towongshire

Agenda
Ordinary Meeting of Council

10:30am, Wednesday 26 June 2024
Towong Shire Council Offices
32 Towong St, Tallangatta, Victoria

Our Community Vision

Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.

This information is available in alternative formats on request.

Agenda for the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held at 32 Towong St, Tallangatta, Victoria on Wednesday 26 June 2024 commencing at 10:30am

Commonly Used Acronyms

Abbreviation	Title
Council Officers	
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DIE	Director Infrastructure and Environment
DCP	Director Community and Planning
DCOD	Director Corporate and Organisational Development
MF	Manager Finance
SAE	Senior Asset Engineer
Government/Organisation	
CH	Corryong Health (formerly Upper Murray Health and Community Services)
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DJSIR	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
GMW	Goulburn Murray Water
HRGLN	Hume Region Local Government Network
MAV	Municipal Association of Victoria
NECMA	North East Catchment Management Authority
NERPEN	North East Regional Procurement Excellence Network
NEW	North East Water
NEWRRG	North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group
RCV	Rural Councils Victoria
RDA	Regional Development Australia
RDV	Regional Development Victoria
THS	Tallangatta Health Service
VGC	Victorian Grants Commission
WBNC	Walwa Bush Nursing Centre

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1 Opening Prayer

"Almighty God, we ask that you be present at this meeting to assist us in our service to the Community through Local Government.

We pray that our decisions will be wise and taken with goodwill and clear conscience.

Amen."

2 Councillor and Officer Presence at the Meeting

Councillor Attendance
Crs Whitehead, Anderson, Scales, Wortmann and Dikschei

Officer Attendance:	Title:
Ms Phelps	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Gadd	Director Infrastructure and Environment
Ms Pagan	Director Community and Planning
Ms Taylor	Director Corporate and Organisational Development

3 Apologies and Granting of Leave of Absence

4 Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

Section 130 of the Act requires that a 'Relevant person' (which means a person who is a Councillor, a member of a delegated committee who is not a Councillor or a member of Council staff) disclose any conflict of interest in the manner required by Council's Governance Rules and exclude themselves from the decision making process in relation to the matter including any discussion or vote on the matter at any Council meeting.

Council's *Governance Rules* state as follows:

A2 Obligations with regards to conflict of interest

Councillors, members of delegated committee, and Council staff are required to:
a. Avoid all situations which may give rise to conflicts of interest;

b. Identify any conflicts of interest; and
c. Disclose or declare all conflicts of interest.

A3 Disclosure of a conflict of interest at a Council meeting

A Councillor who has a conflict of interest in a matter being considered at a Council meeting at which he or she:

A3.1 is present must disclose that conflict of interest by explaining the nature of the conflict of interest to those present at the Council meeting immediately before the matter is considered; or
A3.2 intends to be present must disclose that conflict of interest by providing to the Chief Executive Officer before the Council meeting commences a written notice:

A3.2.1 advising of the conflict of interest;

A3.2.2 explaining the nature of the conflict of interest; and

A3.2.3 detailing, if the nature of the conflict of interest involves a Councillor's relationship with or a gift from another person, the:

a. name of the other person;
b. nature of the relationship with that other person or the date of receipt, value and type of gift received from the other person; and
c. nature of that other person's interest in the matter, and then
immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting announcing to those present that he or she has a conflict of interest and that a written notice has been given to the Chief Executive Officer under this sub-Rule.

The Councillor must, in either event, leave the Council meeting immediately after giving the explanation or making the announcement (as the case may be) and not return to the meeting until after the matter has been disposed of.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings listed below were circulated to Councillors following each respective meeting. Confirmation of the minutes is now sought.

- Special Council Meeting held on 8 May 2024
- Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 May 2024

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 8 May 2024 and the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 22 May 2024, be confirmed.

6 Petitions and Joint Letters

Nil

7 Public Question Time

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, all questions must be submitted to Council in writing by 2.00pm on the day prior to the Council meeting.

An online form is available on Council's website, and a hard copy of the form is available at both the Tallangatta and Corryong Council offices.

Public Notice of Public Question Time was included in the advertisement for the Council meeting.

The CEO will advise of any Public Question Time submissions at the meeting.

8 Informal Meetings of Councillors

In accordance with Council's *Governance Rules*, a written summary of the matters discussed at each informal meeting of Councillors is to be tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

The Meeting Records from the Informal Meeting of Councillors held on 24 April 2024, 8 May 2024 and 22 May 2024 are attached as follows:

1. Workshop Meeting Record 24 April 2024 [**8.1.1** - 2 pages]
2. Workshop Meeting Record 8 May 2024 [**8.1.2** - 4 pages]
3. Workshop Meeting Record 22 May 2024 [**8.1.3** - 4 pages]

Recommendation:

That the information be noted.

9 Organisational Improvement

9.1 Action Sheet Report (CEO-06/06/0010)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Justin Troy, Coordinator Governance and Compliance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

The attached report shows the progress made in relation to the resolutions from the 22 May 2024 Ordinary Council meeting.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. Action Sheet from Ordinary Council Meeting - 22 May 2024 [**9.1.1** - 5 pages]

Background/History:

Not applicable.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Not applicable.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Not applicable.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable.

Officer's View:

It is the officer's view that good progress has been made in relation to the actions arising from previous meetings.

9.2 Audit and Risk Committee Charter Review (DCOD-07/07/0022)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Narelle Taylor, Director Corporate and Organisational Development.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to present a revised Audit and Risk Committee Charter, and to propose an increase to the allowance paid to the independent members of the Audit and Risk Committee, for Council's consideration.

Summary:

The Audit and Risk Committee Charter is due for review. The current Charter was adopted in August 2022. The Charter establishes the governance of the Committee, including authority, membership, meeting arrangements, as well as duties and responsibilities. Various changes have been recommended by the Committee to be considered for adoption.

Recommendation:

That:

1. The Audit and Risk Committee Charter as presented be adopted; and

2. The independent member allowance be set to 1.25% of the Councillor allowance per meeting effective from the next Audit and Risk Committee meeting.

Attachment:

1. Audit and Risk Committee Charter - April 2024 Draft (with Track Changes) [**9.2.1** - 5 pages]

Background/History:

Section 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that a Council must prepare and approve an Audit and Risk Committee Charter, which specifies the functions and

responsibilities of the Committee. Council adopted the current Committee Charter at the August 2022 Council Meeting.

At the 28 May 2024 Audit and Risk Committee meeting, the Committee resolved to propose changes to the Charter for Council's consideration. The recommended changes are as follows:

Independant Member Remuneration

The basis of independent member remuneration be changed from a set fee (currently $300 per meeting) to a set percentage of Councillor allowances. This will ensure independent member remuneration will reflect indexation and other economic factors, rather than remaining stagnant. The proposed set percentage of 1.25% of Councillor Allowances per meeting is consistent with the existing set fee, with a slight increase to compensate for previous indexations.

Committee Chairperson Remuneration

The Charter currently specifies that an additional amount will be paid to the Chairperson, by the method set by the Council. It is recommended that the Charter include that the Chairperson receive an additional 20% of the independent member allowance. This will compensate the Chairperson for the additional responsibilities required by the position, such as facilitating meetings and liaising with Council outside of meetings as the primary Committee representative.

Additional Risk Management Responsibilities

It is recommended that an additional responsibility be included in the Committee's 'Risk Management' responsibilities to monitor significant incident responses within Council to ensure risks are being managed. This will ensure any current operational situations with significant risks involved, for Council or the community, will be reviewed by the Committee to provide expert advice where appropriate.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The proposed Audit and Risk Committee Charter is prepared in accordance with section 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020* as specified below:

54 Audit and Risk Committee Charter

(1) A Council must prepare and approve an Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

(2) The Audit and Risk Committee Charter must specify the functions and

responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Committee including the following—

(a) monitor the compliance of Council policies and procedures with—
(i) the overarching governance principles; and
(ii) this Act and the regulations and any Ministerial directions;
(b) monitor Council financial and performance reporting;
(c) monitor and provide advice on risk management and fraud prevention systems and controls;
(d) oversee internal and external audit functions.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

The following options could be considered:

1. Adopt the proposed Audit and Risk Committee Charter to ensure Council can attract and utilise valuable expertise; or

2. Not adopt the proposed Audit and Risk Committee Charter and propose alternative changes for consideration.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Regular revision of the Audit and Risk Committee Charter ensures Council can maintain effective governance of the Committee through acknowledging best practice and current risks and challenges. This ensures valuable advice can continue to be provided for Council's consideration and action.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

The proposed increase in independent member fees will not have a significant impact on the budget, as they are very minor in amount. Future budgets will reflect the increase in independent member fees.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The proposed Audit and Risk Committee Charter presents an improved method of independent member remuneration to mitigate the risk of attraction and retention of members. Increasing the scope of Risk Management responsibilities in the Charter also ensures Council and utilise the Committee's expertise to provide expert advice on current situations that pose a risk for the organisation or the community.

Officer's View:

It is the Officer's view that the proposed Charter enhances governance arrangements for the Committee and is up to date with best practice in the local government sector. The Audit and Risk Committee is a valuable opportunity for Council to utilise a range of expert skills and experiences, with an effective Charter governing how the Committee can best be deployed within statutory limitations.

9.3 Audit and Risk Committee - Independant Member Appointments (CEO-07/07/0022)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Juliana Phelps, Chief Executive Officer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to report on recent recruitment activity to fill the vacant independent member positions on the Audit and Risk Committee and present the preferred candidates for Council's consideration.

Summary:

The Audit and Risk Committee comprises a minimum of three members – one Councillor and two external independent people. The Committee has in recent years consisted of four external independent members which provides good continuity to the Committee, as well as a diversity of experience.

With the upcoming completion of the term of independent member Mr Spencer Rich in September 2024 and the recent resignation of independent member Ms Loren Murray, two new independent members are required. The recruitment of two new Committee members has been led by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer in line with the Committee Charter, with Carolyn Rosetta-Walsh and Marcus Goonan being recommended as the new members.

Recommendation:

That

1. Carolyn Rosetta-Walsh be appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee for a four-year period from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2028; and

2. Marcus Goonan be appointed to the Audit and Risk Committee for a four-year period from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2028.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

Section 53 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that a Council must establish an Audit and Risk Committee, which is an advisory committee of Council. An Audit and Risk Committee must include members who are Councillors of Council and consist of a majority of members who are not Councillors of Council and who collectively have expertise in financial management and risk, and experience in public sector management.

Accordingly, Council's Audit and Risk Committee Charter states that the Committee is to comprise of a minimum of three members, including one Councillor and two independent people. The Audit and Risk Committee has in recent years included four independent people, which has provided good continuity to the Committee, as well as a diversity of experience.

Recruitment commenced in April and following external advertising, a very strong field of 12 candidates applied for the role. This was shortlisted to seven highly experienced candidates who were interviewed by the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer. Carolyn Rosetta-Walsh and Marcus Goonan are recommended as the preferred candidates, bringing extensive experience in financial and public sector risk management.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The recommendation is made in accordance with Council's Audit and Risk Committee Charter which in turn has been adopted in accordance with the requirements of section 53 and 54 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

The appointment of four external independent Committee members provides for good continuity of the Committee, while ensuring that the Committee can continue to provide a diversity of experience and expertise to Council for the benefit of its ongoing sustainability.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Committee members receive an allowance per meeting in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter, which is provided for within the Council Budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
Not applicable.

Council Policies:
The recommendation is made in accordance with the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The appointment of four external independent Committee members provides for good continuity for the Committee.

Officer's View:

The recruitment of two new Committee members has been conducted in accordance with Council's *Recruitment Policy* and the applications received were of a very high standard. The appointment of Carolyn Rosetta-Walsh and Marcus Goonan to the Committee will add valuable expertise and experience for the benefit of Council.

9.4 Records Management Policy - Adoption (DCOD-10/01/0007)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Justin Troy, Coordinator Governance and Compliance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to present a new policy for Council's consideration.

Summary:

Records management is a core function within local government organisations to ensure business information and decision-making can be appropriately captured and managed. By establishing a policy on how records management functions are conducted, accountabilities and principles can be deployed to consistently achieve legislative compliance and organisational needs.

Recommendation:

That:

1. The Records Management Policy as presented be adopted; and

2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make minor administrative changes where necessary.

Attachment:

1. Records Management Policy DRAFT [**9.4.1** - 6 pages]

Background/History:

Records management is a common administrative practise that every organisation utilises. Whether it's to record decisions that were made, store essential information important to organisational functions, or to enhance internal knowledge management, effective records management is essential for all organisations, which is emphasised in the local government sector.

Records management practises in the Victorian local government sector are guided and enforced through the *Public Records Act 1973*. The Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) is the agency responsible for administering the Act, which includes setting mandatory standards and principles for effectively managing public records. The proposed policy aims to capture the essential principles set by PROV which are relevant to the organisation and set a commitment and accountability to ensuring our practises comply with those requirements.

To assist Council with improving general records management practises, external consultants 'Charlie Mac' have been providing ongoing support in delivering an IT/Records Management transformation project. This strategy aims to reform Council's information technology and records management governance, structures and practises, promoting improved business practice and regulatory compliance. A part of this strategy included establishing a records management framework to document the organisations commitment and direction towards good records management.

The proposed policy covers the following matters:

- *Principles* – Addresses the overarching principles that Council will strive to achieve for both compliance and organisational efficiency.
- *Governance* – Provides an overview of key accountabilities in implementing effective records management practises within the organisation.
- *Systems* – Addresses the management of records management systems used within the organisation.
- *Performance Management* – Outlines the process for managing breaches in performance against the policy.
- *Communications and Reporting* – Identifies how the policy will be communicated and deployed throughout the organisation on an ongoing basis.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The principles outlined in the policy are guided by PROV as per their authority from the *Public Records Act 1973*:

Section 12 - Standards for management of public records

The Keeper of Public Records shall establish standards for the efficient management of public records and in particular with respect to—

(a) the creation, maintenance and security of public records;
(b) the selection of public records worthy of preservation;

(c) the transfer of public records to the Public Record Office; and
(d) the segregation and disposal of public records not worthy of preservation—

and shall assist public officers in applying these standards to records under their control.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Records Management practises have been a focus for the Corporate and Organisational Development Directorate, with this policy contributing towards continuous improvement measures.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The introduction of an effective Records Management policy will mitigate the risk of not achieving statutory compliance across the corporate function through best practice measures and a consistent approach towards records management. The risk of inappropriately using records management systems and practises that may expose the organisation to the misuse or loss of corporate documents and knowledge is also reduced through setting key accountabilities and increased commitment of appropriate standards.

Officer's View:

It is the Officer's view that the proposed policy highlights the importance of effective records management in a diverse organisation and identifies appropriate measures and responsibilities to ensure good practises can be deployed. All staff have a responsibility to uphold good records management practises and will be empowered to achieve this through the establishment of an effective framework.

9.5 Policy Management Policy Adoption (DCOD-10/01/0007)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Justin Troy, Coordinator Governance and Compliance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to present a new policy for Council's consideration.

Summary:

The effective management of policies has been internally identified as a priority to ensure policies can be developed and managed in a consistent and efficient manner. In establishing this framework, the *Policy Management Policy* has been drafted and put forward for consideration. This policy identifies how all types of policies will be managed, from initial development to periodic reviews. This initiative will empower staff to understand their policy management responsibilities in the process and sets key accountabilities to ensure policy management processes are efficient and compliant.

Recommendation:

That;

1. The Policy Management Policy as presented be adopted; and

2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make minor administrative changes to the policy where necessary.

Attachment:

1. Policy Management Policy DRAFT [**9.5.1** - 10 pages]

Background/History:

The *Local Government Act 2020* acknowledges that Council and the Chief Executive Officer have powers to do all things necessary to enable the effective management of Council functions, whilst considering good governance principles. An effective

method of ensuring strategic commitments and day to day operations are consistently delivered with transparency and accountability is through the deployment of policies. To guide the development, implementation and review of policies, a framework needs to be considered to manage the numerous policies required for Council to deliver its broad range of community and statutory obligations.

The development of a Policy Management framework has been a priority over the first half of the year, which is now being initiated through the draft Policy Management Policy. The intent of the policy is to:

1. Identify the different types of policies deployed by Council and their respective development and review processes;
2. Identify the key accountabilities within the organisation to ensure effective policy management is being achieved;
3. Provide further internal guidance for staff to maintain effective policy management, such as procedures and templates.

The priority of introducing policy management framework is the result of various factors, such as increasing legislative obligations, an increased workforce and onboarding of new staff, as well as the risk of losing key corporate knowledge and processes. In summary, effective policy management will mitigate the risk for inconsistent processes and loss of informal commitments and procedures. This will be achieved through this policy and supplementary documentation, such as template policies, by creating transparent processes and accountabilities to promote consistency and empower staff to utilise best practises for the management of policies and procedures within the organisation.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Local Government Act 2020* identifies the following provisions in relation to the development of Council policies:

Section 10(1)
Subject to any limitations or restrictions imposed by or under this Act or any other Act, a Council has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the performance of its role.

Section 46(1)(b)
A Chief Executive Officer is responsible for— ensuring the effective and efficient management of the day to day operations of the Council.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Policy management has been a focus for the Corporate and Organisational Development Directorate since the commencement of the year. The proposed policy commitments and processes contribute towards improved practises within the organisation.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The introduction of the *Policy Management Policy* will form the foundation of the Policy Management framework and mitigate the risk of inconsistent practises in managing policies.

Officer's View:

It is the Officer's view that the introduction of the *Policy Management Policy* will contribute towards improved policy management practises and provide valuable guidance for staff involved with developing and managing policies within the organisation.

9.6 Occupational Health and Safety Report - June 2024 (DCOD-06/04/0212)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Wayne Carter, Occupational Health and Safety Officer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

This report is provided to Council to provide an overview of the activities undertaken in relation to Occupational Health and Safety.

Major Occupational Health and Safety activities conducted during the period included:

- Hazards identified in the 2024 OHS Management System Audit and site visits were discussed with the officers responsible for each of those work sites with corrective actions required;
- Commenced the drafting of a framework for risk management and safety management systems;
- Follow up on current insurance claims;
- Quotes obtained for anchor points for when Contractors are working at heights when inspecting air conditioners or cleaning gutters on Council building roofs;
- 2024 Influenza vaccinations completed; and
- Lifting equipment inspections completed.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. OHS Report June 2024 [**9.6.1** - 4 pages]

Background/History:

The OHS report is provided on a bi-monthly basis to communicate the work being undertaken to ensure a healthy and safe work environment. The report highlights progress in strengthening processes, procedures and practices across the organisation and details how emerging health and safety risks are being addressed.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

OHS activities are governed by the principles of health and safety protection in accordance with the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* and the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017*. Employees, Councillors, other people at work and members of the public are given the highest level of protection against risks to their health and safety that are reasonably practicable in the circumstances.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Activities are prioritised to best support sustainable health and safety outcomes for employees and the general community.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

During the insurance renewal process, officers engage with members of Committees of Management for community assets that are covered under Council's JMAPP Policy for loss and/or damage. Engagement involved site visits and email/phone interactions relating to insurance requirements, inspections of assets etc. and collection of COPE information.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Officers continue to follow-up actions from the current Audit which was completed in February 2024, and address overlaps of outstanding actions from the 2021 audit.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities:
6. Organisational Improvement – Maintain a high performing customer-centred organisation that works with the community to develop and deliver priorities

6.7 Provide a safe and healthy workplace for all Councillors and staff in a continually evolving environment.

6.13 Continually improve the risk management and governance frameworks and practices

Council Policies:

Occupational Health and Safety Policy
Risk Management Policy

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Activities are prioritised commensurate to the likelihood and impact of identified OHS risks.

Officer's View:

There continues to be an increased focus on the Skills Matrix and Training Plan especially for the outdoor crews to ensure training is undertaken to maintain competency. Actions from the 2021 OHS Management System Audit were addressed up to February 2024, and minor changes are made to the Integrated Management

System Compliance Manual. A new focus on the actions following the OHS Management System Audit in January and February 2024 has commenced and will continue this year.

9.7 Quarterly Performance Reporting Graphs (07/05/0022 - DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Narelle Taylor, Director Corporate and Organisational Development.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to provide information.

Summary:

The performance reporting graphs are provided to Council on a quarterly basis to provide a high-level picture of the key areas of Council operations.

A graph is provided for each of the following areas:

- Council Plan Priorities
- Top 5 Service Request Types
- Service Requests Closed and Open
- Corryong Visitor Information Centre Visitation
- Capital Expenditure
- Cash Position
- Rates Debtors
- Incident Reports
- Building Permits Issued
- Planning Applications Lodged
- Council Resolutions
- Technical Service Inspections

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. May 2024 Performance reporting [**9.7.1** - 1 page]

Background/History:

Not applicable.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Not applicable.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

In accordance with our *Community Engagement policy* this matter did not require community engagement.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

This report provides information relevant to our progress in performance and continuous improvement against key areas of Council's operations.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Cash balances indicate that the Council is currently in a strong financial position.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

This report does not relate to Regional, State and National Plans and Policies.

Council Plans and Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The Performance Reporting Graphs provide a snapshot of how Council is tracking against its key operational objectives, helping to provide a high-level guide as to any emerging risks.

Officer's View:

The Performance Reporting Graphs are provided to illustrate key aspects of Council's performance and results. This data indicates Council officers' efforts to achieve strong outcomes for the community are coming to fruition.

9.8 Final Budget Report 2024/25 (DCOD-06/02/0085)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Narelle Taylor, Director Corporate and Organisational Development.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of the report is to present the *Budget 2024/25* for adoption.

Summary:

At the Special Council Meeting on 8 May 2024, amendments to the Capital Works budget were resolved, and the Chief Executive Officer was authorised to make the *Draft Budget 2024/25* available for public exhibition and invite public submissions. At the time of completing this report, two submissions had been received. These have been considered and addressed in the section Background/History of this report.

Since being released for public exhibition the rates in the dollar have been recalculated with the most up to date valuations received from LGV.

The *Budget 2024/25* provides for the ongoing delivery of quality facilities and services to residents, including a focus on upgrading, repairing and maintaining our roads and bridges network with $4.7 million allocated to this key infrastructure.

We have also included a restructuring of our Early Years teams to ensure we are able to deliver quality Kinder, Childcare and Maternal and Child Health services to our communities.

An increase to total rates raised of 2.75% is recommended in accordance with the rate cap set by the State Government under the Fair Go Rates system. The current pressures on our rate payers caused by the increased cost of living was a key consideration when preparing the budget and the associated 2.75% increase to rate revenue. It is important to note that inflation is significantly higher, and presents real challenges to the future sustainability of Council.

Recommendation:

That:

1. The *Budget 2024/25* be adopted;

2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give public notice of the adoption of the *Budget 2024/25*;

3. Pursuant to section 158 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the amounts to be raised by general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges for the 2024/25 financial year are as follows:
    a. General rates – $7,223,000;
    b. Municipal charges – $1,350,000;
    c. Kerbside collection charges – $1,360,000;
    d. Waste management charges – $404,000;

4. Pursuant to section 159 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, a municipal rate of $337 per rateable property be declared for the 2024/25 financial year;

5. Pursuant to section 159 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, the following annual service charges be declared for the 2024/25 financial year:
    a. Waste facilities management – $101;
    b. Garbage and recycling standard service – 140L/240L bins – $340;
    c. Garbage and recycling – 240L/240L bins – $380;
    d. Garbage and recycling – 80L/240L bins – $310;
    e. Garbage, Recycling and FOGO - 80L/240L/240L bins - $470;
    f. Garbage, Recycling and FOGO - 140L/240L/240L bins - $495;
    g. Garbage, Recycling and FOGO - 240L/240L/240L bins - $530;
    h. Additional garbage – 140L bin – $380;
    i. Additional garbage – 240L bin – $495;
    j. Additional garbage – 80L bin – $325;
    k. Additional recycling – 240L bin – $180; and
    l. Garbage and recycling service extension (per km) - $200;

6. Pursuant to section 161 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, general rates are raised by the application of differential rates to rateable properties and that the following rates in the dollar are applied for each type of rate to be levied for the 2024/25 financial year, with the definition of each type or class of land contained within the *Budget 2024/25:*
    a. Residential properties – 0.2330 cents in the dollar of capital improved value;

b. Rural residential properties – 0.2330 cents in the dollar of capital improved value;
c. Rural properties – 0.1864 cents in the dollar of capital improved value;
d. Business properties – 0.2097 cents in the dollar of capital improved value; and
e. Undeveloped residential properties – 0.7456 cents in the dollar of capital improved value;

7. In exercise of the power conferred by section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, rebates are granted to each owner (or where applicable, occupier) of rateable land of the declared municipal charge and waste management charge in respect of the financial year, if:
    a. The rateable land is farm land within the meaning of section 2(1) of the *Valuation of Land Act 1960* or would be farm land if it were 2 hectares or more in area;
    b. The rateable land forms part of a single farm enterprise;
    c. A rebate is not granted in respect of at least one other rateable property which forms part of the single farm enterprise; and
    d. In the case of a single farm enterprise, which is occupied by more than one person, a rebate is not granted in respect of more than one principle place of residence;

8. It is Council's position that rebates assist in the proper development of the municipal district by encouraging the retention of farms and reducing the rates and charges burden on owners (and, where applicable, occupiers) of single farm enterprises;

9. In exercise of the power conferred by section 169 of the *Local Government Act 1989,* the following concessions be granted:
    a. 50% of the rates levied on the four elderly person units located at 24 Willong Street, Tallangatta, as per the existing agreement dated in 1994 between the Ministry of Housing and Council;
    b. 50% of the rates, municipal charge and waste management charges levied on the property at 25 Wheeler Street, Corryong, as per the Council Minutes dated 1 May 2000; and

10. In accordance with section 167 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, rates and charges are to be paid in four instalments on or before 30 September 2024, 30 November 2024, 28 February 2025 and 31 May 2025.

Attachment:

1. Final Budget 2024 25 [**9.8.1** - 66 pages]

Background/History:

The *Local Government Act 2020* requires that a Council must prepare and adopt a Budget for each financial year and the subsequent three financial years by 30 June each year. The budget must give effect to the Council Plan and contain the financial statements, services and initiatives to be funded, the prescribed indicators and measures of service performance, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges, descriptions of the rates to be applied, and any other information prescribed by the regulations. The Budget must be developed in accordance with the financial management principles outlined by the *Local Government Act 2020* as well as its *Community Engagement Policy*.

A proposed *Budget 2024/25* was prepared for consideration by Council at the 8 May 2024 Special Council Meeting and the Chief Executive Officer was authorised to release it for public exhibition and submissions. The document was subsequently released with submissions closing on 25 June 2024. At the time of writing the report, two submissions had been received as follows:

No.	Submission Summary	Officer Comments and Recommendation
1	Requested the installation of a dump point at Eskdale.	Council are unable to facilitate this request at this time, however note that the request has been included in the Capital Works request register.
2	Rural property valuations have increased significantly over three years from 2021 – 2023, resulting in rural property holders rating charges to increase significantly in that time, and well in excess of the rate cap implemented by the State Government. This has led to the proportion of rates revenue contributed by rural properties to be much higher than historical levels. The submitter suggested that rural properties have –11.5%	Council has always complied with the rate cap requirements, noting that this cap is applied to the average rating charge per property, not for each individual properties. Council recognised in the 2023/24 Budget that the increase in rural property valuations had resulted in significant cost escalations to rural property owners. In response, the rating differential for the rural rating category was reduced from 90% to 80%.

	applied to the rating charge for the next three years to compensate for the preceding years increases.	In recognition of the three years of significant increases Council has elected to maintain the differential at 80% of the residential rate, instead of reverting back to 90%. This will continue to balance out the preceding years rating increases to rural properties. We also note that the valuations are completed independently of Council, and if residents object to the valuation of the property, an objection to the valuation should be lodged by the deadline, which is 60 days from the date of the notice of assessment.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Budget 2024/25* has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989,* the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Council could choose to vary revenue and expenditure levels from proposed levels. Revenue levels have been proposed to balance the community's capacity to pay for rates and services with Council's ability to cover its costs as inflation increases the cost of doing business. Expenditure is comprised of spending on projects which are grant funded, and spending on business-as-usual facilities and services, which are to be maintained at current levels.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

The parameters of the proposed *Budget 2024/25* have been set to balance community needs with ongoing financial sustainability. Council's financial sustainability over the preceding years has been quite strong following receipt of significant funding for capital projects, Bushfire Recovery and Flood Recovery activities. Longer-term sustainability remains a challenge in the light of the costs of renewing the Shire's aging civil infrastructure.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

The development of the proposed Budget 2024/25 has considered feedback received

through ongoing community engagement and particularly the consultation regarding the *Council Plan 2021-2025*. The proposed document has been released for exhibition and submissions and two submissions were received.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

The proposed *Budget 2024/25* includes a major capital works program which invests in our civil infrastructure to support the Shire in its future growth and vibrancy.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

The proposed *Budget 2024/25* signals our ongoing reliance on external funding sources to meet community expectations for the services we deliver.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Several major initiatives contained in the *Budget 2024/25* are funded by State and Federal grant programs, in alignment to associated State and Federal plans and strategies.

Council Plans and Policies:

The activities funded by the *Budget 2024/25* are in alignment with the strategies outlined in the *Council Plan 2021-2025*.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The *Budget 2024/25* represents a consistent risk profile to previous budgets.

The long-term financial sustainability risks remains and ongoing advocacy work is essential to providing Council with further financial certainty.

Officer's View:

The *Budget 2024/25* has been developed in accordance with legislative requirements and is based on ongoing community engagement. Council has worked hard to secure substantial grant funding to support major works in 2024/25 and the proposed financial position is sound.

It is the officer's view that the *Budget 2024/25* is financially responsible and consistent with community needs.

9.9 Sale of Land - 8 Boundary St, Corryong (PN320161-DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Narelle Taylor, Director Corporate and Organisational Development.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to seek confirmation that the vacant land at 8 Boundary Street, Corryong is no longer required by Council, and accordingly, a decision that the land be sold.

Summary:

In 2002 Council undertook the development of six one acre lots in the Corryong industrial estate.

Four of the six lots are now in private ownership, leaving two lots (6 Boundary Street, where the Innovation Space is located and 8 Boundary Street, which is vacant) remaining in Council's ownership.

When the lots were created it was intended that they be available for private interests to purchase with a view to the establishment and/or expansion of commerical or industrial enterprises.

A Notice of Intention to sell was recently placed on Council's website in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act and no objections were received. It is the officer's recommendation that the lot be sold.

Recommendation:

That:

1. The land at 8 Boundary Street, Corryong (Lot 4 PS 444190), being surplus to Council's needs, be sold;

2. The land be sold by an Expression of Interest process for a price no less than a valuation held by Council; and

3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to sign and seal all documents relating to the sale of the land in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties.

Attachment:

1. 8 Boundary Street, Corryong - Image [**9.9.1** - 1 page]

Background/History:

In 2001 Council commissioned Fisher Stewart to prepare the Corryong Industrial Land Study. The study looked at possible industrial land sites and concluded that land situated at Boundary Street was the preferred location for industrial development.

In late 2001 Council was successful in securing a dollar-for-dollar grant of $120,000 from the Victorian Government (under the Council and Regional Development Body Program) for the development of the Boundary Street site (Stage 2 Corryong Industrial Estate).

The Stage 2 development created six (6) one acre (approx 4000 sq m) lots.

In 2006/07, 2-4 Boundary Street (Lots 1 and 2 PS 444190) were sold. Corryong Building Supplies is located at this site.

In 2006 Council secured $160,000 (ex GST) from the Australian Government under the Regional Partnerships program for the Corryong Innovation Space project. This funding together with $146,000 of Council funds enabled the construction of the Innovation Space which is located at 6 Boundary Street (Lot 3 PS 444190) on one of the six lots created in 2002.

In 2006 Council sold 10 Boundary Street (Lot 5 PS 444190). This lot was subsequently

sold in 2012 and is currently vacant.

In December 2012 12 Boundary Street (Lot 6 PS 444190) was sold. Baxters Concrete Pty Ltd are located at this site.

Four of the six lots are now in private ownership, leaving two lots (6 Boundary Street – Innovation Space and 8 Boundary Street - vacant) remaining in Council's ownership The original 2001 Corryong Land Industrial Study proposed a possible third stage development, with additional lots created behind the six Boundary Street lots, with a road being constructed on 6 Boundary Street to access the stage 3 lots. This was prior to the Innovation Space being constructed and subsequent changes to ownership of adjacent land means that this option is no longer possible.

There were no objections arising from the recent Notice of Intention to sell 8 Boundary Street, Corryong (Lot 4 PS 444190).

It is the officer's recommendation that the lot be sold.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Section 114 (1) of the *Local Government Act 2020* provides that if Council sells or exchanges any land it must comply with this section.

(2) Before selling or exchanging the land, the Council must -

(a) at least 4 weeks prior to selling or exchanging the land, publish notice of intention to do so -

(b) on the Council's Internet site; and

(c) in any other manner prescribed by the regulations for the purposes of this subsection; and

(d) undertake a community engagement process in accordance with its community engagement policy; and

(e) obtain from a person who holds the qualifications or experience specified under section 13DA(2) of the Valuation of Land Act 1960 a valuation of the land which is made not more than 6 months prior to the sale or exchange.

The requirements of s114 of the Act have been met.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

In terms of achieving the best outcome for the municipal community, including future generations, two options are proposed for consideration:

Option 1 - To sell 8 Boundary Street, Corryong.

Option 2 - Continue to retain ownership of 8 Boundary Street, Corryong.

The best outcome for the community would be for the industrial land to be utilised to facilitate economic activity in Corryong. Presently Council also owns 6 Boundary Street where the Corryong Innovation Space is located (comprised of an office suite and four sheds). Two of the sheds are tenanted at this time. The vacant block of land at 8 Boundary Street, which is 4033 sq m, provides the opportunity for a business to be established in the Industrial Estate.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic
Selling the land will promote economic activity by allowing local businesses to establish and/or expand their operations on a large block of land in the industrial estate.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

In accordance with section 114 of the Act, a notice was placed on Council's website advising of Council's intention to sell the land.

No objections were received. One submission, in support of the sale was received.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not Applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not Applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

The sale of the land will be for no less than the current valuation determined by the Valuer General. This is the value at which it is currently held by Council. Council will benefit from the proceeds of the sale.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
This report supports the following Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities.
6. Organisational Improvement - Maintain a high performing customer-centred organisation that works with the community to develop and deliver priorities.

6.12 Consider options for the realisation of surplus Council assets

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is appropriate for this report to be considered in a meeting open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The risk from the decision to sell the land is considered low. It is a block of land in an industrial estate, held for the purpose of being sold to facilitate economic activity. There is the risk that there may not be a purchaser willing to pay a price at or above current valuation, however, this will simply result in the status quo remaining with Council retaining ownership, until such a time as it can be sold.

Officer's View:

It is the Officer's view that it is in Council's interest to sell 8 Boundary Street, Corryong. The sale will result in a financial return to Council and will potentially enable the establishment and/or growth of a private business and accordingly increased economic activity. This would be an excellent outcome as the desire for economic growth was a fundamental reason that Council pursued the expansion of the industrial estate (ie Stage 2) back in the early 2000's.

10 Community Wellbeing

10.1 Swimming Pools Report Season 2022/23 (DCP)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Miranda Mouat, Co-ordinator Recreation and Community Development.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

This report summarises the outcomes of the 2023/24 swimming pool season and makes recommendations for improvements to operational management, compliance obligations, and accessibility.

Summary:

The 2023/24 swimming pool season involved the transition to partial management of the swimming pools by external contractor Belgravia Leisure. The pool season was successfully delivered for the community, including:

- Consistent staffing and supervision at both pools;
- Extended opening hours at both pools over the Christmas and New Year period - 20 December 2023 to 7 January 2024;
- No closures of pools due to inclement weather, and only one early closing at Tallangatta pool due to a water quality issue;
- Extended opening hours due to hot weather for one weekend in December;
- Delivery of the season within budget;
- Achievement of increased visitation at both pools;
- Provision of the VicSwim program at both Tallangatta and Corryong pools in January school holidays;
- Installation of the aquatic wheelchair hoist at Corryong pool for improved accessibility and equality for pool patrons;
- Installation of new barbeque area at Tallangatta pool;
- Completion of internal safety audits, Life Saving Victoria Pool Safety Assessment, and signage audits at both pools; and
- Provision of Hazardous Substances and Dangerous Goods Training for relevant Council staff involved in pool management.

Recommendation:

That:

1. The low visitation to the pools in the last two weeks of November be noted, and the public opening of both Corryong and Tallangatta swimming pools be delayed until the first weekend in December 2024 (opening two weeks later than in season 2023/24), representing a saving of approximately $8,232;

2. Community user groups be granted access to both the Corryong and Tallangatta swimming pools outside public opening times from two weeks prior to public opening of the pools;

3. The opening hours (11am–7pm) of both pools in January be extended to accommodate higher visitation levels, and usual warmer temperatures, at an additional cost of approximately $16,000 in salaries, potentially offset by higher income from increased visitation and sales; and

4. The recommendations made to address all compliance and Occupational Health and Safety issues at both pools be implemented prior to commencement of season 2024/25.

Attachment:

1. Pools report 2023_24 [**10.1.1** - 6 pages]

Background/History:

Council currently operates seasonal pools in Tallangatta and Corryong that open annually between November and March. Public swimming is available seven days a week at both pools. The 2023/24 season involved the transition to partial management of the swimming pools by external contractor, Belgravia Leisure. Belgravia was primarily responsible for operating the pools during public opening hours, with a major function being the employment of the lifeguard staff. Council retained responsibility for the operation of the pools outside public opening hours, including management of water and pool grounds, and liaison with all user groups such as schools, swimming clubs, morning swimming groups and health services.

During the 2023/24 pool season, there were no closures required due to unsuitable weather. On one occasion the Tallangatta pool closed two hours early due to issues with water quality, however, this was rectified overnight to enable regular opening the following day.

Council also provides some financial support to the Eskdale pool to enable continued operation by the local community.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

This report addresses the Local Government Act 2020, Part 5 Service Performance Principles. The proposed recommendations considers the value for money of the pool operations to ensure pool service provision can continue equitably and affordably.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Continuing to invest Council resources into operating pools in Tallangatta and Corryong, and contributions for the Eskdale pool represents the best outcome for the community.

Reducing the number of days that the pools at both Corryong and Tallangatta are open for public swimming would result in cost savings for Council but reduce swimming pool services for the community. The least impact on the community would be achieved through delaying the commencement of the pool season as attendance is historically lower in the early weeks of public opening of the pools.

Other options that could be considered to avoid a reduction in pool service provision for the community include:

1. Retain the mid-November commencement of public opening hours at both swimming pools in season 2024/25.
2. Continue the extended opening hours in season 2024/25 over the peak period, as was trialled in season 2023/24.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic
The operating costs of the swimming pools in 2023/24 represent an increase compared to the previous season. However, the engagement of Belgravia Leisure in pool operations has resulted in savings not captured in financial terms. This relates primarily to the significant savings of Council resources in the areas of recruitment, employment and supervision of pool lifeguard staff, and organising programs such as VicSwim.

Social
The swimming pools are vital facilities for social cohesion. Local schools, sports clubs, early morning swim groups, local health services, community events and sporting occasions use the pools. The facilities encourage healthy lifestyles through exercise, which is appealing and accessible to young and old alike, of varied abilities. The pools

also provide a valuable space for children to learn to swim – a skill vital in a shire abundant with rivers and lakes.

Environmental
The swimming pools provide a safe, calm and cool environment for the community to use. The hot months can present a major health hazard and the pools play a major role in allowing the public to stay cool and safe, in the company of people with medical and first aid training. With increasingly extreme weather patterns, the pools are increasingly becoming a resource in emergencies (as evidenced during the black summer bushfires), as well as a place for recreation, reflection and healthy exercise.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Extensive public engagement was conducted during 2021/22 as part of the Recreation Strategy for Towong Shire 2022-31, in addition to a Swimming Pool Review in 2018. Some pool user groups, including schools, early morning swim clubs and lifeguards, have also been engaged in the preparation of this report.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

The proposals outlined in this report identify several improvements that will improve the facilities and advance the visitor experience for inclusion and equity in our community.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Council collaborates with and supports the early morning 'Icebreaker' groups which utilise the Towong Shire swimming pools. It also works closely with the swim clubs, local schools and health services to ensure all have access to the facilities practically and affordably.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

The swimming pools are operated in accordance with the requirements of the Safer Public Pools Code of Practice (SPPCoP) which sets out the various legislation, standards and guidelines governing their safe management, including the:

- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*,
- *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017*,
- *Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009*,
- *Dangerous Goods Act 1985*,
- *Equipment (Public Safety) Act 1994*,
- *Consumer Affairs Legislation Amendment Act 2014*,
- *Emergency Management Act 2013*,
- *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*,
- *Victoria's Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

Council Plans and Policies:

This report supports the following Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities.

2. Community Wellbeing - Encourage and support all people in our Shire to be healthy, happy, connected and resilient.

2.4 Support the development of recreational activities and infrastructure to encourage active lifestyles for all ages and stages

This report aligns with the objectives of the:

- *Towong Shire Council Council Plan 2021-2025*
- *Municipal Health and Wellbeing Strategy*
- *Recreation Strategy for Towong Shire 2022-2031*.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

A reduction in swimming pool opening hours will attract negative feedback from community members who will see this as a loss of service provision. This risk could be managed through community engagement and provision of information to promote understanding of the relatively low use and associated high costs of opening the pools during November.

Officer's View:

The Towong Shire swimming pools are vital recreational assets, providing a safe and inclusive space for community members while promoting physical well-being and social cohesion. To best meet the needs of the community with the least impact on

service provision, and to maximise visitation, the recommendations are that the commencement of public opening hours be delayed by only two weeks until the first weekend of December, and that public opening hours be extended in January.

10.2 Emergency Management Report - (DCP-02/02/0009)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Jenny McCoy, Relief and Recovery Development Officer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

To provide an update on the activities of the Emergency Management team.

Summary:

The attached report provides an overview of the current key activities within the Emergency Management functions of Council.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. Emergency Management June 2024 Report [**10.2.1** - 4 pages]

Background/History:

The emergency management report provides an update on the Emergency Management activities conducted by Council. Council's roles in municipal emergency management include:

- Working with Emergency service agencies to provide support to the community to prepare for emergencies.
- Contributing to fire prevention planning and preparation activities.
- Contributing to Municipal Emergency Management Planning as a member of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC).
- Providing support to relief and response arrangements during an emergency; and
- Providing leadership and support during recovery from an emergency. Council has an emergency management team further supported by other teams within the organisation when emergency response, relief and recovery activities are required. We provide secretariat support to the MEMPC and is currently the

Committee Chair.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Country Fire Authority Act 1958.
Emergency Management Act 2013
Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Emergency management activities aid communities in responding to and recovering from emergencies to support their economic and social well-being.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Emergency management planning provides for the ongoing resilience of the community in mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from emergencies.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

The current areas of focus of community engagement in Emergency Management of the last period has been through:

- flood and bushfire recovery work
- supporting communities with the development of community owned Community Emergency Management Plans (CEMP)
- Working with Community Hall committees on the implementation of the Resilient Building Project

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

As part of the North East Hume Emergency Management Collaboration (NEHEMC), Towong, Indigo, and Alpine Shire Councils work together to enhance their collective ability to respond to emergencies by efficiently sharing limited resources.

Internally, we continue to develop our emergency response capabilities through ongoing emergency management awareness and training initiatives.

In pursuit of improved response capabilities under the legislated relief obligations during emergencies, we are currently producing two custom trailers. These trailers are designed for primary use in supplying resources to relief centres and for secondary use in community engagement. Strategically positioned in specific areas around the shire based on the current risk profile of relevant hazards, these trailers will enable Council staff to open a designated Emergency Relief Centre promptly. Packed with all

the necessary equipment and supplies for the initial setup, the trailers enhance functionality during emergencies and serve as adaptable engagement tools for community events attended by staff. This dual purpose will raise awareness of the Council's ongoing role in supporting the community in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. These trailers are current in manufacturing.

In a proactive effort to support the resilience of more isolated communities within the Shire, we are delivering a project to enhance additional infrastructure in identified community buildings. The objective is to make these structures more resilient, allowing communities to utilise them after a significant emergency when it is safe to return to their community

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Emergency management requires constant collaboration with other agencies and officers who work directly with the members of the MEMPC, The Hume Regional Emergency Management Team (REMT), and the North East Hume Emergency Management Collaboration on joint initiatives and has ongoing communications with cross-border municipalities. There is also an ongoing collaboration with Emergency Management Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria, Community Recovery Committees, and other community organisations.

Towong Shire have been working collaboratively with Red Cross to deliver Community Emergency Managaement Plans to communities in Tallangatta Valley, Eskdale, Mitta Mitta and Dartmouth areas.

Registrations received determined each communities desire to take part in the Risk and Asset mapping workshops with initial workshops beginning early March. Attendances at most workshops varied between 6 – 15 participants at varies locations with a good mix of community members and community agency representatives such as CFA captains and SES members in attendance. During the workshops, participants worked together to identify and map local risks and hazards as well as assets that could be useful in an emergency. This information is recorded on large A0 sized topographic maps.

The information pulled together at these meetings using local skills and knowledge resulted in the first draft versions of the maps being produced and presented back to the communities for final consideration in Early April. This draft map has then been shared and checked by the broader community, and any relevant emergency services personnel (council emergency management officers, CFA, SES, DEECA etc).

The final version of the maps are being prepared for printing with most communities requesting an A4 size tear off leaflet and A2 poster size maps to be placed on notice

boards in high traffic areas. DELWP have requested A2 size maps for placement at campgrounds within the relevant areas.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Emergency Management activities are undertaken in accordance with:

- Towong Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP).
- Hume Regional Emergency Management Plan (REMP).
- State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP); and
- Relevant sub plans and complementary plans associated with each of these three management plans.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
This report supports the following Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities.

2. Community Wellbeing - Encourage and support all people in our Shire to be healthy, happy, connected and resilient.
2.14 Support our communities to drive their recovery from bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic and improve their mitigation of and resilience to future adverse events

4. Land Use - Ensure that Council's planning, building and environmental health services support all aspects of liveability and sustainable population growth.
4.1 Support the rebuild process for fire impacted properties

Council Policies:
Risk Management Policy.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The weather forecast in the North East has shifted with the change of season to damper conditions reducing the bushfire risk. At the time of writing of this report forecasts are not yet conclusive but the possibility of moving into another La Nina exists, bringing the potential of increased flood risk closer to spring.

Officer's View:

The Emergency Management team is continuing to make progress on implementing the priorities in the Council Plan 2021-2025

10.3 Community Sport Fair Access Policy (DCP)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Miranda Mouat, Co-ordinator Recreation and Community Development

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider and adopt the *Community Sport Fair Access Policy*.

Summary:

From 1 July 2024, all Victorian Local Governments will be required to have a Fair Access Policy and Action Plan (or equivalent) in place and be able to demonstrate progress against that policy and action plan, to be eligible for Victorian State Government funding programs relating to community sports Infrastructure.

Following the April 2024 Council meeting, Council's draft *Community Sport Fair Access Policy* and *Action Plan* was placed on public exhibition on Council's website for a period of four weeks concluding on 7 June 20024, with no community submissions being received.

The associated *Action Plan* supports Council's *Community Sport Fair Access Policy* and will be utilised by Council staff to guide the implementation of the Policy. The *Action Plan* will be evaluated and updated periodically.

Recommendation:

That:

1. the *Community Sport Fair Access Policy* 2024 as presented be adopted; and

2. the Action Plan be endorsed and noted as the tool by which the policy will be implemented.

Attachment:

1. TSC Community Sport Fair Access Policy June 2024 [**10.3.1** - 8 pages]

2. TSC Fair Access Policy Action Plan June 2024 [**10.3.2** - 3 pages]

Background/History:

In August 2022, the Victorian Government announced a new Fair Access Policy Roadmap, which supports gender equitable access and use of community sports infrastructure across the state. The Fair Access Policy Roadmap requires all Victorian councils from 1 July 2024 to have gender equitable access and use policies in place to be considered eligible to receive infrastructure funding.

The scope of the *Community Sport Fair Access Policy* is to support positive action towards achieving gender equity in the access and usage of community sports infrastructure.

The Policy applies specifically to community sports infrastructure where Council is the land manager and/or operator of the facility, of which there are eight identified facilities. These facilities are:

- Walwa Recreation Reserve
- Dartmouth Oval
- Tallangatta Swimming Pool
- Tallangatta Bowling Club
- Tallangatta Tennis Courts and Clubrooms
- Corryong Swimming Pool
- Corryong Skate Park
- Cudgewa Tennis Courts

However, the multitude of sporting and recreation facilities in Towong Shire that are not directly managed or operated by Council will also benefit from implementation of the Policy and Action Plan. Furthermore, the relevant committees and sporting groups will be supported and encouraged to adopt the principles of the policy or develop their own.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic)
Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)
Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

This Policy provides an opportunity to improve access and equity for women and girls in community sport and recreation in Towong Shire. The Policy and Action Plan will

support women and girls to fully participate in community sport and recreation, with fair opportunity and access to their local facilities.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Social
This report provides an opportunity to increase social outcomes due to improved access to community sport for women and girls.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

The draft *Community Sport Fair Access Policy* and *Action Plan* was available for public exhibition on Council's website for a period of four weeks, which concluded on 7 June 2024. Council did not receive any community submissions in response to the public exhibition of the Policy. Following Council adoption of the policy, ongoing targeted engagement with the sporting and recreation groups that utilise the community sporting infrastructure identified in the Policy will be conducted.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

The implementation of the Policy and Action Plan will provide opportunities for Council to ensure community sport is accessible and inclusive for all people. This will include the design of future community sporting infrastructure developments, to be undertaken with an innovative approach to delivering female friendly and gender accessible built environments.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

The Policy has been developed through continuous engagement with the *Office for Women in Sport and Recreation* (OWSR), and participation in the Fair Access Roadshow, Hume Region forums, and most recently the statewide Fair Access Sports Collaboration Forum. This has occurred throughout the consultative phase of the Fair Access Policy Roadmap, and in the policy development process. Collaboration with other councils has also informed the development of the Policy.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Not applicable.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

In December 2015, the Victorian Government released a report from the independent Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation, which highlighted gender

inequality in Victorian sports and recreation and led to the Change Our Game initiative. The Fair Access Policy Roadmap aims to develop a statewide foundation to improve the access to, and use of, community sports infrastructure for women and girls. The Roadmap is being delivered through the *Office for Women in Sport and Recreatio*n, in partnership with S*port and Recreation Victoria* and *VicHealth*, and aligns with Victoria's *Gender Equality Act* 2020.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
This report supports the following Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities.
2. Community Wellbeing - Encourage and support all people in our Shire to be healthy, happy, connected and resilient.

2.4 Support the development of recreational activities and infrastructure to encourage active lifestyles for all ages and stages.

