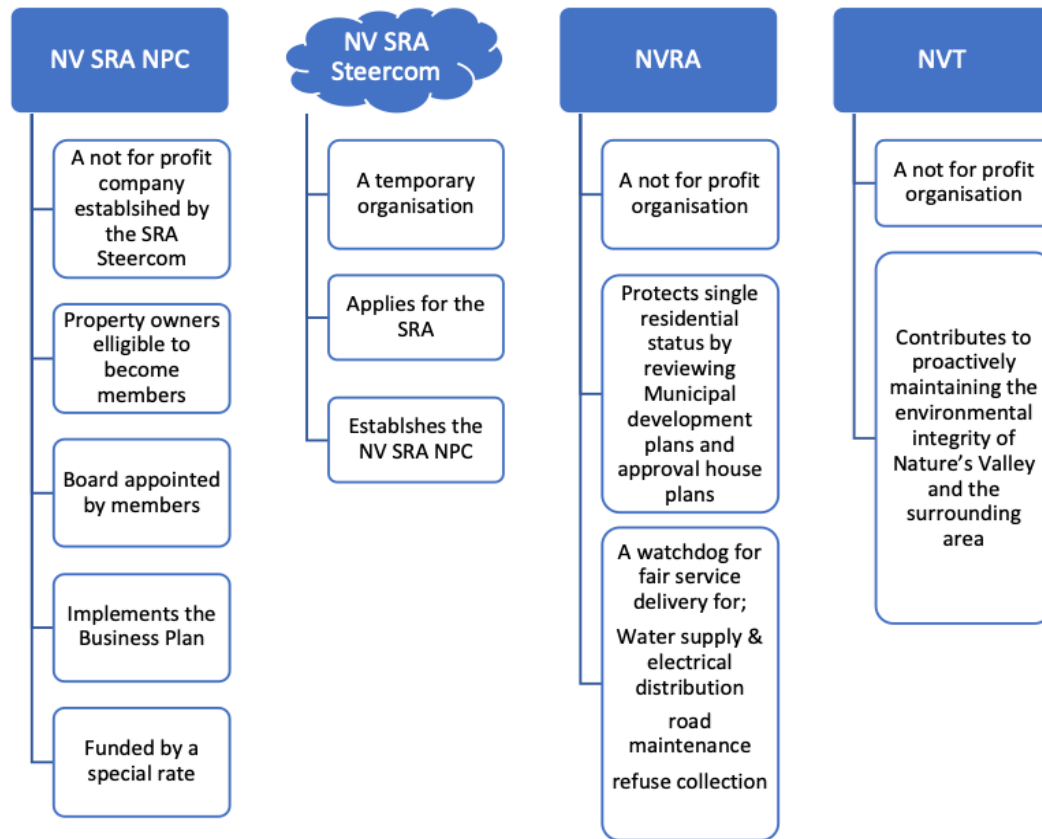
1. Baboon management and monitoring,
2. Community security improvements and
3. Street verge maintenance, invasive alien vegetation clearing in our streets and open spaces and other environment upgrades

We need you to;

- Please support interim funding for the baboon monitors until the SRA is approved
- Watch out for further SRA News editions and study the contents
- Please respond to the forthcoming perception survey
- Vote when asked!!
- Use the SRA website once it's live as your information service

Understanding our community organisations

Current and emerging structures in Natures Valley



The NV SRA Not-For-Profit Co (NV SRA NPC):

- Established solely to administer the services provided under the SRA
- All registered Natures Valley property owners will be eligible to become members of the company
- The company will be audited annually and will have its own board of directors
- The company will act independently from the NVRA for the approved SRA services

The NV SRA Steercom:

- Formed from committed ratepayers residing permanently in Natures Valley
- Submits and seeks approval of the SRA application and establishes the Not-For-Profit company (NV SRA NPC)
- Disbanded once the NVRA SRA NPC is established

The Natures Valley Ratepayers Association (NVRA):

- Ensures that municipal services to ratepayers are both sustainable and efficient.
- Helps protect the single residential status of NV by opposing inappropriate development
- Is the focal point of communication with Bitou LM and SANParks
- Acts independently from the NV SRA NPC and the NV SRA Steercom and will therefore not duplicate effort directed towards services provided under the SRA

The Natures Valley Trust (NVT):

- Contributes towards maintaining the environmental integrity of Natures Valley and its surrounds.

These are the 6 steps needed to establish the SRA

1. **Carry out an Urban Management Survey** (perception survey):
 - ✓ All property owners in NV will be canvassed to determine their views and expectations on matters relevant to the SRA
 - ✓ This will take the form of a questionnaire issued electronically to ratepayers
 - ✓ The survey results will be analysed and will form part of the business plan upon which the SRA is based
2. **Prepare a Business Plan:**
 - ✓ Includes a motivation report, an implementation plan and a budget for a 5-year term
 - ✓ The business plan will be presented to ratepayers at a public meeting
3. **Hold a Public Meeting:**
 - ✓ Property owners will be able to seek clarification on the SRA proposal
 - ✓ All the relevant information will be available at the Public Participation meeting
 - ✓ Facilities for virtual/electronic attendance options for public participation will be provided
4. **Carry out a Consent Survey:**
 - ✓ All eligible property owners will be contacted to approve or reject the SRA application
 - ✓ For the application to succeed a 50% + 1 approval vote is required
5. **Make an application:**
 - ✓ On obtaining a 50%+1 approval vote, the application will be submitted to Bitou Council
 - ✓ Provision is also made for objections to the SRA application to be submitted for consideration by Council
 - ✓ Council ratifies or rejects the application
6. **Implement the Business Plan:**
 - ✓ Establish a Not-For-Profit Company
 - ✓ Appoint a board of directors elected by members
 - ✓ Enter into a finance agreement with the municipality to enable the mandatory levy of an additional property rate to fund baboon management, security improvements and improvements in the local environment (street verge maintenance, alien vegetation removal, etc)
 - ✓ Provide the SRA services to property owners

THE SRA WILL HELP PREVENT AN INCREASE IN CRIME IN NATURES VALLEY

There has been a steady increase in petty theft and house-breaking over the past few years particularly during the main holiday peak periods. Security in Natures Valley goes beyond just securing possessions in the home. It includes security for the occupants of the home while in residence and security of the entire environment within which we live.

Security enhancements would, subject to property owners identified needs, include;

- Linking Natures Valley to local civilian reporting and response networks
- Strategically positioning cctv and license plate recognition cameras
- Expanding peak holiday season security patrols