In addition to the Council Plan, the following are relevant to this policy:

Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2025
Recreation Strategy for Towong Shire 2022-2033

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Failure to comply with the Victorian Government's direction regarding the adoption of a Fair Access Policy and Action Plan would result in Council being ineligible to receive state funding for community sport infrastructure. This is unlikely to occur due to Council ensuring that documentation meets Victorian Government requirements within set time frames.

Officer's View:

It is the officer's view that the *Community Sport Fair Access Policy 2024* and the associated Action Plan will support positive outcomes in the participation of women and girls in sport and recreation activities.

10.4 Our Towns Towards 2030 - Final Place Plans (DCP)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Amanda Pagan, Director Community and Planning.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to present the Place Plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta for Council's consideration and adoption.

Summary:

Regional towns in Australia, including Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta, and Tallangatta, experienced significant growth in recent years, increasing pressure on services, housing, jobs, and infrastructure. The COVID-19 pandemic and 2019-20 bushfires exacerbated these challenges. In 2022, ClarkeHopkinsClarke were engaged to co-deliver the Our Towns Towards 2030 project, which aimed to develop place plans to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of these towns by prioritising community needs and opportunities.

The project involved creating town-specific Place Plans through a placemaking and co-design process, setting a vision and identifying priorities for the future. The first engagement, 'Let's Chat,' gathered community views on each town's unique qualities and challenges. Feedback from this engagement helped shape the Draft Place Plans, which were the focus of the second engagement, 'Planning Ahead,' seeking further community input.

The Final Place Plans have been prepared following these engagements, detailing initiatives for the future in each of the five towns. The plans serve as a roadmap for collaborative efforts between the community and government over the next decade. It is recommended that they are adopted by Council and made available on our website.

Recommendation:

That the Place Plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta as presented be adopted.

Attachment:

1. Towong Placemaking Project Place Plan- FINAL 31.05.2024 Corryong LR [**10.4.1** - 74 pages]
2. Towong Placemaking Project Place Plan- FINAL 31.05.2024 Mitta Mitta LR [**10.4.2** - 64 pages]
3. Towong Placemaking Project Place Plan- FINAL 31.05.2024 Bellbridge LR [**10.4.3** - 60 pages]
4. Towong Placemaking Project Place Plan- FINAL 31.05.2024 Bethanga LR [**10.4.4** - 66 pages]
5. Towong Placemaking Project Place Plan- FINAL 31.05.2024 Tallangatta LR [**10.4.5** - 90 pages]

Background/History:

Regional towns in Australia had experienced significant growth in recent years, increasing pressure on services, housing, jobs, and infrastructure. The five towns—Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta, and Tallangatta—faced unique challenges, as well as opportunities, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the bushfires of 2019-20. Each town had a strategic role in Towong Shire and the regional networks surrounding them.

In 2022, Council engaged ClarkeHopkinsClarke to co-deliver the Our Towns Towards 2030 project. The project aimed to deliver five place plans for the towns of Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta. The plans were to look at ways to strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of these five towns by identifying and prioritising the future needs and opportunities of the community. Our Town Towards 2030 aimed to deliver town-specific 'Place Plans' through a placemaking and co-design process for the five towns throughout Towong Shire: Bellbridge, Bethanga, Mitta Mitta, Corryong and Tallangatta. These Place Plans were intended to set the vision and identify priorities for each town into the future.

The development of these Place Plans was a chance for us to re-imagine the way our towns worked. It allowed us to bring together the big ideas that drive growth while identifying the services, infrastructure, and public spaces required to support the community.

The Final Place Plans form a 'roadmap' for future projects, initiatives, and strategies that the community and governments can work collectively to achieve over the next 10 or so years. Many of the initiatives have physical and spatial realisations—such as an upgraded cycling track or tourism walks—however, some might also relate to other organisational or community projects, or they might point to specific things needing further advocacy or exploration. The Final Place Plans will be made available

on the Towong Shire Council at the completion of the project.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Local Government Act 2020*

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

The final Place Plans outline the best future outcomes for the community based on a comprehensive co-design process.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Our Towns Towards 2030 project was designed to consider all aspects of sustainability. This included fostering better social, economic and environmental outcomes within communities by creating welcoming, inclusive, and functional towns. The final place plans have focussed specifically on:

- Strengthening community cohesion by creating public spaces that encourage social interaction and cultural exchange, fostering a sense of belonging and community cohesion.
- Promoting health and wellbeing by ensuring public spaces are accessible and attractive to encourage physical activity and provide opportunities for relaxation and stress reduction, enhancing both physical and mental health.
- Enhancing Safety and Accessibility: Thoughtful design improves safety and makes public spaces more inclusive, benefiting all community members and promoting social equity.
- Boosting the local economy by designing vibrant public spaces for visitors and businesses, stimulating the local economy and creating job opportunities through increased foot traffic and tourism.
- Providing environmental benefits by green infrastructure, such as parks and community gardens, enhances biodiversity, improves air quality, and contributes to climate resilience. The plans also considered the inherent environmental risks of each town, particularly in relation to bushfires.

By enhancing social interactions, promoting well-being, improving safety and accessibility, boosting the economy, providing environmental benefits and encouraging civic engagement, placemaking projects significantly strengthen the social fabric of communities, leading to more vibrant, resilient, and connected societies.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

The engagement process to develop the place plans was extensive and split into three key stages.

During the first engagement, 'Let's Chat,' we heard a broad cross-section of views about what was unique and valued about each town, the future opportunities, and some of the challenges. We expressed gratitude to all those who participated in the wide variety of online surveys, community events, focus groups, one-to-one conversations, and visited public displays held with community members, groups, and government agencies across March and April 2023.

Community feedback from Engagement 1 (Let's Chat) helped to identify some big ideas and future proposals for each town's Draft Place Plan. These were to be the focus for the second engagement, called 'Planning Ahead.' This second engagement asked for community feedback on these themes and proposals and determined 'Did we get it right?'

After the Draft Place Plans were presented and Engagement 2 (Planning Ahead) workshops collectively co-designed and prioritised the big ideas and proposals. The outcomes of this process led to Engagement 3 'Delivering the Vision'. The final place plans were developed as the last stage of the project.

In total, 4152 (Bellbridge (686), Bethanga (554), Corryong (1156), Mitta (867), Tallangatta (345)) separate engagements were recorded across the engagement stages.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

The continuous improvement approach of the Our Towns Project relied on ongoing dialogue with the community. The project placed a high value on regular, meaningful engagement with residents, businesses, and stakeholders, as exemplified by the multi-stage engagement process. This approach ensured that our strategies remained responsive and relevant.

Key aspects included:

- Feedback Mechanisms: Establishing easy-to-access channels for community members to provide feedback and suggestions. This included online platforms, regular surveys, and town hall meetings.
- Adaptive Planning: Using feedback to refine and adapt place plans. This iterative process allowed us to respond promptly to new challenges and opportunities.

- Inclusive Participation: Ensuring that all voices were heard, particularly those of marginalised and underrepresented groups, to foster a sense of ownership and inclusivity in the planning process.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Engagement with statutory and stakeholder authorities was also undertaken throughout the project. In March 2024, a dedicated workshop with agencies was held to present the final place plans. The following agencies have been critical in collaboratively developing the plans:

- Department of Transport and Planning
- Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
- Goulburn Murray Water
- North East Catchment Management Authority
- North East Water
- Country Fire Authority
- Department of Agriculture
- Parks Victoria
- VICPOL
- State Emergency Services
- Ambulance Victoria

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities.
2. Community Wellbeing - Encourage and support all people in our Shire to be healthy, happy, connected and resilient.

2.1 Undertake place-based master planning for the Peninsula including the investigation of options for early years and community facilities

2.2 Undertake place-based master planning for the Mitta Valley, Corryong and Tallangatta

2.4 Support the development of recreational activities and infrastructure to encourage active lifestyles for all ages and stages

2.14 Support our communities to drive their recovery from bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic and improve their mitigation of and resilience to future adverse events

Council Policies:
Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Adopting the Place Plans through the Council carries the inherent risk of creating unrealistic expectations within the community regarding the Council's financial capacity to fund the proposed projects. While the Council may be able to allocate some modest investments through the annual budget process, most of the ambitious ideas and projects outlined in the plans will necessitate securing large-scale grant funding. This reliance on external financial support illustrates the importance of clear communication with the community to manage expectations and emphasise the collaborative effort required to bring these projects to fruition. Without such clarity, there may be a misconception that the Council alone can bear the financial burden, potentially leading to disappointment and a loss of trust if projects are delayed or unachievable without the necessary grant funding.

Officer's View:

The Our Towns – Towards 2030 project has engaged a wide range of stakeholders, resulting in high-quality plans for the future of the five towns: Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta. These plans will assist Council in pursuing funding for the 'big ideas' presented in each plan, ensuring that they reflect the community's priorities and sentiments.

11 Asset Management

11.1 Discontinuance of Section of Road PC364095S, 1835 Thowgla Road, Thowgla Valley (PN159250-DIE)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Matthew Fleet, Senior Asset Engineer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to commence the statutory process to close a road reserve to public access.

Summary:

Following the bushfires in 2020 the landowner at 1835 Thowgla Road, Thowgla Valley (Property Number 159250) has been negotiating with the Department Environment, Energy and Climate Action (DEECA) regarding an existing shed at the property that is built partially on a section of road reserve adjacent to the property. To resolve this matter DEECA requires Council to declare the road reserve closed to public access so the land holder can enter into a license agreement with DEECA.

Recommendation:

That:

1. public notice of Council's intention to close the road reserve located between property number 159250 and the adjacent crown land allotment be given, in accordance with Section 206, Schedule 10, Clause 3 and Sections 207A(a) and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989;

2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make this report available for public inspection and invite public submissions, with submissions closing at 5:00 pm on 31 July 2024; and

3. At the Council Meeting scheduled for 27 August 2024:
    a. Any submission in relation to the proposed closure of section of road PC364095S be considered;

b. Any person who has requested to appear in person (or their representative) in support of their submission be heard; and
c. The adoption of the proposed closure of road PC364095S be considered.

Attachment:

Nil

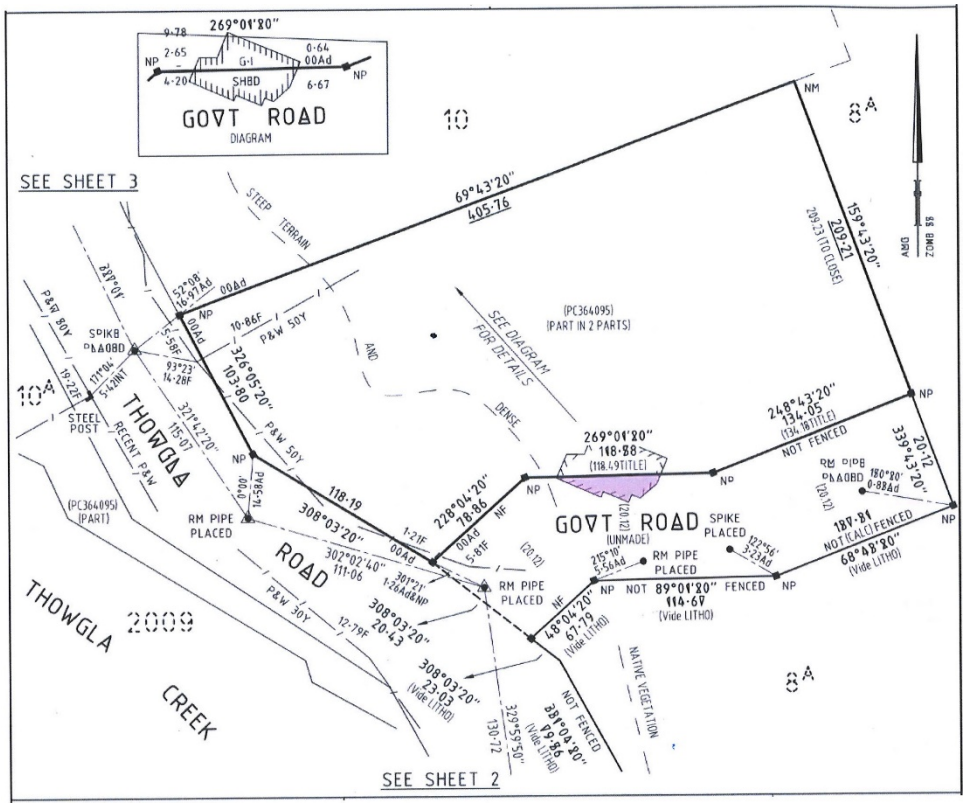
Background/History:

The landowner has expressed their concern about a long-term encroachment of their existing shed onto the Government Road Reserve adjacent to their property at 1835 Thowgla Road, Thowgla Valley.

The applicant has written to DEECA to raise their concerns and in response DEECA has provided reassurance to work with the applicant to reach a positive outcome to legalise this encroachment.

DEECA have determined that the most suitable and immediate pathway is closure of the Government Road Reserve so that a 10-year general license can be issued in the applicant's name.

For this to proceed the applicant requires Towong Shire Council's approval for the road reserve to be closed for public access. There is no physical road on the road reserve and the reserve leads into crown land.



Subject location as highlighted.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Power of Councils over roads

Section 206 of the Local Government Act 1989

(1) The powers of a Council in relation to roads in its municipal district include the powers set out in Schedule 10

(2) Except as provided in section 207B (1), the exercise of a power under clause 2, 3 or 8(1)(a) of Schedule 10 does not in itself vest the land in a Council.

Power to discontinue roads

Schedule 10, Clause 3 of the Local Government Act 1989

A Council may, in addition to any power given to it by sections 43 and 44 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 —

a) discontinue a road, or part of a road, by a notice published in the Government Gazette; and

b) sell the land from that road (if it is not Crown land), transfer the land to the Crown or itself or retain the land.

Submissions under section 223

Section 207A of the Local Government Act 1989

A person may make a submission under section 223 on the proposed exercise of any power under—

(a) clauses 1(b), 2, 3, 7 and 8(1)(a) of Schedule 10;

Right to make submission

Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989

1. The following provisions apply if a person is given a right to make a submission to the Council under this section (whether under this or any other Act)—

(a) the Council must publish a public notice-
i. specifying the matter in respect of which the right to make a submission applies;
ii. containing the prescribed details in respect of that matter;
iii. specifying the date by which submissions are to be submitted, being a date which is not less than 28 days after the date on which the public notice is published;
iv. stating that a person making a submission is entitled to request in the submission that the person wishes to appear in person, or to be represented by a person specified in the submission, at a meeting to be heard in support of the submission;

(b) if a request has been made under paragraph (a)(iv), the Council must -
i. provide the person with the opportunity to be heard in support of the submission in accordance with the request at a meeting of the Council or of a committee determined by the Council;
ii. fix the day, time and place of the meeting;
iii. give reasonable notice of the day, time and place of the meeting to each person who made a request;

(c) if the committee determined under paragraph (b)(i) is not responsible for making the decision in respect of which the submissions have been made, the committee must provide a report on its proceedings, including a summary of hearings, to the Council or the special committee which is responsible for

making the decision;

(d) the Council or special committee responsible for making the decision must—

i. consider all the submissions made under this section and any report made under paragraph (c);

ii. notify in writing each person who has made a separate submission, and in the case of a submission made on behalf of a number of persons, one of those persons, of the decision and the reasons for that decision.

2. If a proposal by the Council involves the exercise of powers at the same time under more than one section giving a right to make a submission and written submissions are received under more than 1 of those sections the submission procedure may be carried out in respect of all the written submissions at the same time.

3. Despite section 98, a Council may authorise the appropriate members of Council staff to carry out administrative procedures necessary to enable the Council to carry out its functions under this section.

4. A member of a committee specified in subsection (1)(b)(i) is subject to section 79 as if that member were a member of a special committee.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Option 1 – Proceed with the closure of the Road Reserve so that a 10-year general license can be established in the applicant's name.

Option 2 – Reject this closure of road reserve application.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

No economic, social or environmental sustainability factors for the municipal district is required to be promoted regarding the contents of this report.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

A public notice will be published on Council's website and in local newspapers, with submissions to be received in accordance with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and otherwise in compliance with Council's community engagement policy.

Any submissions received will be presented to Council for consideration prior to Council giving consideration to the closure of the road reserve.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

The applicant will be required to cover any costs incurred to facilitate the closure of the road reserve.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable.

Officer's View:

It's the officer's view that it is appropriate to close the road reserve to the public to enable the landowner to enter into a legal agreement with DEECA.

11.2 Streetscape Plans - Cudgewa, Tintaldra and Towong (DIE-02/11/0051)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Craig Heiner, Consultant Project Manager.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to present the Streetscape Plans for Cudgewa, Tintaldra and Towong townships for Council's consideration and adoption.

Summary:

The current *Council Plan 2021-2025* commits to the preparation of Streetscape Plans for Cudgewa, Tintaldra and Towong. The purpose of the plans is to consolidate several initiatives currently underway in each community as part of the bushfire recovery process and engage the community in identifying new opportunities to enhance the liveability of their townships.

With the exception of works already underway at Cudgewa as part of the Avenue of Honour redevelopment, most projects embedded in the plans will be for consideration in the next Council Plan development process.

Recommendation:

That the Streetscape Plans for Cudgewa, Tintaldra and Towong as presented be adopted.

Attachment:

1. Cudgewa Streetscape Plan [**11.2.1** - 25 pages]
2. Towong Streetscape Plan [**11.2.2** - 18 pages]
3. Tintaldra Streetscape Plan [**11.2.3** - 20 pages]

Background/History:

In late 2022 Council engaged local landscape architects Yonder to work with the communities of Cudgewa, Towong and Tintaldra for input into the Streetscape Plans.

For the Cudgewa community, the redevelopment of the Avenue of Honour project with the associated removal and replacement of several of the fire affected elm trees was the dominant element of the engagement.

In Tintaldra and Towong the conversations were more future-focused and included potential projects and the functionality of the local landscape.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Not applicable.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

The Streetscape Plans as presented have been built with strong community input. One of the first engagement conversations highlighted that "It shouldn't be just for the tourists – it should be for the locals". This comment was an important guiding principle for the project to strike the balance between enhancing the local liveability and the visitation appeal.

The engagement also highlighted that the preferences of those present during the fires can contrast significantly with those who have made it their home since. To illustrate this point, one person's row of beautiful new street trees can simply be more fuel for a bushfire to those who experienced the 2019-2020 fires. While the project was a positive vehicle for being able to discuss some of these strongly contrasting views, it is mentioned here so we don't lose sight of both the lasting stress of the fires and the potential to create division within a community with well-intended initiatives.

All three communities contributed strongly to the discussion of how they can move in and around their community with better connectivity and the amenity of walking tracks and paths.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

The proposed additional street trees in all three streetscape plans will support the journey towards the targeted 40% shade cover in urban areas as identified in the current Council Plan.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Extended community engagement was tailored to the needs and opportunities of each community; these included.

- Street walks with interested locals,

- Drop into the 'local' sessions with plans and pens to capture ideas,
- Targeted meetings with identified stakeholder groups,
- Social media opportunities for comments on draft plans,
- Follow-up meetings with individuals as requested.

The extended duration of the project and multiple methods used to reach out to potentially 'engagement fatigued' communities was considered a fit for the project. Interestingly, several late contacts were received from the Towong community which had not had a letterbox drop or a drop into the 'local' session. When asked, these community members noted that the nature of their community's demographic was more likely to respond to a letterbox flier.

Yonder, the landscape architects were particularly respectful of ensuring the plans were a product of the communities' preferences rather than presenting an architectural masterpiece.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

A large proportion of the Streetscape Plans in Cudgewa are funded and underway as part of a Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant. Ongoing investments in the integration of the High-Country Rail Trail, street furniture and interpretive/wayfinding signage is anticipated.

For Tintaldra and Towong, the projects will be considered as part of the next Council Plan and subject to the normal budgeting and grant seeking processes.

As all the identified projects are considered modest, it will be important that at least some of the works are mobilised as early as possible to evidence to the communities that their investment in the streetscape planning process has been worthwhile.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities*.:

1. Asset Management - Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

1.15.1 Investigate and plan for upgrades at Tintaldra
1.15.2 Investigate and plan for upgrades at Towong
1.15.3 Investigate and plan for upgrades at Cudgewa

5. Environmental Sustainability - Integrate sustainable environmental management practices into all of our activities.

5.9 Continue to implement the tree planting strategy to achieve 40% canopy coverage in urban streets by 2025

Council Policies:

Not applicable.

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The level of engagement fatigue in these communities post the 2019-2020 bushfires and associated recovery processes was identified early as a potential challenge for the project. To manage this risk a deliberate 'slow burn' approach was taken for the engagement, using very informal sessions and multiple opportunities for residents to engage across time.

Officer's View:

Based on the extended community input to date, and the public opportunity to comment on the draft plans; it is recommended that Council adopt the Streetscape Plans for Cudgewa, Tintaldra and Towong as presented.

11.3 Lake Road Culvert Extension - Tender Evaluation - Contract No. 2023-24-048 (DIE)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Robert Bon, Consultant Project Manager.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information to support the assessment of tender submissions for the Lake Road Bridge Remediation under contract number 2023/24-048 and National Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance (NDRFA) claim AGRN 1004 and AGRN 1007 and to seek Council approval to award a contract to the preferred tenderer.

Summary:

This report summarises the tender process followed for the procurement of a suitable contractor to undertake Lake Road Bridge Remediation based on replacing the collapsed original bridge span (1930's) damaged in the early 2022 floods.

This report also provides a summary of the tender assessment and recommendation for the most suitable contractor to undertake these works.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Contract No. 2023/24-048 for Lake Road Bridge Remediation be awarded to Excell Gray Bruni Pty Ltd for the lump sum of $403,085 excluding GST;

2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to sign and seal Contract No. 2023/2024-048 in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties; and

3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated budget.

Attachment:

A comparative tender evaluation for Contract No. 2023/2024-048 has been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Background/History:

The Lake Road bridge was damaged by flooding following severe storm events in late January and early February 2022. The original 1930's bridge collapsed during the storm, leaving the downstream 1956 culvert extension remaining after the flooding subsided. Damage included extensive erosion to the embankment and road formation, reducing Lake Road to a single lane over the culvert. Investigations and damage assessments were delayed to mid 2023 due to sustained wet weather and high-water levels in Lake Hume through to late 2022.

Lake Road traffic is currently restricted to a single 3.5m lane over the culvert, controlled by temporary traffic lights. Following consideration of remediation options, assessment of costs and discussions between Council and National Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance (NDRFA) agencies, the preferred remediation option is to replace the collapsed original bridge span with a structure extending upstream from the remaining 1956 culvert. The structure will need to also support an embankment to reinstate the 9m formation for a 7.2m wide dual lane road.

A Request for Tender was issued on 24 April 2024 in line with the *Procurement Policy* with advertising through www.tenders.net, in local newspapers and on Council's Facebook page. Tenders closed at 5pm on Thursday 30 May 2024.

Three tender submissions were received.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Local Government Act 2020*

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

In terms of achieving the best outcome for the municipal community, including future generations, two options are proposed for considerations:

Option 1 – Approve the tender as presented and award Contract No. 2023/2024-048 for the Lake Road Culvert Extension to Excell Gray Bruni Pty Ltd for the lump sum of $403,085 excluding GST.

Option 2 – Retender the works.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic
The project will be part funded by NDRFA with a contribution from Council for the betterment component of the works. Betterment is considered by NDRFA as replacements over and above the construction standard of the original damaged structure.

Social
Safety improvement will be delivered for visitors and residents from reinstatement of Lake Road to dual lane over the Bethanga Creek crossing.

Environmental/Climate Change
Awarding the contract to a locally based contractor and locally sourced materials will minimise the transport time, distances travelled and limit carbon emissions.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Community members along Lake Road have been consulted through process of Council's response to flood event AGRN 1004 and AGRN 1007.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not Applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Not Applicable.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Council's contribution for the betterment component of this work is included in the draft 2024/2025 capital works budget with the remaining funds to be sourced from NDFRA.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities*.
1. Asset Management - Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

1.1 Deliver 100% of the annual capital works program and bushfire recovery projects

Council Policies:

Procurement Policy

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

The significant risks for this project are weather delays and changes in levels of Lake Hume. There is some provision in the contract to manage the Lake Hume water levels at the construction site however should site conditions change adjustment to the works program may be required. Contingency costs have been allowed for in the budget of the project to manage this risk.

Another risk is the performance of the contractor to execute the works. To mitigate this risk Bon Consulting have been engaged under the NDFRA funding to undertake onsite project management on behalf of Council.

Officer's View:

Excell Gray Bruni are a local civil construction company based in Albury/Wodonga who have completed several successful projects for Council in the past 5 years including the Tallangatta Streetscape upgrade, Stock upgrade in Corryong which included the replacement of a major culvert on Briggs Gap Road. It is the officer's view they are qualified and experienced to undertake the works involved in this contract. It is recommended that Excell Gray Bruni Pty Ltd be awarded Contract No. 2023/2024-048.

12 Land Use Planning

12.1 Land Use Planning Report (DCP-03/02/0003)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Margaret Fox, Contract Planner.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

This report summarises permit and development activity up to 31 May 2024. It also provides an update on the progress of the implementation of Greenlight – the online platform for streamlined planning and building permit approval management.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

1. Appendix - Land Use Planning Report 26 June 2024 [**12.1.1** - 5 pages]

Background/History:

This report provides an overview of the number, location and nature of customer enquiries resolved by the Planning department, as well as the number, nature and location of all planning permit applications received and issued for the financial year to date at 31 May 2024, and the percentage of applications decided within the statutory timeframe.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not Applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Planning permit applications are considered within the context of the Towong Shire Planning scheme which give effect to the long-term sustainability of land in use across the Shire.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Not Applicable.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Staff have been working towards improving the customer service experience for planning permit applicants through the Greenlight project (an on-line platform for building and planning permit approval management). The project will support customers to access all planning information on-line whilst a permit is being processed. The project is progressing, user training has been provided and user testing is underway. It is anticipated that the system will be available to go live in August 2024.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Staff continue to work collaboratively with key stakeholders, including Indigo Shire Council, Alpine Shire Council and E-Vis (the Greenlight provider) to deliver the Greenlight project.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

All planning resources and expenses have been factored into the budget.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

All land use planning decisions align with the *Victorian Planning Provisions*.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities.
4. Land Use - Ensure that Council's planning, building and environmental health

services support all aspects of liveability and sustainable population growth.

4.1 Support the rebuild process for fire impacted properties
4.11 Review statutory service processes to ensure an excellent customer experience

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Not Applicable.

Officer's View:

It is the officer's view the improvements that have been implemented in the Planning Department continue to provide an improved customer experience.

12.2 Structure Plans - Tallangatta, Bellbridge and Corryong (DCP)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Amanda Pagan, Director Community and Planning.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

To seek approval to place the draft structure plans for Bellbridge, Corryong and Tallangatta on public exhibition for community feedback.

Summary:

The draft township structure plans for Bellbridge, Corryong, and Tallangatta are the result of extensive background research, preliminary community engagement, and government agency stakeholder workshops. These comprehensive plans delve into various facets, including reviewing past strategic planning policies, examining demographic shifts and trends, infrastructure considerations, and the broader economic landscape. They also draw insights from the outcomes of the Our Towns – Towards 2030 project.

The key aim of each structure plan is to develop a shared vision for the townships and to identify the type and scope of change projected within the towns over time to provide for sustainable and orderly growth cognisant to local and regional changes. The goal is to incorporate the structure plans into the Towong Planning Scheme to guide land use and development through the planning system to 2044.

In late April/May of 2024, the draft plans were placed on exhibition to seek and understand community views and values with a view that submissions will assist in informing final structure plan recommendations before "in-principle" adoption by Council. Following the exhibition period, adjustments to the structure plans have been made, as detailed in the *Community Engagement* section of this report. Final adoption by Council cannot be made until approval to amend a planning scheme has been granted by the Minister for Planning and a public gazettal process is completed.

Recommendation:

That:

1. The draft structure plans for Corryong, Tallangatta and Bellbridge as presented be adopted in-principle;

2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to write to the Minister for Planning to request authorisation to prepare a planning scheme amendment for the draft Tallangatta, Bellbridge and Corryong Structure Plans; and

3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to make any further changes to the amendment (and the draft Tallangatta, Bellbridge and Corryong Structure Plans) to comply with the Minister for Planning's authorisation conditions.

Attachment:

1. Bellbridge - Emerging Options final version [**12.2.1** - 4 pages]
2. Bellbridge draft structure plan - Overall Extent [**12.2.2** - 1 page]
3. Bellbridge draft structure plan - Township Extent [**12.2.3** - 1 page]
4. Bellbridge submission responses [**12.2.4** - 3 pages]
5. Corryong - Emerging Options final version [**12.2.5** - 4 pages]
6. Corryong draft structure plan - Overall Extent June 2024 [**12.2.6** - 1 page]
7. Corryong draft structure plan June 2024 - Township Extent [**12.2.7** - 1 page]
8. Corryong submission responses [**12.2.8** - 5 pages]
9. Tallangatta - Emerging Options final version [**12.2.9** - 5 pages]
10. Tallangatta draft structure plan - Overall Extent June 2024 [**12.2.10** - 1 page]
11. Tallangatta draft structure plan - Township June 2024 [**12.2.11** - 1 page]

Background/History:

Structure plans define a council's preferred direction of future growth within towns (major settlements) and articulate how it will be managed. Each town is unique, and local governments are encouraged to work with their communities to determine how their towns should grow, considering regional population trends and economic growth.

Structure plans also guide the major changes to land use, built form and public spaces that together can achieve economic, social and environmental objectives for the centre. They form part of the local planning policy within a planning scheme.

Towong's Planning Scheme Structure Plans for Bellbridge, Corryong and Tallangatta have not been updated for some time. However, the growing demands for housing,

the imperative of climate adaptation, and other shifts in the macroeconomic landscape are exerting significant pressure on these towns. Consequently, there arises an urgent need to revisit and update the existing plans to effectively address the evolving needs and challenges facing these communities.

In partnership with Tomkinson, specialist strategic planning consultants, the Planning Team has developed draft structure plans for the townships of Bellbridge, Corryong and Tallangatta. These plans propose a range of short-, medium- and long-term changes to support the towns' development up to 2044. The draft township structure plans are the result of extensive background research, preliminary community engagement, and government agency stakeholder workshops. These comprehensive plans delve into various facets, including reviewing past strategic planning policies, examining demographic shifts and trends, infrastructure considerations, and the broader economic landscape. They also draw insights from the outcomes of the *Our Towns – Towards 2030* project.

The draft structure plans are geared towards outlining a forward-looking vision for each community, encompassing measures to safeguard their distinct character while fostering appropriate and sustainable expansion into the future, all while nurturing a robust local economy. In summary, the plans aim to:

1. Align with the regional and local dimensions of transportation, commerce, economic activity, social dynamics, environmental sustainability, demographics, and housing functions within the townships.
2. Define township boundaries that are sufficiently expansive to accommodate future growth while effectively managing impacts beyond the town center.
3. Identify distinct precincts, thematic elements, and a desired future character for each area, promoting appropriate growth and evolution over time.
4. Foster housing choice and diversity, informed by housing development data, housing capacity considerations, and State planning policy.
5. Identify zones for and areas of separation required where conflict relating to future or current land uses exist.
6. Highlight areas warranting further strategic examination, risk assessments and planning interventions.

The intention of placing the structure plans on public exhibition is to seek formal community feedback on the proposed drafts. Following the exhibition period, revised drafts have been produced and in-principle approval is sought from Council for these revised drafts. Final adoption by the Council cannot be made until the Minister for Planning grants approval to amend a planning scheme and a public gazettal process is completed.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

Local Government Act 2020
Planning and Environment Act 1987

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the Local Government Act 2020 is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

The proposed township structure plans seek to meet the needs of the existing population while maintaining the ability of future generations to meet their own needs through the fair and equitable use and development of land in and around these townships. These structure plans will guide future planning decisions to ensure the appropriate separation of land uses, ongoing supply of residential, commercial, and industrial land with respect to local environmental and risk factors.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic

The Structure Plans will support a broad range of economic activities through land use separation, appropriate zoning and setting aside areas for future growth and change.

Social

Each Structure Plan includes aspects for housing, social infrastructure, and transportation to build a healthy social fabric within each township into the future.

Environmental/Climate Change

The proposed township boundaries are derived in part from an understanding and investigation into the surrounding environmental risk factors such as bushfire, natural resource management (agricultural land), topography, waterway management and infrastructure provision. The proposed Structure Plans seek to balance the local environment with future growth of each township in a balanced and sustainable way.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Preliminary community engagement was undertaken during the Structure Planning Process after a draft plan for each township and the background issue and opportunity

reports. The engagement process consisted of in-person community engagement sessions at each township on the below dates:

- Bellbridge 19/03/2024– 3:30pm – 7:30pm
4. Corryong 20/03/2024 –3:30pm – 7:30pm
5. Tallangatta 21/03/2024 –3:30pm – 7:30pm

In April and May 2024, the draft structure plans were placed on exhibition inviting feedback via written submissions, survey responses or attendance at an in-person engagement session at each township on the below dates:

6. Bellbridge 28/05/2024– 3pm – 7pm
7. Corryong 29/05/2024 –3pm – 7pm
8. Tallangatta 30/05/2024 –3pm – 7pm

All in-person sessions were well attended. Responses were received via surveys for Corryong (3) and Bellbridge (3). No responses were received for Tallangatta. The attached documents summarise the feedback from both the surveys and the in-person sessions, including how this input has been incorporated into the revised structure plans.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

The proposed Structure Plans seek to provide for future growth and innovation in each of the respective townships by facilitating new housing, commercial activity, appropriately located industrial land uses, robust social infrastructure, and active transport options. The future of Bellbridge, Corryong and Tallangatta will be guided by the proposed Structure Plans and allow for well-planned change and growth of these areas in line with community expectations and a rapidly changing world.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Engagement with statutory and stakeholder authorities was also undertaken at the initial draft stage of the program in early 2023 and in March 2024. The following agencies have been critical in developing the structure plans:

- Department of Transport and Planning
- Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action
- Goulburn Murray Water
- North East Catchment Management Authority
- North East Water
- Country Fire Authority
- Department of Agriculture

- Parks Victoria
- VICPOL
- State Emergency Services
- Ambulance Victoria

The final draft plans have been distributed to the Department of Transport and Planning.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

The structure plans' content, layout and scope are derived from previous State, Regional and local plans and policies and are consistent with the best practices approach for preparing Structure Plans in Victoria. These documents and policies have been reviewed as part of each township's "issues and opportunity" reports. This information has been used to create the Structure Plans to ensure that the overarching themes in these guiding documents have been addressed.

There are several key themes throughout the Hume Regional Growth Plan (2014) that the Structure Plans seek to address for future planning of the Townships, these include:

- Impacts of climatic conditions such as long-term droughts, widespread floods and an increase in the number of days of extreme heat and fire danger.
- Changes in economic sectors, particularly agriculture and manufacturing.
- Regional demographic changes include an ageing population and global demographic trends.

Regional plans and policies were reviewed and incorporated into the Structure Plans, these included:

9.

- *Upper Murray 2030 Vision Plan (2016)*

10. *Hume Regional Plan – Sustainable Communities 2010 – 2020 (2010)*
    NSW Draft Riverina Murray Regional Plan 2041

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:

This report supports the following Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities:
4. Land Use - Ensure that Council's planning, building and environmental health services support all aspects of liveability and sustainable population growth.
4.3 Develop structure plans for Corryong, Tallangatta and Bellbridge and incorporate into the planning scheme

Council Policies:
Local plans and policies were reviewed and incorporated into the structure plans, including:

- *Towong Rural Land Use Study (2009)*
- *Our Bellbridge Masterplan (2015)*
- *Recreation Strategy for Towong Shire*
- *Economic Development Strategy for Towong Shire 2022-2026*
- *Previous C25 Planning Scheme Amendment*
- *Landscape Scale Land Capability Assessment (2015)*
- *Destination Management Plan 2022-2026 (2022)*
- *Towong Shire Council Plan 2021-2025*
- *Activating Lake Hume Masterplan (2024 – Not yet adopted)*

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)) :

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Not applicable.

Officer's View:

The proposed structure plans have considered all relevant strategic plans, policies and feedback from relevant stakeholders, authorities, and the local community. While it is difficult to appease all parties, the proposed structure plans result from the most practical, balanced, and sustainable feedback available. They will accomplish appropriate and measured planning outcomes in the future.

13 Environmental Sustainability

13.1 Circular Economy and Environment Report (DIE-01/07/0004)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Greg Karlson, Coordinator Circular Economy and Environment.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

This report provides a quarterly update on environmental sustainability activities throughout the Shire for the period December 2023 to March 2024.

Council's environmental sustainability activities continue to be focused on the management of recycling operations at resource recovery centres along with actions related to the circular economy waste and recycling transition processes.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

Waste and recycling services

The team continues to engage with Cleanaway regarding the introduction of the new food and garden organics (FOGO) kerbside collection service which has included securing an order of new FOGO bins, engagement of a contractor to deliver FOGO bins to households, a review of the collection routes, and developing a collection calendar to be distributed to all households.

Activities have also been focussed on the development and distribution of digital and print media for the community education program.

The transition of kerbside services to Cleanaway and the collection of waste, recycling and FOGO bins will involve changes to collection days for some residents along with changes to the frequency of bin collections. FOGO bins will be collected weekly with comingled and residual waste bins collected fortnightly. The service transition will commence in the week of 3 June 2024.

Households in rural residential, farming and rural living zones will have the opportunity to opt out of the FOGO kerbside collection service upon the provision of evidence of alternative arrangements for correctly managing FOGO on their properties. Examples of this may include compost heaps, worm farms or chickens.

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)

Tallangatta and Corryong have secured local CDS point operators for the State Government's 10c deposit scheme for eligible glass, plastic, aluminium and cardboard drink containers. Additional local business, community and sporting groups throughout the Shire are encouraged to become a paid refund point operator on Visy's website (https://www.visy.com/cpo-form) or contact Visy directly on 1300 220 815.

Resource Recovery Centres

Retaining wall upgrades at both Recovery Resource Centres are nearing completion and will be finalised in May 2024. These works were part-funded under the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action's - Transfer Station Upgrade Fund Round 2.

Tree and Weed Programs

The roadside weed and pest program is due for completion in May 2024 with approximately 1500km of roadsides nominated for inspection and treatment.

Tree planting was limited in this quarter to 23 new trees due to the warm dry weather over the summer period. A tree planting event is programmed for 18 June 2024 to plant 110 trees along a section of the Corryong Circuit Trail with a further 50 trees to be planted at Playles Hill during the first quarter of the new financial year.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

All environmental sustainability actions have been undertaken in accordance with the

service performance principles outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Environmental Protection Act 2017*.

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Not Applicable.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Economic

Enhanced recycling methods will diminish the volume of waste sent to landfills, while adopting a four-stream waste system enhances the circular economy framework for waste management in Victoria.

Social

The projects mentioned in this report promote sustainability education for the community.

Environmental/Climate Change

Actions undertaken on recycling of materials and ongoing review of tree management practice will contribute positively towards the mitigation of Council's impact on the environment and adherence to risk management best practice.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Community Education on Recycling

Council received grant funding from Sustainability Victoria under the Circular Economy Household Education Fund (CEHEF). The community education package includes digital and print material along with a program for the delivery of community engagement activities in the months leading up start of the FOGO service delivery.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not Applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

Council officers liaise regularly with representatives of the Goulburn Murray Climate

Alliance, waste management officers from councils in the Hume region and government representatives from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) and Sustainability Victoria (SV) relating to environmental and sustainability activities.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

	Note	Mar 2024 YTD (Actual) $	Mar 2024 YTD (Budget) $	Mar 2024 YTD (Variance) $	Mar 2024 YTD (Variance) %	2023/24 Full Year (Budget) $
Income						
Kerbside collection		1,507,102	1,500,000	7,102	0%	1,500,000
Waste facilities management	1	456,917	534,000	(77,083)	(14%)	534,000
Total Income		**1,964,019**	**2,034,000**	**(69,981)**	**(3%)**	**2,034,000**
Expenditure						
Kerbside collection	2	532,259	692,060	159,801	23%	1,384,120
Waste facilities management	3	532,529	362,335	(170,194)	(47%)	724,670
Total Expenditure		**1,064,789**	**1,054,395**	**(10,394)**	**(1%)**	**2,108,790**
Net Income / (Expenditure)		899,231	979,605	(80,374)	(8%)	(74,790)

1. Income includes gate fees at RRC's. Less gate fees charged that anticipated through the budget.
2. Garbage and recycling charges exceeded budget due to increased costs to provide bulk bin service from Corryong to Wangaratta and Albury following earlier than expected closure of Corryong Landfill.
3. Delayed commencement of new kerbside collection services and the purchase of new FOGO bins. Additional expenditure is expected in the next quarter.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025* priorities.

5. Environmental Sustainability - Integrate sustainable environmental management practices into all of our activities.

5.9 Continue to implement the tree planting strategy to achieve 40% canopy coverage in urban streets by 2025
5.13 Transition waste and recycling services operations as per Victorian Government Circular Economy Strategy to deliver a four bin system for waste and recycling collection including separation of glass, green waste and organics
5.15 Investigate options for hard waste, green waste and agricultural waste management e.g silage wrap

Council Policies:

All environmental sustainability activities are undertaken in accordance with the:

- Climate Adaptation Policy;
- Kerbside Refuse and Recycling Collection Policy
- Tree Policy

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Not Applicable

Officer's View:

Good progress has been made in relation to the *Council Plan 2021-2025* Environmental Sustainability strategic priorities.

14 Economic and Tourism Development

14.1 Great River Road Marketing Plan (DCP)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Ms Kerissa Heritage, Economic Development Tourism Officer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to depart from Procurement Policy requirements and appoint Us&Us to deliver a marketing package for the Great River Road.

Summary:

The Great River Road Stage Two Funding Agreement requires investment in a substantial marketing and promotion plan. To maximise return on investment, it is proposed to purchase a marketing and promotion 'package' for implementation once construction elements of the project are complete. The pre-purchasing of the package will ensure the Funding Agreement timeframes are met.

Brand and marketing specialists, Us&Us have completed numerous tasks and projects for Council to a high standard. With their strong understanding of the region and the Great River Road product offering, Us&Us have proposed a package for investing the allocated funding.

Due to the nature of proposed partnerships within the package, it is not possible to seek other businesses to quote on delivery of the same activities and meet the timelines of the grant. The nature of this procurement is at odds with the requirements of Council's Procurement Policy for expenditure of this value.

It may be necessary to close the Council Meeting to the public to discuss the commercial-in-confidence information relating to the marketing and promotion package prepared by Us&Us.

Recommendation:

That:

1. Contract No. 2023/24-076 be awarded to Us&Us for a lump sum of $329,100 excluding GST;

2. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to sign and seal Contract No. 2023/24-076 in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties; and

3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve contract variations up to the value of the total allocated project budget.

Attachment:

Nil

Background/History:

In 2020, Council successfully secured $5 million from the State Government's *Local Economic Recovery Program* to deliver Stage Two of the Great River Road. The project scope includes delivery of marketing and promotion activities.

The marketing element of *Great River Stage Two* consists of three elements:

1. A research piece and the development of a comprehensive marketing plan (complete),
2. Development of a marketing and promotional implementation plan 'package' informed by the Marketing Plan, and
3. The purchase of that 'package' for implementation post completion of the Great River Road infrastructure elements.

The development of the Great River Road Marketing Plan was completed in 2023. A Request for Quotation was released to develop a marketing and promotional implementation plan 'package'. Informed by the Marketing Plan, the package would detail how the marketing budget for the Great River Road should specifically be invested, and over what timeframe.

It was imperative that the development of this plan, and the purchase of the package, were procured separately. This ensured that Council and stakeholders endorsed the package proposal before it was purchased.

Us&Us were engaged (in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy) to develop

the marketing and promotional implementation plan package. The proposed package was presented to Upper Murray Inc. Following minor changes to the proposed timeframes, Upper Murray Inc. endorsed the proposal.

The Great River Road Funding agreement requires that the funds allocated to marketing the Great River Road be spent in the 2024 calendar year. The implementation of the marketing and promotional plan will take place over an eighteenth month period. Purchasing a pre-determined package ensures the best return is achieved – the Great River Road is not taken to market until it is physically complete, without compromising Council's obligation to the State Government.

Over the last two years, Us&Us have developed three destination brands for Council and have demonstrated that they have an excellent grasp of the Shire's brand and product offering. They are currently developing the Towong Shire destination website, and it would be advantageous for them to create synergies between the destination website and the Great River Road website.

Reference checks confirm that Us&Us have vast experience in completing projects of a similar nature to a high standard. Work completed for Council to date has been exemplary and feedback from Upper Murray Inc on the work has been very positive.

Relevant Law (s.9(2)(a)):

The *Local Government Act 2020*

Options – Best Outcomes for the Community (s.9(2)(b)):

Driving visitation to the Shire through the promotion of the Great River Road will support population and business growth.

An increase of visitors will support the Shire's existing small businesses, and activate new business activity. Business growth and entrepreneurial activities stimulate the local economy and support keeping young people in the region.

Diversifying the agriculture-dominant economy of Towong Shire further into the Tourism sector will support the Shire's residents during times of climate change and drought conditions.

Sustainability Implications (s.9(2)(c)):

Not applicable.

Community Engagement (s.9(2)(d)):

Extensive community engagement has been undertaken in delivery of the Great River Road since the project's inception in 2017.

The proposed Great River Road marketing and promotion package was presented to and endorsed by members of Upper Murray Inc on 10 May 2023.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement (s.9(2)(e)):

Not Applicable.

Collaboration (s.9(2)(f)):

The Great River Road project has been an ongoing collaboration between the Upper Murray Community, State Government, Australian Government and Council since funding was first sourced in 2017.

Financial Viability/Budget Impact (s.9(2)(g)):

Budget requirements and availability have been confirmed, grant funding has been sought where possible and all expenditure is being monitored and managed within agreed budget allocations.

Regional, State and National Plans and Policies (s.9(2)(h)):

Not Applicable.

Council Plans and Policies:

Council Plans:
This report supports the following *Council Plan 2021-2025 priorities*.
1. Asset Management - Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.

1.3 Complete Stage 2 Great River Road

Council Policies:
Procurement Policy

Transparency of Decision (s.9(2)(i)):

It is the officer's view that it is appropriate to consider this matter in a Council

meeting that is open to the public.

Risk Assessment:

Appointing Us&Us will:

1. Negate the risks associated with completing the works within the required timeframes of the project's Funding Agreement;
2. Minimise the risk of exceeding the allocated budget;
3. Maximise the quality of works (by contracting reputable firm with a proven record for delivering positive outcomes for Council); and
4. Present the risk of not knowing whether the allocated budget could have been best spent alternatively.

Officer's View:

Us&Us have thorough knowledge and understanding of the Towong Shire destination brands and the product offering. Their proposal is well considered and has been endorsed by Upper Murray Inc; a key stakeholder in the delivery of the Great River Road. The package that they have proposed for purchase would allow Council to meet the Funding Agreement obligations and deliver a high-quality outcome for the marketing and promotion of the Great River Road.

15 Councillor Reports

15.1 ANZAC Day Report (Tallangatta) - Cr Anderson

Date of Meeting/Event:	ANZAC Day - 25 April 2024 The Triangles Tallangatta
Key information presented/discussed at meeting:	Rick Smith & Tony Elvidge led the Service with representatives from The Defence Forces. Katherine Lannigan led The Tallangatta Choir with the Hymns and Australian and NZ national Anthems along with Rhys McKee. The Tallangatta Secondary College Captains spoke on the significance of Anzac Day. Rick spoke of the many different conflicts since WW2. The Vietnam War and the many Peace Keeping Operations – with large numbers of troops being deployed, yet little is ever mentioned about them.
Members Comments/Thoughts:	Although the wind had a cold chill, the service was very well attended. There were 4 horses and riders representing, Sandy the war horse who also joined the service people who marched to the service. Many local organizations were represented, with many wreaths and poppies being laid at the Cenotaph.
Additional Information Available:	Today was an opportunity to advise those attending, the exhibition at the Tallangatta library. Students from our local schools across the shire researched local heroes who had served in our defence forces. Cr Denise Anderson

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

16 Urgent Business

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules, matters of urgent business can only be considered if:

a) It relates to or arises out of a matter which has arisen since distribution of the agenda; and
b) It cannot safely or conveniently be deferred until the next Council meeting; and
c) The Council resolves to admit an item considered to be urgent business.

17 Committee Minutes

17.1 Audit and Risk Committee Meeting - 28 May 2024 (DCOD)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Justin Troy, Coordinator Governance and Compliance.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

As per section 8 of the Council Audit and Risk Committee Charter, the minutes of an Audit and Risk Committee meeting must be forwarded to the next ordinary meeting of Council, including a report explaining specific recommendations and key outcomes.

An Audit and Risk Committee meeting was held on 28 May 2024. The unconfirmed minutes were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Resolutions made by the Committee, other than those 'for noting' were as follows:

Audit and Risk Committee Charter

THAT THE UPDATE ON AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP BE NOTED.

Annual Workplan and Meeting Schedule

THAT THE PROPOSED ANNUAL WORKPLAN BE ENDORSED.

Recommendation:

That the unconfirmed Audit and Risk Committee Minutes and Resolutions from 28 May 2024 be noted.

17.2 OHS Committee Minutes - 14 May 2024 (DCOD-06/04/0212)

Disclosure of Interests (S.130):

This report was prepared by Mr Wayne Carter, Occupational Health and Safety Officer.

At the time of preparation of this report, the officer did not have a general or material conflict of interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to provide information.

Summary:

The unconfirmed minutes of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 14 May 2024 have been provided to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Recommendation:

That the unconfirmed minutes for the Occupational Health and Safety Committee meeting held on 14 May 2024 be noted.

18 Council Policies

18.1 Policies for Adoption

The following policy was tabled for review at the January 2024 Council Meeting:

- Credit Card Policy

Attachment:

1. Credit Card Policy Track Changes [**18.1.1** - 5 pages]

Please note the recommended changes are shown in colored text.

Recommendation:

That the Credit Card Policy as amended and presented be adopted, with the Chief Executive Officer authorised to make minor administrative changes where necessary.

19 Sealing of Documents

Nil.

20 Confidential

Section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020* declares that meetings are to be open to the public unless the following specified circumstances apply:

1. *A Council or delegated committee must keep a meeting open to the public unless the Council or delegated committee considers it necessary to close the meeting to the public because a circumstance specified in subsection (2) applies.*

2. *The circumstances are –*
    a) *the meeting is to consider confidential information; or*
    b) *security reasons; or*
    c) *it is necessary to do so to enable the meeting to proceed in an orderly manner.*

3. *If the circumstance specified in subsection (2)(b) or (2)(c) applies, the meeting can only be closed to the public if the Council or delegated committee has made arrangements to enable the proceedings of the meeting to be viewed by members of the public as the meeting is being held.*

4. *For the purposes of subsection (3), the arrangements may include provision to view the proceedings on the Internet or on closed circuit television.*

5. *If a Council or delegated committee determines that a meeting is to be closed to the public to consider confidential information, the Council or delegated committee must record in the minutes of the meeting that are available for public inspection –*
    a) *the ground or grounds for determining to close the meeting to the public by reference to the grounds specified in the definition of confidential information in section 3(1); and*
    b) *an explanation of why the specified ground or grounds applied.*

As defined in section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2020 "confidential information" means the following information

a. *Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released;*
b. *Security information, being information that if released is likely to endanger the security of Council property or the safety of any person;*

c. *Land use planning information, being information that if prematurely released is likely to encourage speculation in land values;*
d. *Law enforcement information, being information which if released would be reasonably likely to prejudice the investigation in an alleged breach of the law or the fair trial or hearing of any person;*
e. *Legal privileged information, being information to which legal professional privilege or client legal privilege applies;*
f. *Personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs;*
g. *Private commercial information, being information provided by a business, commercial or financial undertaking that –*
   (i) relates to trade secrets; or
   (ii) if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage;
h. *Confidential meeting information, being the records of meetings closed to the public under section 66(2)(a);*
i. *Internal arbitration information, being information specified in section 145;*
j. *Councillor Conduct Panel confidential information, being information specified in section 169;*
k. *Information prescribed by the regulations to be confidential information for the purposes of this definition; and*

Information that was confidential information for the purposes of section 77 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Nil.

21 Closure of Meeting

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Meeting Record
Councillor Workshop

Wednesday 24 April 2024 – Tallangatta

Attendees: Crs Whitehead, Wortmann, Anderson, Scales and Dikschei
Ms Amanda Pagan (Acting Chief Executive Officer) and officers as listed below.

Apologies: Ms Juliana Phelps (CEO)

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest: Nil

9.30am **Director Infrastructure and Environment** *(Rachael Gadd)*

Corryong CBD
An upate was provided to Councillors on the progress of construction activities for the Corryong CBD project.

Mitta Mitta Streetscape Stage 2
An upate was provided to Councillors on the progress of the design for footpath from Mitta Mitta township to Magorra Park along with other priorities identified by the community.

Tallangatta Estate path and bridge
The standard of construction and location for the foreshore path to connect with the new Tallangatta Estate was discussed.

Talgarno toilet block
An update on the progress and design of the Talgarno toilet block.

Towong walking track
A project update was provided for the Towong walking track project.

10.30am **Council Meeting**

12.00pm **Acting Director Community and Planning** *(Mark Florence)*

Recovery transition plan

12.30pm **Working Lunch**

12.30pm **Councillor feedback/issues/questions (spreadsheet):**

Cr Whitehead:

Cr Wortmann:

Cr Anderson:

Garbage disposal at Butko reserve
Bellbridge Walking Track
Parking at Bellbridge Foreshore
Triangles playground review
Resident correspondence

Cr Dikschei:

Cr Scales:

2.00pm **Acting CEO** *(Amanda Pagan)*

Anzac Day arrangements
Reconciliation Action Plan
Survey Land-use planning

2.30pm **Afternoon tea** (Tallangatta Library at 2.45pm)

innovation : technology : sustainability

Meeting Record
Councillor Workshop

8 May 2024 - Tallangatta

Attendees: Crs Whitehead, Wortmann, Anderson, Scales and Dikschei
Narelle Taylor (Acting Chief Executive Officer) and officers as listed below.

Apologies:

Nil

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest:

Nil

9.30pm Councillor feedback/issues/questions

Cr Whitehead

Cr Wortmann:
Pine Mountain Creek Rd - request for grading

Dyring St Bethanga - Drainage issues

Cr Scales
Mitta Mitta Public toilets

Cr Anderson
Working With Children Check – requirements

Bellbridge Pedestrian Crossing

Cr Dikschei

10.00pm Council Meeting

10.15pm Councillor Only Time

11.00pm Acting Director Corporate and Organisational Development (George Curtis)
C&E Update An update on key Communications and

		Engagement activities.
11.30pm	**Director Infrastructure and Environment (Rachael Gadd)**	
	Bethanga Bay Reserve Waste Management	Information on the cost of a waste skip at Bethanga Bay Reserve was provided to Councillors.
	Bellbridge Walking Track Stage 2	Further information was provided on options to establish additional carparking areas and vehicle access to Lake Hume as part of the project.
	Great River Rd Stage 2	An update on the removal of Towong Gap Lookout from the funding milestones and instead deliver Stage 2 of the Towong walking track to establish a pedestrian connection to the new Towong Bridge over the Murray River to the camping reserve on the NSW side.
	Corryong CBD Car-Parking	An update on discussions with community stakeholders regarding options for car parking in Corryong CBD.
	Mitta Public Toilet	A discussion regarding the options for public toilet access in Mitta.
	Corryong CBD	Project update – Amended timeline and Budget update
12.30pm	**Working Lunch**	
1.30pm	**Acting Director Community and Planning (Mark Florence)**	
	Swimming Pool Update	An update on the swimming pool 2023/24 season and summary of future options.
	Recovery Transition	An update on the options for the transition of Recovery facilities.
	Notice of Refusal	An update on a Notice of Refusal for Cascade Road, Tallangatta Valley.

2.30pm **Acting Chief Executive Officer (Narelle Taylor)**

Enforcement activities	Provide information regarding Council responsibilities in enforcement activities.

3.00pm **Meeting Close**

Meeting Record
Councillor Workshop

22 May 2024 - Corryong

Attendees: Crs Whitehead, Wortmann, Anderson, Scales and Dikschei
Juliana Phelps (Chief Executive Officer) and officers as listed below.

Apologies:

Nil

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest:

Nil

9.30pm Councillor feedback/issues/questions

Cr Whitehead

Cr Wortmann:
10/5 Corryong CBD Project

12/5 Borrowing scenarios

18/5 Additional Growing Regions Grant rounds

19/5 Breakdown of expenditure on Flood Support Fund

21/5 James Duff Reserve signage installation

21/5 Mitta North Bridge

21/5 Delivery of emergency trailers

Cr Scales

Cr Anderson
20/5 Article re Rutherglen caravan park

20/5 Response to Bellbridge resident

20/5 BRV Breakdown

21/5 Timber furniture maintenance Bellbridge

21/5 Bellbridge Boathouse - next steps

21/5 Glass collection point for Bellbridge

Cr Dikschei

13/5 ARTUM update and use of Davis Cottage

14/5 Pools Code of conduct

16/5 Opening of the Corryong Heavy Vehicle Bypass

16/5 Correspondence from TSC

10.30pm **Council Meeting**

12.00pm **Corryong Cemeteries Trust Meeting**

12.30pm **Lunch**

1.00pm **Kali Metals Meeting**

Kali Metals meeting	A meeting with Luke Mortimer and Adam Place, representatives from Kali Metals.

2.00pm **CNC Meeting**

CNC Meeting	A meeting between Councillors and members of the CNC Commitee.

3.00pm **Director Infrastructure and Environment –** *(Rachael Gadd)*

Mitta Streetscape Project expenditure review	A review of expenditure for the Mitta Streetscape Stage One project.
Stock Route Project expenditure review	A review of expenditure for the Stock Route - Heavy Vehicle Route Project.
Corryong Truckwash and Weighbridge Project expenditure review	A review of expenditure for the the Corryong Truckwash and Weighbridge Project.
Corryong CBD and Hanson Street Project budget review	An update on the progress and expenditure of the Corryong CBD and Hanson Street project.

Streetscape Plan Update for Tintaldra, Towong and Cudgewa	An overview of the progress on the Streetscape plans for Tintaldra, Towong and Cudgewa.
Mitta Streetscape Project expenditure review	An update on the expenditure for the Mitta Streetscape Stage 2 Project was provided.
Columbarium location - Corryong Cemetery	An overview of the objection to the new columbarium location at the Corryong Cemetery provided.
Arcade Toilet Block - Design review	The final design for the new Man From Snowy River Arcade toilet block provided to Councillors.
Waste and Recycling service update	An update was provided on the implementation of the new Food Organics and Garden Organics kerbside collection service.
Talgarno Toilet Block design	A design for the single cubicle public toilet block proposed for Talgarno Recreation Reserve presented to Councillors.
Walwa Playground Design	The final design for the Walwa Playground presented to Councillors for information.

4.30pm **Councillor Time**
Councillor Only Time

5.00pm **Meeting Close**

ACTION SHEET
FROM 22 MAY 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	PROGRESS/ COMPLETE
5	**Confirmation of Minutes** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on the 24 April 2024, be confirmed.	Coordinator Governance and Compliance	Confirmed Minutes added to Council's website. Complete
11.1	**Reconciliation Action Plan** That Council: 1. Provide in-principle approval to the draft Reconciliation Action Plan; and 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to submit the draft Reconciliation Action Plan to Reconciliation Australia for feedback and final endorsement.	Director Community and Planning	The signed draft Reconciliation Action Plan has been submitted to Reconciliation Australia. Complete
12.2	**Capital Works Report** That: 1. The following budget allocations be endorsed: a. Reallocation of $30,000 from the 2023/2024 dust strips capital budget to the major patching budget; b. Reallocation of $30,000 from the 2023/2024 dust strips capital budget to the resheeting budget; c. Reallocation of $12,375 from	Deputy Director Infrastructure	The budget reallocations have been communicated to finance for action. Complete

ACTION SHEET
FROM 22 MAY 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

	annual drainage renewal to Corryong weighbridge and truckwash; d. Reallocation of $65,000 from drainage renewal budget to the stock route budget; 2. That the following budget allocations be approved: a. Reallocation of $25,596 from triangles irrigation upgrades budget (Ircip funding) to the Corryong weighbridge and truckwash; b. Reallocation of $155,926 from Eskdale walking track (Ircip funding) to Corryong weighbridge and truckwash; c. Reallocation of $180,000 from roads to recovery funding, $55,000 from street furniture renewal and $42,075 from the pavement renewal budget to Mitta streetscape; d. Reallocation of $30,184 from shade sails (Ircip funding) to the triangles toilet block and visitor information centre; and e. The expenditure of up to $150,000 of the 2024/2025 major patching budget prior to winter.		
12.3	**Cleaning of Municipal Buildings Contract No. 2023/24-056** That Council: 1. Award the two-year Contract No.	Technical Officer - Maintenance	Contract No. 2023/24-056 is awaiting signing and sealing.

ACTION SHEET
FROM 22 MAY 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

	2023/24-056 Cleaning of Municipal Buildings to Waynes Cleaning Services for the lump sum of $176,789 excluding GST; 2. That the contract include options for two additional one-year extensions with CPI adjustments; 3. The use of the Common Seal be authorised in accordance with Local Law 1 –Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties for the purpose of signing the contract document; and 4. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated budget.		
12.4	**Dartmouth Splash Pad – Tender Evaluation – Contract No. 2023/2024-051** That: 1. Council award Contract No. 2023/2024-051 for the Dartmouth Splash Pad construction to Farley Pools Australian Pty Ltd for a contract value of $240,829 excluding GST; 2. The use of the Common Seal be authorised in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties for the purpose of signing the contract document; and	Deputy Director Infrastructure	Contract No. 2023/2024-051 has been signed and sealed. Complete

ACTION SHEET
FROM 22 MAY 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

	3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated budget.		
12.5	**Bellbridge Walking Track Stage 2 & 3 Tender Evaluation Contract No. 2023/2024-045** That: 1. Council award Contract No. 2023/24-045 for the Bellbridge Walking Track Upgrade Stages 2 and 3 to ATD Civil for the contract value of $490,939.52 excluding GST; 2. The use of the Common Seal be authorised in accordance with Local Law 1 –Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties for the purpose of signing the contract document; and 3. The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated budget.	Deputy Director Infrastructure	Contract No. 2023/24-045 is awaiting signing and sealing.
12.6	**Corryong CBD Parking Options Report** That Council notes the update and supports: 1. Ongoing targeted engagement with land/business owners to further explore additional parking options;	Deputy Director Infrastructure	Complete

ACTION SHEET
FROM 22 MAY 2024 ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

	and 2. Engaging with the community on the options for Donaldson Street parking modifications.		
12.7	**Stabilisation of Major Patches 2024/2025-001** That Council: 1. Award Contract No. 2024/2025 - 001 for the Stabilisation of Major Patches to Szabolics Construction Pty Ltd for the lump sum of $868,000 excluding GST; 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign and seal Contract No. 2024/2025 - 001 in accordance with Local Law 1 – Common seal and Miscellaneous Penalties; and 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Office to approve contract variations up to the total value of the allocated project budget.	Civil Asset Engineer	Contract No. 2024/2025 – 001 is awaiting signing and sealing.
19.1	**Policies for Adoption** That the following policy as amended and presented, be adopted, with the Chief Executive Officer authorised to make minor administrative changes where necessary: • Kerbside Residual Waste and Recycling Collection Policy	Coordinator Governance and Compliance	Adopted policy posted on Council website and communicated to staff. Complete

Audit and Risk Committee Charter

Responsible officer:	Director Corporate and Organisational Development
Key Result Area:	Organisational Improvement
Document type:	Constitution
Reference:	10/01/0004
Approved by:	Council
Date approved:	~~24 August 2022~~
Date of next review:	~~August 2023~~

1. Purpose

The Audit and Risk Committee is an independent advisory Committee that assists Council with its good governance and accountability obligations. The primary purpose of the Committee is to assist Council in the effective discharge of its responsibilities under the *Local Government Act 2020* by providing oversight, advice and guidance on Council's frameworks, policies, systems and controls relating to:

- legislative compliance and good governance
- financial and performance reporting
- risk management, fraud prevention and internal controls
- internal and external audit.

It provides oversight to aid with the organisation's ethical development and advises on best practice.

2. Mandate and Authority

The Audit and Risk Committee is formally appointed by the Council established under section 53(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020.* The Committee is advisory in nature only and does not have any delegated powers or management functions, or the ability to implement actions in areas over which management has responsibility. It is therefore independent of management.

The Committee's role is to provide advice and recommendations to Council on matters relevant to its Charter to facilitate effective decision making in the discharge of Council's responsibilities. In performing this role it may:

- Obtain any information it requires from management or an external party (subject to any legal obligation to protect information)
- Obtain expert advice on matters of concern through the Chief Executive Officer and following authorization from Council
- Discuss any matters with the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) or other external parties, subject to confidentiality considerations
- Use its discretion to meet in camera with internal and external auditors
- Request the Chief Executive Officer to obtain legal or other professional advice.

3. Membership

The Audit and Risk Committee will comprise a minimum of three members – one Councillor and two external independent persons. Committees with a membership greater than three must include a majority of external independent persons. All members shall have full voting rights.

In line with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*, external independent persons will collectively have expertise in financial management, risk and public sector management.

Vacant Committee positions are advertised externally. Potential members are evaluated by the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer taking into account their experience and their ability to apply appropriate analytical and strategic thinking skills. Recommended candidates are put forward to Council for approval.

Appointments are to be for a maximum term of four years and should be arranged to ensure an orderly rotation and continuity of membership, while ensuring that at least one external person has at least two years' experience on the Committee at any given time (where possible). The term of one committee member may be extended by an additional one year if there are circumstances which place the continuity of the Committee at risk.

If the Council proposes to remove a member of the Committee, it must give written notice to the member of its intention to do so and provide that member with the opportunity to be heard at a Council meeting which is open to the public, if that member so requests.

An independent member may resign before the expiry of their term by notifying Council of their intention in writing.

Remuneration will be paid to each independent member of the Committee. Quarterly fees will be paid in arrears at a set percentage of the current Councillor allowance, to be determined by Council resolution and reviewed annually. The Chairperson will be paid an additional 20% of Committee member fees to compensate their additional responsibilities within the Committee. ~~(the basis may be an annual fee, with an additional amount paid to the Chairperson or a set fee per meeting, or another basis as appropriate).~~

The Chairperson shall be appointed from the external members of the Committee by the Audit and Risk Committee subject to Council's approval for a term of one or two years.

4. Meetings

The Committee shall meet at least quarterly. A schedule of meetings will be developed and agreed to by the members and shall coincide with relevant Council reporting deadlines where appropriate, for example in line with external auditor visits and financial reporting timelines. Additional meetings may be convened at the discretion of the Chairperson or at the written request of any member of the Committee, internal or external auditor.

The agenda for meetings shall be guided by the Committee's Annual Work Plan.

A quorum shall be two for a Committee with the minimum membership of three.
For Committees with membership greater than three, a quorum will be a majority of the Committee membership comprising at least equal representation of internal and external independent members.

In the absence of the appointed Chairperson from a meeting, the meeting will appoint an acting Chairperson from the external members present.

Relevant officers are to attend meetings to provide relevant updates. Specific officers may be requested to attend by the Committee to advise and provide information when required. The Chief Executive Officer, internal and external auditors may also attend meetings as relevant.

Council shall provide secretarial and administrative support to the Committee.

5. Conflicts of Interest

Committee deliberations must be transparent and accountable to maintain the integrity of the Committee and Council. In accordance with Division 2 of Part 6 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Committee members must disclose conflicts of interest in the manner required by Council's Governance Rules.

6. Misuse of Position

In accordance with section 123 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Committee members must not misuse their position to gain or attempt to gain, directly or indirectly, an advantage for themselves or any other person, or attempt to cause detriment to Council or another person.

7. Confidentiality

In accordance with section 53 and 125 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Committee members must not intentionally or recklessly disclose information that they know, or should reasonably know, is confidential information.

8. Reporting

The Audit and Risk Committee shall after every meeting forward the minutes of that meeting to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, including a report explaining any specific recommendations and key outcomes.

9. Duties and Responsibilities

The Audit and Risk Committee will carry out the following responsibilities:

Compliance

- Review systems, policies and processes for legislative compliance and effective implementation.
- Review any instances of non-compliance and the adequacy of management actions to remediate them.
- Maintain an awareness of any examinations by regulatory agencies and monitor management's response to these findings.

Financial and Performance Reporting

- Review significant accounting practices and reporting issues, including complex or unusual transactions and highly judgemental areas, and recent accounting, professional and regulatory pronouncements and legislative changes, and understand their effect on the financial report.
- Note the external auditor's proposed audit scope and approach.
- Review with management and the external auditors the results of the audit, including any difficulties encountered and any other matters required to be communicated under the Australasian Auditing Standards.
- Review the annual financial report and consider whether it is complete, consistent with information known to Audit and Risk Committee members, and reflects appropriate accounting principles.

Risk Management

- Monitor and advise on Council's risk framework and profile.
- Review significant strategic and operational risk exposures.
-
- Ensure that material risks are appropriately controlled.
- Maintain an awareness of changes in the external environment which may pose risk to Council's operations.
- Monitor and provide advice on Council's fraud and corruption prevention systems and controls.
- Monitor business continuity plans and practices.
- Monitor significant incident responses within Council to ensure risks are being controlled.

Internal Control and Internal Audit

- Provide oversight of the internal audit function.
- Review the annual internal audit plan, ensuring that it is prioritised for material risks.
- Review the scope of internal audits and ensure that they are carried out independently.
- Obtain reports on internal audit findings and review management's responses.
- Request to meet with internal auditors to discuss any matters with Council officers in attendance or in camera as relevant.

Committee Planning and Self Assessment

- Annually review and recommend the Audit and Risk Committee Charter.
- Prepare and execute an annual Work Plan to support discharge of this Charter.
  Undertake an annual self-assessment to evaluate Committee performance and areas for improvement.

Other Responsibilities

Perform any other activities related to the mandate of the Audit and Risk Committee as requested by the Council or determined by the Committee.

Authorised by:

~~Juliana Phelps~~**Andrew Whitehead** **Lisa Forsyth**

Mayor

~~Chief Executive Officer~~Chairperson

Records Management Policy

Responsible officer:	Coordinator Governance and Compliance
Key Result Area:	Organisational Improvement
Document type:	Operational Policy
Reference:	10/01/0007
Approved by:	Council
Date approved:	(Enter Date approved)
Date of next review:	(Enter Date for next scheduled review)

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1. Purpose

Towong Shire Council recognises the importance of Records Management (RM), both for supporting decision-making and operations within the organisation, as well as for meeting obligations that are applied or implied by law.

The purpose of this Records Management Policy is to ensure that full and accurate records of all business activities and decisions of Towong Shire Council are created, managed and retained or disposed of appropriately, and in accordance with relevant legislation and regulations.

Towong Shire Council is committed to planning, enabling, sustaining and continuously improving good RM. This policy establishes the accountabilities and principles that will guide these outcomes.

2. Scope

This policy applies to any individual that creates, collects, accesses, manages or has access to corporate information on behalf of Towong Shire Council, including (but not limited to):

- Council staff (permanent, temporary, contract or casual),
- Volunteers,
- Contractors and consultants, and
- Councillors.

3. Objectives

This policy aims to ensure the following is understood and complied with:

- Staff at Council have an obligation to identify and keep records of business conducted including records created or received as part of daily work);
- Staff are required to capture records into the approved records management system;
- Staff are to ensure records are accurate, authentic, reliable, and maintained; and
- Records created are covered by legislation and provide proof of activities and evidence of business.

4. Policy Details

4.1 Principles

Towong Shire Council will strive to:

- Ensure (in accordance with the *Public Records Act 1973*) that a full and accurate record of Towong Shire Council business is captured and managed in-line with PROV standards;
- Ensure the safety and integrity of Corporate Records as evidence;
- Optimise the availability of Corporate Information for Towong Shire Council and public uses; and
- Balance and ensure compliance with all other statutory obligations that apply in pursuit of the above goals.

4.2 Governance

- The Chief Executive Officer retains ultimate authority and accountability for RM.
- Towong Shire Council will ensure that a Coordinator Governance and Compliance is employed to deliver RM outcomes.
- The Coordinator Governance and Compliance may review and prescribe improvements to any aspect of RM within the organisation, following appropriate consultation with stakeholders.
- The manager and executive responsible for the Records Management function will resource for the delivery of RM outcomes. This includes the upkeep of systems and the employment of suitably-skilled professionals.
- All managers and executives will support the delivery of RM outcomes within their teams and divisions.
- All staff will identify and ensure compliance with any field-specific acts or regulations that apply RM requirements within their area of work.

4.3 Systems

- The Director Corporate and Organisational Development may approve, disapprove or conditionally-approve any system for recordkeeping uses. These decisions will be recorded in a register.
- Prior to any purchase or commitment, all new systems will be assessed for RM approval.
- Paper-based recordkeeping will be limited to systems that are RM approved.
- Electronic recordkeeping should be limited to systems that are RM approved, centrally managed, vendor-supported, and implemented in-line with best practice Change Management standards.
- Electronic systems approved for recordkeeping will be protected in-line with the Business Continuity Plan.
- For the purpose of assessing systems or the practices undertaken within them, the Coordinator Governance and Compliance will be granted access to any system on request.

4.4 Performance Management

- The Coordinator Governance and Compliance may audit team or individual performance against compliance with this and any related policies.
- Ongoing or intentional disregard for the responsibilities outlined in this policy will be addressed using the provisions of the Employee Code of Conduct.

4.5 Communications and Reporting

- This and any related policies will be implemented at all levels of the organisation via induction and post-induction training. Training will be delivered according to the RM program, and additionally as needed.
- Operationally-focused documentation will guide all staff in meeting their obligations. These documents will be available to all staff via Towong Shire Council's electronic document system and published on the intranet. New or reviewed documents will be publicised with all staff using various communciation methods – emails, team updates on the Towong Shire Council intranet.
- Implementation of this operational framework with contractors, volunteers, board members and external committees will be performed as-needed by the officers responsible for those relationships (and supported by the Coordinator Governance and Compliance).
- Known risks associated with RM will be managed in-line with Towong Shire Council's Risk Management Policy and will be logged in the Organisation's Risk Register.
- Any breaches of RM compliance that result in a high (or greater) risk to Towong Shire Council will be reported to the respective Director as soon as practicable.
- The Coordinator Governance and Compliance will report to the Chief Executive Officer annually on Towong Shire Council's RM performance.

5. Responsibilities

Responsibility	Role/Position
• Maintain a RM program that complies with the standards issued by PROV. • Coordinate RM services, and ensure that all staff have the guidance, systems and support required to fulfil their obligations. • Provide expert advice on RM compliance, risk and resource-requirement issues.	Coordinator Governance and Compliance
• Development and implementation of information and records management and recordkeeping practices, procedures, strategies and guidelines that are in compliance with legislation. • Development and implementation of relevant employee training and awareness programs for recordkeeping and information management. • Control, access, storage, and destruction of records within the guidance of PROV recordkeeping standards.	Records Officer
• Support the application of record and information management practices, procedures and policies throughout the organisation. • Ensure compliance with all current legislative requirements for recordkeeping and full and accurate records of the business are made in accordance with best practice records management standards. • Ensure compliance with recordkeeping requirements under the Code of Conduct for Victorian Public Sector Employees by all officers, contractors, consultants and volunteers.	Senior Management Team
• Comply with the Recordkeeping Responsibilities when performing any work on behalf of Towong Shire Council. • Consult with the Records Management Coordinator regarding any uncertainties or concerns they have about their own or observed RM practices. • Support the RM program within their areas-of-responsibility. This may include process-review, improvement or performance-management initiatives.	All Staff
• Work with the Coordinator Governance and Compliance to understand their RM obligations. Where necessary, guidelines and processes will be established to ensure compliance with the Recordkeeping Responsibilities.	Councillors and External Committee Members

6. Human Rights

The policy gives regard to relevant legislation, principles of natural justice and procedural fairness, community values and Council's resource capacity. It is considered that this policy supports the rights identified in the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act (2006)*.

7. Relevant Legislation and Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other relevant Council policies and procedures, as well as relevant legislative requirements.

Related legislation includes:

- *Public Records Act 1973 (Vic)*
- *Evidence Act 2008*
- *Crimes Act 2006 – Document Destruction*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
- *Information Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*
- *Public Administration Act 2004*
- *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2012*

Other related Council documents include:

- *Records Management Corporate Records Guidelines*

Other applicable standards include:

- *AS ISO 15489 Australian Standard for Records Management*
- *PROS 10/10 – Public Records Office Standard: Strategic Management*
- *PROS 10/17 – Public Records Office Standard: Operations Management*
- *PROS 99/007 – VERS (Victorian Electronic Records Strategy) Compliance*
- *The Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) Records Management Checklist*
- *Victorian Protective Data Security Framework, March 2018*

8. Definitions

Term	Definition
Corporate Information	All information created, sent and received by a Victorian public sector employee in the course of carrying out the business of Towong Shire Council, including electronic documents, emails, websites, audio-visual records, databases and system-generated records, as well as physical documents and files.
Corporate Record	Any Corporate Information that contains key evidence of any Towong Shire Council business and has been captured in a preservable format.

Towong Shire Council Business	Any activities (whether core or administrative, in-house or outsourced) that are undertaken by, or on behalf of Towong Shire Council.
PROV	(Public Records Office of Victoria): the office established under the Public Records Act, responsible for the records of all Victorian public agencies.
RM	(Records Management): managing the capture, storage, accessibility, and disposal of Corporate Records, as well as any supporting systems or processes.
RM Program	A planned and resourced approach for implementing all aspects of RM, including the training of staff and the review of performance.
System	Any structures, methods or storage-devices (whether electronic or physical) that store Corporate Information.

Authorised by: _____

(Enter approver name)
(Enter approver title)

Policy Management Policy

Responsible officer:	Coordinator Governance and Compliance
Key Result Area:	Governance and Decision Making
Document type:	Policy
Reference:	10/01/0004
Approved by:	Council
Date approved:	
Date of next review:	June 2028

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Appendix 1 – Council Policies (as at June 2024) 8

1. Purpose

This policy outlines Council's characterisation of all levels of policy documents and establishes a consistent approach towards the development and maintenance of endorsed policies.

This includes:

- The application of good governance principles in the development of policies
- Ensuring existing policies are reviewed periodically in a consistent manner
- Creating accountability for officers involved in the development and review of policies; and
- Providing clear and concise guidance for the development of differing levels of policies, whilst promoting flexibility where required

2. Scope

This policy applies to Councillors and employees of Council that have a responsibility to develop, maintain, review or contribute towards any level of Council policy as defined in this policy.

This policy applies to the following types of polices:

Type of Policy	Definition
Strategic Policy	Policies that have a long-term strategic influence on the direction of Council's contribution and commitment towards the Municipality and/or the organisation. These policies can also influence how services or facilities are provided to the community. These types of policies typically apply to all Victorian Councils and are required through legislative provisions. Example policies: • Human Rights • Child Safety And Wellbeing Policy • Tree Policy • Complaints Policy
Operational Policy	Policies that apply exclusively to Councillors and/or Council Staff that identify rules or procedures to follow to achieve a task or obligation. Example policies: • Issue Resolution • Credit Card Policy • External Grant Application Policy • Procurement Policy
Operational Procedure	Any document or procedure that details the internal steps required to accomplish a task within a specific operational area/function.

This policy excludes the following strategic documents required under the *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act):

- Community Vision
- Council Plan
- Financial Plan
- Asset Plan
- Revenue and Rating Plan
- Annual Budget

3. Policy Details

3.1. Policy Context

The context for this policy stems from the Act with specific reference to the following sections:

- Section 10(1) - *Subject to any limitations or restrictions imposed by or under this Act or any other Act, a Council has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done in connection with the performance of its role.*
- Section 46(1)(b) - *A Chief Executive Officer is responsible for— ensuring the effective and efficient management of the day to day operations of the Council.*

It is therefore vital that Council adheres to this policy to ensure the following overarching objectives can be met with efficiency and confidence:

- Council policies continue to hold a key role in the good governance of Council operations and supports the objectives of Council as identified in the Act;
- Council policies are effectively developed, consulted, reviewed and made accessible through consistent processes and set accountabilities; and
- Are considered in conjunction with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles as per section 9 of the Act.

3.2. Policy Approval Hierarchy

The policy approval hierarchy is an overview of the different levels of policy documents and the processes required to develop and review each level of policy documents.

Type of Policy	Approval Requirements
Strategic Policy	Strategic policies require Council adoption and the appropriate level of internal consultation and external consultation as per Council's *Community Engagement Policy*. *See section 3.2.1 for further procedural details.*
Operational Policy	Operational policies require Council adoption only if the Chief Executive Oficer deems the intent of the policy to have significant impact on the organisation's ability to deliver services and functions, or if required by legislation. If the policy has minimal impact on Council's community services or functions, Chief Executive Officer approval is required.

	See section 3.2.2 for further procedural details.
Operational Procedure	Operational procedures only require Director approval for detailed internal procedures, whether they stem from an existing policy or are stand alone in its purpose. *See section 3.2.3 for further procedural details.*

3.2.1. Strategic Policy Approval Process

The Act recognises that Councillors are responsible for the good governance of its municipality for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community. It also recognises that the role of every Councillor is to 'contribute to the strategic direction of the Council through the development and review of key strategic documents of the Council, including the Council Plan' (section 28(1)(c)). It is therefore key that Councillors take a level of responsibility through consultation and review, to ensure the policy's intent is in accordance with Council's vision and direction.

3.2.2. Operational Policy Approval Process

Under the Act, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for *ensuring the effective and efficient management of the day to day operations of the Council* (section 46(1)(b)). In order to undertake this role, the Chief Executive Officer will be required to ensure the development of sound policies that execute the strategic direction of the Shire and to manage the day to day operations of the Shire. Therefore at a minimum, CEO approval of operational policies are required. Operational policies requiring Council approval are included in Appendix 1 to this policy.

3.2.3. Operational Procedure Approval Process

Council procedures will be developed to further guide operational practices for officers in response to a parent policy. To ensure procedures remain operationally relevant, flexible to change and controlled by the responsible team, Directors (or Deputy Directors where approved) will be required to ensure that Council procedures are developed with consideration to legislative compliance and best practice methods.

3.3. Policy Administration

The Governance Officer (or equivalent position) will hold administrative control of the development and review of all types of policies (referenced at 3.2) within Council.

The Governance Officer must be consulted before the development or review of any policy to ensure the correct hierarchy is being followed and for administrative oversight relating to the management of the policy register and public policies on Council's website. The Governance Officer will be responsible for advising responsible officers on presenting developed policies to Council, as well as preparing reports for policies being submitted to Council for review.

Any procedures or templates associated with this policy are administratively controlled by the Governance Officer, with any amendments made to be in accordance with this policy and associated procedures.

4. Responsibilities

Responsibility	Role/Position
Councillors are responsible for the good governance of its municipal district for the benefit and wellbeing of the municipal community. The role is required to specifically comply with this policy through the approval of strategic policies as defined in section 3.2.1.	Councillors
The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for ensuring the effective and efficient management of the day to day operations of the Council. As such, they are required to comply with this policy and ensure • Strategic policies are facilitated to relevant stakeholders for input as per section 3.2.1; and • Operational Policies are in accordance with community and council expectations as per section 3.2.2.	Chief Executive Officer
Directors and Deputy Directors are responsible for: • Assisting Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer with the development and consultation of strategic policies as per section 3.2.1; • Ensuring operational policies are developed in accordance with this policy and Chief Executive Officer expectations as per section 3.2.2; and • The oversight and approval of operational procedures as per section 3.2.3.	Directors/Deputy Directors
The Governance Officer (or equivalent position) is responsible for the oversight of Council policy management and the delivery of the this policy as per section 3.3.	Governance Officer
All staff involved with the development, maintenance, review or contribution towards any level of Council policy are required to comply with this policy and associated procedures and consult with the Governance Officer for advice when required.	Council Staff

5. Human Rights Charter

This policy has been considered in relation to the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* and it has been determined that it does not contravene the Charter.

6. Relevant Legislation and Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other relevant Council policies and procedures, as well as relevant legislative requirements.

Related legislation includes:

- *Local Government Act 2020*

Other related guidelines or policies include:

- Policy Management Procedure
- Policy Template
- Procedure Template

7. Definitions

Term	Definition
Consultation	The process of formally engaging with relevant stakeholders on a matter, whether it be internal staff, Councillors, government bodies or the public.
Council	Means 'Towong Shire Council'.
Council Adoption	Is the act of Council making a decision on a matter (whether approved or not) through a Council Meeting.
Good Governance	Is the process of Council making decisions that promotes public confidence through accountability, transparency, integrity and within rules and expectations.
Hierarchy	A hierarchy that identifies the relationship between different policy documents and the requirements associated with each type.
Operational Policy	A policy that relates to the internal business of the Shire and guides Officers in meeting objectives.
Policy	An overarching term that includes all documents that detail Council's official position on a particular issue and includes principles and rules to guide decision making.
Policy Register	The internal register kept by Council to administer and manage all active policies and procedures within Council.
Responsible Officer	The officer responsible for overseeing or is accountable to the subject policy or procedure.
Strategic Policy	long-term vision that outlines a particular set of strategic outcomes or objectives Council want to achieve.

Authorised by: _____

Juliana Phelps
Chief Executive Officer

Appendix 1 – Council Policies (as at June 2024)

Policy Name	Type of Policy	Approval Required	Review Timeframe
Governance Rules	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Local Law No 1 – Common Seal and Miscellaneous Penalties	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Councillor Code of Conduct	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Councillor Support and Expenses Policy	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Councillor Gift Policy	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Councillor Correspondence	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Public Interest Disclosures	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Chief Executive Officer Employment and Remuneration Policy	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Audit and Risk Committee Charter	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Risk Management	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Procurement	Operational Policy	Council	Annual
Community Engagement	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Complaints Policy	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Privacy	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Human Rights	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Debt Collection Policy	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Financial Hardship Policy	Municipal Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Fraud and Corrupt Conduct	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Investment	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Credit Card Policy	Operational Policy	CEO	Annual
Public Transparency	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Asset Management	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Road Construction	Operational Policy	CEO	Four Year Council Term
Kerbside Refuse and Recycling Collection	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Access to Waste Disposal and Recycling Outlets (outside normal operating hours)	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Stock Grid Policy	Operational Policy	CEO	Four Year Council Term
Temporary Road Closure	Operational Policy	CEO	Four Year Council Term
Asset Valuation	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual

Tree Policy	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Climate Adaption	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Town Entrance Signage	Operational Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Healthy Eating	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Young Person Award	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Inclusive and Accessible Communities (Disabled Access)	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Inclusive and Accessible Communities (Disabled Access Funding)	Operational Policy	Council	Annual
Conflict of Interest Guidelines for Planning Staff	Operational Policy	Council	Annual
External Grant Application	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Renewable Energy and Development	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Community Use of Council Meeting Spaces and Facilities	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Street Stalls and Raffles	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Employee Recognition	Operational Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Employee Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policy and Guidelines	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Recruitment Policy	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Social Media	Operational Policy	CEO	Annual
Occupational Health and Safety	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Discrimination, Harrassment, Bullying, Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity	Strategic Policy	Council	Annual
Issue Resolution	Operational Policy	CEO	Four Year Council Term
No Smoking Policy	Operational Policy	CEO	Four Year Council Term
Computer and Mobile Device Use	Operational Policy	CEO	Four Year Council Term
Flexi Time	Operational Policy	CEO	Four Year Council Term
Working From Home Application	Operational Policy	CEO	Four Year Council Term

Corryong Cemeteries Trust – Various Documents	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term
Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy	Strategic Policy	Council	Four Year Council Term

Occupational Health and Safety Report – April / May 2024

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Management System Audit 2024

An OHS Management System Audit has been undertaken in accordance with the international safety standard, ISO 45001:2018 ("local" equivalent is AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018 *Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems – Requirements with guidance for use*). The audit commenced in January 2024 and concluded mid-February. The audit included site visits in Tallangatta and Corryong where several staff were interviewed, and the desktop review of several Council documents relating to OH&S. An action plan will be developed to address the non-conformances identified in the audit.

Site-specific action plans have been developed from an additional list of 90 "*hazards and issues of concern*" raised during the audit. These action plans are the focus initially at worksites. Meetings with key personnel at those worksites are ongoing with fortnightly follow-ups planned to discuss progress. As of 20 May 2024, of the 90 actions listed, 15 had been completed with a further 20 in progress.

WorkCover and potential WorkCover Incidents

There is one open WorkCover claim, and we continue to work closely with the employee and our WorkCover agent to manage the claim.

There were no new WorkCover claims for this period, and no incidents reported which either did or could have resulted in injury which in turn could have resulted in a WorkCover claim.

Insurance Claims

There were three new liability incidents reported during this period. They are:

- There have been two separate reports where residents reported that whilst driving on a local gravel road they damaged and punctured tyres due to the condition of the road. The claims are being managed by officers'.
- A resident reported that whilst driving their vehicle a stone was flicked up by a Council worker using a whipper snipper, and the stone damaged their windscreen. A claim has been submitted for replacement windscreen. The claim is being managed by officers'.

The status of the Liability claims from the previous reporting period are:

- A resident informed Council that a tree on the nature strip had a large limb break off on Christmas Day which hit their power feed line to the home damaging the support bracket on the verandah. They have submitted a claim form requesting payment for repairs. The claim is being managed by officers', with repairs to be completed in June 2024.
- A resident reported that whilst the roadside area outside their home was being mowed, the Council mower flicked a small rock up and it broke the resident's car window. The claim is being managed by officers'.

Officers continued to assist community groups with claims for damages to community assets which are covered by Council's JMAPP Policy. Claims include storm damage for the Upper Murray Events Centre (which has now been finalised), and Thowgla Hall.

Asbestos in Council assets

A review of the currency of asbestos inspections and registers is underway for all of Council's buildings and assets. This follows the recent OHS Management System Audit and findings that relate to some non-compliance with current legislative requirements.

2024 Influenza Vaccinations

The 2024 Influenza vaccinations for all Staff and Councillors have been completed by Wodonga Immunisation. Vaccinations were conducted at Tallangatta and Corryong with over 60 staff registering their interest in getting the vaccination.

Rear facing white lights on vehicles and Plant

Australian Design Rules and other relevant legislation require that rear-facing white lights are only permitted on emergency vehicles and other specialist vehicles. Council's vehicles and Plant that require rear-facing white lights must apply for an exemption from either VicRoads or the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR). These applications for exemptions are currently being completed.

Corryong Aerodrome

VHF radio's have been purchased and fitted into relevant vehicles/Plant that work on or around the Corryong Aerodrome airside. An Aeronautical Radio Operator Certificate (**AROC**) is required by anyone who needs to communicate on an aviation air-band radio frequency. Applications for staff are being progressed by Council officers.

WorkCover Scheme Modernisation

The Victorian WorkCover Scheme has changed to ensure it can continue supporting injured workers into the future. The main changes are:

- New eligibility tests for psychological injury claims;
- An additional requirement for workers to continue to receive weekly payments after the 130-week second entitlement period.

The changes came into effect on 31 March 2024. A number of supporting changes have also been made to improve the way the WorkCover scheme operates and to make sure the changes are effective. It should be noted that not all WorkCover claims will be affected by these changes. If the changes affect a claim, the WorkCover Agent will contact the injured worker and provide more information about what it means to the claim and about additional support available.

Officers attended a webinar during April regarding the changes and will communicate the changes to relevant staff.

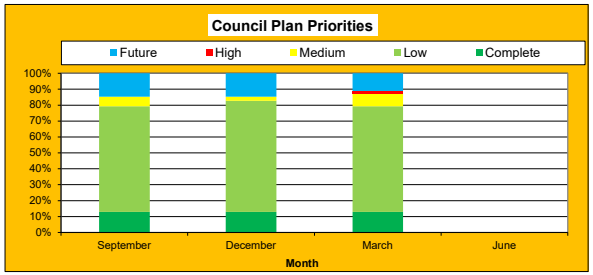
Council's insurance renewal

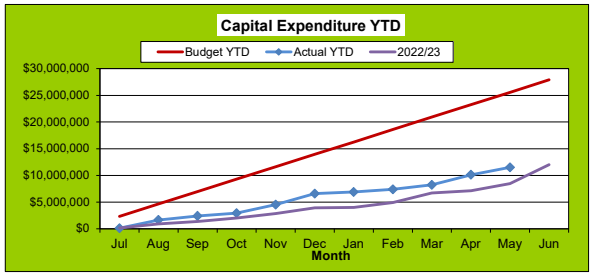
- Although Council's insurance renewal process has been completed and submitted, further information continues to be sourced and entered into the Asset Schedule relating to COPE information. COPE information (Construction, Occupancy, Protection and Exposure) for Council and Community assets covered under Council's Policy is;
    - Construction relates to how a building was made; occupancy relates to what the building is used for; protection relates to how the building is protected, and exposure relates to external factors near the building that may pose a threat (fires, floods etc)

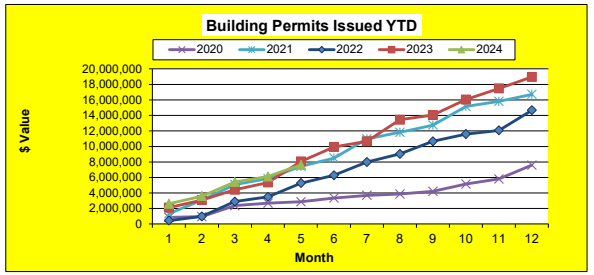
Lifting equipment annual inspections

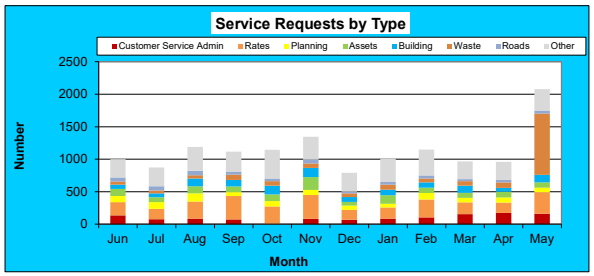
All lifting equipment (slings, shackles, chains etc) at the Depots have had their annual inspections completed. Items that did not pass the test/inspection as required in the relevant Australian Standard have been removed from service and replaced.

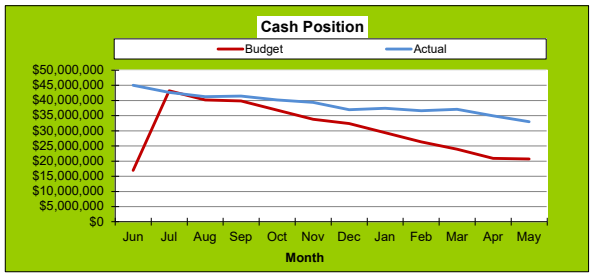
Quarterly Performance Graphs

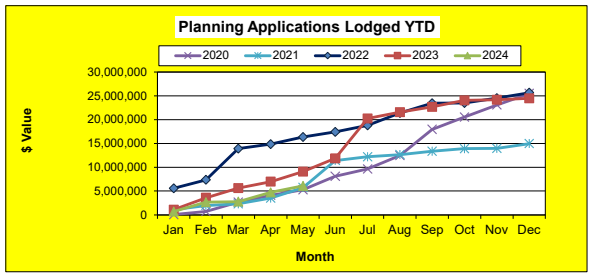




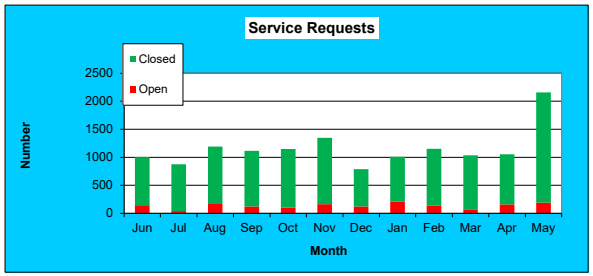


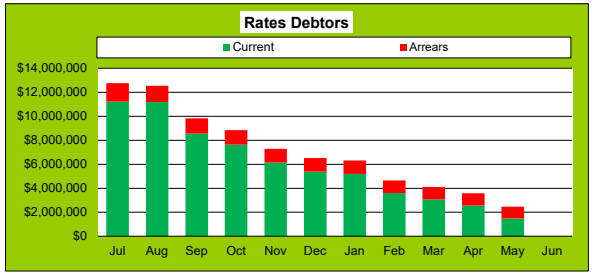


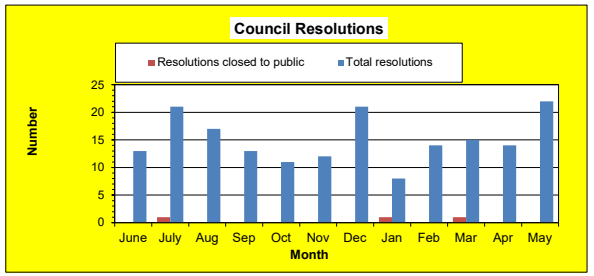


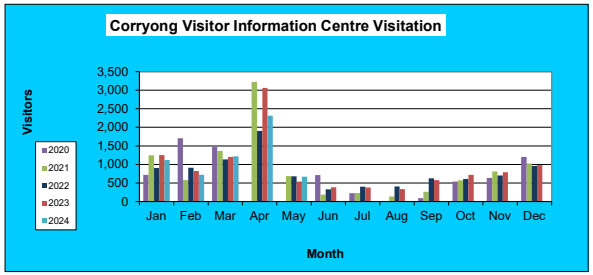


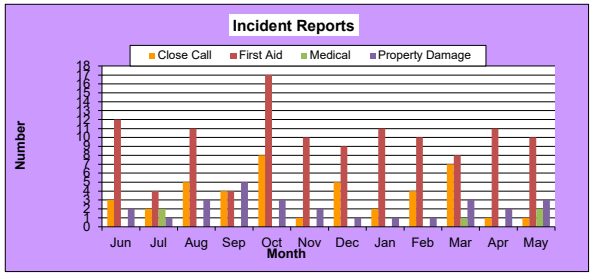
Note: Due to a reporting error, SR data for November is currently unavailable

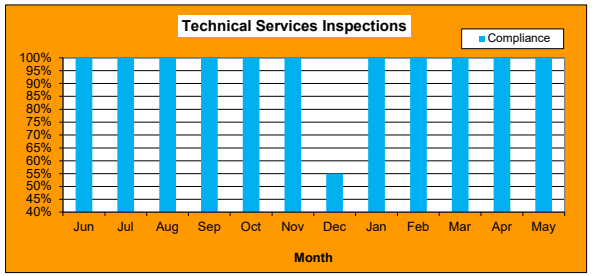












towongshire

Towong Shire Council Budget

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2024/2025

Front Cover Image: Burrowa Pine Mountain National Park, Tintaldra

Burrowa Pine Mountain National Park boasts scenic hiking trails and the magnificent Bluff Falls. The falls' stunning cascade offers visitors the chance to witness water flowing from the park plateau, over the Cudgewa Bluff, and into a serene grotto below.

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1. Mayor's Introduction

On behalf of Council, I am delighted to present the *Budget 2024-2025*.

This Budget reflects our commitment to the delivery of the priorities identified by our community and outlined in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

In the face of challenging economic times, it is a Budget that we believe strikes the right balance between ensuring your rates are being invested efficiently and effectively, while meeting all the needs of our community. This Budget ensures our vital community services continue to be delivered, our existing assets maintained and new projects that meet future community needs are planned for.

In response to the black summer bushfires and Covid-19 there were large economic injections across the state via project driven grant opportunities – this budget sees the completion of these projects by June 2025. As we return to a more 'business as usual' period of grant funding, we know that future opportunities will be more competitive. They will rely on our ability to be ready when opportunities present themselves and demonstrate their value not only at local level but also at a regional and state level. Consequently, this budget supports the planning and design stages of a number of key projects including the Bethanga Recreation Reserve Multipurpose facility and the completion of structure planning and Placemaking activities.

Our capital expenditure also reflects the need for pragmatic and prudent financial management with $4.7 million of our capital budget for 2024/25 dedicated to upgrade, repair and maintain our 1183km of roads and 168 bridges across the Shire.

In terms of the development of new infrastructure assets, the focus will be on the delivery of projects identified in the 2021/2025 Council Plan including:

- Dartmouth Splashpark
- Corryong Skatepark

The proposed rate increase of 2.74% for 2024/25 reflects our conscientious approach to financial management while adhering to the cap set by the State government under the Fair Go Rates System – made all the more challenging when inflation is higher than the State Government's rate cap.

As part of our commitment to delivering quality facilities and services, we will continue to deliver core community services such as family and early years services, libraries, swimming pools, waste facilities and kerbside collection, recreational facilities and public amenities. We will also continue to provide for the safety, sustainability and liveability of our communities through our planning, building, environmental health, local laws and emergency management functions.

In essence, the Budget 2024-25 reflects our unwavering commitment to prudent fiscal stewardship, strategic investment, and community wellbeing. As we embark on this journey, we remain dedicated to fostering a thriving, resilient, and inclusive community for all.

Cr Andrew Whitehead
Mayor

2. Executive Summary

The *Budget 2024-2025* has been developed to support the ongoing delivery of the *Council Plan 2021-2025*. It seeks to balance the demands for services and infrastructure with the community's capacity to pay.

The *Budget* has been developed within the context of a prudent long-term financial framework. These projections help to identify whether we are financially sustainable in the medium to long term while achieving our *Council Plan 2021-2025* objectives. While we have adequate funds to support these objectives in the near term, we continue to rely on one-off grants to be able to maintain and renew our community infrastructure. Our projections show that without more reliable longer term funding our cash balances will continue to drop and our financial sustainability remains at risk.

We support the underlying principles of the Victorian Government's rate capping framework, the Fair Go Rates System. Effective 1 July 2016, Councils are not permitted to raise the average rate above the cap set by the Minister, unless they can demonstrate to the Essential Services Commission (ESC) that an increase above the cap is justified, and a higher rate cap is subsequently approved by the ESC.

In 2024/25 we propose to pass on a rate increase consistent with the rate cap of 2.75%. The challenge for us will be to maintain our services and infrastructure at the level that our communities should be able to expect when inflation is consistently higher than the state government's rate cap.

We have worked very hard to secure substantial grant funding to support a wide range of capital works for the benefit of our communities. The work to secure grants has included Councillors and Council officers advocating for the needs of our ratepayers and residents to be met, and many grant applications to both State and Federal Governments. We have submitted grant applications for key infrastructure projects in the shire, however, we have not included these in the *Budget 2024/2025* as we have not been awarded these funding agreements. We continue to lobby the State and Federal Governments for more reliable funding sources to support long-term infrastructure renewal needs.

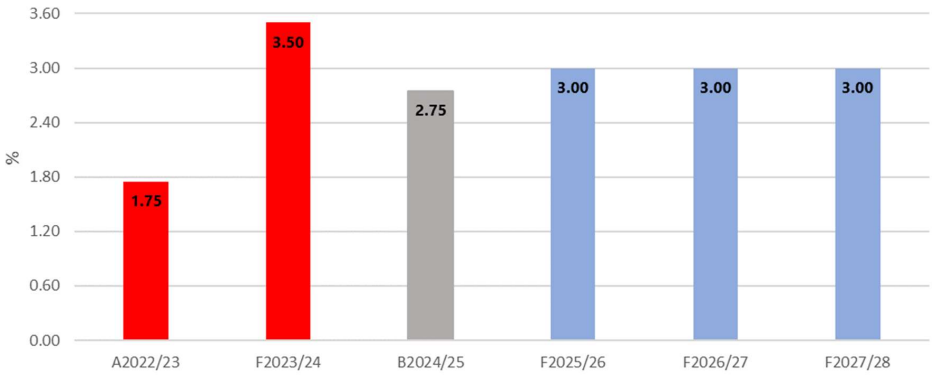
Council maintains a conservative stance regarding borrowing, and generally only borrows:

a) where there is an identified recurrent revenue source, directly tied to the reason for borrowing, which will enable the debt to be repaid, or
b) the reason for borrowing is to contribute to a multigenerational strategic project.

We have not included any borrowings in the *Budget 2024-2025*.

3. Budget Reports

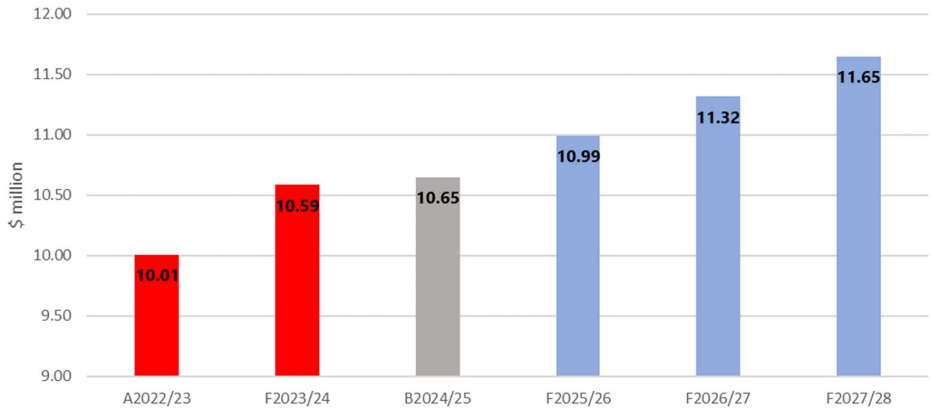
3.1. Rate increase



A = Actual F = Forecast B = Budget

The average rate increase in 2024/25 is in line with the State Government's rate cap of 2.75% and Council has forecast the average rate increase over the following three years at 3%. It should be noted that at this level of rate increase Council may not be financially sustainable into the longer-term future given increasing infrastructure renewal needs across the Shire, without relying on one-off grant funding opportunities which may fluctuate and may not always match our communities' needs.

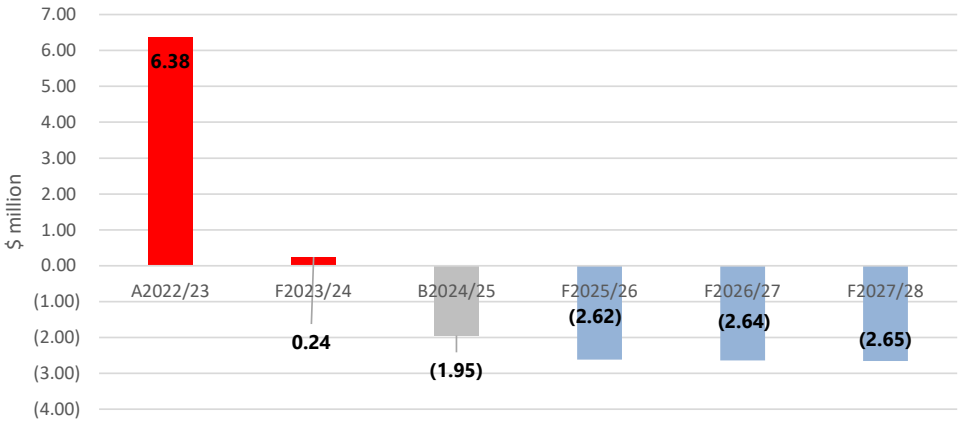
3.2. Total rates and charges



A = Actual F = Forecast B = Budget

Total rates and charges include general rates, the municipal charge, the waste facilities management charge and kerbside collection charges. The rate cap is only applicable to the general rates and municipal charge and not applicable to the service charges of waste facilities management and kerbside collection, which are operated on a cost-neutral basis over the long term.

3.3. Operating result

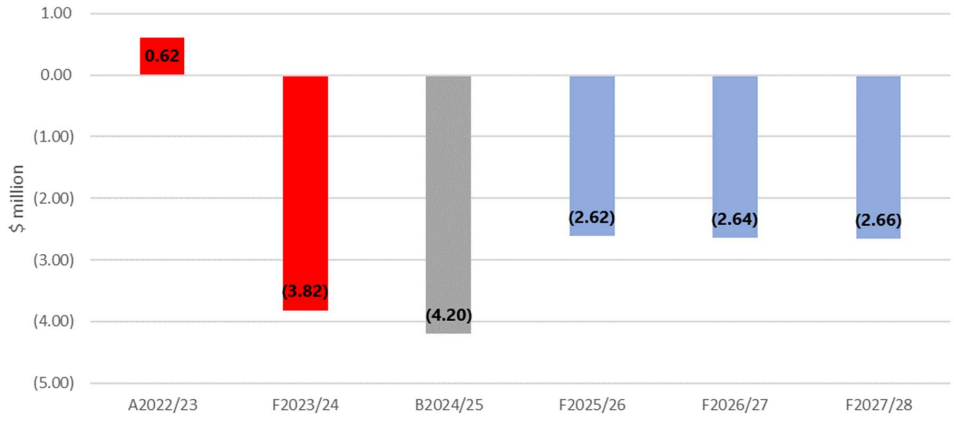


A = Actual F = Forecast B = Budget

The operating result recognises all revenue received by Council (including capital grants) and all operating expenditure. The expected operating result for the 2023/24 year is a surplus of $.24 million and a budget operating result for the 2024/25 year in deficit of $1.95 million.

Council only raises revenue to provide services and infrastructure and not to make a profit. Any surplus or deficit in the operating result should be considered in the context of the adjusted underlying result at item 4.

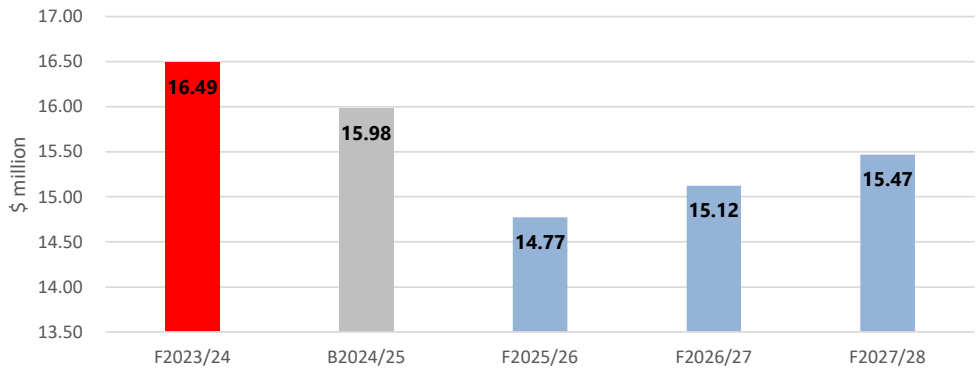
3.4. Adjusted underlying result



A = Actual F = Forecast B = Budget

The adjusted underlying result excludes capital grants which are generally non-recurring. The 2024/25 budget reflects an underlying deficit of $4.20 million. The recurring underlying deficits projected into the years ahead reflects that a significant portion of Council's expenditure is funded by capital grants primarily relating to one-off projects. A substantial proportion of these projects relate to renewing Council's aging infrastructure.

3.5. Services

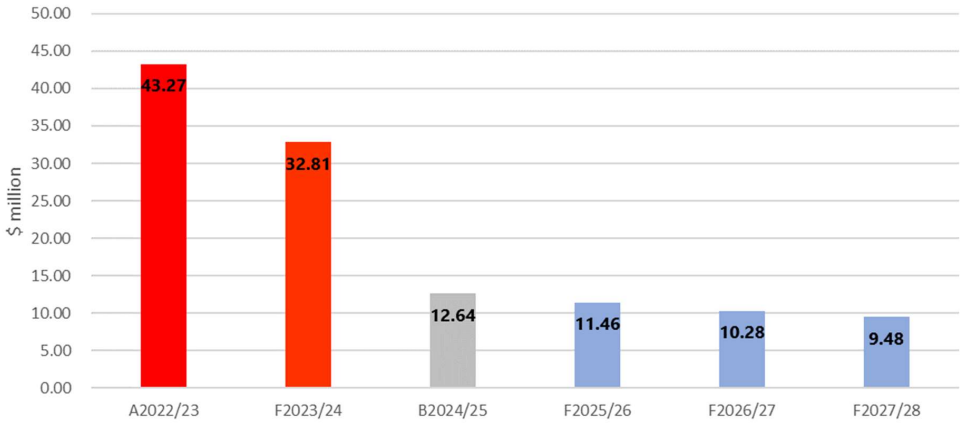


A = Actual F = Forecast B = Budget

We deliver a broad range of services to our communities including libraries, maternal and child health, kindergartens, planning, kerbside waste collection and access to council assets such as roads, bridges and playgrounds. The net cost of delivering services is effectively the shortfall between the total cost of service delivery and any income received directly from government and users of services. This equates to the amount of expenditure that rates and charges revenue is required to fund.

The net cost of all services delivered to the community for the 2023/24 year is expected to be $16.49 million which is an increase on budget.

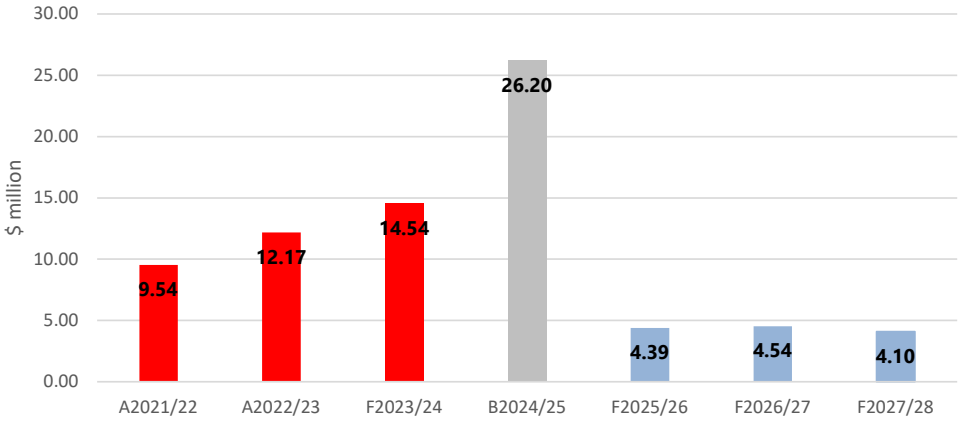
3.6. Cash and investments



A = Actual F = Forecast B = Budget

Cash and investments are expected to decrease from $43.27 million to $32.81 million during 2023/24. We have had considerably high cash balances in recent years due to the inflow of bushfire response and recovery funding as well as significant one-off project grants. These cash levels are now projected to decline as funding is expended on next year's significant capital works program with $12.64 million as the end bank balance if all capital program targets are met.

3.7. Capital works



A = Actual F = Forecast B = Budget

Capital works expenditure for the 2024/25 year is budgeted at $26.2 million. The capital works program comprises of a number of significant projects as outlined later in the budget and include:

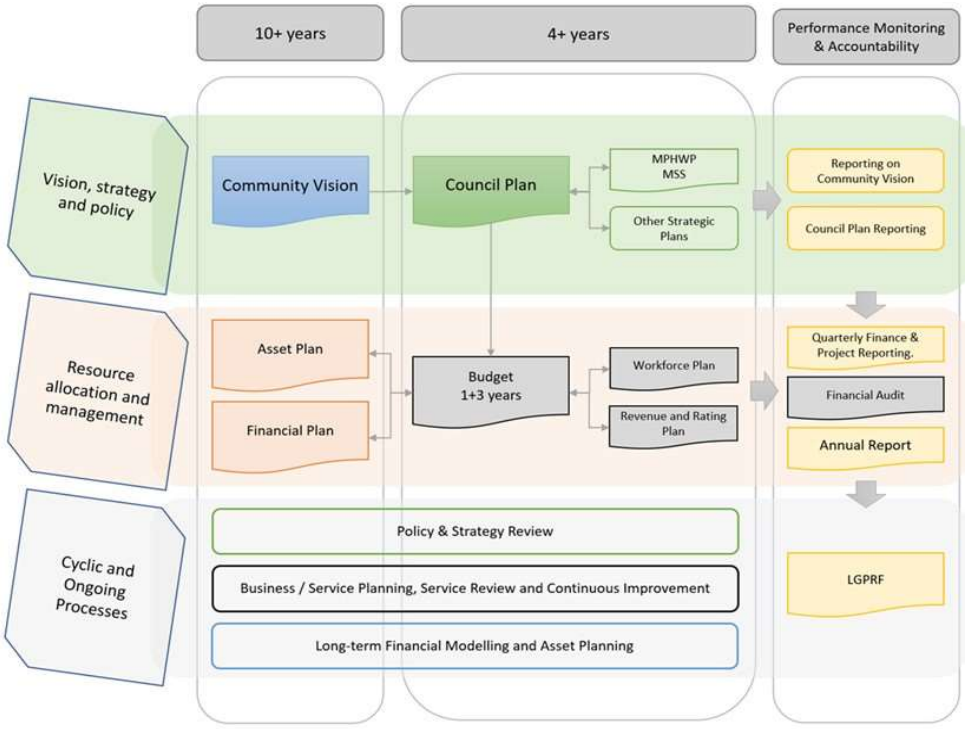
- Stage 2 of the Mitta Streetscapes
- Corryong CBD carparking
- Springdale Road Bridges Renewals
- Lake Road Bridge Renewals
- Continuation of works on Great River Road
- Bellbridge Walking Track
- Tallangatta Rail Trail Bridge

4. Links to the Council Plan

This section describes how the Budget links to the achievement of the Community Vision and Council Plan within an overall integrated planning and reporting framework. This framework guides the Council in identifying community needs and aspirations over the long term (Community Vision and Financial Plan), medium term (Council Plan, Workforce Plan and Revenue and Rating Plan) and short term (Budget) and then holding itself accountable (Annual Report).

4.1. Legislative Planning and accountability framework

The Budget is a rolling four year plan that outlines the financial and non-financial resources that Council requires to achieve the strategic objectives described in the Council Plan. The diagram below depicts the integrated planning and accountability framework that applies to local government in Victoria. At each stage of the integrated planning and reporting framework there are opportunities for community and stakeholder input. This is important to ensure transparency and accountability to both residents and ratepayers.



Source: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

In addition to the above, Council's vision for its communities is captured in several long term master plans for townships, recreation reserves and public halls. These include but are not limited to *Tallangatta Tomorrow, Our Valley Our Future, Our Bellbridge and Upper Murray 2030 Vision Plan;* and the *Walwa, Corryong, Towong, Wyeeboo, Bethanga* and *Talgarno* recreation reserves and *Towong, Talgarno* and *Corryong Memorial* halls.

The timing of each component of the integrated planning and reporting framework is critical to the successful achievement of the planned outcomes.

Service level planning

Although councils have a legal obligation to provide some services— such as animal management, local roads, food safety and statutory planning—most council services are not legally mandated, including some services closely associated with councils, such as libraries, building permits and sporting facilities. Further, over time, the needs and expectations of communities can change.

Council reviews its services on an ongoing basis in consultation with the community to ensure that all services continue to provide value for money and the best mix of services is provided to align to community expectations and needs. Community consultation is undertaken in line with Council's adopted Community Engagement Policy and Public Transparency Policy.

4.2. Our purpose

Community Vision 2031
Towong Shire will be the ideal place to be: welcoming, vibrant and diverse communities with quality facilities and services.

Our mission
To provide strong leadership and to work with our communities to enhance their social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

Our values

- **Respect** - We will listen and consider other perspectives and treat each other with courtesy
- **Integrity** - We will be honest with strong moral principles
- **Pride** - We will always take care in what we do
- **Teamwork** - We will help others to achieve by being positive, enthusiastic and confident

4.3. Strategic objectives

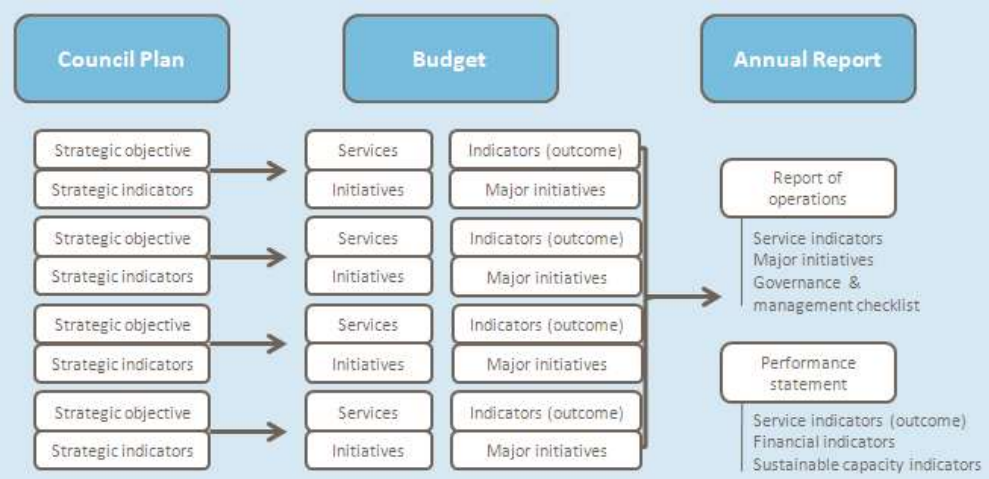
Council delivers services and initiatives contributing to the achievement of the six Strategic Objectives as set out in the *Council Plan 2021-2025*:

Strategic Objective	Description
1. Asset management	Maintain and improve our Shire's infrastructure to meet the levels of service established in consultation with our communities.
2. Community wellbeing	Encourage and support all people in our Shire to be happy, healthy, connected and resilient.
3. Economic and tourism development	Expand employment and economic opportunities across our Shire in a sustainable way.
4. Land-Use	Ensure that Council's planning, building and environmental health services support all aspects of liveability and sustainable population growth.
5. Environmental sustainability	Integrate sustainable environmental management practices into all of our activities.
6. Organisational Improvement	Maintain a high performing customer-centred organisation that works with the community to develop and deliver priorities.

5. Services and service performance indicators

This section provides a description of the services and initiatives to be funded in the Budget for the 2024/25 year and how these will contribute to achieving the strategic objectives outlined in the *Council Plan 2021-2025*. It also describes a number of major initiatives and service performance outcome indicators for key areas of Council's operations. Council is required by legislation to identify major initiatives and service performance outcome indicators in the Budget and report against them in their

Annual Report to support transparency and accountability. The relationship between these accountability requirements in the Council Plan, the Budget and the Annual Report is shown below.



Source: Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

In addition the following performance indicators are now mandated to be used by all Victorian Councils.

Service Measures	Financial Measures
G2 Governance – Consultation and engagement **Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement** (Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of council)	**E2 – Financial efficiency – Expenditure** **Expenses per property assessment** (total expenses per property assessment).
SP2 Statutory planning – Service Standard **Planning applications decided within the relevant required time** (percentage of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time)	**S1 – Financial Stability – Rates Concentration** **Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue** (rates revenue as a percentage of adjusted underlying revenue).
R2 – Roads – Condition **Sealed local roads below the intervention level** (percentage of sealed local roads that are below the renewal intervention level set by Council and not requiring renewal).	**L1 – Financial Liquidity – Working Capital** **Current assets compared to current liabilities** (current assets as a percentage of current liabilities).
WC5 – Waste management – waste diversion **Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill** (percentage of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill).	**O5 – Financial obligations – Asset renewal** **Asset renewal compared to depreciation** (asset renewal and upgrade expenses as a percentage of depreciation).

Community feedback is sought on the targets and this informs future programs to deliver improved performance as required.

5.1. Strategic Objective 1: Asset management

To achieve our Asset management objective, we will deliver key projects to support economic, tourism and social development in the Shire, and continue to develop services and facilities to support long term population growth. We will implement key safety improvements across our road and footpath networks. The services, initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area are described below.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided
Capital Works Services	This service undertakes design, tendering, contract management and supervision of various works within Council's capital works program. These include: -roads, bridges, footpaths -buildings -drainage -recreation and open spaces.
Asset and Maintenance Services	This service conducts asset renewal and maintenance planning for Council's main infrastructure assets in an integrated and prioritised manner to optimise their strategic value and service potential. It also maintains Council infrastructure, vehicles, plant and equipment to meet functional and safety needs.

	Actual 2022/23	Forecast 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Revenue	8,562	294	2,542
Expenditure	13,587	12,906	12,532
Surplus/(Deficit)	**(5,025)**	**(12,612)**	**(9,989)**

Key Council Plan Initiatives and Priorities

1.1 Deliver 100% of the annual capital works program and bushfire recovery projects
1.2 Deliver infrastructure projects that arise from place-based master planning
1.3 Complete Stage 2 Great River Road
1.4 Continue the upgrade of Georges Creek Road
1.5 Complete upgrades of Hanson Street from Sugarloaf Road to Kiel Street
1.6 Complete the upgrade of the Heavy Vehicle Bypass upgrade in Corryong
1.7 Progressively deliver the upgrade of Lake Road
1.8 Investigate upgrade options for Wises Creek Road
1.9 Advocate for the upgrade of the Benambra Corryong Road from Staceys Bridge 40km South
1.10 Seek funding to deliver upgrades of key transport routes and hazardous road alignments to improve efficiency and safety
1.11 Seek funding to deliver upgrades of load limited bridges on strategic transport routes
1.12 Continue to deliver the upgrade of unsealed streets in urban areas program
1.13 Complete the upgrade of the Corryong CBD
1.14 Complete streetscape upgrades in Dartmouth and Mitta Mitta
1.15 Conduct planning for streetscape upgrades in Towong, Tintaldra and Cudgewa
1.16 Continue to deliver the strategic footpath network improvement program in urban areas
1.17 Address long vehicle and overflow parking issues in CBD areas
1.18 Seek funding to deliver improved public toilets across the shire
1.19 Seek funding to deliver upgrades to town entrances and wayfinding signage across the shire
1.20 Seek funding to deliver an upgraded Corryong Integrated Community Centre
1.21 Increase the recreation opportunities for young families in Dartmouth
1.22 Review and deliver the strategic parks and playgrounds upgrade program to completion
1.23 Undertake upgrades at the Colac Colac Caravan Park to ensure long term viability of the park
1.24 Investigate options for additional boat ramps
1.25 Deliver the Corryong aerodrome 24 hour fuel project
1.26 Seek funding to deliver a rolling program for the maintenance of strategic limited access roads for improved emergency services access
1.27 Deliver annual asset inspection and renewal programs per asset management and road management plan requirements
1.28 Implement the maintenance program for Council's buildings

5.2. Strategic Objective 2: Community wellbeing

To achieve our Community wellbeing objective, we will encourage active lifestyles and facilitate access to activities that have meaning to our community members. We will support our communities to be inclusive, warm and welcoming, and advocate for every person to have access to adequate housing, transport, education and care. We will support our communities to be more resilient and safe against future adverse events, and to understand and mitigate climate change risk. The services, initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area are described below.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided
Community Services	This service provides family oriented support services including kindergartens, maternal and child health, immunisations and youth services. It also supports Council's commitment to improved access for all residents, delivers an annual Seniors event and support arts and culture throughout the Shire.
Library Services	This service provides public library services at two locations and provides a customer focused service that caters for the cultural, educational and recreational needs of residents and provides a focal point for the community where they can meet, relax and enjoy the facilities and services offered.
Swimming Pools	This service provides Council's two seasonally operated swimming pools at Corryong and Tallangatta. These pools operate from November to March each year. It also provides a financial contribution to the community operated Eskdale pool.
Community Facilities	This service identifies opportunities for Council or community groups to access funding to better meet community needs and delivers on key Council funding applications.

	Actual 2022/23	Forecast 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Revenue	5,753	5,580	4,557
Expenditure	4,542	5,938	7,253
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,211	(359)	(2,696)

Key Council Plan Initiatives and Priorities

2.1 *Undertake place-based master planning for the Peninsula including the investigation of options for early years and community facilities*
2.2 Undertake place-based master planning for the Mitta Valley, Corryong and Tallangatta
2.3 Maintain a contemporary Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan which reflects our community priorities
2.4 Support the development of recreational activities and infrastructure to encourage active lifestyles for all ages and stages
2.5 Review opportunities for communities to access library resources and connect through libraries
2.6 Develop a strategy for arts and cultural offerings across the Shire
2.7 Expand and improve early years services across the Shire to support young families
2.8 Renew the Youth Plan to embed the 'youth voice' in all aspects of service delivery
2.9 Advocate for the development of a variety of housing options to match community needs, particularly for older people
2.10 Encourage the establishment of innovative, sustainable transport solutions for remote communities
2.11 Support our communities to ensure that Shire places are welcoming to culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities and inclusive and connected
2.12 Build relationships and develop understanding of aboriginal people and consider the commitment to an ongoing reconciliation action plan process
2.13 Participate in key networks to support communities and key stakeholders on solutions to address family violence, suicide and mental health
2.14 Support our communities to drive their recovery from bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic and improve their mitigation of and resilience to future adverse events

Service Performance Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Maternal and Child Health (MCH)	Participation	Participation in the MCH service (Percentage of children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100
		Participation in MCH service by Aboriginal children (Percentage of Aboriginal children enrolled who participate in the MCH service)	[Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service] x100
Libraries	Participation	Active library members (Percentage of the municipal population that are active library members)	[Number of active library members / municipal population] x100

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Aquatic Facilities	Utilisation	Utilisation of aquatic facilities (Number of visits to aquatic facilities per head of municipal population)	Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population

5.3. Strategic Objective 3: Economic and tourism development

To achieve our Economic and tourism development objective, we will strengthen the capacity of new and existing businesses to thrive, and expand tourism offerings, promotion and experiences across the Shire. We will support the agriculture to increase resilience and grow to meet future challenges, while supporting the diversification of the Shire's economy. We will advocate for improvements to critical infrastructure: mobile connectivity, internet and power. The services, initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area are described below.

Services

Service areas	Description of services provided
Economic Development	The economic development service assists the organisation to facilitate an environment that is conducive to a sustainable and growing local business sector and provides opportunities for local residents to improve their skill levels and access employment. It also provides for the operation of the Corryong Saleyards, Corryong Airport and the Innovation Space.
Tourism	This service includes the provision of a Visitor Information Centre in Corryong, support for visitor information services in Tallangatta and development of tourism websites to provide advice to visitors to the region. It also provides oversight of the Colac Colac Caravan Park.

	Actual 2022/23	Forecast 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Revenue	453	101	-
Expenditure	573	1,051	545
Surplus/(Deficit)	(120)	(949)	(545)

Key Council Plan Initiatives and Priorities

3.1 Connect businesses to learning, development and networking opportunities to increase capacity
3.2 Run a series of business expos to support local businesses
3.3 Develop a business assistance service for new businesses including accommodation providers in the shared economy
3.4 Support businesses to adapt to and recover from the impact of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic
3.5 Support businesses to expand adventure tourism offerings across the shire
3.6 Advocate for the development and broadening of the Pine Mountain experience
3.7 Advocate for the development of adventure tourism opportunities at Mount Elliot
3.8 Develop and implement a masterplan for cycling across the Shire
3.9 Support Mitta Valley Inc to develop the Mitta Valley mountain bike park
3.10 Seek funding to complete the High Country Rail Trail
3.11 Establish new annual cycling events in the Mitta Valley and Upper Murray
3.12 Seek funding to develop key touring routes as premier touring destinations, including the Great River Road, Omeo Highway, and the Benambra Corryong Road
3.13 Seek funding to develop a master plan for Lake Hume as a tourism destination including houseboats and the Narrows project
3.14 Seek funding to develop and expand the tourism opportunities at Dartmouth Dam
3.15 Capitalise on Tallangatta's status as a Notable Town
3.16 Secure control of the Tallangatta Caravan Park and seek funding to implement the adopted recommendations from Tallangatta Holiday Park Planning Study
3.17 Deliver improved visitor information and experience across the Shire
3.18 Expand the reach of tourism marketing and promotional materials
3.19 Seek to support the growth of value-add product and/or diversification opportunities for the agriculture industry
3.20 Facilitate the creation of a centre of excellence for innovation in agriculture
3.21 Seek funding to support efforts to attract and sustain new industries
3.22 Explore opportunities to activate the Corryong Aerodrome
3.23 Work with Upper Murray Inc to deliver outcomes from the UM2030 Plan
3.24 Attract investment to address key weaknesses (connectivity and reliability) in critical infrastructure (mobile telecommunications, internet and power)

Service Performance Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Economic Development	Economic activity	Change in number of businesses (Percentage change in the number of businesses with an ABN in the municipality)	[Number of businesses with an ABN in the municipality at the end of the financial year less the number of businesses at the start of the financial year / Number of businesses with an ABN in the municipality at the start of the financial year] x 100

5.4. Strategic Objective 4: Land-use planning

To achieve our Land-use planning objective, we will deliver integrated statutory services to support community wellbeing, population growth, economic development and the protection of the environment. We will maintain a contemporary planning scheme and support all users of Council's statutory services to have an excellent customer service experience. The services, initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area are described below.

Services

Service areas	Description of services provided
Planning	The planning service processes all planning applications, provides advice and makes decisions about development proposals which require a planning permit, as well as representing Council at the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal where necessary. It administers the Towong Planning Scheme as well as preparing major policy documents shaping the future of the Shire. It also prepares amendments to the Towong Planning Scheme and carries out research on demographic, urban development, economic and social issues affecting Council.
Building Services	This service provides statutory building services to the Council community including processing of building permits, fire safety inspections, audits of swimming pool barriers and investigations of complaints and illegal works.

Service areas	Description of services provided
Environmental Health	This service protects the community's health and well-being by coordinating food safety support programs, Tobacco Act activities and smoke free dining and gaming venue issues. The service also works to rectify any public health concerns relating to unreasonable noise emissions, housing standards and pest controls.

	Actual 2022/23	Forecast 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Revenue	302	288	465
Expenditure	879	986	915
Surplus/(Deficit)	(577)	(698)	(450)

Key Council Plan Initiatives and Priorities

4.1 Support the rebuild process for fire impacted properties
4.2 Establish a Developer Contributions Policy and a Minimum Social Infrastructure Requirements Policy
4.3 Develop structure plans for Corryong, Tallangatta and Bellbridge and incorporate into the planning scheme
4.4 Review the Residential Settlement Strategy
4.5 Support population growth outside of key townships through appropriate amendments to the planning scheme
4.6 Review the Rural Land Use Study
4.7 Review the Schedule to the Rural Activity Zone
4.8 Advocate for changes to the farming zone to allow for a second residence to enable succession planning
4.9 Seek funding to extend the Heritage Study
4.10 Update planning scheme overlays including:
4.10a - Bushfire Management
4.10b - Heritage
4.11 Review statutory service processes to ensure an excellent customer experience

Service Performance Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Statutory planning	Decision making	Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT (Percentage of planning application decisions subject to review by VCAT and that were not set aside)	[Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside Council's decision in relation to a planning application / Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100

5.5. Strategic Objective 5: Environmental sustainability

To achieve our Environmental sustainability objective, we will embed improvements to support sustainability and climate change mitigation across Council's operations. We will support the community to improve environmental sustainability and encourage actions that mitigate the effects of climate change across the Shire. We will facilitate improved waste management and recycling practises. The services, initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area are described below.

Services

Service areas	Description of services provided
Waste Services	This service provides waste collection including kerbside collections of rubbish and recycling from households and commercial properties, special hard waste, green waste collections, transfer station and land fill management.
Emergency Management	This service provides Council's emergency management planning function.
Animal Control	This service provides animal management services including a cat trapping program, dog / cat collection service, lost and found notification service, pound service, registration / administration service and an after-hours emergency service. It also provides education, regulation and enforcement of the Local Law and relevant State legislation.

	Actual 2022/23	Forecast 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Revenue	790	3,029	2,050
Expenditure	1,982	2,912	3,832
Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,193)	117	(1,782)

Key Council Plan Initiatives and Priorities

5.1 Continue to investigate options for domestic waste water management in high risk towns including Eskdale, Mitta Mitta and Bethanga
5.2 Advocate for reticulated potable water in Bethanga and Mitta Mitta
5.3 Continue to seek funding for integrated water management projects to maximise the use of recycled and raw water sources for public amenity and climate change mitigation
5.4 Seek funding to explore options for the establishment of a recycling industry
5.5 Improve the use of recycled materials in infrastructure projects eg crushed concrete, glass and rubber
5.6 Investigate and implement options for the management of roadside vegetation for fire mitigation
5.7 Advocate for the establishment of roadside clearances on arterial roads for emergencies
5.8 Continue to implement noxious weed control and monitoring along roadsides within available funding
5.9 Continue to implement the tree planting strategy to achieve 40% canopy coverage in urban streets by 2025
5.10 Explore the diversification of options for the establishment of native vegetation offset sites
5.11 Seek funding to establish a network of electric car charging stations
5.12 Develop a climate change action plan (including actions to reduce carbon emissions, electric vehicle charging, etc)
5.13 Transition waste and recycling services operations as per Victorian Government Circular Economy Strategy to deliver a four bin system for waste and recycling collection including separation of glass, green waste and organics
5.14 Invest in community education programs and a waste services survey to improve waste and recycling separation
5.15 Investigate options for hardwaste, greenwaste and agricultural waste management eg silage wrap
5.16 Replace the retaining wall at the Tallangatta Transfer Station
5.17 Investigate options for the future of the Corryong Landfill
5.18 Implement required measures to ensure management of closed landfills is compliant with EPA requirements

Service Performance Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Waste Collection	Waste diversion	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill (Percentage of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins that is diverted from landfill)	[Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100
Animal Management	Health and safety	Animal management prosecutions (Number of successful animal management prosecutions)	Number of successful animal management prosecutions

5.6. Strategic Objective 6: Organisational Improvement

To achieve our Organisational improvement objective, we will engage with our communities to ensure that decision making is informed by community needs and promote Council activities that affect the community. We will advocate and collaborate with other agencies and stakeholders to progress priorities and activities, and strive to consistently deliver an excellent customer service. We will provide a great place to work that supports a high performing organisation and provide good governance while actively managing evolving risks. We will continually review revenue sources and cost saving opportunities while striving to provide best value. The services, initiatives and service performance indicators for each business area are described below.

Services

Service area	Description of services provided
Councillors, Chief Executive and associated support	This area of governance includes the Mayor, Councillors, Chief Executive Officer and associated support which cannot be easily attributed to the direct service provision areas.
Customer Service	This service provides Council with operational organisational support to Council, CEO and the Senior Management Group and acts as the main customer interface with the community. The service also assists with delivering on the communication and governance needs of the Council.
Corporate Services	This service provides financial and corporate based services to internal and external customers, including the management of Council's finances, payment of salaries and wages to employees, human resources, procurement and contracting of services, raising and collection of rates and charges, managing Council's records and delivering on Council's occupational health and safety responsibilities. This service also maintains reliable and cost effective communications and computing systems, facilities and infrastructure to support Council staff.

	Actual 2022/23	Forecast 2023/24	Budget 2024/25
Revenue	6,863	3,709	5,833
Expenditure	4,232	3,790	4,588
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,631	(82)	1,244

Key Council Plan Initiatives and Priorities

6.1 Continue to improve awareness, engagement and involvement of the community in relation to matters that affect them
6.2 Continually improve customer service experience across the organisation
6.3 Continually improve processes to support improved service delivery
6.4 Deliver improved business technology - finance, rates, human resources
6.5 Update the technology strategy to support the ongoing delivery excellent customer service
6.6 Develop and implement a People Plan to support the ongoing development of a high performing, adaptable, resilient, engaged and cohesive organisation
6.7 Provide a safe and healthy workplace for all Councillors and staff in a continually evolving environment
6.8 Continue to seek opportunities to improve service delivery and achieve best value including further investigation of shared services
6.9 Continue to advocate for increased government funding support to ensure long term sustainability
6.10 Investigate alternative revenue streams
6.11 Review the Revenue and Rating strategy
6.12 Consider options for the realisation of surplus Council assets
6.13 Continually improve the risk management and governance frameworks and practices
6.14 Provide ongoing support and development of Councillors in fulfilling their roles

Service Performance Indicators

Service	Indicator	Performance Measure	Computation
Governance	Satisfaction	Satisfaction with Council's consultation and engagement processes	Community rating out of 10 of satisfaction with Council's consultation and engagement processes.

5.7. Performance Statement

The service performance indicators detailed in the preceding pages will be reported on in the Performance Statement which is prepared at the end of the year as required by Section 98 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and included in the *Annual Report 2024/25*. The Performance Statement will also include reporting on prescribed indicators of financial performance and sustainable capacity, which are not included in this budget report. The prescribed performance indicators contained in the Performance Statement are audited each year by the Victorian Auditor General who issues an audit opinion on the Performance Statement. The initiatives detailed in the preceding pages will also be reported in the *Annual Report 2024/25* in the form of a statement of progress in the Report of Operations.

5.8. Reconciliation with budgeted operating result

	Net Cost ($,000)	Expenditure ($,000)	Revenue ($,000)
Asset Management	9,990	12,532	(2,542)
Community Wellbeing	2,696	7,253	(4,557)
Economic and Tourism Development	545	545	-
Environmental Sustainability	1,782	3,832	(2,050)
Land Use	450	915	(465)
Organisational Improvement	(1,244)	4,588	(5,833)
Total Services Deficit	**14,219**	**29,665**	**(15,447)**
Funding Sources			
Rates	(8,879)		
Capital Grants	(3,390)		
Total Funding Sources	**(12,269)**		
Surplus/Deficit for the year	**1,950**		

6. Forecast Financial Statements

This section presents information regarding the Forecast Financial Statements and Statement of Human Resources. The Budget information for 2024/25 has been supplemented with long term financial plan projections to 2033/34.

This section includes the following financial statements in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020*:

- Comprehensive Income Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Statement of Changes in Equity
- Statement of Cash Flows
- Statement of Capital Works
- Statement of Human Resources

In addition Note 7.1.1 to the financial statements provides the indicative impact of rate increases.

Comprehensive Income Statement

For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Projections 2025/26 $'000	2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000
Income / Revenue						
Rates and charges	7.1.1	10,585	**10,644**	10,974	11,302	11,635
Statutory fees and fines	7.1.2	345	**368**	369	378	387
User fees	7.1.3	1,143	**1,121**	1,148	1,176	1,205
Grants - operating	7.1.4	5,007	**10,170**	8,232	8,368	8,506
Grants - capital	7.1.4	6,144	**3,390**	1,166	1,166	1,166
Contributions - monetary	7.1.5	51	**-**	-	-	-
Contributions - non-monetary		-	**-**	-	-	-
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		-	**-**	-	-	-
Fair value adjustments for investment property		-	**-**	-	-	-
Share of net profits (or loss) of associates and joint ventures		-	**-**	-	-	-
Other income	7.1.6	4,545	**2,023**	1,380	1,341	1,321
Total income / revenue		27,819	**27,715**	23,269	23,731	24,220
Expenses						
Employee costs	7.1.7	9,919	**11,945**	12,059	12,360	12,669
Materials and services	7.1.8	10,693	**10,709**	7,121	7,324	7,536
Depreciation	7.1.9	6,547	**6,562**	5,845	5,814	5,770
Amortisation - intangible assets		-	**-**	-	-	-
Amortisation - right of use assets		-	**-**	-	-	-
Bad and doubtful debts - allowance for impairment losses		-	**-**	-	-	-
Borrowing costs		-	**-**	-	-	-
Finance costs		16	**16**	16	16	16
Other expenses	7.1.10	406	**434**	562	569	576
Total expenses		27,582	**29,665**	25,603	26,083	26,567
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		237	**(1,950)**	(2,334)	(2,353)	(2,347)
Other comprehensive income						
Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods Net asset revaluation increment /(decrement)		-	**-**	-	-	-
Share of other comprehensive income of associates and joint ventures		-	**-**	-	-	-
Items that may be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods (detail as appropriate)		-	**-**	-	-	-
Total other comprehensive income		-	**-**	-	-	-
Total comprehensive result		237	**(1,950)**	(2,334)	(2,353)	(2,347)

Balance Sheet

For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Projections 2025/26 $'000	2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000
Assets						
Current assets						
Cash and cash equivalents		34,599	**14,853**	13,760	13,070	12,373
Trade and other receivables		1,644	**1,585**	1,332	1,359	1,388
Other financial assets		-	**-**	-	-	-
Inventories		300	**300**	300	300	300
Prepayments		-	**-**	-	-	-
Non-current assets classified as held for sale		-	**-**	-	-	-
Other assets		10	**10**	10	10	10
Total current assets	7.2.1	36,553	**16,748**	15,402	14,739	14,071
Non-current assets						
Trade and other receivables		-	**-**	-	-	-
Other financial assets		-	**-**	-	-	-
Investments in associates, joint arrangements and subsidiaries		43	**43**	43	43	43
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment		275,545	**292,171**	290,718	289,042	287,375
Right-of-use assets		-	**-**	-	-	-
Investment property		1,250	**1,250**	1,250	1,250	1,250
Intangible assets		-	**-**	-	-	-
Total non-current assets	7.2.1	276,838	**293,464**	292,011	290,335	288,668
Total assets		313,391	**310,213**	307,413	305,074	302,739
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
Trade and other payables		1,368	**1,374**	947	973	1,000
Trust funds and deposits		1,628	**1,633**	1,638	1,643	1,648
Unearned income/revenue		5,000	**3,500**	3,500	3,500	3,500
Provisions		1,389	**1,613**	1,568	1,545	1,520
Interest-bearing liabilities		-	**-**	-	-	-
Lease liabilities		-	**-**	-	-	-
Total current liabilities	7.2.2	9,385	**8,120**	7,653	7,661	7,668
Non-current liabilities						
Provisions		1,036	**1,072**	1,074	1,079	1,085
Interest-bearing liabilities		-	**-**	-	-	-
Lease liabilities		-	**-**	-	-	-
Total non-current liabilities	7.2.2	1,036	**1,072**	1,074	1,079	1,085
Total liabilities		10,421	**9,192**	8,727	8,740	8,753
Net assets		302,970	**301,021**	298,686	296,334	293,986
Equity						
Accumulated surplus		132,113	**130,163**	127,829	125,476	123,129
Reserves		170,857	**170,857**	170,857	170,857	170,857
Total equity		302,970	**301,020**	298,686	296,333	293,986

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	NOTES	Total $'000	Accumulated Surplus $'000	Revaluation Reserve $'000	Other Reserves $'000
2024 Forecast Actual					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		363,625	131,759	146,144	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		237	237	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	-	-	-
Transfers from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**363,862**	**131,996**	**146,144**	**-**
2025 Budget					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		424,284	278,140	146,144	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(1,950)	(1,950)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	-	-	-
Transfers from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**422,334**	**276,190**	**146,144**	**-**
2026					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		422,334	276,190	146,144	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(2,334)	(2,334)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	-	-	-
Transfers from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**420,000**	**273,856**	**146,144**	**-**
2027					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		420,000	273,856	146,144	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(2,353)	(2,353)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	-	-	-
Transfers from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**417,647**	**271,503**	**146,144**	**-**
2028					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		417,647	271,503	146,144	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(2,347)	(2,347)	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)		-	-	-	-
Transfers to other reserves		-	-	-	-
Transfers from other reserves		-	-	-	-
Balance at end of the financial year		**415,300**	**269,156**	**146,144**	**-**

Statement of Cash Flows

For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	Notes	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Projections 2025/26 $'000	2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000
		Inflows (Outflows)	**Inflows (Outflows)**	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)	Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities						
Rates and charges		11,260	**10,694**	10,966	11,282	11,615
Statutory fees and fines		345	**368**	369	378	387
User fees		1,143	**1,121**	1,148	1,176	1,205
Grants - operating		2,158	**8,679**	8,493	8,361	8,497
Grants - capital		6,144	**3,390**	1,166	1,166	1,166
Contributions - monetary		51				
Interest received		1,611	**1,312**	828	779	748
Dividends received						
Trust funds and deposits taken		5	**5**	5	5	5
Other receipts		2,934	**711**	552	562	573
Net GST refund / payment		-	**-**	-	-	-
Employee costs		(10,188)	**(11,685)**	(12,102)	(12,378)	(12,688)
Materials and services		(10,080)	**(10,186)**	(7,121)	(7,324)	(7,536)
Short-term, low value and variable lease payments						
Trust funds and deposits repaid		-	**-**	-	-	-
Other payments		(290)	**(950)**	(989)	(543)	(549)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	7.4.1	5,091	**3,459**	3,315	3,463	3,423
Cash flows from investing activities						
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(15,489)	(15,489)	**(23,189)**	(4,392)	(4,137)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		-	-	**-**	-	-
Payments for investments		-	**-**	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments		-	-	**-**	-	-
Loans and advances made		-	**-**	-	-	-
Payments of loans and advances		-	-	**-**	-	-
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities	7.4.2	(15,489)	**(23,189)**	(4,392)	(4,137)	(4,104)
Cash flows from financing activities						
Finance costs		(16)	**(16)**	(16)	(16)	(16)
Proceeds from borrowings		-	**-**	-	-	-
Repayment of borrowings		-	**-**	-	-	-
Interest paid - lease liability		-	**-**	-	-	-
Repayment of lease liabilities		-	**-**	-	-	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	7.4.3	(16)	**(16)**	(16)	(16)	(16)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash & cash equivalents		(10,414)	**(19,746)**	(1,093)	(690)	(697)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		45,064	**34,599**	14,853	13,760	13,070
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year		34,650	**14,853**	13,760	13,070	12,373

Statement of Capital Works

For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	NOTES	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Projections 2025/26 $'000	2026/27 $'000	2027/28 $'000
Property						
Total land		-	-	-	-	-
Buildings		1,091	**1,716**	70	-	-
Building improvements		-	**-**	618	634	649
Total buildings		1,091	**1,716**	618	634	649
Total property		1,091	**1,716**	618	634	649
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment		-	**2,836**	773	792	812
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		30	**-**	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications		50	**212**	-	-	-
Library books		-	**-**	20	20	20
Total plant and equipment		80	**3,048**	793	812	832
Infrastructure						
Roads		5,995	**10,269**	2,315	2,011	1,906
Bridges		480	**2,309**	486	498	510
Footpaths and cycleways		2,115	**1,638**	70	72	83
Drainage		170	**70**	39	42	46
Waste management		-	**1,221**	-	400	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes		3,200	**2,061**	-	-	-
Other infrastructure		1,409	**262**	-	-	-
Total infrastructure		13,369	**17,830**	2,909	3,023	2,546
Total capital works expenditure	7.4.1	14,540	**22,594**	4,392	4,537	4,104
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure		5,489	**3,682**	960	800	20
Asset renewal expenditure		3,514	**9,858**	3,432	3,737	4,084
Asset expansion expenditure		78	**-**	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure		5,459	**9,054**	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	7.4.1	14,540	**22,594**	4,392	4,537	4,104
Funding sources represented by:						
Grants		-	**9,004**	1,166	1,166	1,166
Contributions		-	**-**	-	-	-
Council cash		-	**13,590**	3,226	3,371	2,938
Borrowings		-	**-**	-	-	-
Total capital works expenditure	7.4.1	-	**22,594**	**4,392**	**4,537**	**4,104**

Statement of Human Resources

For the four years ending 30 June 2028

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections		
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Staff expenditure					
Employee costs - operating	9,919	**11,945**	12,059	12,360	12,669
Employee costs - capital	-	**-**	-	-	-
Total staff expenditure	9,919	**11,945**	12,059	12,360	12,669
	FTE	**FTE**	FTE	FTE	FTE
Staff numbers					
Employees	112.0	**123.3**	124.8	124.8	124.8
Total staff numbers	112.0	**123.3**	124.8	124.8	124.8

A summary of human resources expenditure categorised according to the organisational structure of Council is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises Permanent		Casual & Temporary
	2024/25	Full Time	Part time	
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Asset Management	**4,653**	4,528	84	41
Community Wellbeing	**3,305**	1,425	1,756	124
Economic and Tourism Development	**224**	205	-	-
Environmental Sustainability	**399**	343	56	-
Land Use	**505**	505	-	-
Organisational Improvement	**2,858**	2,182	676	-
	-	-	-	-
Total permanent staff expenditure	**11,945**	9,188	2,572	165
Other employee related expenditure	**-**			
Capitalised labour costs	**-**			
Total expenditure	**11,945**			

A summary of the number of full time equivalent (FTE) Council staff in relation to the above expenditure is included below:

Department	Budget	Comprises Permanent		Casual & Temporary
	2024/25	Full Time	Part time	
Asset Management	**51**	50	1	1
Community Wellbeing	**36**	14	20	2
Economic and Tourism Development	**2**	2	-	-
Environmental Sustainability	**4**	-	-	-
Land Use	**4**	-	-	-
Organisational Improvement	**26**	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Total staff	**123**	66	21	2

7. Notes to the financial statements

7.1. Comprehensive Income Statement

7.1.1 Rates and charges

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the associated regulations, rates and charges are required to be disclosed in Council's *Budget*. The *Local Government Act 2020* additionally requires Council to have a Revenue and Rating Plan which is a four year plan for how Council will generate income to deliver the Council Plan over a four-year period.

In developing the *Budget 2024-2025*, rates and charges are identified as an important source of revenue. Planning for future rate increases has therefore been an important component of the financial planning process. The State Government's *Fair Go Rates System (FGRS)* sets out the maximum amount councils may increase rates in a year. For 2024/25 the FGRS cap has been set at 2.75%. The cap applies to both general rates and municipal charges and is calculated on the basis of Council's average rates and charges.

The level of required rates and charges has been considered in this context, with reference to Council's other sources of income and the planned expenditure on services and works to be undertaken for the community.

To achieve these objectives while maintaining service levels and a strong capital expenditure program, the average general rate and the municipal charge will increase by 2.75% in line with the rate cap. The total kerbside collection charge will decrease by almost 10% from prior year and there will be no increase to the waste facilities management charge in 2024/25.

7.1.1(a) - The reconciliation of the total rates and charges to the Comprehensive Income Statement is as follows:

	2023/24 Forecast Actual $'000	2024/25 Budget $'000	Change $'000	%
General rates*	7,030	**7,223**	193	**2.74%**
Municipal charge*	1,318	**1,350**	32	**2.40%**
Waste management charge	405	**405**	0	**0.12%**
Kerbside Collection	1,506	**1,360**	- 146	**-9.68%**
Revenue in lieu of rates	326	**305**	- 21	**-6.37%**
Total rates and charges	10,585	**10,644**	58	**0.55%**

*These items are subject to the rate cap established under the Fair Go Rates System

7.1.1(b) - The rate in the dollar to be levied as general rates under Section 158 of the Act for each type or class of land compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2023/24 cents/$CIV*	2024/25 cents/$CIV*	Change
General rate for rateable residential properties	0.2264	**0.2330**	**2.94%**
General rate for rateable rural residential properties	0.2264	**0.2330**	**2.94%**
General rate for rateable rural properties	0.1811	**0.1864**	**2.94%**
General rate for rateable business properties	0.2264	**0.2097**	**-7.36%**
General rate for rateable undeveloped residental properties	0.7243	**0.7456**	**2.94%**

7.1.1(c) - The estimated total amount to be raised by general rates in relation to each type or class of land, and the estimated total amount to be raised by general rates, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2023/24 $'000	2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Residential	1,279	**1,345**	66	**5.16%**
Rural Residential	1,132	**1,164**	32	**2.83%**
Rural	4,343	**4,416**	73	**1.68%**
Business	144	**160**	16	**11.11%**
Undeveloped Residential	132	**138**	6	**4.55%**
Total amount to be raised by general rates	7,030	7,223	193	**2.75%**

7.1.1(d) - The number of assessments in relation to each type or class of land, and the total number of assessments, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2023/24 Number	2024/25 Number	Change Number	Change %
Residential	1,694	**1,694**	-	**0.00%**
Rural Residential	907	**912**	5	**0.55%**
Rural	1,567	**1,549**	- 18	**-1.15%**
Business	246	**246**	-	**0.00%**
Undeveloped Residential	132	**132**	-	**0.00%**
Total number of assessments	4,546	4,533	- 13	**-0.29%**

7.1.1(e) - The basis of valuation to be used is the Capital Improved Value (CIV)

7.1.1(f) - The estimated total value of each type or class of land, and the estimated total value of land, compared with the previous financial year

Type or class of land	2023/24 $'000	2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Residential	564,917	**577,390**	12,473	**2.21%**
Rural Residential	500,045	**499,685**	- 360	**-0.07%**
Rural	2,398,612	**2,368,866**	- 29,746	**-1.24%**
Business	63,463	**76,196**	12,733	**20.06%**
Undeveloped Residential	18,211	**18,532**	321	**1.76%**
Total value of land	3,545,248	3,540,669	- 4,579	**-0.13%**

7.1.1(g) - The municipal charge under Section 159 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2023/24 $	Per Rateable Property 2024/25 $	Change $	Change %
Municipal	329	337	8	**2.43%**

7.1.1(h) - The estimated total amount to be raised by municipal charges compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2023/24 $	2024/25 $	Change $	Change %
Municipal	1,318	1,350	32	**2.40%**

7.1.1(i) - The rate or unit amount to be levied for each type of service rate or charge under Section 162 of the Act compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	Per Rateable Property 2023/24 $	Per Rateable Property 2024/25 $	Change $	Change %
Kerbside Collection:				
Garbage / Recycling - 140/240L Bins	468	**340**	- 128	**-27.27%**
Garbage / Recycling - 240/240L Bins	510	**380**	- 130	**-25.49%**
Garbage / Recycling - 80/240L Bins	408	**310**	- 98	**-23.93%**
Garbage / Recycling / FOGO - 80/240L/240L Bins (Standard Service)	-	**470**	470	**NA**
Garbage / Recycling / FOGO - 140/240L/240L Bins (Standard Service)	-	**495**	495	**NA**
Garbage / Recycling / FOGO - 240/240L/240L Bins (Standard Service)	-	**530**	530	**NA**
Additional Recycling - 240L Bin	210	**180**	- 30	**-14.29%**
Additional Garbage - 80L Bin	325	**325**	-	**0.00%**
Additional Garbage - 140L Bin	381	**380**	- 1	**-0.34%**
Additional Garbage - 240L Bin	495	**495**	-	**0.00%**
Garbage/Recycle Service Extension - per 100km	20	20	-	**0.00%**
Waste Management	101	101	-	**0.00%**

Note: the kerbside collection and waste facilities management charges are a fee for service and calculated via a cost recovery model. The model used determines the fees to be charged, so that all costs associated with providing waste services are recovered from those properties that use or have access to the services.

7.1.1(j) - The estimated total amount to be raised by each type of service rate or charge, and the estimated total amount to be raised by service rates and charges, compared with the previous financial year

Type of Charge	2023/24 $	2024/25 $	Change $	Change %
Kerbside Collection	1,506	1,360	- 146	**-9.68%**
Waste Management	405	405	0	**0%**
Total	1,910	1,765	- 145	**-7.61%**

7.1.1(k) – Fair Go Rates System compliance

	2023/24	2024/25
Total Rates	$ 7,030,480	$ 7,223,000
Number of rateable properties	4,546	4,533
Base Average Rate	$ 1,546.52	$ 1,593.43
Maximum Rate Increase (set by the State Government)	**3.50%**	**2.75%**
Capped Average Rate	**3.45%**	**2.72%**
Maximum General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	$ 8,351,568	$ 8,587,623
Budgeted General Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	$ 8,068,301	$ 8,566,000
Budgeted Supplementary Rates	$ -	$ -
Budgeted Total Rates and Municipal Charges Revenue	$ 8,068,301	$ 8,566,000

7.1.1(l) - Any significant changes that may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges.

There are no known significant changes which may affect the estimated amounts to be raised by rates and charges. However, the total amount to be raised by rates and charges may be affected by:

- The making of supplementary valuations
- The variation of returned levels of value (e.g. valuation appeals)
- Changes in use of land such that rateable land becomes non-rateable land and vice versa
- Changes in use of land such that it changes rating category.

7.1.1(m) Differential rates

The rate and amount of rates payable in relation to land in each category of differential are:

- A general rate of 0.2330% (0.2330 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable residential properties
- A general rate of 0.2330% (0.2330 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable rural residential properties
- A general rate of 0.1864% (0.1864 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable rural properties
- A general rate of 0.2330% (0.2330 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable business properties
- A general rate of 0.7456% (0.7456 cents in the dollar of CIV) for all rateable undeveloped residential properties.

Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described below) by the relevant percentages indicated above.

Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of council functions. Details of the objectives of each differential rate, the types of classes of land, which are subject to each differential rate and the uses of each differential rate, are set out below.

The objective of each differential rate is to ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

- Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets
- Development and provision of health and community services

- Provision of general support services

The money raised by differential rates will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget by Council. The level of the rate for each type of land is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

Residential land

Residential land is any land, which is:
- Less than 0.4 ha in size, and
- Not classified as rural, business or undeveloped residential.

Rural residential land

Rural residential land is any land, which is:
- From 0.4 ha to 40 ha in size, and
- Not classified as rural, business or undeveloped residential.

Rural land

Rural land is any land, which is:
- Greater than 40 ha in size.

Business land

Business land is any land, which is:
- Occupied for the principal purpose of carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in goods or services, or;
- Unoccupied but zoned commercial or industrial under the Towong Planning Scheme.

Undeveloped residential land

Undeveloped residential land is any land, which is:
- Within a residential, low density residential, mixed use or township zone, and
- Within a sewered area, and
- Able to be developed as residential land within the planning scheme, and
- Land that has not been issued with an occupancy permit.

7.1.2 Statutory fees and fines

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Building fees	121	**169**	48	**40.04%**
Tow n planning fees	122	**101**	- 21	**-17.34%**
Animal fees	50	**50**	-	**0.00%**
Health registration fees	32	**32**	-	**0.00%**
Land information certificates	10	**10**	-	**0.00%**
Infringements	10	**6**	- 4	**-40.00%**
Total statutory fees and fines	345	368	23	**6.73%**

Statutory fees relate mainly to fees and fines levied in accordance with legislation and include animal registrations and *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* registrations. Increases in statutory fees and fines are made in accordance with legislative requirements.

7.1.3 User fees

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Child care/children's programs	850	**869**	**19**	**2.21%**
Refuse disposal fees	105	**100**	- **5**	**-5.11%**
Aquatic facilitiy fees	28	**28**	**-**	**0.00%**
Saleyard fees	15	**16**	**1**	**3.63%**
Septic tank fees	13	**13**	**-**	**0.00%**
Other fees	131	**95**	- **36**	**-27.41%**
Total user fees	1,143	**1,121**	- 22	**-1.92%**

User fees relate mainly to the recovery of service delivery costs through the charging of fees to users of Council's services. These include use of swimming pools and other community facilities and the provision of community services such as kindergarten and childcare services. In setting the budget, the key principle for determining the level of user charges has been to ensure that where possible, increases recover the costs of providing the service.

7.1.4 Grants

Grants are required by the Act and the Regulations to be disclosed in Council's budget.

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Grants were received in respect of the following:				
Summary of grants				
Commonwealth funded grants	263	**6,350**	6,087	2315%
State funded grants	1,434	**1,470**	36	3%
Total grants received	**1,697**	**7,820**	6,123	361%
(a) Operating Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Victorian Grants Commission - General Purpose Funding	163	**4,000**	3,837	2353%
Victorian Grants Commission - Local Roads Funding	100	**2,350**	2,250	2253%
Recurrent - State Government				
Emergency	60	**60**	-	0%
Family and children	1,238	**1,274**	36	3%
School crossing supervisors	16	**16**	-	0%
Libraries	120	**120**	-	0%
Total recurrent grants	**1,697**	**7,820**	**6,123**	361%
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
-				
Non-recurrent - State Government			-	
Community	99	**140**	41	41%
Economic development	27	**-**	- 27	-100%
Environmental planning	38	**38**	-	0%
Family and children	391	**297**	- 94	-24%
Corporate	60	**-**	- 60	-100%
Planning	-	**150**	150	100%
Recovery	2,662	**1,720**	- 942	-35%
Recreation	33	**5**	- 28	-85%
Total non-recurrent grants	**3,310**	**2,350**	- 960	-29%
Total operating grants	**5,007**	**10,170**	5,163	103%
(b) Capital Grants				
Recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
Infrastructure	2,138	**1,166**	- 972	-45%
Recurrent - State Government				
-	-	-	-	
Total recurrent grants	**2,138**	**1,166**	- 972	-45%
Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government				
-	-	-	-	
Non-recurrent - State Government			-	
Infrastructure	4,006	**2,224**	- 1,782	-44%
	-	-		
Total non-recurrent grants	**4,006**	**2,224**	- 1,782	-44%
Total capital grants	**6,144**	**3,390**	- 2,754	-45%
Total Grants	**11,151**	**13,560**	**2,409**	**22%**

Operating grants include all monies received from State and Federal sources for the purposes of funding the delivery of Council's services to ratepayers.

Capital grants include all monies received from State and Federal sources for the purposes of funding the capital works program.

7.1.5 Total contributions

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Monetary	51	-	- 51	0.00%
Non-monetary	-	-	-	0.00%
Total contributions	51	-	- 51	0.00%

7.1.6 Other income

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Interest	1,451	**1,152**	- 300	-20.64%
Interest on rates	160	**160**	-	0.00%
Rent	178	**227**	49	27.55%
Shared service fees	153	**150**	- 3	-1.64%
Other	2,603	**334**	- 2,269	-87.16%
Total other income	4,545	**2,023**	- 2,522	-55.49%

Other income relates to a range of items such as rent, shared service cost recovery and other miscellaneous income items. It also includes interest revenue on investments and rates arrears.

7.1.7 Employee costs

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Wages and salaries	7,315	**10,244**	2,929.37	**40.05%**
WorkCover	219	**263**	44.29	**20.26%**
Annual leave and long service leave	1,483	**269**	(1,214.54)	**-81.88%**
Superannuation	896	**1,169**	273.02	**30.48%**
Total employee costs	9,912	**11,945**	2,032.14	**20.50%**

Employee costs include all labour related expenditure such as wages and salaries and on-costs such as allowances, leave entitlements and employer superannuation.

7.1.8 Materials and services

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Materials and services	5,776	**7,612**	1,835	**31.77%**
Maintenance	2,028	**1,436**	- 592	**-29.19%**
Utilities	221	**213**	- 9	**-3.90%**
Contracts	735	**820**	85	**11.55%**
Total materials and services	8,761	**10,080**	1,320	**15.06%**

Materials and services include purchases of consumables, payments to contractors for the provision of services, non-recurrent operating projects and utility costs. Materials and services are forecast to increase by 16.08% compared to the forecast for 2023/24.

7.1.9 Depreciation and amortisation

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Property	1,126	**1,126**	-	**0.00%**
Plant & equipment	923	**923**	-	**0.00%**
Infrastructure	4,498	**4,513**	15	**0.33%**
Total depreciation	6,547	**6,562**	15	**0.23%**

Depreciation is an accounting measure which attempts to allocate the value of an asset over its useful life for Council's property, plant and equipment including infrastructure assets such as roads and drains.

7.1.10 Other expenses

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	Change %
Auditor Remuneration	32	**35**	4	**11.11%**
Councillor allowances	200	**220**	20	**10.00%**
Community Contributions	175	**179**	4	**2.31%**
Total other expenses	406	**434**	28	**6.78%**

Other expenses relate to a range of unclassified items including contributions to community groups or projects, Councillor allowances, auditors remuneration and other miscellaneous expenditure items. Councillor allowances are determined in line with the legislated ruling that governs these, being the Determination of the Independent Remuneration Tribunal.

7.2. Balance Sheet

7.2.1 Current assets and non-current assets

Cash and cash equivalents include cash and investments such as cash held in the bank and in petty cash and the value of investments in deposits or other highly liquid investments with short term maturities of three months or less. These balances are projected to decrease during the year as funding received for one-off projects is spent.

Trade and other receivables are monies owed to Council by ratepayers and others. Short term debtors are not expected to change significantly in the budget.

Other assets include items such as prepayments for expenses that Council has paid in advance of service delivery, inventories or stocks held for sale or consumption in Council's services and other revenues due to be received in the next 12 months.

Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment is the largest component of Council's worth and represents the value of all assets such as land, buildings, roads, vehicles and equipment which has been built up by Council over many years. The increase in this balance is attributable to the net result of the capital works program and depreciation of assets.

7.2.2 Current Liabilities and Non-Current Liabilities

Trade and other payables are those to whom Council owes money as at 30 June. These liabilities are budgeted to increase compared to 2023/24 levels due to increased employee provisions for increased budgeted staffing positions.

Provisions include accrued long service leave, annual leave and rostered days off owing to employees and rehabilitation costs for landfill sites.

7.2.3 Equity

Total equity always equals net assets and is made up of the following components:

- The asset revaluation reserve which represents the difference between the previously recorded value of assets and their current valuations;

- The accumulated surplus which is the value of all net assets less Reserves that have accumulated over time. The decrease in accumulated surplus results directly from the budgeted operating deficit for the year.

Balance sheet - Key assumptions

In preparing the Balance Sheet for the year ending 30 June 2024 it was necessary to make a number of assumptions about assets, liabilities and equity balances. The key assumptions are as follows:

- A total of 94% of total rates and charges raised will be collected in the 2023/24 year.
- Trade creditors are based on total capital and operating expenditure less written down value of assets sold, depreciation and employee costs. The payment cycle is 45 days.

Borrowings

The table below shows information on borrowings specifically required by the Regulations.

	Forecast Actual	Budget	Projections		
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
	$	$	$	$	$
Amount borrowed as at 30 June of the prior year	-	-	-	-	-
Amount proposed to be borrowed	-	-	-	-	-
Amount projected to be redeemed		-	-	-	-
Amount of borrowings as at 30 June	-	-	-	-	-

7.3. Statement of Cash Flows

The Statement of Cash Flows is based on three main categories of cash flows:

7.3.1 Operating activities - Refers to the cash generated or used in the normal service delivery functions of Council. This includes rates and charges, statutory and user fees, grants income and payments to employees and suppliers.

Cash remaining after paying for the provision of services to the community may be available for investment in capital works (investing activities), or repayment of debt (financing activities).

7.3.2 Investing activities - Refers to cash generated or used in the enhancement or creation of infrastructure and other assets. These activities also include the acquisition and sale of other assets such as property, infrastructure, plant and equipment.

7.3.3 Financing activities - Refers to cash generated or used in the financing of Council functions and include borrowings from financial institutions and advancing of repayable loans to other organisations. These activities also include repayment of the principal component of loan repayments for the year as well as finance lease payments. Council undertook a finance lease in 2017/18 for a new garbage truck and this was subsequently paid out in 2022/23.

7.3.4 Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year
Overall, total cash and investments are forecast to decrease as at 30 June 2025 as funds are expended on the 2024/25 capital works program.

7.4. Capital works program

This section presents a listing of the capital works projects that will be undertaken for the 2024/25 year, classified by asset expenditure type and funding source.

7.4.1 Summary

	Forecast Actual 2023/24 $'000	Budget 2024/25 $'000	Change $'000	%
Property	1,091	**1,716**	625	57.26%
Plant and equipment	80	**3,048**	2,968	3709.43%
Infrastructure	13,369	**17,830**	4,462	33.37%
Total	14,540	**22,594**	8,054	55.39%

	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Property	1,716,232	746,232	970,000	-	-	-	-	1,716,232	-
Plant and equipment	3,047,546	60,000	2,947,546	40,000	-	-	-	3,047,546	-
Infrastructure	17,830,307	2,875,569	5,940,544	9,014,194	-	9,003,934	-	8,826,373	-
Total	22,594,085	3,681,801	9,858,090	9,054,194	-	9,003,934	-	13,590,151	-

7.4.2 Current Budget

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
PROPERTY									
Buildings									
Annual Building Renewal	**350,000**	-	350,000	-	-	-	-	350,000	-
Old Parks VIC Depot Tallangatta	**150,000**	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	150,000	-
Toilet Block - Roy Williams Park	**250,000**	250,000	-	-	-	-	-	250,000	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	**750,000**	**400,000**	**350,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**750,000**	**-**
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment									
Plant replacement	**1,030,000**	-	1,030,000	-	-	-	-	1,030,000	-
Vehicle fleet replacement	**120,000**	-	120,000	-	-	-	-	120,000	-
VMS trailers x 2	**60,000**	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	-
Minor tools (over $1,000)	**30,000**	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	-
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture									
Fixtures and Furnishings Upgrades - Various	**40,000**	-	-	40,000	-	-	-	40,000	-
Computers and Telecommunications									
IT Equipment replacements	**25,000**	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	25,000	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**1,305,000**	**60,000**	**1,205,000**	**40,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**1,305,000**	**-**

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads									
Major Patching	**1,000,000**	-	1,000,000	-	-	516,232	-	483,768	-
Resealing	**600,000**	-	600,000	-	-	600,000	-	-	-
Gravel resheeting	**220,000**	-	220,000	-	-	-	-	220,000	-
Guardrail	**40,000**	-	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000	-
Dust Strips	**60,000**	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	60,000	-
Ferry Lane sealing	**100,000**	-	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000	-
Mitta Streetscape Stage 2	**750,000**	-	-	750,000	-	-	-	750,000	-
Corryong CBD Carparking	**500,000**	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	-
Thomas Lane Intersection (Heavy Vehicle Bypass)	**450,000**	-	-	450,000	-	-	-	450,000	-
Walwa Streetscape	**100,000**	-	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000	-
Gravel Road Sealing (within towns) - Sparrow/Legge Streets	**300,000**	-	-	300,000	-	-	-	300,000	-
Bridges									
Bridges Renewal	**1,219,344**	-	1,219,344	-	-	219,344	-	1,000,000	-
Springdale Road bridge	**640,000**	-	640,000	-	-	110,000	-	530,000	-
Lake Road Bridge	**450,000**	-	450,000	-	-	300,000	-	150,000	-
Footpaths and Cycleways									
Reseal rail trail Tallangatta to Sandy Creek Bridge	**250,000**	-	250,000	-	-	-	-	250,000	-
Stage 2 Towong walking track to the new bridge	**130,000**	130,000	-	-	-	-	-	130,000	-
Footpath Renewals	**60,000**	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	60,000	-
Drainage									
Annual Drainage	**70,000**	-	70,000	-	-	-	-	70,000	-
Recreational, Leisure & Community Facilities									
Corryong Swimming Pool	**30,000**	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	-
Tallangatta Swimming Pool	**14,000**	-	14,000	-	-	-	-	14,000	-
Waste Management									
Tallangatta - Transfer Station Retaining Wall	**300,000**	-	-	300,000	-	-	-	300,000	-
Toilets at Resource Recovery Centers	**70,000**	70,000	-	-	-	-	-	70,000	-
Disposal of old emulsions	**60,000**	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	-
Water tanks at Resource Recovery Centers	**60,000**	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	60,000	-

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes									
Playground Equipment Renewals - YR 2 Tallangatta triangles, Galleon Park Corryong	**100,000**	-	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000	-
Timber Street Furniture management	**60,000**	-	60,000	-	-	-	-	60,000	-
Street Furniture Renewals	**30,000**	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**7,663,344**	820,000	4,783,344	2,060,000	-	1,745,576	-	5,917,768	-
TOTAL NEW CAPITAL WORKS	**9,718,344**	**1,280,000**	**6,338,344**	**2,100,000**	**-**	**1,745,576**	**-**	**7,972,768**	**-**

7.4.3 Works carried forward from the previous year

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
PROPERTY									
Building demolitions	**160,000**	-	160,000	-	-	-	-	160,000	-
Building renewals	**170,000**	-	170,000	-	-	-	-	170,000	-
Fixtures & Furnishings	**40,000**	-	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000	-
Talgarno toilet block	**346,232**	346,232	-	-	-	-	-	346,232	-
Tallangatta office renewal	**250,000**	-	250,000	-	-	-	-	250,000	-
TOTAL PROPERTY	**966,232**	**346,232**	**620,000**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**966,232**	**-**
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT									
Plant, Machinery and Equipment									
Vehicle fleet replacement	**499,546**	-	499,546	-	-	-	-	499,546	-
Plant fleet replacement	**1,056,000**	-	1,056,000	-	-	-	-	1,056,000	-
IT Project - Planning & Building System	**187,000**	-	187,000	-	-	-	-	187,000	-
TOTAL PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	**1,742,546**	-	1,742,546	-	-	-	-	1,742,546	-

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
INFRASTRUCTURE									
Roads									
Annual Resheeting	**400,000**	-	400,000	-	-	-	-	400,000	-
Dust Strips	**60,000**	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	60,000	-
Corryong - Hanson Street	**3,829,423**	-	-	3,829,423	-	2,472,690	-	1,356,733	-
Dartmouth - Recreation Reserve Driveway	**40,000**	40,000	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	-
Georges Creek - Georges Creek Road	**573,000**	-	-	573,000	-	573,000	-	-	-
Lake road Upgrade	**320,577**	-	-	320,577	-	320,577	-	-	-
Mitta Mitta - Magorra Park Entrance	**30,000**	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	30,000	-
Talgarno - Wises Creek Road	**735,650**	-	-	735,650	-	735,650	-	-	-
Tallangatta - Lake Road /MVH - Old Tallangatta	**160,500**	-	-	160,500	-	160,500	-	-	-
Footpaths and Cycleways									
Great River Road (including sculptures)	**376,831**	376,831	-	-	-	376,831	-	-	-
Bellbridge Walking Track & Seal	**453,787**	453,787	-	-	-	453,787	-	-	-
Tallangatta Rail Trail Bridge	**367,100**	-	367,100	-	-	367,100	-	-	-
Waste Management									
Corryong - Landfill Capping Cell 2	**204,300**	-	-	204,300	-	204,300	-	-	-
Corryong - Retaining Wall at Resource Recovery Centre	**252,951**	252,951	-	-	-	252,951	-	-	-
Tallangatta - Transfer Station Retaining Wall	**274,100**	-	274,100	-	-	24,100	-	250,000	-

Capital Works Area	Project Cost	Asset expenditure types				Summary of Funding Sources			
		New	Renewal	Upgrade	Expansion	Grants	Contributions	Council cash	Borrowings
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
Parks, Open Space and Streetscapes									
Bellbridge - Roy Williams Park	**35,000**	-	-	35,000	-	-	-	35,000	-
Corryong - CBD Streetscape	**743,744**	-	-	743,744	-	371,872	-	371,872	-
Corryong - Skate Park	**482,000**	482,000	-	-	-	482,000	-	-	-
Dartmouth - Splash Park and Pump Track	**450,000**	450,000	-	-	-	350,000	-	100,000	-
Tallangatta - Skate Park	**3,000**	-	3,000	-	-	-	-	3,000	-
Tallangatta - VIC Fit Out	**113,000**	-	113,000	-	-	113,000	-	-	-
Other Infrastructure									
Corryong - Airport Upgrades	**75,000**	-	-	75,000	-	-	-	75,000	-
Corryong - Swimming Pool disabled access	**20,000**	-	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000	-
Talgarno - Tennis Court Upgrades	**167,000**	-	-	167,000	-	-	-	167,000	-
TOTAL INFRASTRUCTURE	**10,166,963**	2,055,569	1,157,200	6,954,194	-	7,258,358	-	2,908,605	-
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD CAPITAL WORKS 2023/24	12,875,741	2,401,801	3,519,746	6,954,194	-	7,258,358	-	5,617,383	-

Targeted performance indicators

The following tables highlight Council's current and projected performance across a selection of targeted service and financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's intentions and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives. The targeted performance indicators below are the prescribed performance indicators contained in Schedule 4 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators and targets will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Targeted performance indicators - Service

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Target Projections			Trend
			2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	+/o/-
Governance									
Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement	Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with the consultation and engagement efforts of Council		52	49	50	52	54	56	+
Roads									
Sealed local roads below the intervention level	Number of kms of sealed local roads below the renewal intervention level set by Council / Kms of sealed local roads		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	o
Statutory planning									
Planning applications decided within the relevant required time	Number of planning application decisions made within the relevant required time / Number of decisions made		58.65%	65.00%	70.00%	70.00%	70.00%	70.00%	+
Waste management									
Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill	Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins		30.81%	50%	50%	50%	50%	50%	+

Key to Forecast Trend:
+ Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Targeted performance indicators - Financial

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Target	Target Projections			Trend
			2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	+/o/-
Liquidity									
Working Capital	Current assets / current liabilities	2	364.00%	370%	179%	171%	156%	145%	+
Obligations									
Asset renewal	Asset renewal and upgrade expense / Asset depreciation	4	159%	443%	100%	88%	80%	80%	o
Stability									
Rates concentration	Rate revenue / adjusted underlying revenue	5	38%	38%	38%	47%	48%	48%	+
Efficiency									
Expenditure level	Total expenses / no. of property assessments		$5,685	$5,965	$6,246	$6,550	$5,530	$5,468	+

Key to Forecast Trend:
+ Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Financial performance indicators

The following table highlights Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators. These indicators provide a useful analysis of Council's financial position and performance and should be interpreted in the context of the organisation's objectives.
The financial performance indicators below are the prescribed financial performance indicators contained in Part 3 of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2020. Results against these indicators will be reported in Council's Performance Statement included in the Annual Report.

Indicator	Measure	Notes	Actual	Forecast	Budget	Projections			Trend
			2021/22	2023/24	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	+/o/-
Operating position									
Adjusted underlying result	Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / Adjusted underlying revenue	1	3%	-19%	-18%	-11%	-11%	-11%	-
Liquidity									
Unrestricted cash	Unrestricted cash / current liabilities		183%	201%	134%	86%	34%	30%	-
Obligations									
Loans and borrowings	Interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue	3	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	o
Loans and borrowings	Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / rate revenue		0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	o
Indebtedness	Non-current liabilities / own source revenue		6%	8%	9%	9%	10%	10%	+
Stability									
Rates effort	Rate revenue / CIV of rateable properties in the municipality		0.38%	0.30%	0.24%	0.24%	0.25%	0.25%	-
Efficiency									
Revenue level	General rates and municipal charges / no. of property assessments		$1,750	$1,784	$1,837	$1,891	$1,942	$1,998	+

Key to Forecast Trend:
+ Forecasts improvement in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator
o Forecasts that Council's financial performance/financial position indicator will be steady
- Forecasts deterioration in Council's financial performance/financial position indicator

Notes to indicators

1 Adjusted underlying result – An indicator of the sustainable operating result required to enable Council to continue to provide core services and meet its objectives. Continued losses mean reliance on Council reserves until they are exhausted.

2 Working Capital – The proportion of current liabilities represented by current assets. This is forecast to decline to unsustainable levels due to their being insufficient financial resources to support requirements.

3 Debt compared to rates - The trend indicates Council's reducing reliance on debt through redemption of debt.

4 Asset renewal - This percentage indicates the extent of Council's renewal of assets against its depreciation charge (an indication of the decline in value of its existing capital assets). A percentage greater than 100 indicates Council is maintaining its existing assets, while a percentage less than 100 means its assets are deteriorating faster than they are being renewed and future capital expenditure will be required to renew assets.

5 Rates concentration - Reflects extent of reliance on rate revenues to fund all of Council's ongoing services. The trend indicates Council will become more reliant on rate revenue compared to all other revenue sources.

End of Towong Shire Council Budget Report

Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25

FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)

Description	2023/24 includes GST if applicable)	2024/25 includes GST if applicable)	% Increase	$ Increase	GST	Regulated
Waste Collection						
Garbage and Recycling - 140/240 Litre Bins (Standard Size)	$467.50	$340.00	-27.3%	-$127.50	No	No
Garbage and Recycling - 240/240 Litre Bins	$510.00	$380.00	-25.5%	-$130.00	No	No
Garbage and Recycling - 80/240 Litre Bins	$407.50	$310.00	-23.9%	-$97.50	No	No
Garbage, Recycling & FOGO - 140/240/240 Litre Bins	$0.00	$495.00	N/A			
Garbage, Recycling & FOGO - 240/240/240 Litre Bins	$0.00	$530.00	N/A			
Garbage, Recycling & FOGO - 80/240/240 Litre Bins	$0.00	$470.00	N/A			
Additional - Garbage - 140 Litre Bin (Standard Size)	$381.30	$380.00	-0.3%	-$1.30	No	No
Additional - Garbage - 240 Litre Bin	$495.00	$495.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	No
Additional - Garbage - 80 Litre Bin	$323.75	$325.00	0.4%	$1.25	No	No
Additional - Recycling - 240 Litre Bin	$210.00	$180.00	-14.3%	-$30.00	No	No
Garbage/Recycle Service Extension - per km (by request and subject to Council approval)	$158.40	$158.40	0.0%	$158.40	No	No
Waste Management Centres						
Municipal Waste						
Bag	$5.00	$9.00	80.0%	$4.00	Yes	No
Wheelie Bin	$10.00	$10.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Level 4 x 6 trailer	$30.00	$30.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Heaped 4 x 6 Trailer	$54.00	$60.00	11.1%	$6.00	Yes	No
Level Tandem Trailer	$70.00	$70.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Heaped Tandem Trailer	$94.00	$94.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Per cubic meter	$50.00	$56.00	12.0%	$6.00	Yes	No
Per Tonne	$180.00	$185.00	2.8%	$5.00	Yes	No
Demolition, Construction, Commercial, Industrial Waste						
Bag	$6.00	$6.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Wheelie Bin	$12.00	$12.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Level 4 x 6 trailer	$35.00	$35.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Heaped 4 x 6 Trailer	$50.00	$50.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Level Tandem Trailer	$80.00	$80.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Heaped Tandem Trailer	$100.00	$100.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Per cubic meter	$90.00	$104.00	15.6%	$14.00	Yes	No
Per Tonne	$200.00	$210.00	5.0%	$10.00	Yes	No
Comingled Recycling (Unsorted)						
Bag	$1.00	$1.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Wheelie Bin	$2.00	$2.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Level 4 x 6 trailer	$10.00	$10.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Heaped 4 x 6 Trailer	$15.00	$15.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Level Tandem Trailer	$20.00	$20.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Heaped Tandem Trailer	$30.00	$30.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Per cubic meter	$25.00	$25.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Per Tonne	$140.00	$140.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Greenwaste						
Bag	$3.00	$3.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Wheelie Bin	$5.00	$5.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Level 4 x 6 trailer	$15.00	$15.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Heaped 4 x 6 Trailer	$25.00	$25.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Level Tandem Trailer	$35.00	$35.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Heaped Tandem Trailer	$45.00	$45.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Per cubic meter	$30.00	$30.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Per Tonne	$180.00	$180.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Mattresses or Bed Bases (each)	$37.00	$37.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
E-Waste - $ per kilo						
Tyres						
Car / Motor Cycle	$9.50	$9.50	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Car / Motor Cycle (with Rim)	$15.00	$15.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Light Truck	$12.00	$15.00	25.0%	$3.00	Yes	No

Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25

FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)

Description	2023/24 includes GST if applicable)	2024/25 includes GST if applicable)	% Increase	$ Increase	GST	Regulated
Light Truck (with Rim)	$25.00	$25.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Tractor / Heavy Truck (small)	$110.00	$110.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Tractor / Heavy Truck (medium)	$210.00	$210.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Tractor / Heavy Truck (large)	$300.00	$300.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Earthmover / Tractor (extra large)	$1,670.00	$1,670.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Forklift	$50.00	$50.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Loader	$480.00	$480.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
LPG Cylinders						
Small (<9kg)	$15.00	$15.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Large (>9kg)	25	$25.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Fridge or Air Conditioner	$20.00	$20.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Clean Soil (per cubic metre)	$25.00	$25.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Concrete, Bricks and Rubble						
Cubic Meter	$22.00	$24.00	9.1%	$2.00	Yes	No
Small Trailer	$32.00	$34.00	6.3%	$2.00	Yes	No
Tandem Trailer	$42.00	$44.00	4.8%	$2.00	Yes	No
Wheelie Bin / Boot	$12.00	$14.00	16.7%	$2.00	Yes	No
Kindergarten and Child Care						
4 Year old and 3 Year Old Kinder per term (Where Child has already received full year free rebate)		$500.00			No	No
Additional hours - above 15 hours per week (per term)	$0.00	$500.00		$500.00	No	No
** Note - Kindergarten fees will run on a calendar year basis. i.e. Fees for 2019/20 will be effective 1/1/20 - 31/12/20.*						
Child Care - per day fee (prior to Childcare Subsidy)						
Child care fees (Walwa Early Years Centre)		$80.00				
Child care fees (Bellbridge Early Years Centre)		$100.00				
Child care fees (Tallangatta Early Years Centre)		$100.00				
Child Care - Before School Care (prior to Childcare Subsidy)						
Before School Care (Bellbridge Early Years Center)		$10.00				
Before School Care (Tallangatta Early Years Center)		$20.00				
Child Care - After School Care (prior to Childcare Subsidy)						
After School Care (Bellbridge Early Years Center)		$20.00				
After School Care (Tallangatta Early Years Center)		$25.00				
Swimming Pools						
General Admission						
Adult Single Admission	$5.00	$6.00	20.0%	$1.00	Yes	No
Adult Single Admission - Concession	$2.50	$3.00	20.0%	$0.50	Yes	No
Junior (<16 years) Single Admission	$2.50	$3.00	20.0%	$0.50	Yes	No
Supervising Adult Single Admission	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	Yes	No
Event Spectator Single Admission	$2.50	$3.00	20.0%	$0.50	Yes	No
Memberships - Standard						
Family Season Ticket	$175.00	$190.00	8.6%	$15.00	Yes	No
Adult Season Ticket	$105.00	$110.00	4.8%	$5.00	Yes	No
Junior (<16 years) Season Ticket	$60.00	$70.00	16.7%	$10.00	Yes	No
Family Season Ticket - Concession	$135.00	$140.00	3.7%	$5.00	Yes	No
Adult Season Ticket - Concession	$80.00	$90.00	12.5%	$10.00	Yes	No
Memberships - Early Bird						
Family Season Ticket	$125.00	$140.00	12.0%	$15.00	Yes	No
Adult Season Ticket	$80.00	$90.00	12.5%	$10.00	Yes	No
Junior (<16 years) Season Ticket	$50.00	$60.00	20.0%	$10.00	Yes	No
Family Season Ticket - Concession	$125.00	$130.00	4.0%	$5.00	Yes	No
Adult Season Ticket - Concession	$75.00	$80.00	6.7%	$5.00	Yes	No
Pool Hire						
Schools (outside of operating hours):						
- Single Session	$75.00	$75.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No

Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25
FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)

Description	2023/24 includes GST if applicable)	2024/25 includes GST if applicable)	% Increase	$ Increase	GST	Regulated
- 5-15 Sessions	$370.00	$370.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
- 16-35 Sessions	$925.00	$925.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
- 36+ Sessions	$1,500.00	$1,500.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
- Lifeguard (per hour)	$62.00	$70.00	12.9%	$8.00	Yes	No
Individual Private Hire - outside operating hours (e.g parties)	Not Available	Not Available				
Swimming Clubs - outside of operating hours	General Admission	General Admission			Yes	No
Swimming Clubs - within operating hours	$15.00	$15.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Other Sporting Clubs - outside of operating hours	General Admission	General Admission			Yes	No
Other Sporting Clubs - within operating hours	$15.00	$15.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Lane Hire:						
- Outside of operating hours	General Admission	General Admission			Yes	No
- Within operating hours, per lane per hour	$15.00	$15.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Swimming Instructors or Commercial Operators						
- Outside of operating hours	General Admission	General Admission			Yes	No
- Within operating hours, per lane per hour	$15.00	$15.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Kiosk Sales						
All Items	RRP	RRP			Yes	No
Animal Control						
Registration and Permit Fees						
Base Rate - Dog						
Base Rate - Cat						
Dog Registration - Maximum*	$119.00	$119.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Dog Registration - Maximum Pensioner*	$61.40	$61.40	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Dog Registration - Reduced*	$42.30	$42.30	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Dog Registration - Reduced Pensioner*	$23.20	$23.20	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Dog Registration - Working Dog*	$23.20	$23.20	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Cat Registration - Maximum*	$119.00	$119.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Cat Registration - Maximum Pensioner*	$61.40	$61.40	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Cat Registration - Reduced*	$42.30	$42.30	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Cat Registration - Reduced Pensioner*	$23.20	$23.20	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Registration - Animal Business*	$124.00	$124.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Transfer of Registration from Another Municipality	$11.00	$11.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Replacement Registration Tag	$11.00	$11.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Permit to Keep Multiple Animals	$58.00	$58.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Animals registered for the first time between 1 January and 28 February**	$15.10	$15.10	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
* Includes the Victorian State Government Levy of $3.50 per dog, $2.00 per cat or $10.00 per animal business						
** To be charged Replacement Registration Tag fee + State Government Levy of $4.00 per animal						
Impoundment Fees						
Release - per animal (Cats and Dogs). Per night	$102.00	$60.00	-41.2%	-$42.00	Yes	No
Release - per animal (Cattle, Sheep, Horses and Other)	$48.00	$48.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Sustenance - per animal per day (All Animals)	$22.50	$22.50	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Transport (Cattle, Sheep and Horses and other)	Cost + 50%	Cost + 50%			Yes	No
Cat Trap Hire						
Deposit	$50.00	$50.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Fee (per week)	$11.00	$11.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Planning						
Application for a Permit or to Amend a Planning Permit						
Class 1 – Change of use only	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
To develop land or to use and develop land for a single dwelling per lot or to undertake development ancillary to the use of the land for a single dwelling per lot if the estimated cost of development included in the application is:						
Class 2 - Dwellings $10,000 to $100,000	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes

Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25

FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)

Description	2023/24 includes GST if applicable)	2024/25 includes GST if applicable)	% Increase	$ Increase	GST	Regulated
Class 3 - Dwellings more than $100,001	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
To develop land (other than for a single dwelling per lot) if the estimated cost of development included in the application is:						
Class 4 - $10,000 or less	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 5 - $10,000 to $250,000	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 6 - $250,000 to $500,000	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 7 - $500,000 to $1,000,000	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 8 - $1,000,000 to $7,000,000	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 9 - $7,000,000 to $10,000,000	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 10 - $10,000,000 to $50,000,000	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 11 - Over $50,000,000	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 12 - Subdivide existing building	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 13 - Subdivide land into two lots	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 14 - To effect a realignment of a common boundary between lots or to consolidate two or more lots	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 15 - To subdivide land	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 16 - To remove a restriction (within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1988) over land if the land has been used or developed for more than 2 years before the date of the applications in a manner which would have been lawful under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 but for the existence of the restriction	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 17 - To create, vary or remove a restriction within the meaning of the Subdivision Act 1988 or to create or remove a right of way	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Class 18 - To create, vary or remove an easement other than a right of way or to vary or remove a condition in the nature of an easement other than a right of way in a Crown grant	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Amend an Application (Regulation 8A)						
Amend an application for a permit after notice has been given for every class of application (other than Class 4)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Amend an application for a permit after notice has been given for every class of application (other than Class 5)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Combined Permit Applications						
The fee for an application for any combination of the classes of application outlined above is the sum arrived at by adding the highest of the fees which would have applied if separate applications had been made plus 50% of each of the other fees which would have applied if separate applications had been made						
Application to Amend the Planning Scheme						
Stage 1	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Stage 2	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Stage 3	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Stage 4	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Other						
Certificate of Compliance	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Planning Certificate	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Satisfaction Matters - Determining a matter where a planning scheme specifies that the matter must be done to the satisfaction of a responsible authority or a referral authority	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Consideration of a Request for the Demolition of a Building	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Application for Extension of Time	$90.00	$90.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Records Retrieval (Non FOI)	$90 per hour ($50.00 minimum charge)	$90 per hour ($50.00 minimum charge)		#VALUE!	Yes	No
Assessment of a Development Plan	$340.00	$340.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Public Notice of an Application	$121.00 for 1-20 letters $230.00 for 20+ letters	$121.00 for 1-20 letters $230.00 for 20+ letters		#VALUE!	Yes	No
Admin Fee for Section 173 Agreements	$100.00	$100.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Request for Written Planning Information	$128.00	$128.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Secondary Consent		$265.00				
Engineering						

Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25

FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)

Description	2023/24 includes GST if applicable)	2024/25 includes GST if applicable)	% Increase	$ Increase	GST	Regulated
Consent for Works in a Roadway						
Minor Works (within roadway or pathway)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Minor Works (not within roadway or pathway)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Other Works (within road or pathway Speed 50 km/h or less)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Other Works (within road or pathway Speed > 50 km/h)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Other Works (not within road or pathway Speed 50 km/h or less)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Other Works (not within road or pathway Speed > 50 km/h)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Local Laws						
Grazing Permit	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Stock Grid (0 - 250m)	$61.00	$61.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	No
Stock Grid (250+m - 500m)	$122.00	$122.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	No
Stock Grid (500+m - 1km)	$183.00	$183.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	No
Stock Grid (Greater than 1km)	$244.00	$244.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	No
Environmental Health						
Food Premises - Class 1 ready to eat potentially hazardous served to vulnerable groups, e.g. hospitals)	$585.00	$585.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Food Premises - Class 2 (potentially hazardous unpackaged foods, e.g. hotels)	$430.00	$430.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Food Premises - Class 3 (Unpacked low risk or pre-packaged potentially hazardous, e.g. xx)	$285.00	$285.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Food Premises - Class 4 (Pre-packaged low risk food only, e.g. newsagent)	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	No	Partially
Temporary Food Premises - Class 2	$218.00	$218.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Temporary Food Premises - Class 3	$137.00	$137.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	Partially
Temporary Food Premises - Class 4	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	No	Partially
Transfer Fee - All Others	50% of Applicable Fee	50% of Applicable Fee		#VALUE!	No	No
Late Penalty Fee - Premises Registrations	50% of Applicable Fee	50% of Applicable Fee		#VALUE!	No	No
Prescribed Accomodation						
Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 4-10 client capacity		$358.00			Yes	No
New Registration Prescribed accommodation - 4-10 client capacity		$537.00			Yes	No
Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 11-20 client capacity		$435.00			Yes	No
New Registration Prescribed accommodation - 11-20 client capacity		$649.00			Yes	No
Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 21-30 client capacity		$511.00			Yes	No
New Registration Prescribed accommodation - 21-30 client capacity		$764.00			Yes	No
Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 31-40 client capacity		$579.00			Yes	No
New Registration Prescribed accommodation - 31-40 client capacity		$863.00			Yes	No
Renewal Prescribed accommodation - 40+ client capacity		$676.00			Yes	No
New Registration Prescribed accommodation - 40+ client capacity		$1,009.00			Yes	No
					Yes	No
Public Health and Wellbeing Act Registration Fees						
Renewal - Medium Risk - Beauty, waxing, threading, facials, nails, eyelash extensions, tinting		$290.00			Yes	No
Registration - New Medium risk premises		$434.00			Yes	No
Renewal - High Risk - Skin Penetration, tattooing, colonic irrigation		$311.00			Yes	No
Registration- New High risk premises		$467.00			Yes	No
Ongoing registration of hairdressers		$415.00			Yes	No
Bulk flu immunisation		$27.00			Yes	No
Registration – New Application / Renewal Category 1 Aquatic facility		$383.00			Yes	No
Registration - each additional pool or spa on the premises		$164.00			Yes	No
Transfer of Health, Rooming House or Aquatic Facility registration (excluding one-off Hairdressers)		50% of renewal fee			Yes	No
					Yes	No

Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25

FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)

Description	2023/24 includes GST if applicable)	2024/25 includes GST if applicable)	% Increase	$ Increase	GST	Regulated
Septic Tanks (Additional inspection or alterations)		$129.00			Yes	No
Permit to construct, install or alter a system		As Regulated			Yes	Yes
Minor alteration permit		As Regulated			Yes	Yes
Renew a permit		As Regulated			Yes	Yes
Transfer a permit		As Regulated			Yes	Yes
Amend a permit		As Regulated			Yes	Yes
Exemption from a permit		As Regulated			Yes	Yes
Letter no report and consent required		$240.00			No	No
Report and consent/Consent to use		$612.00			No	No
Septic Tank Permit (New)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Partially
Septic Tank Permit (Alteration)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Partially
Septic Tank Permit (Re-inspection)	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Partially
Records Retrieval (Non FOI)	$90 per hour ($50.00 minimum charge)	$90 per hour ($50.00 minimum charge)			No	No
Residential Tenancies Act						
Caravan Park - Registration	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Caravan Park - Transfer	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Corryong Saleyards						
Yarding Fees						
Bobby Calves (per head)	$2.30	$2.40	4.3%	$0.10	Yes	No
Bulls (per head)	$9.65	$10.15	5.2%	$0.50	Yes	No
Cattle (per head)	$9.15	$9.60	4.9%	$0.45	Yes	No
Calves (per head)	$4.60	$4.80	4.3%	$0.20	Yes	No
Cow and Calf (sold as a unit)	$10.25	$10.75	4.9%	$0.50	Yes	No
Sheep (per head)	$1.20	$1.25	4.2%	$0.05	Yes	No
Penning and Weigh Fee (per head)	$2.85	$2.90	1.8%	$0.05	Yes	No
Scanning Charge (per head)	$2.85 per head (Minimum $1,400)	$2.95 per head (Minimum $1,400)			Yes	No
Selling Charges - Agent						
Agents Fee	$285.00	$290.00	1.8%	$5.00	Yes	No
Selling Charges - Vendor						
NLIS Rescanning Fee	$2.85	$2.95	3.5%	$0.10	Yes	No
NLIS Device - Retagging/Tagging Fee - Cattle	$28.50	$28.50	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
NLIS Device - Retagging/Tagging Fee - Bull	$34.00	$34.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
NLIS Device - Non Reader Tagging Fee	$4.55	$4.55	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Lost Lifetime Traceability Beast Identification	$2.30	$2.30	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Transfer NLIS	$0.70	$0.70	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Passed in levy (cattle and calves)	Nil	Nil			Yes	No
Other Fees						
Unreported Stock movement	additional 25% on top of any per head and pen fees payable	additional 25% on top of any per head and pen fees payable			Yes	No
Truck wash (per minute, minimum of 10 minutes)	$1.00	$2.00	100.0%	$1.00	Yes	No
Cleaning:				$0.00		
- Zone 1	$168.00	$172.00	2.4%	$4.00	Yes	No
- additional pens to Zone 1	$5.60	$5.80	3.6%	$0.20	Yes	No
Weigh Bridge						
Single weigh	$0.00	$35.00		$35.00		
Double weigh	$0.00	$42.00		$42.00		
Property						
Land Information Certificate	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Valuation Certificate	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Freedom of Information						
Application Fee	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Charge for Search Time	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Charge for Supervision	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Charge for providing black and white photocopy	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes

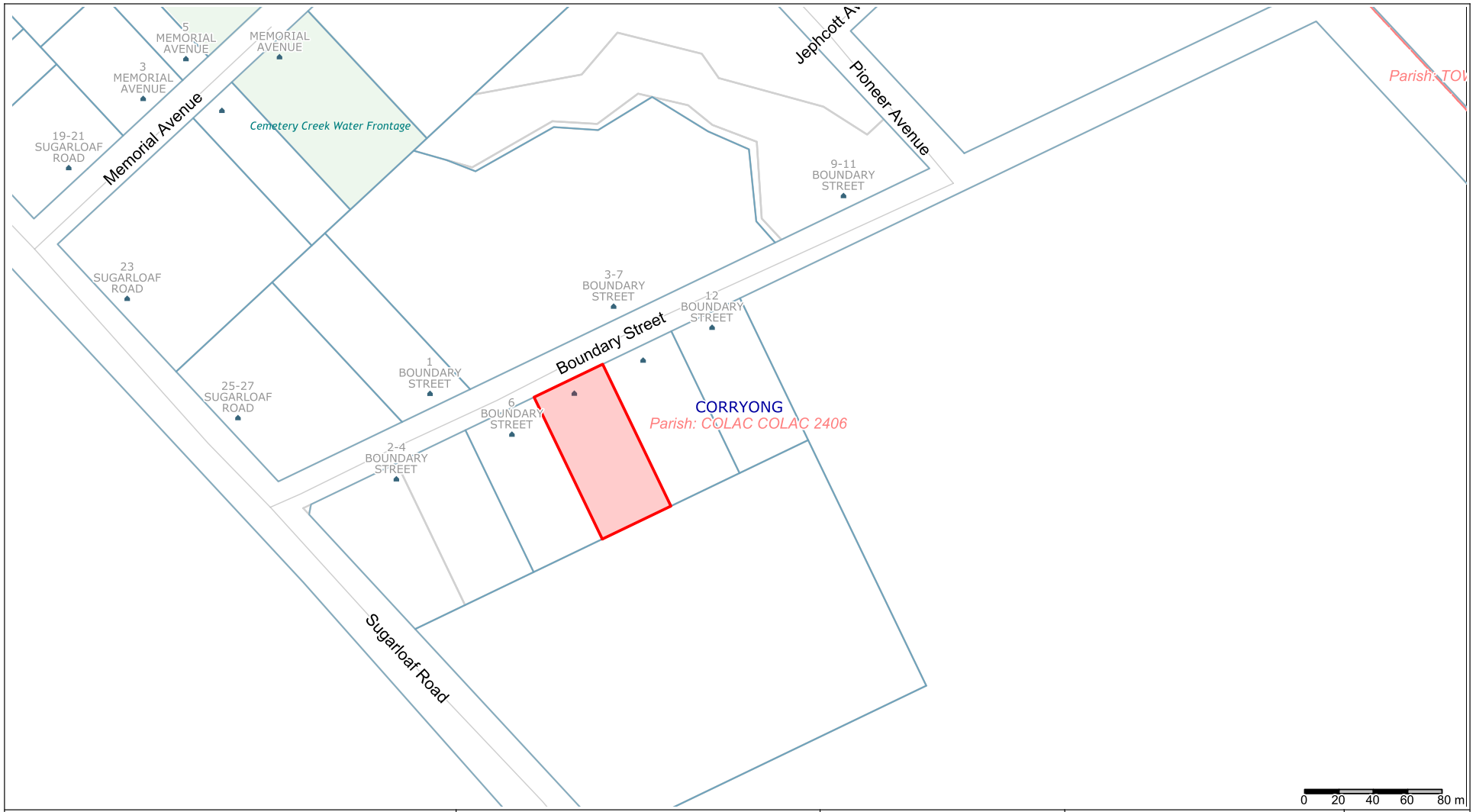
Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25
FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)

Description	2023/24 includes GST if applicable)	2024/25 includes GST if applicable)	% Increase	$ Increase	GST	Regulated
Other Fees	As Regulated	As Regulated			No	Yes
Meeting Rooms and Facilities						
0						
Indi, Mitta or Snowy - Meeting Room						
Not for Profit Community Group - Half Day	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	Yes	No
Not for Profit Community Group - Full Day	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	Yes	No
Commercial/Other - Half Day	$50.00	$52.00	4.0%	$2.00	Yes	No
Commercial/Other - Full Day	$85.00	$89.00	4.7%	$4.00	Yes	No
Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre - Activity Space						
Not for Profit Community Group - Half Day	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	Yes	No
Not for Profit Community Group - Full Day	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	Yes	No
Commercial/Other - Hourly rate	$41.00	$43.00	4.9%	$2.00	Yes	No
Commercial/Other - Half Day	$155.00	$162.00	4.5%	$7.00	Yes	No
Commercial/Other - Full Day	$255.00	$265.00	3.9%	$10.00	Yes	No
Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre - Library Meeting Room						
Not for Profit Community Group - Half Day	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	Yes	No
Not for Profit Community Group - Full Day	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	Yes	No
Commercial/Other - Half Day	$61.00	$65.00	6.6%	$4.00	Yes	No
Commercial/Other - Full Day	$102.00	$110.00	7.8%	$8.00	Yes	No
Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre - Meeting Room						
Not for Profit Community Group - Half Day	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	Yes	No
Not for Profit Community Group - Full Day	$0.00	$0.00		$0.00	Yes	No
Commercial/Other - Half Day	$61.00	$64.00	4.9%	$3.00	Yes	No
Commercial/Other - Full Day	$102.00	$108.00	5.9%	$6.00	Yes	No
Corporate						
Records Retrieval (Non FOI)	$90 per hour ($50.00 minimum charge)	$90 per hour ($50.00 minimum charge)			Yes	No
Voters Rolls - no longer available for sale	NA	NA			No	No
Council Minutes - Mail outs to Private Citizens	$350.00	$350.00	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Disabled Parking Permit	$9.50	$9.50	0.0%	$0.00	Yes	No
Debt Collection						
Location/Search Fee	At Cost	At Cost			No	No
Property Title Search	At Cost	At Cost			No	No
Filing/Listing Fee	At Cost	At Cost			No	No
Caveat Fee	At Cost	At Cost			No	No
Beneficiary Search	At Cost	At Cost			No	No
Duplicate Rate Notice	$15.00	$20.00	33.3%	$5.00	Yes	No
Photocopying and Faxing						
A4 and A3 BandW Copies	$1.00 per copy	$1.25			Yes	No
A4 and A3 Colour Copies	$2.00 per copy	$2.50			Yes	No
Approved Community Groups A4 and A3 B&W Copies	$0.00	$0.00			Yes	No
Other Fees						
Standpipe Water Charge per Kilolitre	$4.40	$4.40	0.0%	$0.00	No	No
Standpipe Key Deposit	$50.00	$50.00	0.0%	$0.00	No	No
Credit Card Surchage on rate payments	0%	1.5%			Yes	
Airport Fees						
Corryong Airport Hire - Half Day (Not for Profit Community Groups)	$55.00	$60.00	9.1%	$5.00	Yes	No
Corryong Airport Hire - Full Day (Not for Profit Community Groups)	$110.00	$115.00	4.5%	$5.00	Yes	No
Corryong Airport Hire - Half Day (Commercial)	$110.00	$115.00	4.5%	$5.00	Yes	No
Corryong Airport Hire - Full Day (Commercial)	$220.00	$230.00	4.5%	$10.00	Yes	No

Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25					
FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)					
		Current Fee (23/24)	Revised Fee (24/25)	% increase	Cost increase
Building Services Fees 2024					
		cost of works x 0.005			
Class 1 & 10		minimum fee	minimum fee		
	New Dwellings	$1,600	$2,400	50%	$800
	$250,000	$1,600	$2,400	50%	$800
	$320,000	$1,600	$2,400	50%	$800
	$400,000	$2,000	$3,000	50%	$1,000
	$500,000	$2,500	$3,300	32%	$800
	$600,000	$3,000	$3,600	20%	$600
	$700,000	$3,500	$3,900	11%	$400
	$800,000	$4,000	$4,200	5%	$200
	$900,000	$4,500	$4,500	0%	$0
	$1,000,000	$5,000	$5,000	0%	$0
	$2,000,000	$10,000	$10,000	0%	$0
		+$5000/million			
	Additions	min. $1,045	minimum fee		
	max 4 inspections	$1,045	$1,800	72%	$755
	cost of works x 0.005				
	$25,000	$1,045	$1,800	72%	$755
	$50,000	$1,045	$1,800	72%	$755
	$100,000	$1,045	$1,800	72%	$755
	$200,000	$1,045	$2,000	91%	$955
	$250,000	$1,200	$2,400	100%	$1,200
	$300,000	$1,500	$2,800	87%	$1,300
	$400,000	$2,000	$3,000	50%	$1,000
	$500,000	$2,500	$3,300	32%	$800
	$600,000	$3,000	$3,600	20%	$600
	$700,000	$3,500	$3,900	11%	$400
	$800,000	$4,000	$4,200	5%	$200
	$900,000	$4,500	$4,500	0%	$0
	$1,000,000	$5,000	$5,000	0%	$0
	$2,000,000	$10,000	$10,000	0%	$0
		+$5000/million			
	Internal Alterations				
	2 inspections incl.	min $820			
	cost of works x 0.005				
	$50,000	$820	$820	0%	$0

Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25					
FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)					
		Current Fee (23/24)	Revised Fee (24/25)	% increase	Cost increase
	$100,000	$820	$1,200	46%	$380
	$164,000	$820	$1,600	95%	$780
	Multi unit development				
	4 inspections/unit				
	2 units (6 inspections)	min $1,250			
	$250,000	$1,250	$2,000	60%	$750
	$500,000	$2,500	$3,300	32%	$800
	4 units (10 inspections)				
	$1,000,000	$5,000	$6,000	20%	$1,000
	$2,000,000	$10,000	$8,000 ($2,000 /unit >$500K)		
Commercial	<$30K	$940		0%	
all other classes	$30,001	$865.01	$1,265.00	46%	$400
	$100,000	$1,740.00	$1,940.00	11%	$200
	$100,001	$1,900.00	$2,500.00	32%	$600
	$200,000	$2,200.00	$3,000.00	36%	$800
	$500,000	$3,100.00	$3,500.00	13%	$400
Domestic					
Garage/carport	$4,999	$450	$500	11%	$50
	$5,000	$580	$600	3%	$20
	$10,000	$580	$1,000	72%	$420
	$20,000	$700	$1,000	43%	$300
	$30,000	$900	$1,000	11%	$100
	$50,000	$900	$1,200	33%	$300
Swimming Pools					
Swimming pools (above ground)			300		
Swimming pools (inground)			900		
Swimming Pool (Fence only)			300		
Swimming pools - Application for registration			Regulated		
Swimming pools - Information Search Fee			Regulated		
Swimming pools - Lodgement of certificate of pool barrier compliance			Regulated		
Swimming pools - Lodgement of certificate of pool barrier non-compliance			Regulated		
Swimming pools - Pool compliance Inspection (including report)			462.4		
Demolitions					

Towong Shire Council - Budget 2024/25				
FEE SCHEDULE (Effective from 1 July 2024)				
	Current Fee (23/24)	Revised Fee (24/25)	% increase	Cost increase
Demolitions (any height class 1 or 10)		520		
Demolitions (any other building $ per storey)		900		
Building Removals, Verandahs, Restrumping, Fences (1 inspection)		520		
Building Commission Levies				
Domestic (>$10,000 cost of works)		Regulated		
Commercial (>$10,000 cost of works)				
Amendment to Building Permit - Simple				
Amendment to Building Permit - Major				
Extension of Time Building Permit		150		
2nd Extension of Time Building Permit		300		
3rd Extension of Time Building Permit		600		
Certificate of Title search		60		
Records Search- Provision of Permits/Insurance under 10 years old		60		
Records Search- Archive Retrieval (additional may be charged for large copies)		120		
Owner-builder Certificate of Consent		Regulated		
Building Certificates		Regulated		
Building Compliance Fee		Permit Fee + 100%		
Lodgement Fee - Domestic and Commercial (>$5,000)		Regulated		
Place of Public Entertainment				
POPE (Place of Public Entertainment) Permits - Small event		490.1		
POPE (Place of Public Entertainment) Permits - 5000 -10000 people		867		
POPE (Place of Public Entertainment) Permits - 10000 + people		1628.6		



towongshire

innovation : technology : sustainability

This map is a representation of the information currently held. The information is not survey accurate, whilst every effort has been made to ensure the content is correct, we accept no responsibility for any errors or omissions.

21/06/2024

Scale 1:3000

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Analysis of Pool Season 2023/24

Pool Management

The 2023/24 swimming pool season in Towong Shire involved a significant change in pool management. Aquatic contractor, Belgravia Leisure, was engaged by Council to support the management of the pools in a shared model of operation. Under this arrangement, Belgravia was primarily responsible for operating the pools during public opening hours, with the major function being the employment of the lifeguard staff and ensuring safe provision of pool services to the public. Council retained responsibility for the operation of the pools outside public opening hours, including primary management of water and pool grounds, and liaison with all user groups such as schools, swimming clubs, morning swimming groups and health services. Responsibility for issues such as plant and equipment, maintenance remains with Council.

Responsibility for meeting all legislative requirements of pool operations such as policies and procedures, Occupational Health and Safety, hazard reduction, and legislative compliance is shared between Council and Belgravia Leisure, and as such requires clear communication for successful and safe delivery of swimming pool services. This season was a period of transition to this model of operation, with the off-season providing an opportunity to address some of the areas of overlap or gaps in responsibility prior to the commencement of the 2024/25 season.

Opening Times

The general opening times of both pools remained the same in season 2023/24, with the exception of a trial period of extended opening hours from 20 December to 7 January. These extended hours were implemented based on recommendations following the 2022/23 season, where community feedback requested earlier opening times during peak usage times and hot weather.

During this period of the 2023/24 season, both pools opened from 9am-12noon, followed by the usual opening time of 2-7pm.

The extended opening hours during the 9am-12noon period between December 20 and January 1st (13 days) experienced low visitation rates at both pools, with a total of 36 visits at Tallangatta, and 85 visits in Corryong.

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Visitation increased from January 2-7 (6 days) as the Christmas peak days passed, weather became warmer, and the likelihood of more people being on holidays. Visits to the pools in this period were 81 at Tallangatta and 82 at Corryong.
Trial Period Summary – 9am-12pm December 20 to January 7:

- Total Visits = 284 Tallangatta 118. Corryong 166.
- Average visits per extended period each day (19 days) = 15.7
  Tallangatta 6.2 Corryong 8.7
- Cost of 2 lifeguards at each pool – 9am-12pm x 19 days **$9576**
- Cost per visit at each pool = **$33.70**

Pool visitation

Towong Shire swimming pools are utilised by visitors in two ways. Firstly, visitors attend the pools during public opening hours, with either a season pass or by paying a casual visitation fee. Secondly, the pools are utilised by user groups outside regular opening hours via pre-arranged bookings. These groups include schools, swimming club, Icebreakers (early morning swimming), health services, and sporting clubs.

Public opening hours visitation data for each Pool is summarised the following table.

	13	29	30	29	11	
ATTENDANCES	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	TOTAL
TALLANGATTA						
CASUAL VISITS	221	556	1,225	602	215	**2,819**
MEMBER ATTENDANCES	170	714	970	733	271	**2,858**
USER GROUPS						-
TOTAL	**391**	**1,270**	**2,195**	**1,335**	**486**	**5,677**
AVERAGE TEMP	*23.62*	*25.81*	*27.27*	*29.46*	*30.06*	
AVERAGE ATTENDANCES/ DAY	*30.08*	*43.79*	*73.17*	*46.03*	*44.18*	
CORRYONG						
CASUAL VISITS	125	479	860	410	193	**2,067**
MEMBER ATTENDANCES	290	800	896	820	253	**3,059**
USER GROUPS						-
TOTAL	**415**	**1,279**	**1,756**	**1,230**	**446**	**5,126**
AVERAGE TEMP	*21.60*	*22.95*	*24.90*	*26.92*	*27.76*	
AVERAGE ATTENDANCES/ DAY	*31.92*	*44.10*	*58.53*	*42.41*	*40.55*	

This data details a significant increase in visitation of 1158 in Tallangatta and 1067 in Corryong compared to the 2022/23 season.

The visitation numbers at the pools by user groups outside public opening hours is significant, and to date has not been well captured. A conservative estimate indicates that a minimum of 2000 -2500 additional visits to the pools would occur via those user

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groups. It is important to note that pool usage outside public opening times is generally not at additional cost to Council, as those user groups are required to provide their own lifeguards. Council receives income from those user groups in most cases via invoicing at the end of the pool season, which includes any costs associated with the provision of lifeguards at events such as swimming carnivals. It is recommended that the visitation numbers of these user groups be recorded in subsequent seasons to accurately inform Council of pool usage.

Pool Financials

Under the terms of the contract with Belgravia Leisure, all income from pool visitations is retained by Belgravia Leisure which also pays all expenses.

Council receives regular invoices from Belgravia for the nett position ie income minus expenditure.

The table below details the financial performance of each pool during the 2023/24 season.

- Total income collected was $38,948.00, through season passes, casual visitation fees and kiosk revenue
- Total operating expenditure totalled $231,344.00, including salaries, equipment utilities, supplies.
- Contract Management and Corporate Fees paid to Belgravia Leisure was $54,000
- The nett cost to Council (NCTC) for pools operations was $246,396.00
- The overall cost to Council per visit was $22.80.

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TALLANGATTA								
INCOME	$ -	$ 125.77	$ 4,981.82	$ 6,227.97	$ 3,596.99	$ 4,623.17	$	**19,555.72**
EXPENDITURE	$ 196.00	$ 8,799.19	$ 29,790.10	$ 48,361.17	$ 18,828.35	$ 8,309.36	$	**114,088.17**
MANAGEMENT & CORP OVERHEAD FEES	$ -	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	$	**27,000.00**
NET RESULT	**-$ 196.00**	**-$ 14,073.42**	**-$ 30,208.28**	**-$ 47,533.20**	**-$ 20,631.36**	**-$ 9,086.19**	**-$**	**121,532.45**
CORRYONG								
INCOME	$ -	$ 355.12	$ 4,372.38	$ 5,878.20	$ 3,685.66	$ 5,101.63	$	**19,392.99**
EXPENDITURE	$ 196.00	$ 3,277.81	$ 29,762.55	$ 47,137.33	$ 25,006.32	$ 12,072.71	$	**117,256.72**
MANAGEMENT & CORP OVERHEAD FEES	$ -	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	$ 5,400.00	$	**27,000.00**
NET RESULT	**-$ 196.00**	**-$ 8,322.69**	**-$ 30,790.17**	**-$ 46,659.13**	**-$ 26,720.66**	**-$ 12,371.08**	**-$**	**124,863.73**

The 2023/24 budget adopted by Council included a Pools NCTC of $188,000. This budget was adopted based on Council running and managing the pools in-house and was adopted prior to the transition to the arrangements with Belgravia Leisure.

Once Council approved a contract with Belgravia Leisure in August 2023, an operating NCTC budget was set by management at $260,000 including Management and Corporate Fee payable.

The 2023/24 financial statement shows a final favourable outcome of $13,604 against the management budget.

Considerations and Options – Based on Costs and Visitations Data

1. The significant investment in providing aquatic facilities to the community is something that all Councils find challenging, and Towong Council is no different. Opportunities to reduce the NCTC associated with the delivery of aquatic facilities should always be considered and be based on the data available from each season. An examination of the 2023/24 season data identifies some issues which should be considered. These include:

    - The pools in Towong opened on November 17th 2023 and for the November operations, income received totalled only $480 yet nett expenditure was $11,500 (not including Management and Corporate Fees).
    - December operations saw income ($9,353) increase. Visitation levels increased but mostly towards the end of the month after schools finished for the year and in the lead up to Christmas. The nett expenditure incurred was $50,199.

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- The period from the opening of the pools on November 17th to the end of December resulted in a NCTC of $51,866.
- Adding the monthly Management and Corporate Fees payable to Belgravia Leisure ($21,600) brings that period's NCTC to $73,466.

2. The results from the trial period of extending the public opening hours from December 20 to January 7th are mixed. Identified issues include:

- Increased visitation was greater in the January period of the trial with December numbers being low.
- The gap between the extended hours (9am to 12 noon) and the normal pool opening (2pm to 7pm) was not particularly popular with patrons who would prefer the extended time be 11am to 7pm or 10am to 7pm.
- The gap also created challenges for staffing and rostering across split shifts.
- The increased temperatures in January, and the general holiday season at that time gives rise to any extended period being adopted for January only.

Options to consider:

- Delay the opening of the pools to the general public until the commencement of the December school holidays, at a saving of approximately $75,000.
- Only open the pools to the general public in December on Saturday and Sunday at a saving of $23,520 in salaries.
- Delay the opening of the pools to the general public until the start of December at a saving of approximately $8,232.
- Extend the opening hours (11am–7pm) of both pools in January to accommodate higher visitation levels, and usual warmer temperatures, at an additional cost of approximately $16,000 in salaries, potentially offset by higher income from increased visitation and sales.

Health and Safety Considerations

Only minor incidents were reported at the pool facilities during the 2023/24 season. Pool lifeguard staff have utilised the online incident reporting system provided by Belgravia Leisure to report any incident or issue that has arisen at the pools. This replaced the system of incident reporting used across other Council departments (and previously used at the pools). In future seasons Belgravia Leisure will include Council

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in the chain of reporting to ensure that Council receives timely advice of all incidents and can respond accordingly.

Both pools passed all water quality requirements with only one water quality issue occurring at Tallangatta pool requiring the pool to be closed early on a Saturday in February. This occurrence had minimal impact on pool operations and was rectified quickly to enable the pool to open as usual on Sunday.

A range of safety and compliance assessments have been conducted at both pools over the past year, which are being used to inform the measures Council must take to meet legislative requirements for pool operation. These assessments include Life Saving Victoria Pool Safety Assessments at Tallangatta (February 2023) and Corryong (February 2024), Belgravia Leisure signage audits (both pools January 2024), and Council's internal OH&S Management System Audit (both pools Jan/Feb 2024). As mentioned previously, Council will undertake the actions required to meet the requirements of these audits and assessments, with Belgravia Leisure supporting this process for specific areas of responsibility including pool operating policies and procedures, staff induction processes, and incident management systems.

Accessibility

An aquatic wheelchair lift hoist was installed at the Corryong swimming pool and was used by community members during the 2023/24 season. The hoist is designed to be used by patrons who are accompanied by a carer. The hoist installed at the Tallangatta pool last season continued to be used successfully during this pool season. Lifeguard staff are trained in the operation of the hoists but are not required to perform specialised physical support to users. Lifeguard staff at both pools have demonstrated a commitment to facilitating the use of the hoists by members of the community to increase access and equity for pool users.

The Corryong swimming pool currently has male and female changing/bathroom facilities, but there is no gender neutral accessible changing/bathroom facility. The family/baby change room does not have a shower and is not compliant with current disability and accessible standards. It is recommended that further work be undertaken to improve the change facilities at Corryong pool to increase the accessibility of pool for all patrons.

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Emergency Management Report – June 2024

Staff Training

Several identified staff completed Psychological First Aid workshops in Tangambalanga.

These workshops were funded by Red Cross with participants given an understanding of the principles of psychosocial support and how and when to provide Psychological First Aid.

Staff that attended were identified as being part of the broader Emergency Management team. This training gave them the opportunity to interact with participants attending from Alpine and Indigo as part of our Safer Together Collaboration.

The main areas of learning for participants were:

- The psychosocial impacts of crisis events and distressing situations;
- How to identify common distress reactions;
- How to help promote calm, safety, self-efficacy, connection, and instil hope;
- How to provide Psychological First Aid using 'Look, Listen, Link' principles;
- How to look after themselves when in helping roles.

A tour of the Tallangatta Incident Control Centre was held in January for our 8 newly trained EMLO's (Emergency Management Liaison Officers) with a tour of the Wodonga Incident Control Centre scheduled for June 2024.
These tours are being held as general familiarisation tours so that the broader EM Team, who might be tasked with attending an ICC, know where to go, where everything is located within the ICC and where the other teams (IMT, IEMT, Logistics etc) will be located prior to an event unfolding.

We have engaged Sue Rondeau and Mat Deans from The Six C's to conduct MEMO (Municipal Emergency Management Officer) & MRM (Municipal Recovery Manager) training for 3 days 28,29 & 30 May. This training will enable some of our recently trained EMLO's to progress their development to a higher level thus giving the organisation a greater capacity to respond to attend an ICC when requested. We currently have 3 staff with delegation to act as MEMO's; this will double after the training with staff from each directorate being upskilled.

Municipal Fire Prevention

Crisisworks was implemented for the first time during the 2023/24 Fire Prevention Period with great success. The application allows for Inspections, pictures, workflow charts and record keeping to all be co-located and easily accessible via computer, mobile devices or tablets.

The Crisisworks program allows for automatic uploads of vacant land lots and previous problem properties. Inspections are now all photographed enabling us to compare properties from year to year and when we receive complaints and to facilitate comparisons

from one time period to another when Council have requested works to make a property compliant.

Amendments have been made so that the fire prevention notices needing to be issued are now legally binding and in accordance with the CFA ACT 1958 s.41(3(a))

This Fire Danger Period we were able to create 275 Fire Prevention Inspection Notices through Crisisworks. These included vacant land and properties that have had previous notice and/or complaints made against them.

Compliant	Proceeded to Prosecution	Withdrawn	Closed (Due to time constraints)	Closed (Error/Duplicate)
198	1	1	63	12

The program has a very high potential to increase scalability for larger events or increased volume.

This year we anticipate starting the Fire Prevention Notice process in early September to help manage the property separations and giving us the required time to complete inspections of all listed properties.

Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)

We actively participate in the multi-agency Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). The new Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023-2026 (MEMP) for Towong LGA was approved by the Hume Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (Hume REMPC) in January 2024. The committee has recently welcomed new community representatives following an Expression of Interest process. The March meeting of the MEMPC included for the first time since legislative amendments in 2020, four Community Representatives. Community Representation now comes from Tallangatta, Bethanga, Granya and Towong. The MEMPC is preparing a communication program to inform the Community about the Relief arrangements in place within the LGA, this will be ready for late winter early spring.

2022 – Flood Recovery

Flood Recovery works and associated acquittals from the October 2022 floods have now finished.

All flood Recovery works on private land for Primary Producers that had successful flood grant applications were to be completed by 31 May 2024 with no further extensions on the due date for submitting final claims for reimbursement.

An email was sent out to all our successful applicants to remind them of the closing date and urging them to contact recovery staff if they require help completing the acquittal process. To date we have assisted over 30 flood affected community members begin the acquittal process to support their claims.

The outreach service that our Mobile Flood Recovery Hubs have been providing to our famers has seen the added benefit of having a Gateway Health support worker attending and engaging with our flood impacted families. We are calling this our "Mental Health by Stealth" program.

All our farmers that called into our Mobile hubs or that we assisted in anyway during the initial response stage have received a home visit from our Recovery officer and Gateway Case worker.

This program has seen Gateway receive 24 direct referrals. All referrals are receiving support through regular contact with a caseworker and follow up engagement with our Recovery officers.

We have been able to send our Recovery Officer and Gateway worker to support the organisations Ag Events held at Cudgewa and Eskdale, giving those farmers attending familiar faces and giving us another chance to offer support to them.

A funding application has been submitted to run a "Farmers Day Out" in Eskdale. We are investigating options to engage guest speakers to deliver on a range of subjects that our farmers have expressed interest in learning about during their visits to our outreach hubs.

The successful collaboration of Gateway and Towong has given us the ability to tackle some complex social and environmental issues as well as provide support to community. We hope that the unique expertise of Gateway along with the TSC flood Recovery Officer with an agricultural background will see both partners achieve better outcomes than either organisation could accomplish alone.

Resilient Community Facilities Project

Resilient facilities play a crucial role in communities, especially in the face of various challenges such as natural disasters.

Resilient facilities are often designed to serve multiple purposes. For instance, a community centre may also serve as an emergency shelter during disasters or a hub for distributing relief supplies. This multi-functionality ensures that the facility remains useful and relevant even during crises.

With these thoughts in mind, we compiled a detailed list of over 50 facilities within the Shire that we thought our communities would congregate at after an emergency when it was safe to return and that would also prove vital in the Recovery of the community.

We accessed every building to determine what resilient infrastructure assets they had to ensure that the facility can continue to operate even when faced with disruptions. From

these assessments we compiled a detailed risk matrix to determine the prioritisation of certain buildings needing critical infrastructure upgrades such as solar and batteries. This has resulted in 31 buildings being Identified and Prioritised.

We are currently working on a detailed RFQ for supply and installation of improvements such as water tanks and UHF's, as well as putting an Expression of Interest letter out to the Committees of Management for the nominated buildings with an offer of upgrades, specific to that building, that the committee may or may not choose to accept.

We hope to have all the acceptances back from the Committees of Management involved by June 30 so we can determine the final figures for the RFQ to be advertised.

Community Emergency Management Planning Support

The Relief and Recovery Development Officer supports the update of Community Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) owned by communities and facilitates the development of new CEMPs in various regions of the shire.

Australian Red Cross in partnership with Towong Shire Council undertook community mapping workshops during March in Dartmouth, Mitta Mitta, Eskdale and Tallangatta Valley.

Community members present at initial meetings "marked up" large A1 maps with detailed information about the local risks and assets they knew about. These maps were sent off to a graphic designer who collated the information and prepared an easy to read map – the first draft of the maps were presented to the community at a review session in April with relevant emergency services personal invited to attend.

Once we send back the changes that have been requested as an outcome of the review session, the final version of the map can be distributed widely to residents, visitors and tourists. Community members have discussed what/where & how they might be best distributed. Most communities are looking into having the maps enlarged and displayed on community information boards, as well as having the maps printed on A3 rip-off pads and made available to tourists staying in locations in and around town.

Giving Community members the ability to design and plan their town maps fosters a sense of community ownership, increasing their willingness to support and be involved in the project.

Engagement and Emergency Relief Trailers

We have two trailers in construction to supply resources to relief centres and community engagement. Currently in production, these trailers aim to enhance functionality during emergencies and serve as adaptable engagement tools at community events. Delivery timelines have been delayed and are expected in June/July 2024.

Community Sport Fair Access Policy

Responsible officer:	Director Community and Planning
Key Result Area:	Community Wellbeing
Document type:	Policy
Reference:	10/01/0004
Approved by:	Council
Date approved:	*TBC Council Meeting*
Date of next review:	4 years from meeting

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1. Statement and Purpose

The Community Sport Fair Access Policy (the Policy) seeks to address known barriers experienced by women and girls in accessing and using community sports infrastructure. The Policy aims to progressively build capacity and capabilities of Towong Shire Council in the identification and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs, communications, and delivery of services in relation to community sports infrastructure.

Towong Shire Council will undertake take the necessary and proportionate steps towards implementation of the Community Sport Fair Access Policy.

Towong Shire Council has an expectation that gender equality is considered and prioritised in all current and future Council planning, policy, service delivery and practice as they relate to community sports infrastructure.

2. Background

Sport and active recreation are highly visible and valued features of Towong Shire Council's culture and identity. The sport and active recreation sector provide opportunities for enriching our communities through the promotion of respect and fair mindedness for all people, while also supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of all Victorians. Towong Shire Council is well positioned to design and implement place-based, integrated actions plans that progress gender equality in community sport.

The Victorian Government is committed to developing an environment for all Victorians to live in a safe and equal society, have access to equal power, resources, and opportunities, and are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness. A reform agenda has been developed to change the systems that have perpetuated gender inequality by designing an enduring structure that requires implementation and tracking of progress over time.

This reform agenda includes addressing the traditional structures and way community sport and recreation organisations operate through the implementation all nine (9) recommendations from the 2015 Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation. This includes recommendation six (6):

"*…encourage facility owners and managers to review access and usage policies to ensure women and girls have a fair share of access to the highest quality facilities at the best and most popular times*"

and

"*facilitating a universal adoption of [policies, strategies and audit tools] will drive change further*"

As a defined entity of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, Towong Shire Council is required to conduct Gender Impact Assessments (GIA) on all new policies, programs, communications, and services, including those up for review, which directly and significantly impact the public (*Gender Equality Act 2020*). The access and use of community sports infrastructure is an example of policy that has a direct and significant impact on the public.

From 1 July 2024, all Victorian Local Governments will be required to have a Fair Access Policy and Action Plan (or equivalent) in place and be able to demonstrate progress against that policy and action

plan, in order to be eligible for Victorian State Government funding programs relating to community sports Infrastructure.

3. Scope

The Policy enables effective and efficient integration of the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, the *Local Government Act 2020* and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* and other legislative frameworks.

The scope of the Policy is to support Towong Shire Council to take positive action towards achieving gender equity in the access and usage of community sports infrastructure. This complies with the *Gender Equality Act 2020* and aligns with Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan and other Council Strategies:

Reform Agenda	Objectives
To support Towong Shire Council to take positive action towards achieving gender equity in the access and use of community sports infrastructure	To build capacity and capabilities of Towong Shire Council in the identification and elimination of systemic causes of gender inequality in policy, programs, communications, and delivery of services in relation to community sport and recreation. To ensure an effective place-based response for the gender equitable use and access of community sports infrastructure. To promote gender equality in policies, programs, communications, and services as they relate to community sports infrastructure.

For Towong Shire Council, the Policy applies to the following community sports infrastructure with Council being the land manager and/or operator of the facility. Towong Shire Council has also identified specific actions to progress gender equitable access and use of community sport infrastructure in its Community Sport Fair Access Action Plan.

	Facility	Location
1	**Walwa Recreation Reserve**	**Walwa**
2	**Dartmouth Oval**	**Dartmouth**
3	**Tallangatta Swimming Pool**	**Tallangatta**
4	**Tallangatta Bowling Club**	**Tallangatta**
5	**Tallangatta Tennis Courts & Clubroom**	**Tallangatta**
6	**Corryong Swimming Pool**	**Corryong**
7	**Corryong Skate Park**	**Corryong**
8	**Cudgewa Tennis Courts**	**Cudgewa**

4. Policy Details

The Policy is designed to comply with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, and the wider Victorian Government gender equality strategy.

Towong Shire Council acknowledges:

- the disadvantaged position some individuals have had in the sport and recreation sector because of their gender; and
- that achieving gender equality will require diverse approaches for women, men, trans and gender diverse people to achieve similar outcomes for people of all genders.

Towong Shire Council will:

- engage fairly and equitably with all staff, governance working groups, state sporting organisations, regional sport assemblies (where applicable) and members of our sport and recreation community, regardless of their gender, in a positive, respectful, and constructive manner; and
- engage in the process of gender impact assessments to assess the implications for women, men, trans and gender diverse people of any planned action, including policies and communications. This is a strategy for making all voices, concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring of policies and programs.

5. Fair Access Principles

The Fair Access Principles have been developed by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation, Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth, in consultation with representatives from local government and the state sport and recreation sector. This Policy and any resultant action plan are based on six (6) principles of inclusivity, full participation, equal representation, encouraging and supporting user groups, and prioritising user groups committed to equality.

Towong Shire Council considers that these principles provide clear direction, while also enabling adaption to the specific environment of Towong Shire Council's area.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

The Coordinator of Recreation & Community Development is responsible for implementing Towong Shire Council's Community Sport Fair Access Policy. Management personnel, staff, volunteers, and

stakeholders (for example SSAs, RSAs and CoMs) at Towong Shire Council have a shared responsibility to support the Policy, as outlined in the table below.

Role	Responsiblity
Chief Executive Officer	• To promote a gender-aware and gender-responsive culture and community and championing the Fair Access Policy. • To promote, encourage and facilitate the achievement of gender equality and improvement in the status of women and girls in sport and active recreation.
Director Community and Planning	• Lead the review of sport and recreation policies and process. • Develop and adopt gender equitable access and use policies. • To monitor compliance and issues. • Support the undertaking of Gender Impact Assessment and submission of progress reports as per the *Gender Equality Act 2020* obligations.
Director Corporate and Organisational Development	• Support the formal adoption process of new or revised gender equitable policies. • Undertake Gender Impact Assessment and submission of progress reports as per the *Gender Equality Act 2020* obligations.
Coordinator of Recreation & Community Development	• Support the review of sport and recreation policies and processes. • To communicate and educate sport and recreation infrastructure user groups and users.
All Council Staff	• To adhere to and communicate the policy when required. • To attend training/awareness programs.

7. Relevant Legislation and Policies

This Policy should be read in conjunction with all other relevant Council policies and procedures, as well as relevant legislative requirements.

Legislation includes:

- *Gender Equality Act 2020 (Vic)*
- *Local Government Act 2020 (Vic)*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic)*

Internal policies and plans:

- Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
- Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2025
- Recreation Strategy for Towong Shire 2022-2033

8. Human Rights Charter

This Policy has been assessed as being compatible with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* [Vic].

9. Definitions

Term	Definition
Committees of Management (CoM)	For the purposes of this document, refers to committees appointed by the Department of Land, Water, Environment and Planning under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* to manage recreation reserves where community sport training and games are held.
Community Sports Infrastructure	Publicly owned local, rural, regional, or state level sport and recreation infrastructure operated and maintained primarily for the purpose of facilitating community sport activities, including sporting grounds, surfaces, facilities, and pavilions.
Gender	How you understand who you are and how you interact with other people. Many people understand their gender as being a man or woman. Some people understand their gender as a mix of these or neither. A person's gender and their expression of their gender can be shown in different ways, such as through behaviour or physical appearance.
Gender Equality	The provision of fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities based on gender. The concept recognises that people may have different needs and power related to their gender and these differences should be identified and addressed in a manner that rectifies gender related imbalances.
Gender Impact Assessment (GIA)	A requirement under the *Gender Equality Act 2020* to be carried out on policies, programs and services which have a direct and significant impact on the public. The assessment must evaluate the effects that a policy, program or service may have on people of different genders.
Gender Diverse	An umbrella term for a range of genders expressed in different ways. Gender diverse people use many terms to describe themselves. Language in this area is dynamic, particularly among young people, who are more likely to describe themselves as non-binary.

Gender Equality	The equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women, men and trans and gender-diverse people. Equality does not mean that women, men and trans and gender diverse people will become the same but that their rights, responsibilities, and opportunities will not depend on their gender.
Public Land Management Group	For the purposes of this document, are the Committees of Management appointed under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* and responsible for the management of recreation reserves where community sport training and games are held.
Transgender or Trans	Someone whose gender does not only algin with the one assigned at birth. Not all trans people will use this term to describe themselves.

10. Results

The deployment of this policy together with the results achieved will be reviewed at least annually.

Authorised by: _____
Juliana Phelps
Chief Executive Officer

Towong Shire Council - Community Sport Fair Access Action Plan – June 2024

The Fair Access Principles have been developed by the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation (OWSR), Sport and Recreation Victoria and VicHealth, in consultation with representatives from local government and the state sport and recreation sector. This action plan is based on six principles of inclusivity, equal representation, encouraging and supporting user groups, and prioritising user groups committed to equality.

Principle 1: Community sports infrastructure and environments are genuinely welcoming, safe, and inclusive.

Actions to achieve progress	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator of Success
Conduct signage audits of clubroom facilities and surrounding environments.	Aug 2024 - June 2025	Towong Shire Council Sporting clubs User groups Committees of Management	All facilities will be fitted with appropriate gender equitable signage as required.
Conduct audits of bathroom and changeroom facilities to ensure gender equitable access to amenities such as baby change tables and sanitary bins.	Aug 2024 - June 2025	Towong Shire Council User groups Sporting clubs Building owner	Facility bathrooms will have suitable amenities to meet needs of users.
Incorporate Gender Impact Assessments/Universal Design Principles into all new planning of community sporting facilities/infrastructure (eg facility and Rec Reserve master plans)	As required/Ongoing	Towong Shire Council User groups	Gender Impact Assessments undertaken in new development planning including those projects for which grant funding is sought.

Principle 2: Women and girls can fully participate in all aspects of community sport and active recreation, including as a player, coach, administrator, official, volunteer and spectator.

Actions to achieve progress	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator of Success
Work with State Sporting Associations and local sporting organisations to promote and facilitate the delivery of training and support for women and girls to become coaches, sports trainers, umpires, and other officials.	July 2024 – Ongoing	Towong Shire Council State Sporting Associations Sporting Clubs	Sport and recreation training opportunities are accessed by women and girls in Towong Shire. Council and sporting groups will apply for suitable funding to subsidise relevant training for women and girls.

Principle 3: Women and girls will have equitable access to and use of community sport infrastructure:

a. of the highest quality available and most convenient
b. at the best and most popular competition and training times and locations
c. to support existing and new participation opportunities, and a variety of sports.

Actions to achieve progress	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator of Success
Undertake consultation prior to sport and recreation seasons commencing, to understand preferred usage times of user groups and allocate bookings accordingly.	September 2024 - Ongoing	Towong Shire Council Sporting Clubs	All user groups have been consulted and requests from clubs and user groups are considered to enable fair allocation of facilities.

Principle 4: Women and girls should be equitably represented in leadership and governance roles.

Actions to achieve progress	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator of Success
Work with State Sporting Associations and local sporting organisations to promote and facilitate the delivery of training for women and girls to develop board and leadership skills.	July 2025- Ongoing	Towong Shire Council State Sporting Associations	Opportunities to attend sporting boards and leadership training are accessed by women and girls in Towong Shire. Council and sporting groups will apply for suitable funding to subsidise relevant training for women and girls.

Principle 5: Encourage and support all user groups who access and use community sport infrastructure to understand, adopt and implement gender equitable access and use practices.

Actions to achieve progress	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator of Success
Support sporting clubs/Committees of Management to adopt Council's Community Sport Fair Access Policy, or develop their own	July 2024-Ongoing	Towong Shire Council Sporting clubs Committees of Management	Sporting clubs/Committees of Management have adopted Council's Fair Access Policy or developed their own.

Principle 6: Prioritise access, use and support to all user groups who demonstrate an on-going commitment to gender equitable access and use of allocated community sport infrastructure.

Actions to achieve progress	Timeframe	Responsibility	Indicator of Success
As part of review of fees and charges, and funding and service agreements, consider incentives for clubs who provide opportunities for women and girls to participate in their sport or recreational activity.	July 2025 - Ongoing	Towong Shire Council	Review of fees, charges and agreements undertaken and implemented to encourage broad community participation.

OUR TOWN
TOWARDS 2030
Towong Placemaking and Township Co-Design Project
Corryong Place Plan - FINAL DRAFT | June-2024
towongshire

ClarkeHopkinsClarke and Towong Shire Council acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country on which the Our Town project is taking place.

While there are no Registered Aboriginal Parties in the project region, we acknowledge the following Parties we are aware of: Jaitmatang, Yaithmathang, Duduroa dhargal, Waveroo, Way-wurru, Wiradjuri and Ngarigo people as the traditional custodians of the land.

ClarkeHopkinsClarke acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and the Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land we work on.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise their custodianship over deep time and their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

Drawn by Foster Type and based on the AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia, ©AIATSIS 1996.
For more information about using this map please visit aiatsis.gov.au

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1.0
Introduction
OUR TOWN

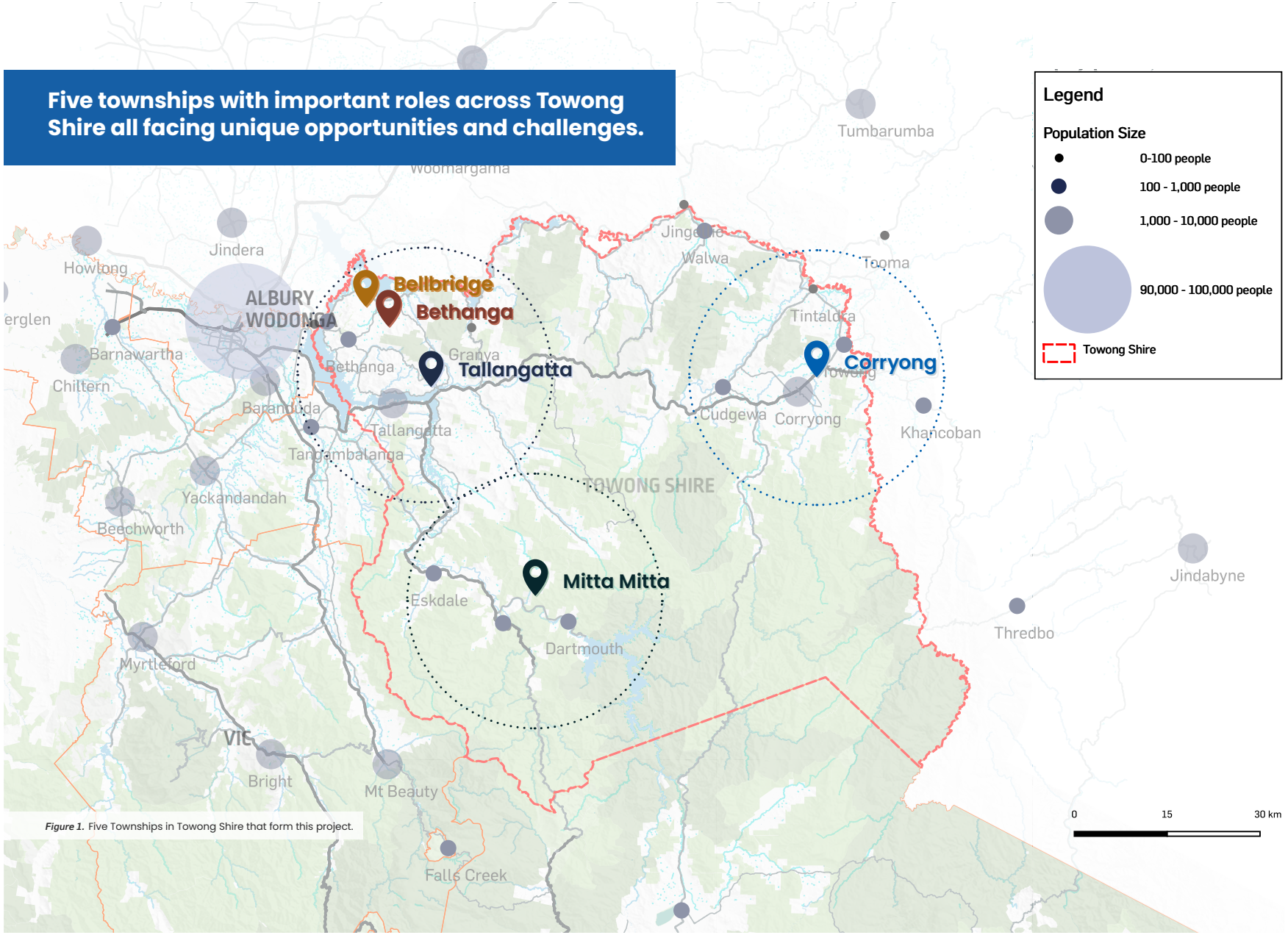


Figure 1. Five Townships in Towong Shire that form this project.

1.1 Project overview

The Corryong Place Plan is a 10-year roadmap for Council, community and other stakeholders. The plan identifies community and other stakeholder priorities to guide the future shape and character of the township.

The Corryong Place Plan is part of Our Town Towards 2030, a Placemaking and Co-design Project (the project) initiated by Towong Shire Council for five townships across the Shire.

The project delivers town-based plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta. The plans have provided an opportunity to re-imagine the way each township works and has allowed us to bring together the big ideas that drive growth while identifying the services, infrastructure and public spaces required to support the population. Each plan identifies a shared set of goals and initiatives that can be developed and delivered over the next 10 years and beyond.

While the place plans have a ten-year lifespan, each plan provides a good base level summary of what people said; captures what is important to the community; and provides direction beyond the ten-year period of the plan.

Place-based approach

Towong Shire has adopted a place-based approach to master planning exemplified in the Upper Murray 2030 Vision Plan. This plan places community interests at the core of decision-making. The Council Plan 2021-25 identifies community engagement as a key strategy to deliver Council's Strategic Objective 'Organisational Improvement'.

This strategy, places people at the centre of conversations about the future planning of the communities in which they live, work, study, visit and recreate. It is based on the belief that the people who are part of a community are best placed to understand and identify their needs.

Why do we need a Place Plan

Regional towns in Australia have experienced significant growth in recent years increasing pressure on services, housing, jobs, and infrastructure. The five towns – Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta – all face unique challenges, as well as opportunities, that have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the bushfires of 2019-20.

Our Town Towards 2030 has looked at ways to strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of the towns by helping each community to identify and prioritise its future needs, services and opportunities. The co-design project has enabled current communities' input into how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

Project purpose

The purpose of the project is to:

+ Develop a vision shared by the community and other stakeholders.
+ Identify community aspirations and opportunities to address the challenges facing the township.
+ Support the community to prioritise their future needs, services, and opportunities.
+ Align community and other stakeholder expectations including how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

How to read this document

This document is structured in four parts commencing with a project introduction, and understanding of the context and township as the first part.

The second part provides an overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat and Engagement 2: Planning Ahead.

The third part is the Place Plan comprised of the Big Ideas, and the objectives, actions and outcomes that will bring the ideas to life.

The fourth part is the Implementation Plan comprised of objectives, priorities, timing, and key partners.

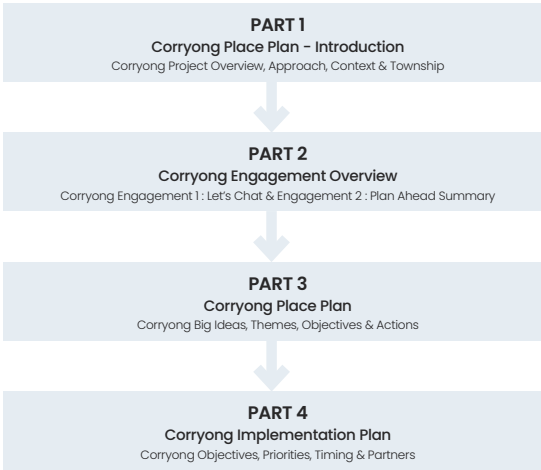


Figure 2. Format of this document, Corryong Place Plan.

Figure 3. Engagement 2 workshop, Corryong.

1.2 Creating a shared vision

Three engagement touchpoints were developed as part of a co-design process to inform the town vision and place plan. A broad spectrum of stakeholders, including residents, workers, visitors, students, and government authorities were included across all three engagement touchoints.

Place-based approach & asset based engagement

The engagement process was highly inclusive and collaborative to co-design solutions with the community that build upon the strengths, assets, and opportunities for each town. This is called an asset-based approach. Asset based engagement recognises and builds upon the value and resources that exist within the community.

Engagement touchpoints

As the first of three touch points, Engagement 1 was an opportunity to introduce the Our Town Towards 2030 project to each of the five communities and have conversations with people to understand what they value about their town and what really matters to them.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to present the Big Ideas, report back what we heard and how this could translate into future initiatives / projects, asking did we get it right?

Engagement 3 is the final engagement touchpoint. Feedback from Engagement 2 was collated and used to finalise the place plans during 'Delivering the Vision', keeping the community informed of the final project outcomes.

Figure 4. Three engagement touchpoints.

Figure 5. View of Corryong with Mount Mitta Mitta Regional Park in the background.

1.3 Understanding the context

Every project begins with an understanding of the people, location and physical characteristics that define the township. Understanding the township at different scales – from regional, township to town centre – helps to build a picture of the unique features and qualities that contribute to place identity.

Region

With a population base of 1,348 inhabitants, Corryong is one of the largest towns servicing the predominantly farming community, located in the Upper Murray region across the Victorian and NSW border and the Snowy Hydro project.

Located 10km west of the Murray River, the township is a gateway to the Australian Alps and ski fields in Mount Kosciuszko.

Corryong was established in the 1870s as a service centre for the region.

We understand that prior to European settlement the area was home to the Jaitmathang, Dhudoroa, Ngarigo and the Wolgal First Nations people.

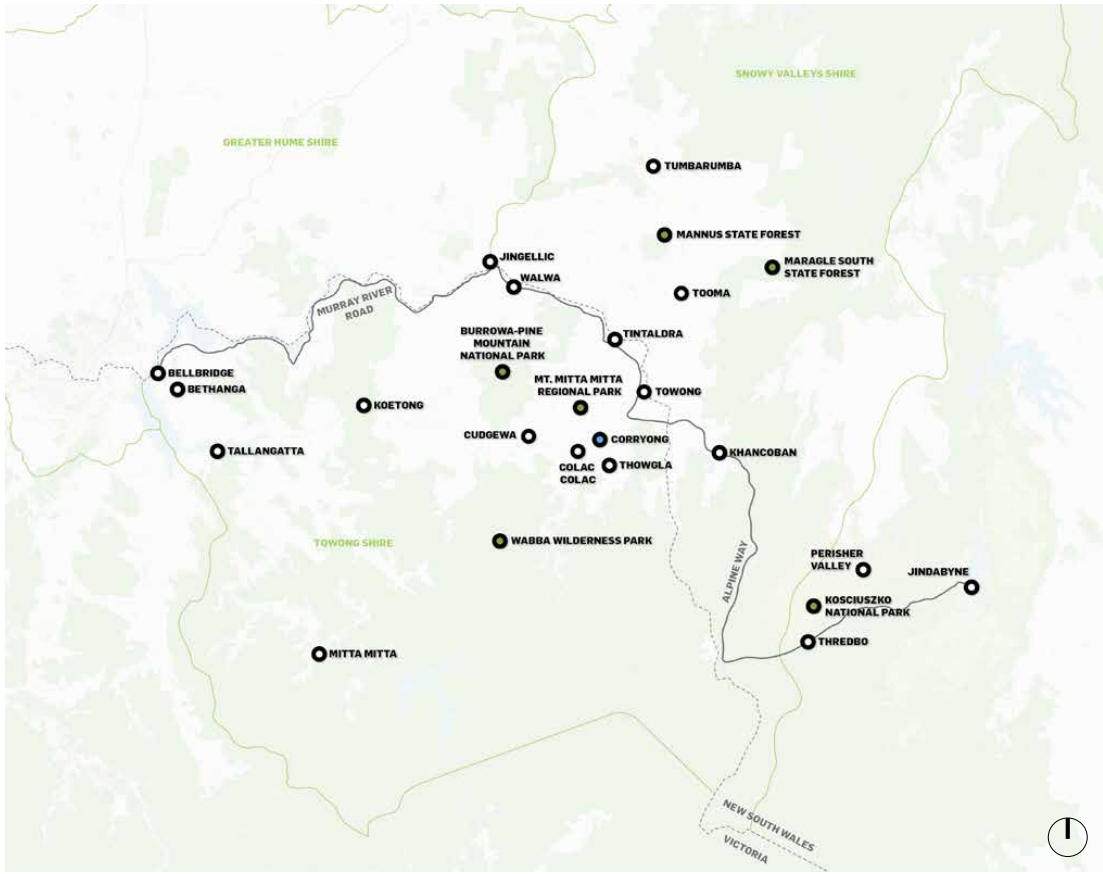


Figure 6. Regional context.

1.3 Understanding the context

Township

The township of Corryong covers an area of approximately 167 hectares of land gently sloping upwards towards the east and becoming steeper towards the south.

Located on the Murray Valley Highway through-route from Albury-Wodonga to Khancoban and the Alpine Way, the remote township is framed by regional and national parks to the north and south providing a scenic backdrop.

The compact township stretches east-west with housing to the north and south of the highway and key assets such as the airport located on the periphery of the township.

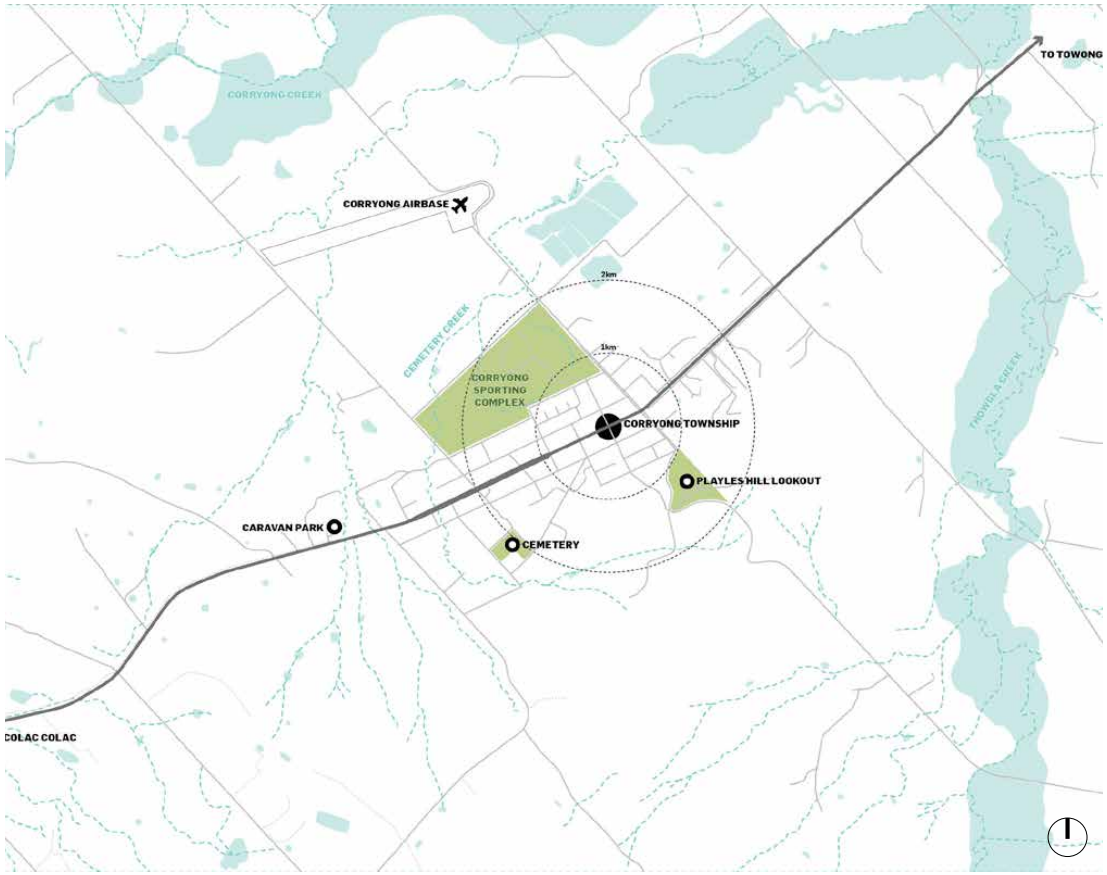


Figure 7. Township context.

Town Centre

The town centre Main street (Hanson Street), is located on the Highway with most commercial properties situated towards the eastern end of Hanson Streen.

The Corryong Recreation Reserve is a large open space to the north including the Upper Murray Events Centre, home of sports facilities, the Golf Course and location for the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival.

Key assets include the Health Service, Library and Council Offices, Airport, Man From Snowy River Museum and Visitor Information Centre servicing the region.

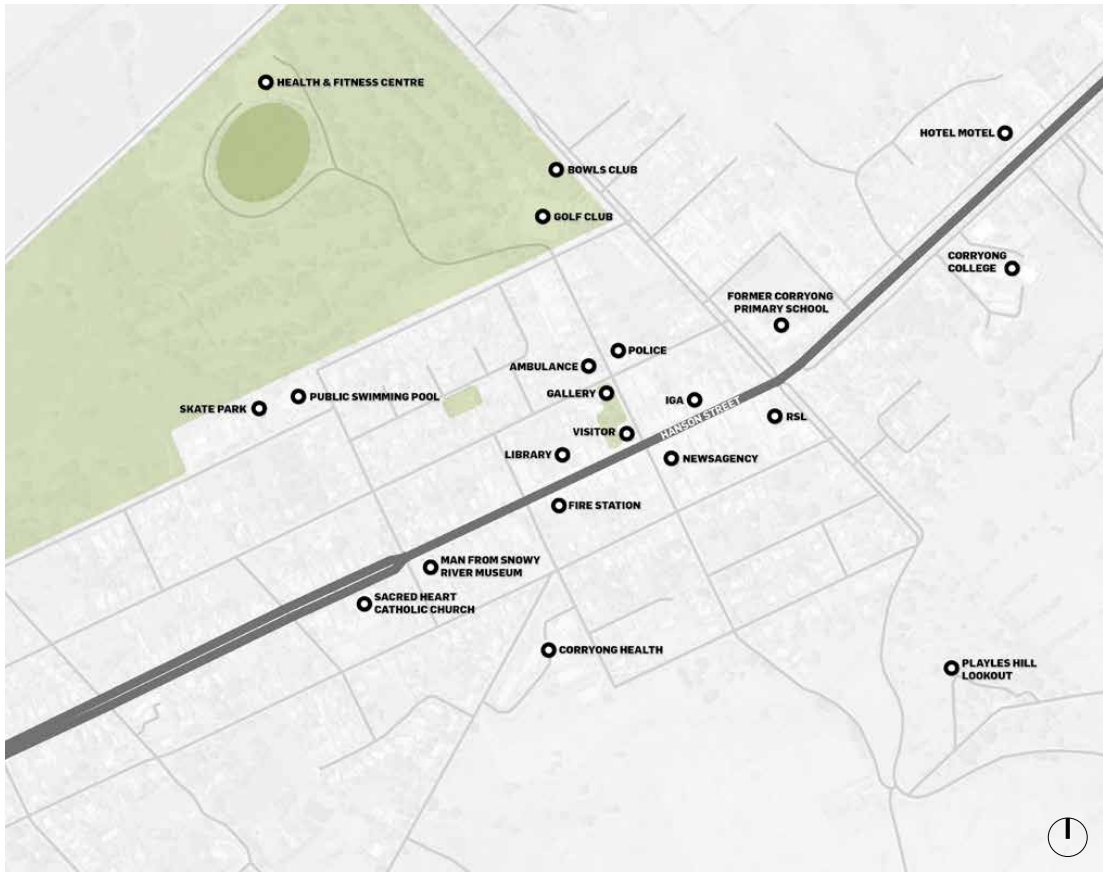


Figure 8. Town centre context.

Figure 9. View of Snowy Mountains.

Figure 10. Playles Hill Lookout.

Figure 11. Attree Park.

Figure 12. Corryong Neighbourhood Centre.

Figure 16. Man From Snowy River Festival.

Figure 13. Mount Mitta Mitta / Mount Mittamatite Regional Park.

Upper Murray

Figure 14. Upper Murray brand logo.

Figure 15. Cudgewa Bluff Falls.

1.4 Township & surrounds character

Local Character

This plan shows Corryong's character areas and heritage, highlighting the heritage planning overlays, the township area or town centre, residential areas, recreation area for parks, Playles Hill and the Corryong Recreation Reserve with Golf Course and Campground, conservation area for Cemetery Creek, public facilities such as schools, Health Service and Cemetery, public use areas for services infrastructure, industrial areas and farmland abutting the township.

Corryong includes Heritage Overlays on several buildings, the eastern portion of Hansen Street and the Cemetery. These and the character of the existing township buildings and landscape are important considerations for a discussion on how to re-imagine the future of the township.

Key facilities, features, qualities, and characteristics are captured in the adjacent images and following page.

Figure 17. Corryong planning zones, character and heritage.

Figure 18. Council offices and library.

Figure 19. Cafe Corryong.

Figure 20. Corryong Hotel Motel.

Figure 21. Corryong Bookstore.

Figure 22. Man From Snowy River Museum.

Figure 23. Jardine Lodge.

Figure 24. Corryong Courthouse Hotel.

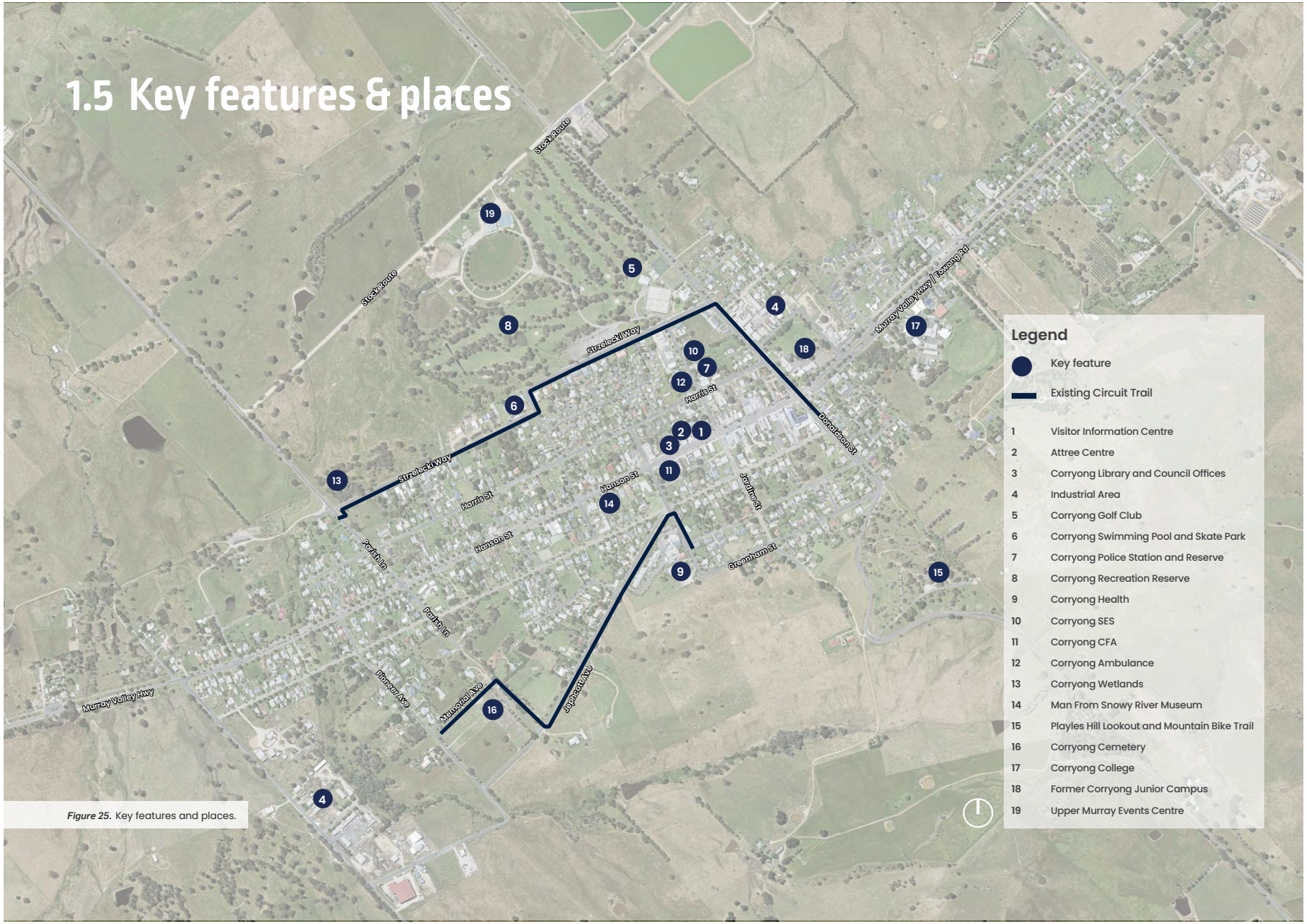


Figure 25. Key features and places.

2.0
Engagement
OUR TOWN

2.1 Engagement summary

Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy

Council's commitment to engagement is outlined in the Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy which "is committed to participatory democracy and providing community members with the opportunity to engage in decision making in relation to matters that affect them". This project has adopted key principles from Policy including:

+ Identifying key stakeholders and user groups impacted by the decisions.
+ Being respectful of and allowing space for a diversity of perspectives and views.
+ Embedding transparency and accountability by keeping participants informed and 'closing the loop'.

The Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy includes a public participation spectrum adapted from the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum with five levels of public participation: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower. This project has incorporated levels 1-4 at different stages of the project with the aim of building consensus with participants.

Engagement 1: "Lets Chat"
Diverse engagement methods

↓

Engagement 2: "Planning Ahead"
Vision & 5 Big Ideas

↓

Engagement 3: "Delivering the Vision"
Corryong Place Plan

Figure 26. Engagement touchpoints.

" The people- they make it unique. Anyone who lives here shares similar values in supporting one another and we ALWAYS give, time money and effort. Not to mention our beautiful scenery surrounding people everywhere you look and go. A hidden gem, and the real high country "

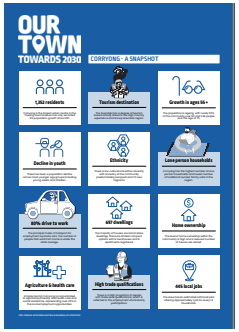
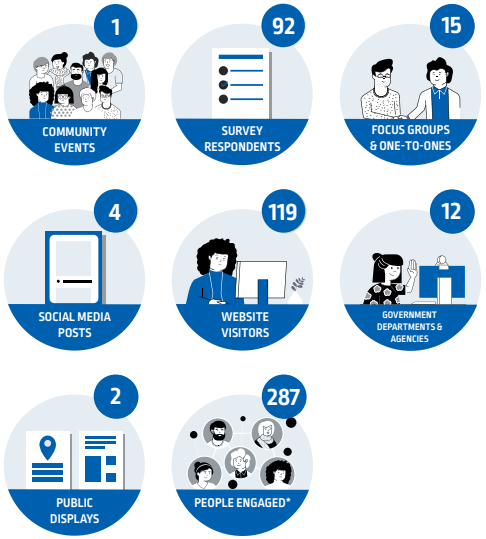


Figure 27. Engagement collateral.

Engagement 1: Let's Chat

People were informed and encouraged to participate in a variety of ways including the 'Town-hall' style meetings, face-to-face and online meetings, surveys, targeted social media posts, e-newsletter, poster and advertising. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.



Engagement 2: Planning Ahead

Similar methods were used for Engagement 2 including 'Town-hall' style workshops, face-to-face and online workshops, online survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletter, letterbox drop and advertising. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

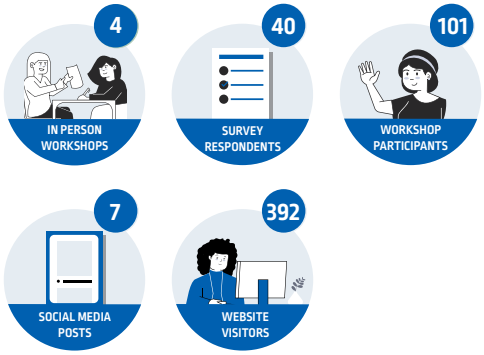


Figure 28. Engagement 1 community event, Corryong.

"Good country town with many of the services needed for sustainable day to day life."

"It's proximity to mountains, trails, snow, rivers etc. It's ability to grow / farm produce."

*Number of people engaged is approximate and does not account for market stalls.

2.2 Engagement 1: Let's chat

The first engagement, Let's Chat took place between March-April 2023 and included a broad spectrum of stakeholders – residents, workers, visitors, students, government departments and agencies.

Let's Chat included a number of methods including 'Town-hall' style meetings and events, face-to-face and online focus groups and 1:1 meetings, online and hardcopy survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters, poster and advertising.

"Let's Chat" reflects the broad and wide-ranging challenges and opportunities affecting each community. It also helps us to identify and leverage key strengths and assets in the development of the vision and place plans.

Four questions were asked, with more detailed conversations held with individuals or small groups. These were:

+ What makes your town special? What do you love and value?
+ What challenges does your town face?
+ What are the opportunities over the next 10 years?
+ What would make your town more environmentally sustainable and resilient?

The results of Let's Chat were compiled into a Draft Place Plan which includes a project introduction, overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat; vision exercise for the workshops and survey; and a summary of 'what we heard' captured in five Big Ideas with potential initiatives / projects.

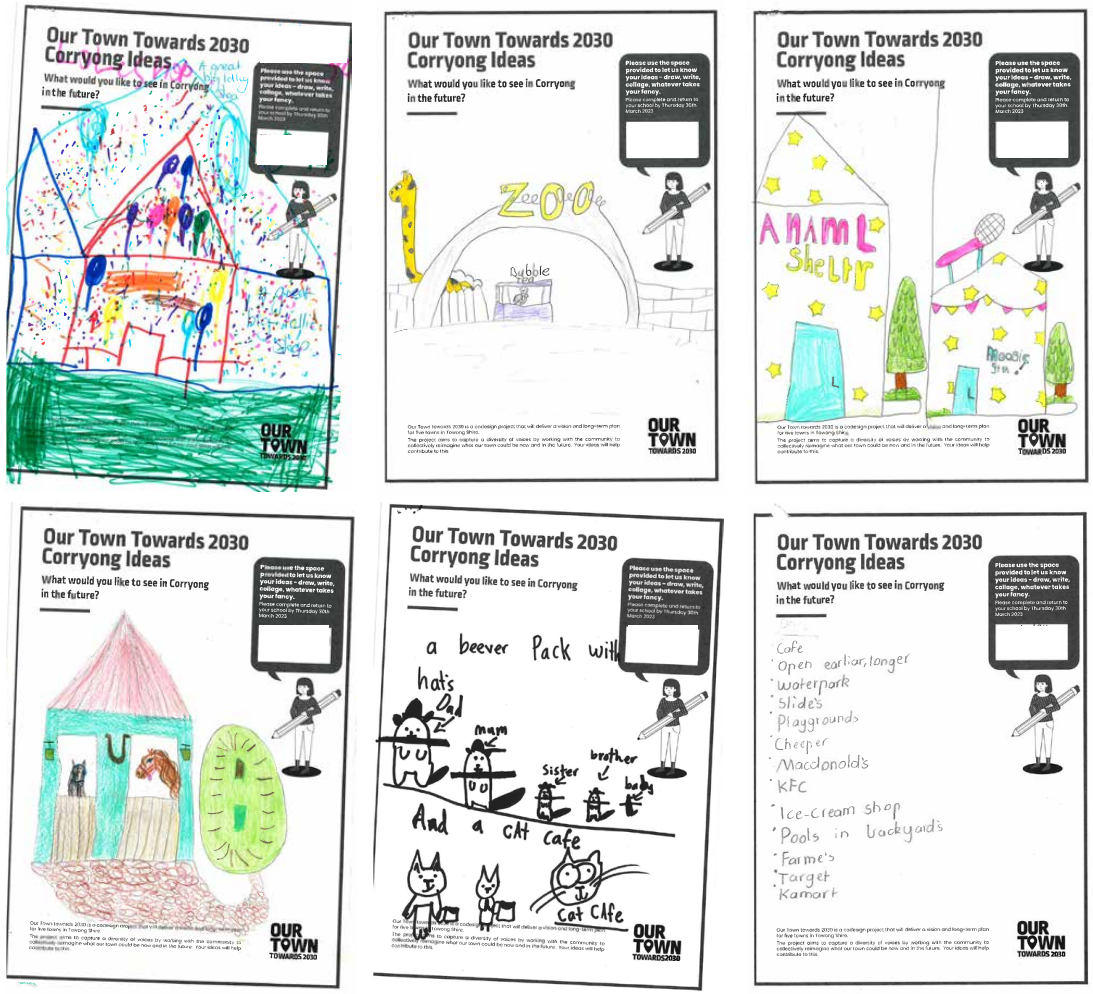


Figure 29. Responses to the Question: How can Corryong be a better place for their future. Corryong College Students, Years P-12.

"A quiet peaceful and friendly country town which is family orientated with schools, sport and family events and a close-knit community"

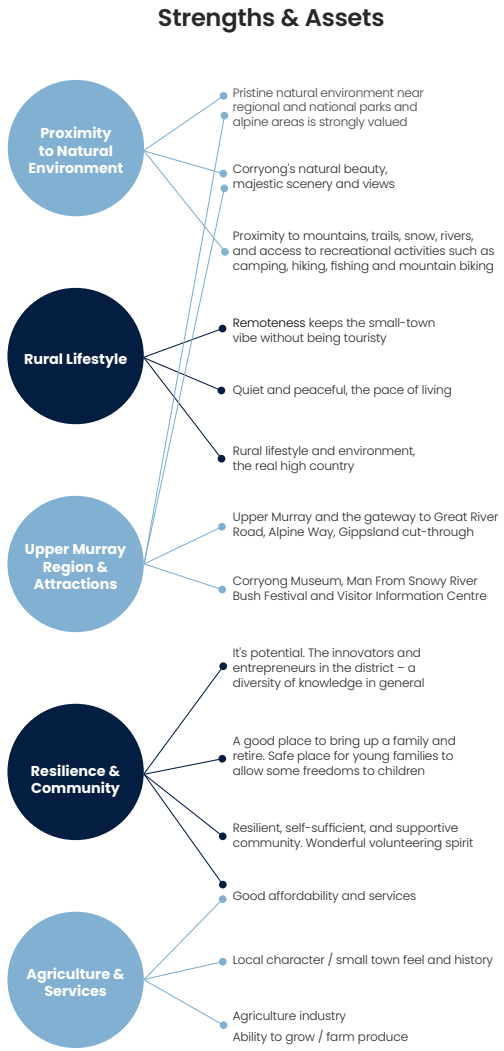
Strengths, Assets & Challenges

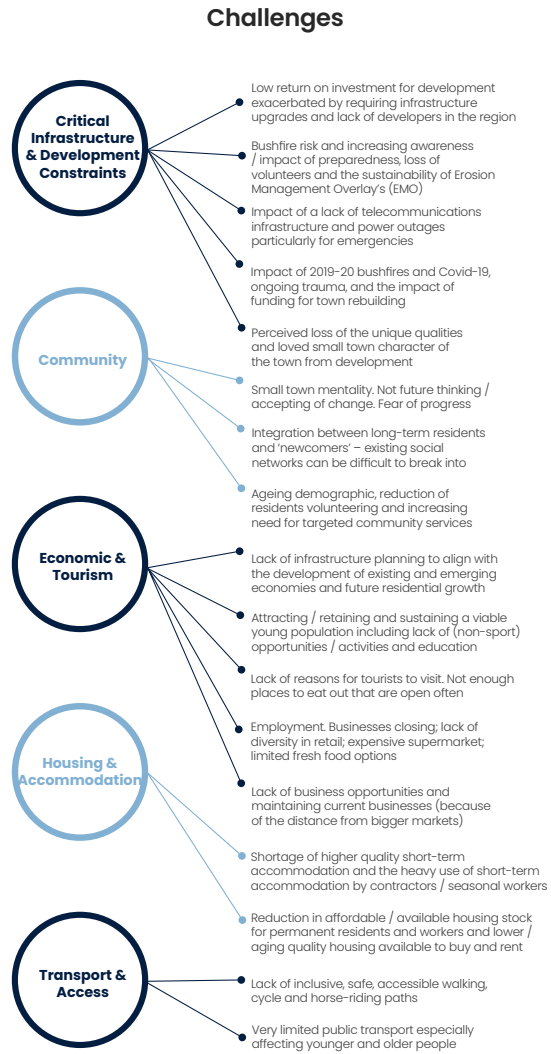
An analysis of responses to the questions 'What makes your town special?' and 'What do you love and value?' are summarised in the following strengths and assets, with responses to the question 'What challenges does your town face?' summarised in the following challenges. These have informed the vision and big ideas for the place plan.

Big Ideas

The five Big Ideas for Corryong broadly capitalise on:

+ The towns role as a major urban centre servicing the Upper Murray region to strengthen the local economy with a focus on the town centre.
+ Corryong's tourism potential as a gateway to the Snowy's including recreational activities and potential in adventure tourism.
+ A focus on improvements to the liveability and sustainability of the township.





2.3 Engagement 2: Planning ahead

The second engagement, Planning Ahead took place between November 2023-January 2024 and included residents, workers, visitors, and government authorities. Planning Ahead was comprised of in-person workshops and an online survey replicating the face-to-face workshops. The workshop and survey were based on the Draft Place Plan which captured the key directions and outcomes to emerge from 'what we heard' during Engagement 1: Let's Chat.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to provide feedback on the Engagement 1 findings. A vision exercise was held with participants during the workshop to prioritise key words for the overarching direction for the place plan. These words were used to create the town vision.

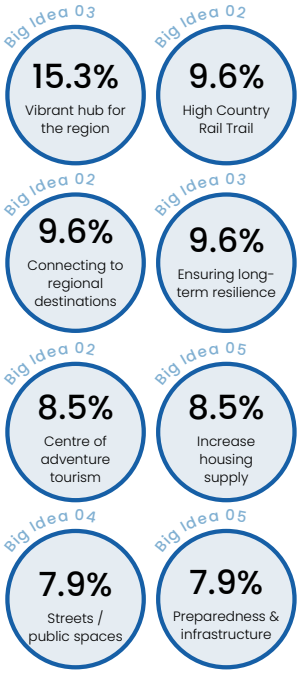
The five Big Ideas for Corryong were presented to participants, followed by two prioritisation exercises. The first exercise was focused on themes, with participants requested to select their top three. The second exercise was based on the initiatives / projects under each theme. Participants were requested to select their top ten initiatives / projects.

Results from the prioritisation exercise are captured in the diagram to the right. While Big Idea 02, 03, 04 and 05 included the highest priority themes, across the four ideas, 'Major service centre for the region', 'Gateway to the Snowy's & centre of adventure tourism' and 'Sustainable housing for a resilient community' were the highest rated big ideas.

Big Idea		Theme
01	Revitalise main street, strengthen heritage & small town character	1.1 Welcoming arrival and main street character 1.2 Main street and employment opportunities
02	Gateway to the Snowy's & centre of adventure tourism	2.1 Centre of adventure tourism 2.2 High Country Rail Trail 2.3 Connecting to regional destinations / attractions
03	Major service centre for the region	3.1 Vibrant hub for the region 3.2 Ensuring long-term resilience
04	Age & environmentally friendly streets & public spaces	4.1 Streets / public spaces 4.2 Cycle paths 4.3 Nature areas and vegetation
05	Sustainable housing for a resilient community	5.1 Increase land supply 5.2 Increase housing supply 5.3 Preparedness and infrastructure

Theme Priorities

The highest rated themes across all Big Ideas are captured below.



Initiative & Project Priorities

During Engagement 2 stakeholders were requested to prioritise the most important initiatives / projects listed under each theme. The following six initiatives / projects were rated as the top priorities for the community. Some initiatives / projects received equal rating and are grouped together. For example, 'New Aquatic & Indoor Sports Centre' and 'Disaster / resilience planning & emergency preparedness' received equal support at 5.3%.

TABLE OF HIGHEST RATED SURVEY RESULTS

Priority	Big Idea	Theme	Percentage	Project
#1	02	2.1	7.0%	Complete the High Country Rail Trail.
#2	01	1.1	6.3%	Upgrade Former Corryong Junior Campus as a civic hub.
#3	02	2.2	5.5%	Connecting to new regional destinations (new roads).
#4	01	1.1	5.3%	New Aquatic and Indoor Sports Centre.
		1.2	5.3%	Disaster / resilience planning and emergency preparedness
#5	02	2.3	4.6%	Centre of adventure tourism.

"Natural beauty.
High country history.
Ease of access to natural bush.
High country huts / heritage"

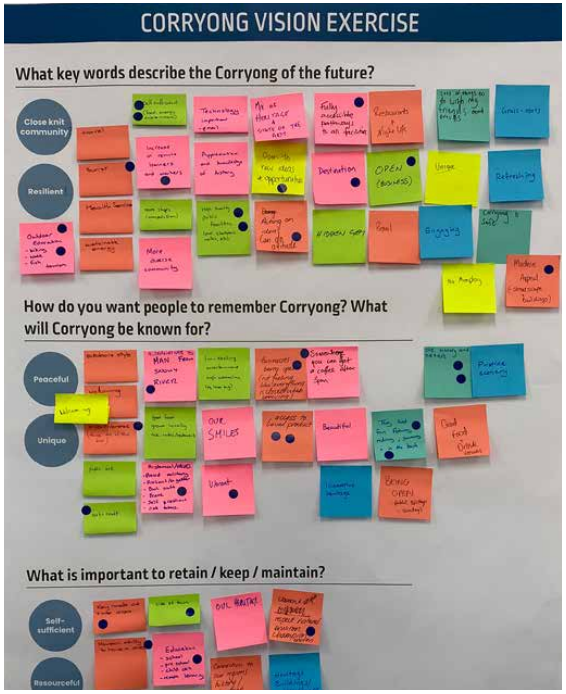
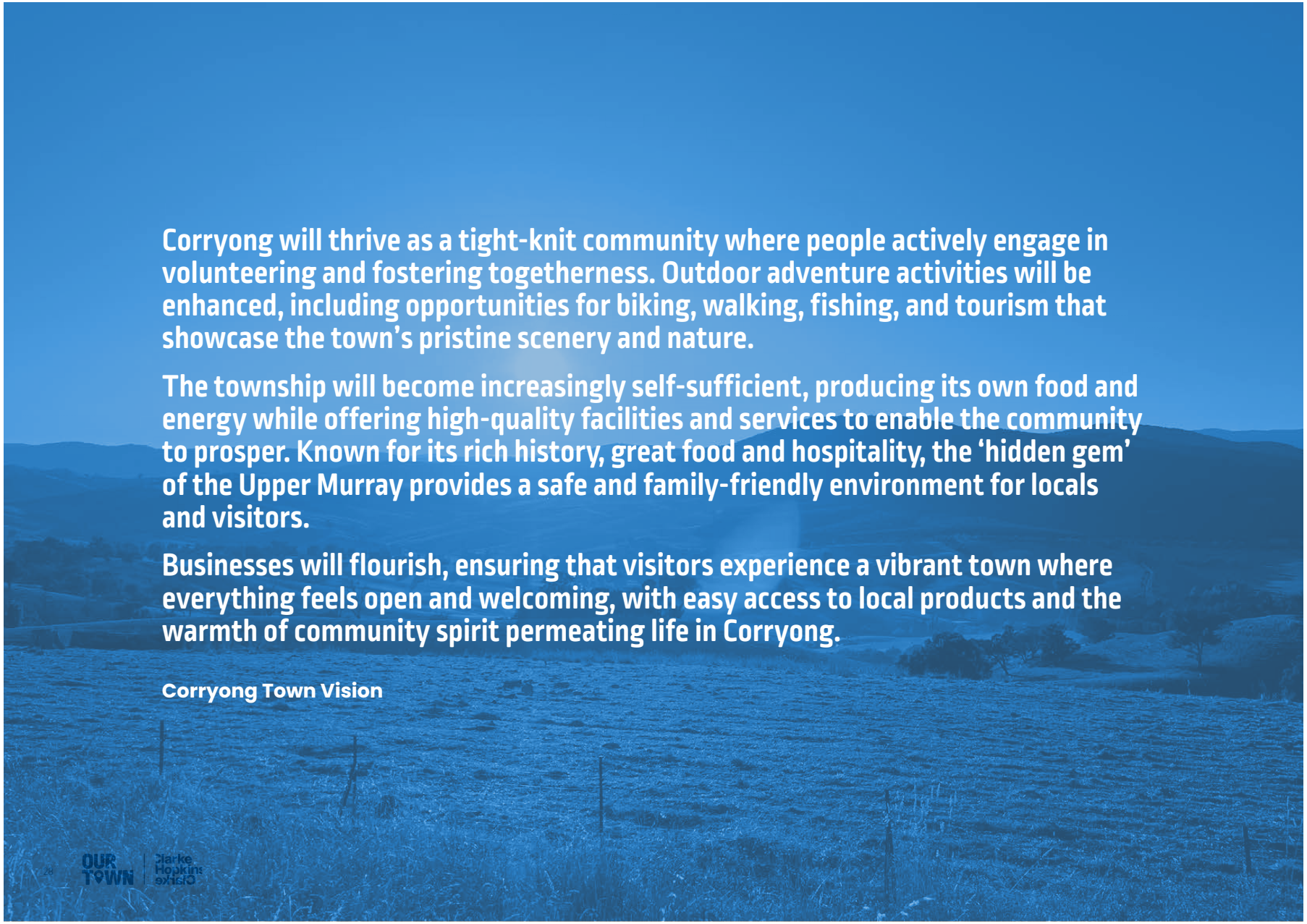


Figure 30. Engagement 2 vision exercise, Corryong.

3.0
Visitor Information
Place Plan
OUR TOWN


Corryong will thrive as a tight-knit community where people actively engage in volunteering and fostering togetherness. Outdoor adventure activities will be enhanced, including opportunities for biking, walking, fishing, and tourism that showcase the town's pristine scenery and nature.
The township will become increasingly self-sufficient, producing its own food and energy while offering high-quality facilities and services to enable the community to prosper. Known for its rich history, great food and hospitality, the 'hidden gem' of the Upper Murray provides a safe and family-friendly environment for locals and visitors.
Businesses will flourish, ensuring that visitors experience a vibrant town where everything feels open and welcoming, with easy access to local products and the warmth of community spirit permeating life in Corryong.
Corryong Town Vision
28
OUR TOWN
Clarke Hopkins Clarke

3.1 Big ideas summary

Five Big Ideas emerged from an analysis of responses from Engagement 1. These were tested with community during Engagement 2. All of the big ideas received support, however, it was clear through the analysis that followed, that there are clear priorities across the community. These priorities are reflected in the numbering of each big idea with 'Major service centre for the region' receiving the most support, followed by 'Gateway to the Snowy's & centre of adventure tourism', 'Sustainable housing for a resilient community', Age & environmentally friendly streets & public spaces' and ' Revitalise main street, strengthen heritage & small town character'.

Format of the Big Ideas

Each Big Idea is comprised of themes that describe the outcomes we are seeking to achieve. Each theme includes a series of objectives outlining the different components that make up each theme. Each objective lists actions required to implement the objective. The actions can be initiatives or projects.

Figure 31. Format of the Big Ideas.

Big Idea	Theme
01 Major service centre for the region	1.1 Vibrant hub for the region 1.2 Ensuring long-term resilience
02 Gateway to the Snowy's & centre of adventure tourism	2.1 High Country Rail Trail 2.2 Connecting to regional destinations / attractions 2.3 Centre of adventure tourism
03 Sustainable housing for a resilient community	3.1 Increase housing supply 3.2 Preparedness and infrastructure 3.3 Increase land supply
04 Age & environmentally friendly streets & public spaces	4.1 Streets / public spaces 4.2 Nature areas and vegetation 4.3 Cycle paths
05 Revitalise main street, strengthen heritage & small town character	5.1 Main street and employment opportunities 5.2 Welcoming arrival and main street character

3.2 Big Idea 01 Major centre servicing the region

Theme 1.1: Vibrant Hub for the Region

What we heard

As a remote township in the far north-east of the state, Corryong is strongly connected to the Upper Murray region, with half of the region located in NSW. The township is one of the largest urban centres in the Upper Murray and provides facilities and services for the township and broader area. Engagement 1 findings indicated a need to increase the number of health and education services, improve existing facilities and provide new facilities to support an ageing population, families, younger people wanting to stay in the area, people looking for a tree change and new employees.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Upgrade Former Corryong Junior Campus as a Civic Hub
+ 2 - New Aquatic and Indoor Sports Centre
+ 3 - Create Centre of training for agriculture / emerging industries
+ 4 - Upgrade Corryong Recreation Reserve.

What is proposed

This Big Idea proposes to strengthen Corryong's role as a community hub and service centre offering the services and facilities to ensure the sustainability and liveability, not only of the town but also the broader region. Key opportunities to strengthen Corryong's role include:

+ Creating a vibrant new civic hub
+ Improving the swimming pool
+ Supporting the arts and culture community
+ Creating a centre for training and education.

Objective 1: Strengthen community facilities and services within the town centre

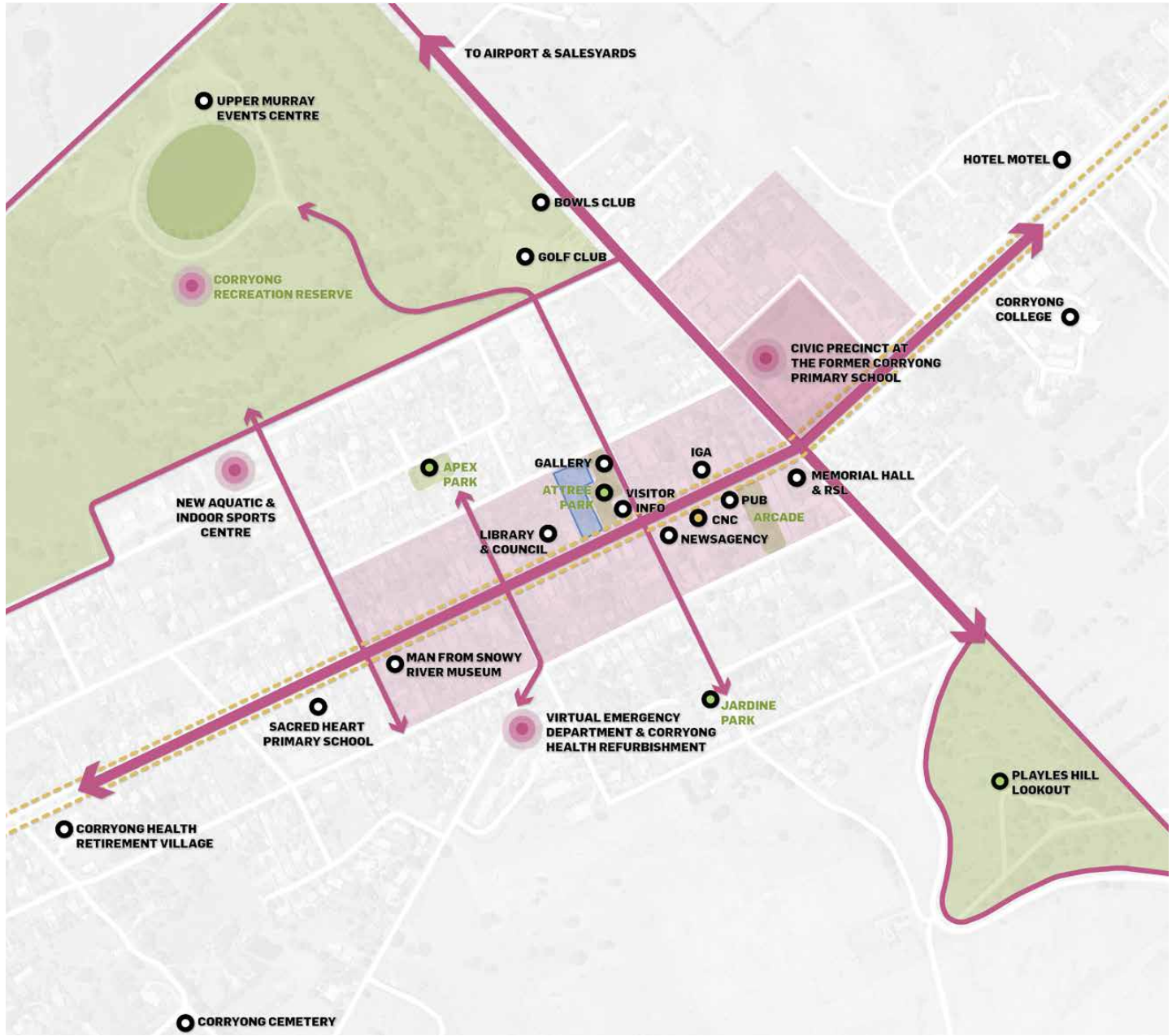
Action 01: Create a civic precinct at the Former Corryong Junior Campus to strengthen the township's social heart.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to create a hub for arts and culture at the Former Corryong Junior Campus.

Action 03: Explore the opportunity to reuse the kindergarten and maternal child health buildings in Attree Park for artists workshop spaces, and Davis Cottage as a cafe in the park, if the spaces become available as a result of the creation of a civic precinct at the Former Corryong Junior Campus.

Action 04: Explore the opportunity to develop a retirement village at the Library and Council offices site, if the spaces become available as a result of the creation of a civic precinct at the Former Corryong Junior Campus.

Figure 32. Create a vibrant civic hub at the Former Corryong Junior Campus.



Legend

- CYCLE PATH
- COMMERCIAL CENTRE
- CIVIC HUB
- STREETSCAPE UPGRADES
- KEY LINKS
- OPEN SPACE
- KEY DESTINATIONS / COMMUNITY FACILITIES
- POTENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT OF KINDERGARTEN & MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH BUILDING

1:5,000 @ A3

0 150mm

3.2 Big Idea 01 Major centre servicing the region

Objective 2: Investigate options to create an Aquatic and Indoor Sports Centre

Action 01: Investigate the feasibility of expanding the existing pool to include an Aquatic and Indoor Sports Centre with indoor pool(s), theropod for older people, hydrotherapy pool, indoor netball court and basketball court.

Action 02: Consider how to better integrate the pool site with the Corryong Recreation Reserve and improve walking and cycling links including car parking for an expanded facility.

Objective 3: Create a Centre of Training for Agriculture and Emerging Industries

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to create an Agriculture School for the region to support the diversification of the industry including potential sites to partner with regional education providers.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities to provide vocational training facilities for existing and emerging industries – hospitality, energy, Landcare and Snowy Hydro employees. Consider the Former Corryong Junior Campus as a potential location.

Figure 33. New skate park at the Former Corryong Junior Campus.

Figure 34. New library at the Former Corryong Junior Campus incorporating heritage buildings.

Figure 35. New amphitheater at the Former Corryong Junior Campus.

Objective 4: Develop a master plan for the Corryong Recreation Reserve

Action 01: Develop a master plan for the Corryong Recreation Reserve in partnership with key stakeholders to better utilise the existing site including:

+ Upgrade / expansion of areas used for the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival
+ Indoor riding arena
+ Day-to-day recreational use such as seating, shade and picnic areas.

Action 02: Investigate the need to improve existing gym facilities at the Corryong Recreation Reserve.

Action 03: Consider including the pool site and potential Aquatic and Indoor Sports Centre within the project area for the Corryong Recreation Reserve master plan to improve connections between the two facilities.

Figure 36. New day-to-day facilities at the Corryong Recreation Reserve.

Figure 37. New Aquatic and Indoor Sports Centre. Gippsland Regional Aquatic Centre, Traralgon.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Major centre servicing the region

Theme 1.2: Ensuring Long-Term Resilience

What we heard

There are plans to install a microgrid for energy generation and storage in Corryong aimed at providing continuous energy supply during emergencies. Essential infrastructure is highlighted on this plan, including the location of proposed community batteries at the Recreation Reserve and Corryong Health. To our knowledge, SES has not been identified as essential infrastructure.

Engagement 1 findings show that renewable energies, water reuse / recycling and waste minimisation / recycling followed by bushfire preparedness, were regarded as the highest priorities to make Corryong more environmentally sustainable and resilient.

Agencies involved in emergency preparedness include Victoria Police, CFA, SES, Ambulance Victoria and DEECA. Consultation with Landcare members and emergency services organisation provided guidance on future proofing the township in the face of future hazards and disasters.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Disaster and resilience planning and emergency preparedness
+ 2 - Improve transport and health services
+ 2 - Renewable energy, water / green waste reuse and recycling.

What is proposed

This Big Idea supports the resilience of the town centre and by extension the Upper Murray region, by ensuring it can continue to function during events such as the bushfires of 2019-20, and continue to be resilient in the future.

In addition, increasing health and transport services and environmental measures such as recycling / reusing waste and water, and clean energy generation are seen as an important contributions to improving the township's resilience.

Objective 1: Undertake and implement disaster and resilience planning to guide the future development of the township

Action 01: Undertake a Bushfire Risk Assessment to guide the future growth of the township.

Action 02: Incorporate disaster and resilience planning to reduce the impact of man-made and natural hazards and disasters.

Action 03: Ensure that hazard resilience is incorporated into the future planning for buildings, infrastructure and vegetation, including an increase in capacity for stormwater drainage and run-off, infrastructure that can cope with floods and storms, and vegetation that can reduce the risk of fire and wind damage.

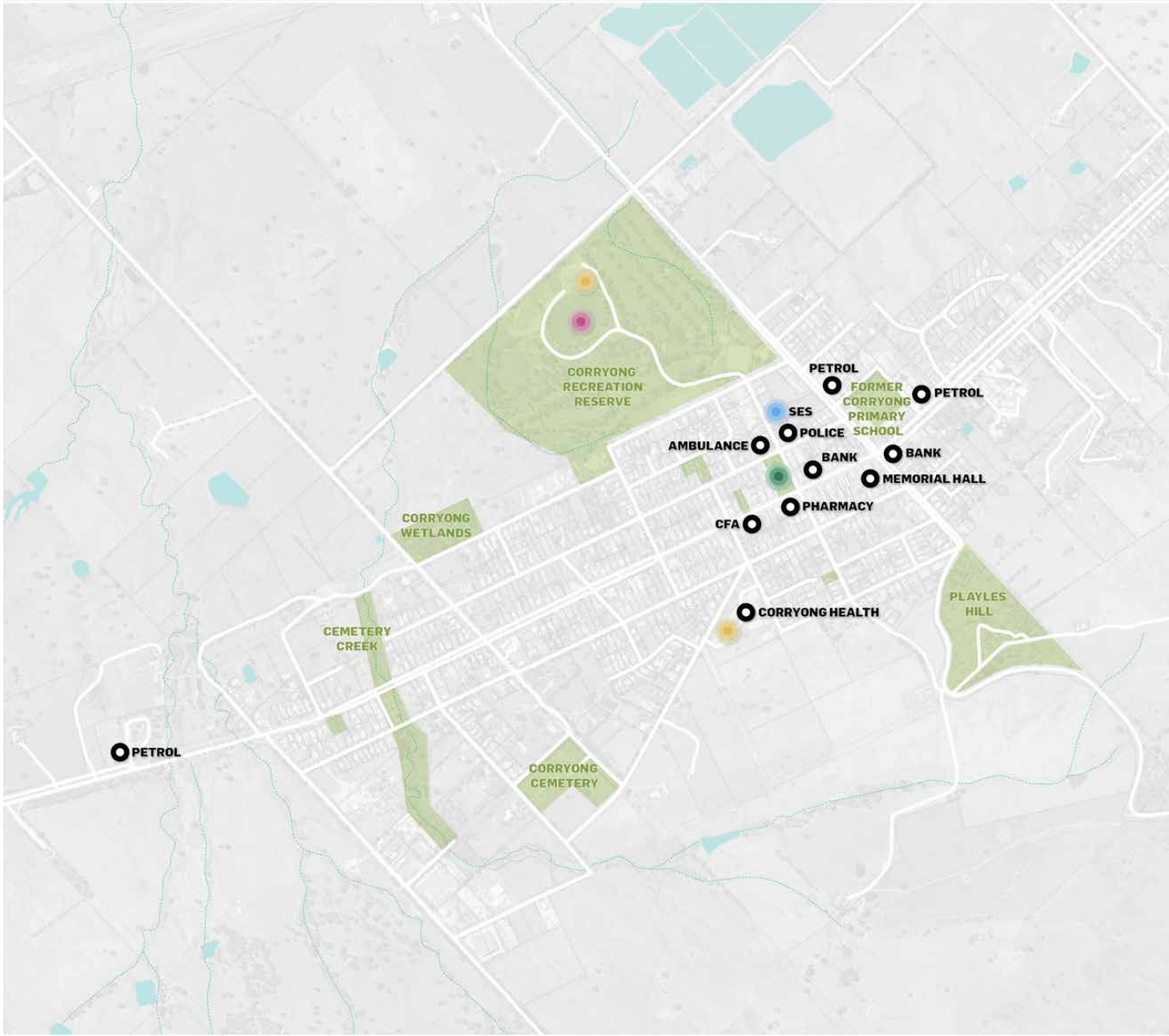
Figure 38. Example of community battery with artwork.

Legend

- ESSENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE
- RELIEF CENTRE
- PLACE OF LAST RESORT
- COMMUNITY SCALE BATTERY
- PROPOSED ADDITION TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE: MICRO-GRID NETWORK

SCALE 1 : 10,000 @ A3

0 300m



3.2 Big Idea 01 Major centre servicing the region

Objective 2: Improve emergency preparedness by supporting emergency services and organisations

Action 01: Support emergency services organisations to stem the loss of volunteers including developing a succession strategy to recruit younger volunteers and exploring potential options such as a web-based community app.

Action 02: Investigate options to facilitate and support volunteers including increasing representation of minority groups.

Action 03: Plan for future upgrade and potential needs of existing emergency services and infrastructure as the population increases including consultation with emergency services organisations for projects such as adventure tourism which can impact existing commitments.

Objective 3: Expand and support the provision of reliable power during emergencies

Action 01: Investigate opportunities to include SES in the implementation of the microgrid.

Action 02: Strengthen the implementation of the microgrid with the upgrade of low voltage power lines.

Action 03: Improve public space outcomes by incorporating screens with artwork to community battery infrastructure in highly visible public areas.

Figure 39. Example of services infrastructure with artwork.

Objective 4: Improve health and transport services to increase equitable access for all ages and abilities

Action 01: Undertake a service review to determine the additional health / care and social services required.

Action 02: Increase access to services at Corryong Health and investigate the need for potential refurbishment of the facility.

Action 03: Investigate alternate health care models i.e. 'hospital in the home' to support community to remain within the local community.

Action 04: Provide education about the local services available to community members and investigate how to support people to take-up preventative treatment.

Action 05: Investigate the feasibility and potential options for creating a 24/7 'virtual emergency department' at the Health Service.

Action 06: Investigate options for improving public transport options including a car sharing system and community buses with designated pick-up / drop-off locations for health services and the tourism opportunities.

Objective 5: Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling

Action 01: Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation for water, solar and wind to create a self-sufficient and isolated energy supply for each community.

Action 02: Provide training and education opportunities for renewable technologies to increase knowledge and uptake on private property.

Action 03: Increase learning in schools on climate change.

Action 04: Maintain use of gas until alternatives can provide reliable energy supply.

Action 05: Improve recycling and green waste collection and management including initiatives such as regular opportunities for chip pruning and garden timber for mulch.

Action 06: Provide opportunities for education and capacity building in recycling and up-cycling.

Action 07: Investigate options to provide a waste recycling facility.

Action 08: Identify barriers and investigate options to reduce water use, increase reuse for buildings and community facilities including on-site water storage.

Action 09: Investigate the opportunity to introduce a sustainability scoreboard to measure / communicate water usage or water levels for the township.

Figure 40. Alternative power sources. Yackandandah town battery.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Gateway to the Snowy's & centre of adventure tourism

Theme 2.1: Centre of Adventure Tourism

What we heard

The Upper Murray Community Recovery Committee identified adventure tourism as a priority for community recovery after the 2019-20 bushfires to develop tourism opportunities and tourist attractions. As the last main service centre before Mount Kosciuszko National Park with a manned Visitor Information Centre, Corryong is already a popular stopover for tourists.

Survey findings from Engagement 1 indicated that people feel Corryong would benefit from having more reasons to stay or visit the township. Comments were also made about the difficulty of accessing information about the region before arriving in the town, and that access to this information would encourage visitors passing through to spend a night or two en-route to the Snowy Mountains.

The popularity of the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival was also identified as an opportunity for the township to develop more events.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Centre of adventure tourism (tourist destination)
+ 2 - Gateway to the Snowy Mountains (marketing and tourist information)
+ 3 - Short-term accommodation and agritourism
+ 4 - Leveraging the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival (increase events).

What is proposed

This Big Idea capitalises on the opportunity to develop Corryong as a tourist destination through:

+ Adventure tourism opportunities
+ Trails and shared paths for walking, cycling, running and horse riding
+ Events and marketing
+ Improved visitor services and accommodation
+ Other tourism opportunities related to agriculture.

Objective 1: Promote Corryong as the centre of adventure tourism

Action 01: Investigate potential adventure tourism opportunities that capitalise on the natural environment and build upon initiatives underway such as the Playles Hill Mountain Bike, and hang-gliding at Mt Elliot including but not limited to niche markets in extreme sports events and cycling.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities for improving trails, outdoor activities and camping at Mount Elliot, Mount Mitta Mitta / Mount Mittamatite, Mount Burrowa-Pine Mountain National Park, Cherry Tree Lane and Thowgla Valley / Falls.

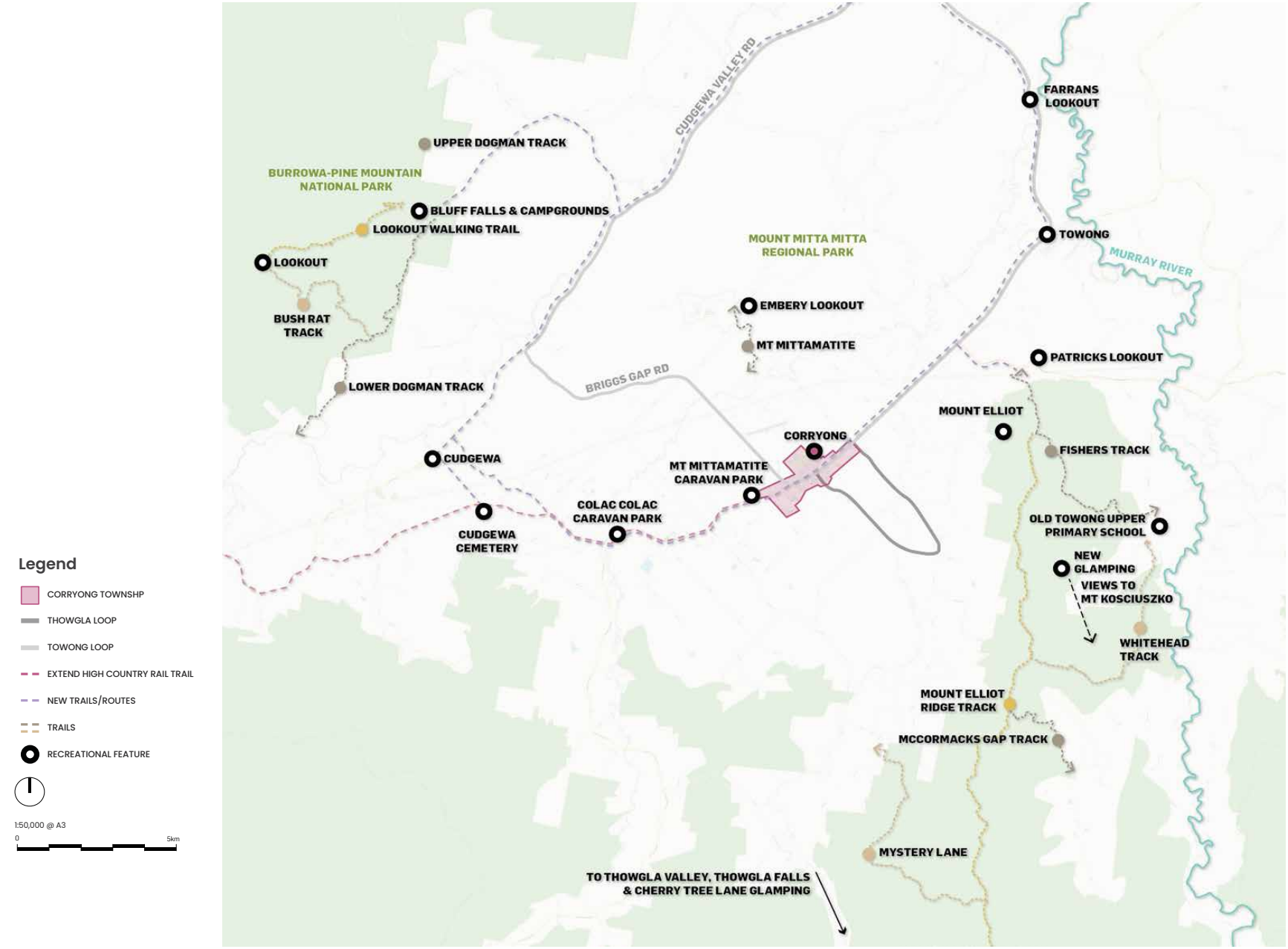
Action 03: Investigate the development of the LifeCycle Upper Murray High Country Rail Trail Extension – Gravel Trail around Mittamatite.

Action 04: Investigate the opportunity to create a loop trail connecting Colac Colac with Cudgewa Township and Cudgewa Cemetery.

Action 05: Investigate the opportunity for a tree-top walk.

Figure 41. Opportunities for pump track.

Figure 42. Opportunities for adventure tourism.


CUDGEWA VALLEY RD
FARRANS LOOKOUT
UPPER DOGMAN TRACK
BURROWA-PINE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
BLUFF FALLS & CAMPGROUNDS
LOOKOUT WALKING TRAIL
MOUNT MITTA MITTA REGIONAL PARK
TOWONG
MURRAY RIVER
LOOKOUT
BUSH RAT TRACK
EMBERY LOOKOUT
MT MITTAMATITE
PATRICKS LOOKOUT
BRIGGS GAP RD
LOWER DOGMAN TRACK
MOUNT ELLIOT
CORRYONG
CUDGEWA
FISHERS TRACK
MT MITTAMATITE CARAVAN PARK
COLAC COLAC CARAVAN PARK
OLD TOWONG UPPER PRIMARY SCHOOL
CUDGEWA CEMETERY
NEW GLAMPING VIEWS TO MT KOSCIUSZKO
WHITEHEAD TRACK
MOUNT ELLIOT RIDGE TRACK
MCCORMACKS GAP TRACK
MYSTERY LANE
TO THOWGLA VALLEY, THOWGLA FALLS & CHERRY TREE LANE GLAMPING
Legend
CORRYONG TOWNSHP
THOWGLA LOOP
TOWONG LOOP
EXTEND HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
NEW TRAILS/ROUTES
TRAILS
RECREATIONAL FEATURE
1:50,000 @ A3
0
5km

3.3 Big Idea 02 Gateway to the Snowy's & centre of adventure

Objective 2: Market Corryong as the Gateway to the Snowy Mountains

Action 01: Develop a marketing campaign to strengthen Corryong's role as the Gateway to the Snowy Mountains and Alpine National Park and a destination for adventure tourism and extreme sports.

Action 02: Improve online access to information on the township, region, destinations and attractions to support the development of the visitor economy.

Objective 3: Support the increase of short-term accommodation and agritourism

Action 01: Provide a range of short-stay accommodation and cabins including accommodation catering for the premium end of the market, tiny homes / cabins in landscape settings, eco-resort / lodge with high quality accommodation and farm stay accommodation.

Action 02: Explore agritourism opportunities that capitalise on the local industries including farmgate experiences with learning opportunities and workshops.

Figure 43. New eco-lodge accommodation.

Figure 44. Marketing campaign as the gateway to the Snowy Mountains and Alpine National Park.

Objective 4: Leverage the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival by expanding the events calendar

Action 01: Expand the events calendar for community and visitors in conjunction with a marketing campaign to promote Corryong and the Upper Murray region.

The following areas have been identified for consideration:

+ Food offering with farmgate, farm-to-plate, and hospitality activities
+ Music, arts / dance and cultural activities
+ Towong Race Course and equestrian events
+ Sports and recreation activities
+ Agribusiness and learning
+ Touring and running itineraries
+ Landcare and environmental activities.

Action 02: Develop a program to utilise the airport for niche products and tourism services including holiday packages.

Figure 45. Cycling routes through the Snowy Mountains, L'Étape Australia 2016, Snowy Mountains.

Figure 46. Leveraging the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival with an increasing number of events.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Gateway to the Snowy's & centre of adventure

Theme 2.2: High Country Rail Trail

What we heard

The High Country Rail Trail has been identified by business owners – among other stakeholder – as an important driver of local economic development for the township, by strengthening Corryong as a tourist destination. With an increase in cycling tourism in the north-east and a projected forecast expected to double the number of cycle tourists over the next 10 years, Corryong is well-placed to capitalise on this growing market.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

In this instance, the High Country Rail Trail was singled out as a theme and initiative / project. In both categories, the 'High Country Rail Trail' rated very highly, sharing the second highest theme ranking with 'Connecting regional destinations / attractions' and 'Enduring long-term resilience'.

The initiative / project of the same name was ranked as the highest priority across the spread of initiatives and projects indicating a high level of support in the survey results.

What is proposed

This Big Idea is to complete the Rail Trail from Shelley and address any gaps or maintenance requirements. Current works include:

+ Replacement of three bushfire-damaged footbridges
+ Detour at Needles Picnic Area.

Other areas to capitalise on the potential of this market include accommodation, cycle hubs and services, food and beverage operators and tour operators.

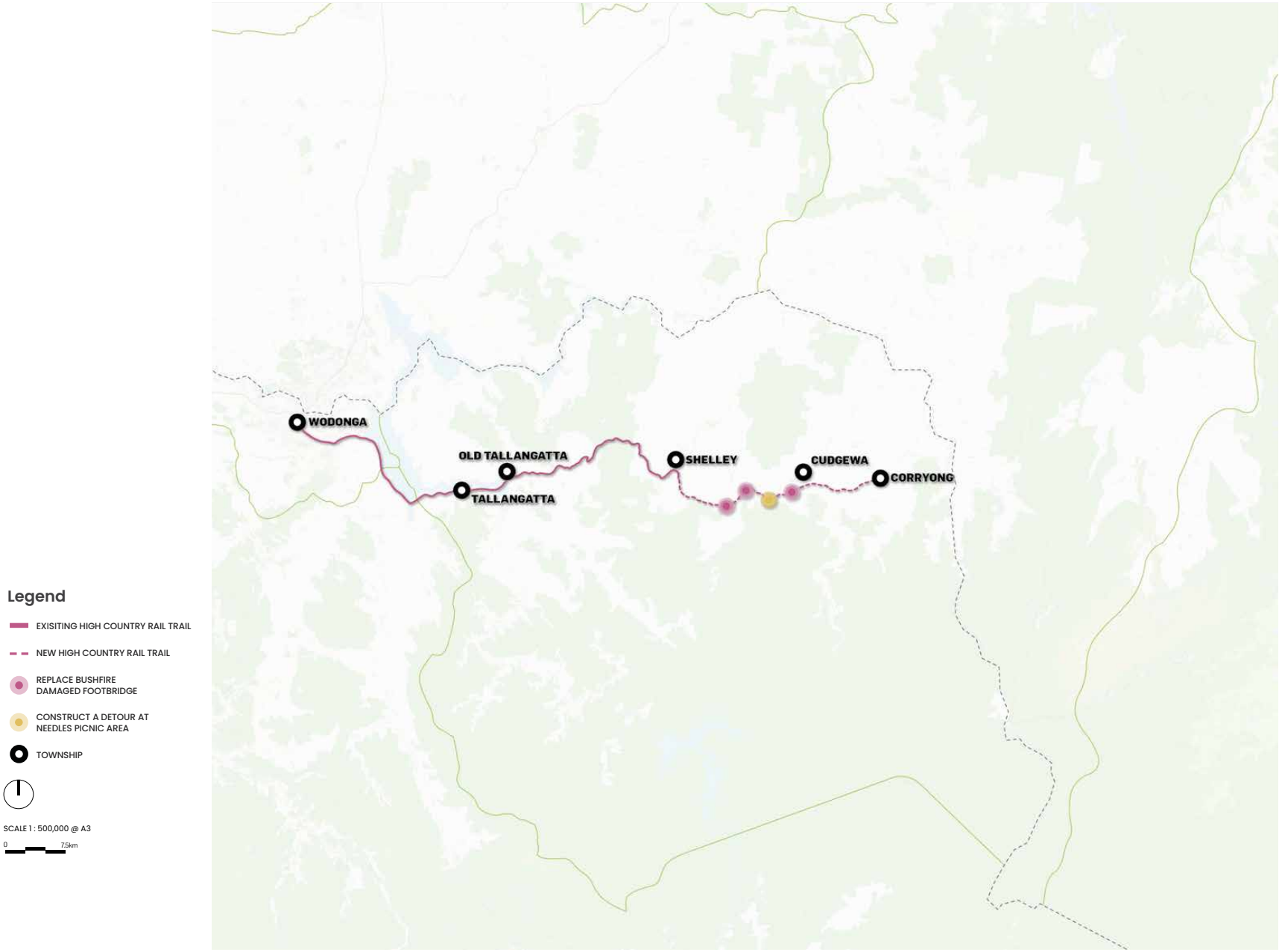
Objective 1: Plan for and deliver the remaining sections of the High Country Rail Trail

Action 01: Replace existing damaged footbridges.

Action 02: Construct a detour at the Needles Picnic Area.

Action 03: Ensure the Rail Trail is fully accessible.

Figure 47. Extending the High Country Rail Trail to Corryong.


WODONGA
OLD TALLANGATTA
TALLANGATTA
SHELLEY
CUDGEWA
CORRYONG
Legend
EXISITING HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
NEW HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
REPLACE BUSHFIRE DAMAGED FOOTBRIDGE
CONSTRUCT A DETOUR AT NEEDLES PICNIC AREA
TOWNSHIP
SCALE 1 : 500,000 @ A3
0
7.5km

3.3 Big Idea 02 Gateway to the Snowy's & centre of adventure

Theme 2.3: Connecting to Regional Destinations / Attractions

What we heard

As a remote township in the far north-east of the state, Corryong is strongly linked to townships to the east and north, with fewer connections to the south.

Road transport is the primary form of transport in the region with very limited public transport available for those unable to drive a car. It is also critical for emergency services, transporting goods and services and ensuring that the township can continue to function.

Road maintenance was identified as a key area of concern with damaged roads and bridges significantly increasing the distance required to travel. This became a critical factor during the 2019-20 bushfires when bridges across the Murray River were not accessible.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

In this instance, connecting to regional destinations / attractions was singled out as a theme and initiative / project. In both categories, 'Connecting to regional destinations / attractions' rated very highly, sharing the second highest theme spot with 'High Country Rail Trail' and 'Enduring long-term resilience'.

The initiative / project of the same name was ranked as the highest priority across the spread of initiatives and projects indicating a high level of support in the survey results.

What is proposed

This Big Idea proposes to increase connectivity across the region by improving roads and providing safe routes to key destinations and attractions. This includes increasing access to nearby attractions to support the visitor economy while also supporting key services and economic development for the township and Upper Murray region. New connections including a potential route to Gippsland would open up access to another catchment / market to the Upper Murray region.

Objective 1: Upgrade and maintain existing roads and plan for new routes to improve connectivity across the Upper Murray region

Action 01: Investigate potential routes to improve road connections to Corryong to support emergency services and the townships role as a service hub for the Upper Murray region.

Figure 48. Increasing connectivity with new / improved roads.

GREATER HUME SHIRE
SNOWY VALLEYS SHIRE
BURROWA-PINE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK
MOUNT MITTA MITTA REGIONAL PARK
CORRYONG
TOWONG SHIRE
WABBA WILDERNESS PARK
KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL PARK
TO GIPPSLAND
Legend
POTENTIAL ROUTE OMEO GIPPSLAND
REGIONAL PARK
TOWNSHIP
SCALE 1 : 1,000,000 @ A3
0
25km

3.4 Big Idea 03 Sustainable housing for a resilient community

Theme 3.1: Increase Housing Supply

What we heard

Engagement 1 findings indicated that a lack of housing supply and choice for residents and workers including rentals is a key issue in the township, with job vacancies unable to be filled without housing. This includes short-term accommodation being used by contractors. While there are a significant number of vacant lots within the township, there are key barriers to development including the cost of construction and services, the provision of infrastructure and a lack of builders / trades people.

Corryong has an ageing population with the highest number of people in the 55+ age group. Engagement 1 and 2 revealed a need for more options to cater for a range of needs including farmers wanting to downsize and live in the town close to services and amenities. In addition, people with particular needs who require in-home support are living in the Retirement Village due to lack of any alternative options.

Current services available for the elderly include Mittamatite Lodge Residential Aged Care, Upper Murray Retirement Village and support services such as Home Care, community transport, Meals On Wheels, Day Activity Centre and Palliative Care, with access to medical and mental health services. While the available services are an asset to the township, comments from community members reflect a need to provide additional accommodation options that cater for diverse needs including dementia and supported accommodation.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

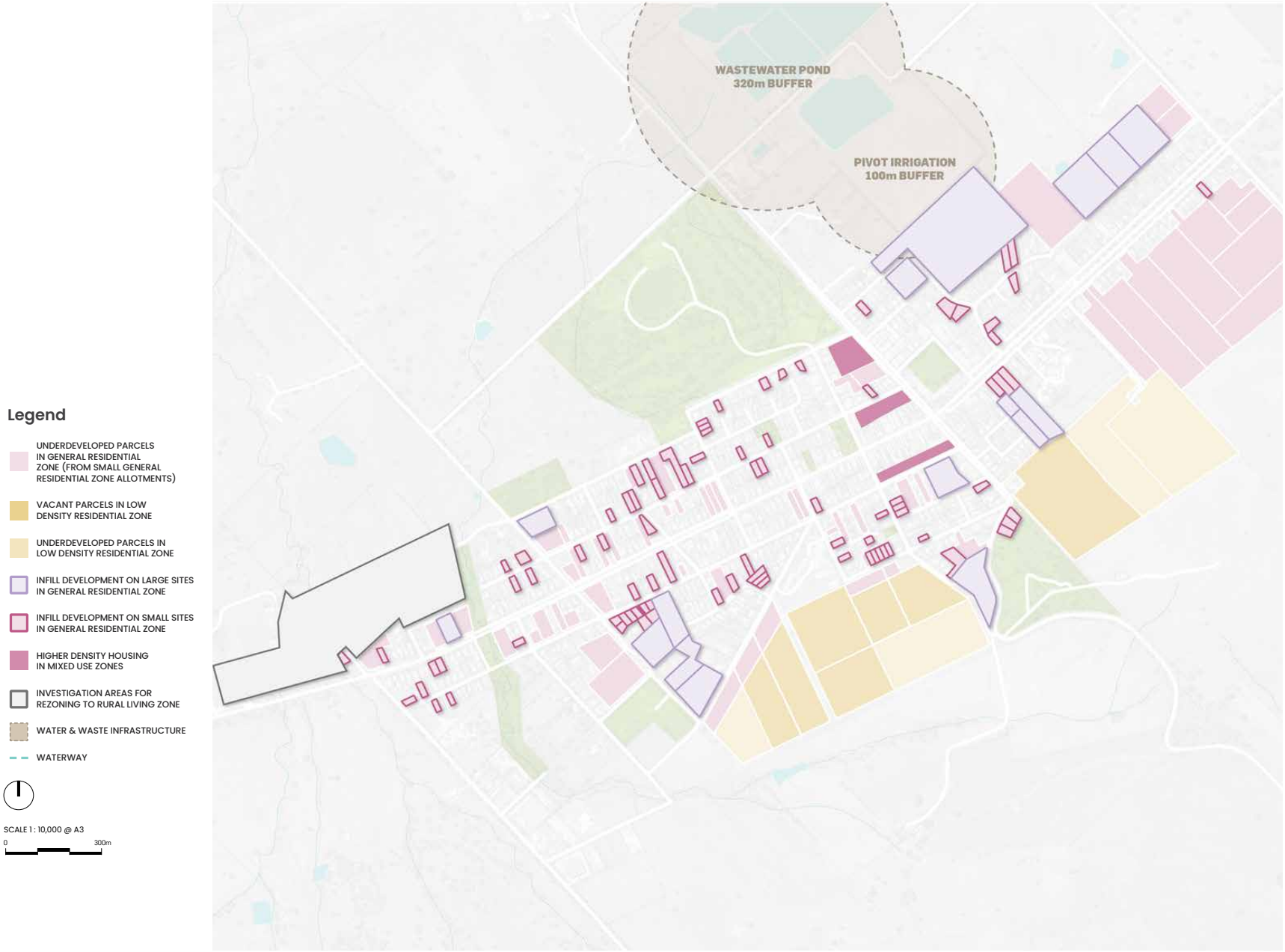
+ 1 - Prioritised housing for key communities
+ 2 - Increase housing within the township boundary (infill lots / shop-top housing)
+ 3 - Increase housing choice
+ 4 - Investigation area and rural activity zone for land rezoning.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to support the long-term growth and sustainability of the township through a series of proposals including:

+ Infill housing on small and larger lots within the township
+ Increasing housing choice with more diverse product including medium density housing in proximity to the town centre (flats / townhouses / shop-top housing)
+ Additional accommodation options for an ageing population and people with particular needs
+ Potential partnerships with state government for affordable / social housing
+ Opportunity to provide housing for seasonal workers / contractors to free up short-term accommodation for visitors.

Figure 49. Explore diverse housing models with shared facilities.


WASTEWATER POND
320m BUFFER
PIVOT IRRIGATION
100m BUFFER
Legend
UNDERDEVELOPED PARCELS IN GENERAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE (FROM SMALL GENERAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE ALLOTMENTS)
VACANT PARCELS IN LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONE
UNDERDEVELOPED PARCELS IN LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONE
INFILL DEVELOPMENT ON LARGE SITES IN GENERAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE
INFILL DEVELOPMENT ON SMALL SITES IN GENERAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE
HIGHER DENSITY HOUSING IN MIXED USE ZONES
INVESTIGATION AREAS FOR REZONING TO RURAL LIVING ZONE
WATER & WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE
WATERWAY
SCALE 1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.4 Big Idea 03 Sustainable housing for a resilient community

Objective 1: Increase the supply of housing prioritised for key communities

Action 01: Investigate pathways with government to reduce housing used for short-term accommodation.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities to partner with state and local government to deliver social and affordable housing.

Action 03: Investigate opportunities to provide:

+ Supported accommodation in the community, for people with a disability
+ Aged care homes for older people who can no longer live independently at home
+ Supported independent living
+ Dementia Village.

Action 04: Investigate options to increase the number of rental properties.

Action 05: Provide a greater range of housing typologies to increase housing choice and accommodate a variety of household types and changing demographic needs including for ageing in place, younger families, key sector workers and seasonal worker accommodation.

Action 06: Investigate options for developing the Uniting Church site for additional Retirement Living accommodation.

Objective 2: Investigate opportunities to increase housing within the township

Action 01: Explore opportunities to provide infill housing on small and large vacant / undeveloped land within the township with access to existing critical infrastructure (water, sewerage, telecommunications).

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide residential dwellings above new commercial / retail development at ground level in Mixed-Use Zones.

Action 03: Consider appropriate residential densities such as medium density dwellings including townhouses / flats in proximity to the retail core and town centre amenity.

Action 04: Investigate potential large sites in the General Residential Zone to develop affordable housing in partnership with Council and State Government

Figure 50. Retirement living.

Objective 3: Consider potential rezoning of land to increase housing supply

Action 01: Investigate options to increase residential density on existing Rural Activity Zones on the edge of the township and provide a differentiated residential product to the market subject to the recommendations of a Bushfire Risk Assessment.

Action 02: Investigate rezoning existing farmland to Rural Living Zone, to provide an alternative residential product to conventional housing typically delivered through the General Residential Zone, subject to the recommendations of a Bushfire Risk Assessment.

Action 03: Engage with DTP to explore reforms to zones / overlays that limit the number of houses / lot or the minimum lot size area on farmland.

Figure 51. Increasing housing density with townhouses.

Figure 52. Diversifying housing types to suit different needs. Carpe Diem Dementia Village Donski Norway.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Sustainable housing for a resilient community

Theme 3.2: Preparedness and Infrastructure

What we heard

The 2019-20 bushfires had a significant impact on the township and surrounding areas that continues to be felt by the local community. The Corryong Recovery Committee an initiative of the State Government, was established in response to the bushfires to engage local people in the bushfire recovery program. Many community members were involved – and continue to volunteer their time – to developing and implementing key directions identified across the community for the allocation of recovery funding.

Bushfire risk and preparedness will continue to be an important consideration for the community and the future development of the township. In addition, while there is investment underway in the upgrade of critical infrastructure (and in particular water and waste treatment), it is imperative that upgrades support the future direction and growth of the township.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Bushfire preparedness
+ 2 - Critical infrastructure upgrades
+ 3 - Energy efficient buildings.

What is proposed

This Big Idea proposes to prioritise bushfire preparedness, ensuring that new and existing development incorporate measures to minimise the impact of bushfires and better prepare the community for future events.

Other priorities include:

+ Ensuring that critical infrastructure (water, sewerage and telecommunications) supports people's livelihood and the future growth of the township
+ Provide access to information on cost-effective measures to prepare for future events and retrofitting existing buildings for energy efficiency.

Objective 1: Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township

Action 01: Ensure that all residential development is subject to the recommendations of a Bushfire Risk Assessment.

Action 02: Upgrade existing buildings, manage vegetation and ensure new buildings comply with requirements and guidelines to mitigate the impact of bushfires.

Action 03: Develop cost-effective methods to retrofit existing buildings for bushfire preparedness.

Objective 2: Plan and advocate for critical infrastructure upgrades to support the future development of the township

Action 01: Implement NEW plans to build storage within the town currently 3.5km away.

Action 02: Advocate for further upgrades required for water quality and buffers (noise, chlorine and gas).

Action 03: Ensure there are no future land use conflicts with the existing pivot irrigation system and future sensitive residential land uses on the General Residential Zone land to the south.

Action 04: Advocate for NEW to align upgrades to existing water and sewerage systems with long-term growth projections including for emerging industries which require high water usage.

Objective 3: Develop initiatives to improve the energy efficiency of buildings

Action 01: Develop cost-effective measures to retrofit existing buildings for energy efficiency.

Figure 53. View from Playles Hill lookout.

3.5 Big Idea 04 Age & environmentally friendly streets & public spaces

Theme 4.1: Improve Streets and Public Spaces

What we heard

Corryong is a walkable town, with many services and features accessible within walking distance. Engagement 1 findings show that the community has identified open space and footpath / street drainage improvements, increasing tree canopy shade for urban heat island and native vegetation as key opportunities. Not surprisingly considering the ageing population, comments were made about the poor condition of footpaths for mobility aids, particularly near the Health Service. With an ageing population, and a clear desire for older people to live within the township and walk to the shops and facilities, providing mobility friendly infrastructure will become increasingly important.

Engagement 1 findings also indicated a very ambitious goal to create the first township to achieve 50% shade to all footpaths and roads, coupled with suggestions to improve the physical appearance of the township with trees.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

In this instance, the two initiatives / projects under the theme 'Improve streets and public spaces' were ranked in equal first position across the three themes in this Big Idea – 'Improve streets and public spaces', 'Connected and safe cycle paths' and 'Increase nature areas and vegetation'. The initiatives / projects in equal first position are:

+ 1 - Footpaths, public spaces improvements and maintenance
+ 1 - Increase tree canopy cover.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to strengthen the walkability of the township, to encourage a healthier and active lifestyle and improve the tree canopy cover. A focus for Corryong is to provide shaded, age-friendly footpaths to encourage walking to key destinations / community facilities. Other opportunities include improvements to the street environment and open spaces.

Key opportunities include:

+ Setting an ambitious target for tree canopy cover across the township
+ Providing accessible footpaths and crossings for an ageing population
+ Improving public spaces for all ages and abilities.

Objective 1: Increase tree canopy cover throughout the township

Action 01: Develop a plan to increase tree canopy cover throughout the township to improve streets and cool the urban environment by:

+ Setting a standard of 50% shade to all footpaths and roads at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on a mid-summer's day.
+ Promoting the ambitious target for the township to become the first town in Australia to achieve this standard and outcome.

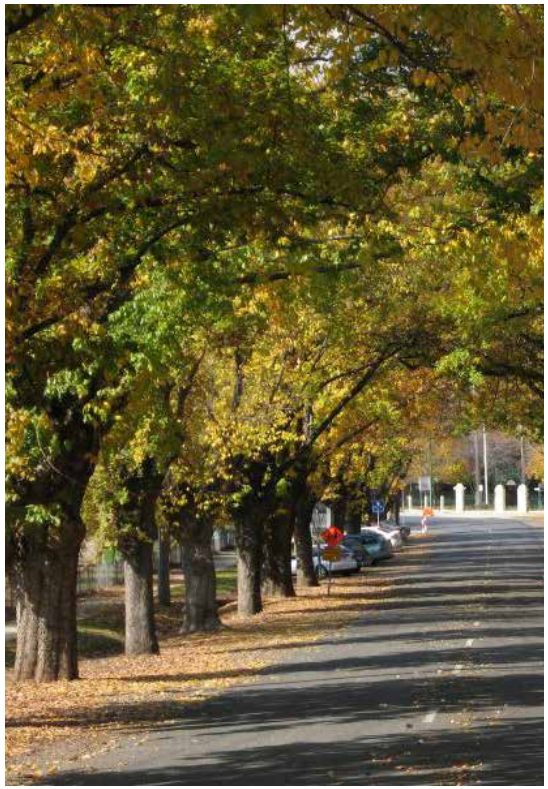
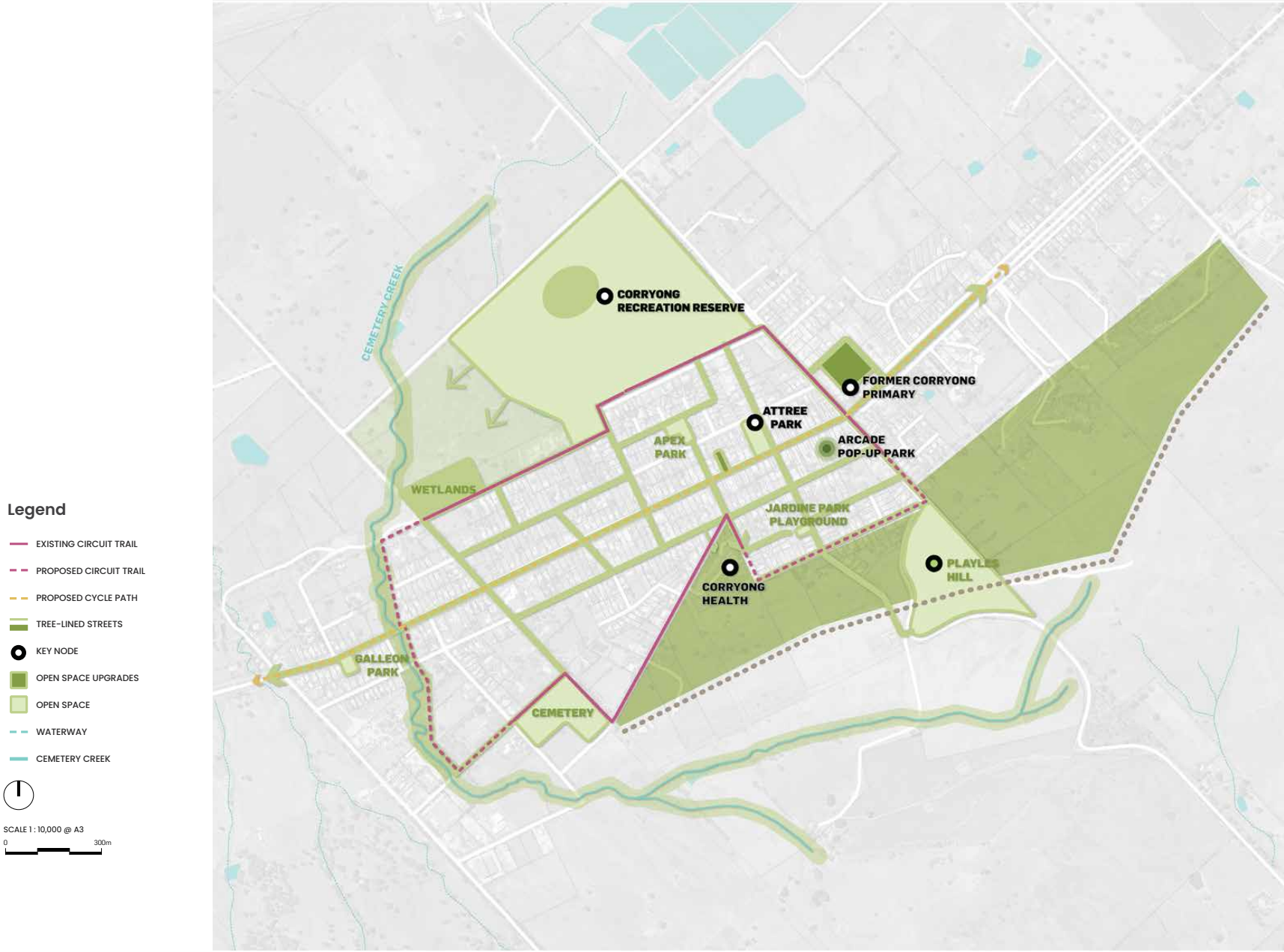


Figure 54. Increase shady streets and create a welcoming arrival. Continuous tree canopy, Yackandandah.


CEMETERY CREEK
CORRYONG RECREATION RESERVE
FORMER CORRYONG PRIMARY
ATTREE PARK
APEX PARK
ARCADE POP-UP PARK
WETLANDS
JARDINE PARK PLAYGROUND
PLAYLES HILL
CORRYONG HEALTH
GALLEON PARK
CEMETERY
Legend
EXISTING CIRCUIT TRAIL
PROPOSED CIRCUIT TRAIL
PROPOSED CYCLE PATH
TREE-LINED STREETS
KEY NODE
OPEN SPACE UPGRADES
OPEN SPACE
WATERWAY
CEMETERY CREEK
SCALE 1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.5 Big Idea 04 Age & environmentally friendly streets & public spaces

Objective 2: Provide age-friendly and well-maintained footpaths and drainage

Action 01: Ensure footpaths and crossings are fully accessible and built to minimum accessible gradients such as for wheelchairs, scooters, wheelie walkers and prams.

Action 02: Provide wayfinding and interpretive signage at key decision points.

Action 03: Investigate the benefits of providing a range of soft and multi-surface walking and cycling tracks for health and rehabilitation.

Action 04: Add new footpath circuits to encourage an active and healthy lifestyle.

Action 05: Identify roads requiring new / improvements to drainage and the installation of curb and gutters.

Action 06: Improve the maintenance of footpath curb and gutters.

Action 07: Implement water-sensitive urban design principles such as swales, raingardens and permeable pavement to slow and improve water run-off quality.

Figure 55. Fully accessible footpaths.

Objective 3: Improve the quality and diversity of public spaces within the township

Action 01: Investigate opportunities to improve existing open spaces – Apex Park, Galleon Park, Jardine Park Playground, Attree Park and the Arcade – to accommodate a diversity of uses including:

+ Water fountains, picnic areas, BBQ's, seating / tables, shelter, bins, public art, lighting and wayfinding signage
+ Locations for pop-up events, food and coffee vans including power and water
+ Open spaces suited for all ages including adults / older people
+ Fully accessible public spaces.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to improve the Corryong Recreation Reserve for more day-to-day recreation such as seating, shade and picnic areas.

Action 03: Investigate the opportunity to provide a dog park.

Action 04: Investigate the opportunity to provide new open space at the Former Corryong Junior Campus.

Action 05: Investigate opportunities to increase open space in the west of the township, where there is a current lack of open space.

Figure 56. Pop-up activities in public spaces.

3.5 Big Idea 04 Age & environmentally friendly streets & public spaces

Theme 4.2: Connected and Safe Cycle Paths

What we heard

As a compact township, cycling within Corryong is an important mode of transport, particularly for younger people unable to drive. Consultation with students from Corryong College during Engagement 1 identified the need for separated and safe cycle paths within the township and to popular nearby destinations or along recreational routes. The key reason given for separated cycle paths was to increase the uptake of cycling through improved safety measures.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

In this instance, 'Connected and safe cycle paths' was singled out as a theme and initiative / project. In both categories, 'Connected and safe cycle paths' rated equal second with 'Increase nature areas and vegetation', behind 'Footpaths, public space improvements and maintenance' and 'Increase tree canopy cover' in equal first place.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to encourage an increase in cycling all round as a viable mode of transport, to encourage a healthier and active lifestyle and to reduce fuel emissions into the environment.

A focus for Corryong is to provide a network of protected, connected and safe cycle paths to key destinations, community facilities and recreational routes.

Key opportunities include:

+ Leveraging the existing cycle paths
+ New pop-up cycling paths
+ Wayfinding signage and bicycle repair stations.

Objective 1: Provide a network of protected, connected and safe network of cycle paths

Action 01: Introduce safe and separated cycle paths with crossings along key routes. Review existing road widths to determine the most appropriate roads for cycle paths.

Action 02: Complete and upgrade the cycle path from Colac Colac to Hansen Street including:

+ New cycle path from Lebner Street
+ Widening the existing cycle path to accommodate cyclists and pedestrians
+ Addressing uneven levels and water run-off
+ Replacing gravel with a sealed surface
+ Repairing damaged culverts / waterway crossings
+ Incorporating regular maintenance of the trail.

Action 03: Provide a shared path along Cemetery Creek.

Action 04: Investigate the opportunity to provide EV charging stations for bicycles at camp grounds.

Theme 4.3: Increase Nature Areas and Vegetation

What we heard

Corryong is surrounded by majestic scenery and a pristine natural environment with nature areas and bushland the most highly rated strength and asset identified by community. However, the township is noticeable for a lack of trees and vegetation within the urban environment. Engagement 1 findings revealed a community initiative to restore wetlands to the west of the Corryong Recreation Reserve to improve habitat for local species and to encourage visitors to the area.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

In this instance, 'Increase nature areas and vegetation' was singled out as a theme and initiative / project. In both categories, 'Increase nature areas and vegetation' rated equal second with 'Connected and safe cycle paths', after 'Footpaths, public space improvements and maintenance' and 'Increase tree canopy cover' in equal first place.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to increase and improve the quality of the natural environment within the township by:

+ Restoring and improving the amenity of Cemetery Creek
+ Increasing vegetation areas to support biodiversity and restore natural habitats for local species.

Objective 1: Restore and increase nature areas and vegetation within the township

Action 01: Develop a plan in consultation with First Nations community to restore Cemetery Creek to improve amenity for the township by:

+ Increasing biodiversity with planting and protecting native vegetation
+ Restoring riparian zones
+ Increasing recreational opportunities
+ Providing a shared path connecting the main street / township to the wetlands.

Action 02: Investigate options to create biodiversity corridors connecting nature areas.

Action 03: Develop a plant palette with a focus on native trees and plants indigenous to the region.

Action 04: Develop a weed control crew in Towong Shire Council to tackle noxious weeds in parks, bushland and town gardens.

Action 05: Introduce measures to prevent domestic cats from killing birds.

Figure 57. Restore the Cemetery Creek riparian zone.

3.6 Big Idea 05 Revitalise main street, strengthen heritage & small town character

Theme 5.1: Welcoming Arrival and Main Street Character

What we heard

Improving the presentation of the township particularly the main street was a significant focus area in the Engagement 1 survey findings. This includes providing safe and accessible places for community to gather. Engagement 1 findings indicated that the community strongly identifies with the history of the township, notably the Man From Snowy River and High Country history. Retaining and complementing the character and local heritage value of the township was another area with significant support, while some comments specifically refer to improving the buildings and making the heritage qualities more of a feature. Upgrading the town centre, particularly main street, was seen as a way to also support the visitor economy.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - General streetscape upgrades
+ 2 - Town centre upgrades (Design Guidelines)
+ 2 - Historic destination
+ 3 - Corryong College and Health Service parking
+ 4 - Increase awareness of First Nations cultural heritage.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on the town centre, improving the arrival experience and celebrating the unique history and connection to place through:

+ Town Centre Design Guidelines to improve the main street shop facades and ensure future development complements the existing small town character
+ Streetscape upgrades including improvements at Corryong College and Health Service
+ Historic town walks with interpretive signage
+ Exploration of First Nations cultural heritage to broaden our understanding of place.

Objective 1: Undertake streetscape upgrades

Action 01: Create a new gateway / wayfinding signage to acknowledge arrival into Towong Shire and Corryong with trees, public art and beautification.

Action 02: Provide wayfinding and historic interpretive signage at rest stops.

Action 03: Review the town centre streetscape to identify improvements to the street environment including seating, outdoor dining, lighting, public art and drinking water stations.

Action 04: Investigate solutions to improve car parking with additional on-street spaces in Donaldson Street; accessible spaces; safe access to on-street car parking at Corryong. College for pick-up and drop-off and Corryong Health.

Action 05: Investigate options to extend the heavy vehicle bypass and improve services (fuel, food and toilets).

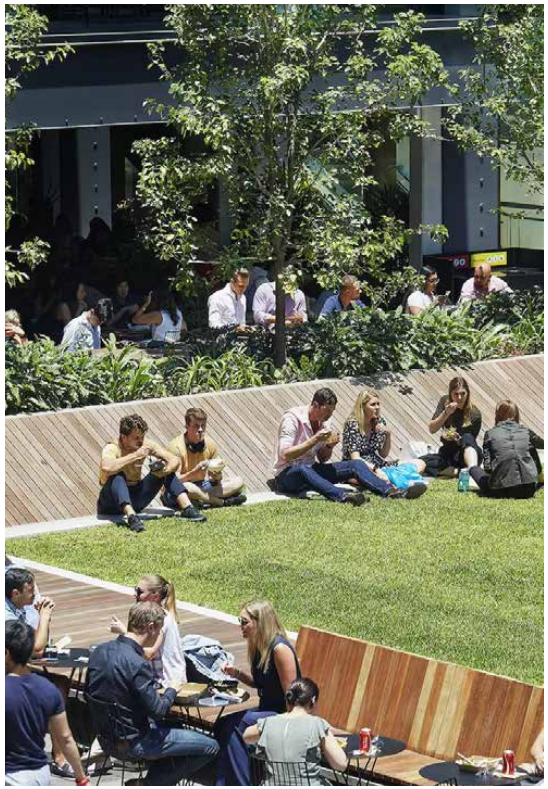
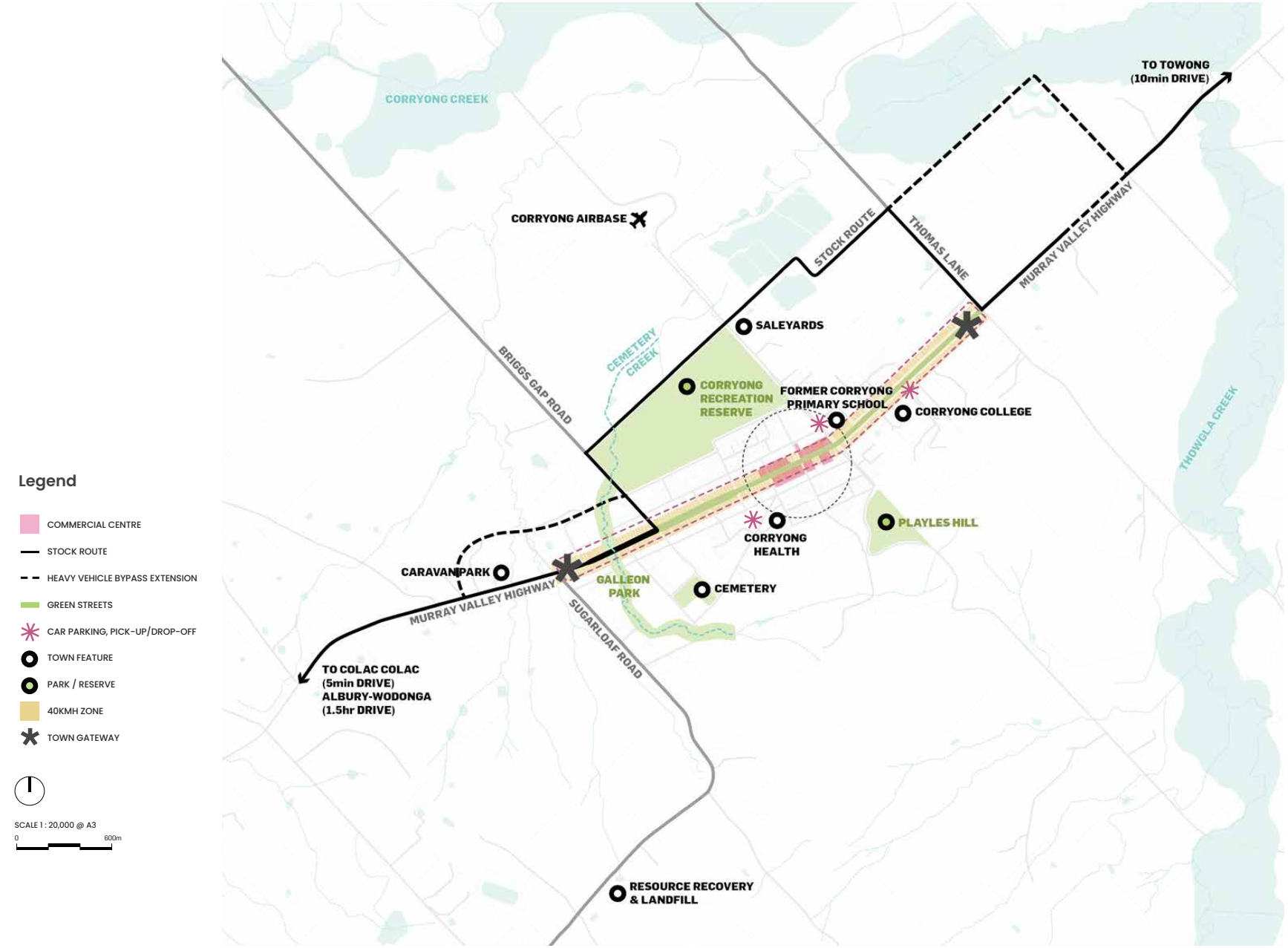


Figure 58. Streetscape upgrades with outdoor seating and lawn areas.


CORRYONG CREEK
CORRYONG AIRBASE
TO TOWONG
(10min DRIVE)
STOCK ROUTE
THOMAS LANE
MURRAY VALLEY HIGHWAY
SALEYARDS
BRIGGS GAP ROAD
CEMETERY CREEK
CORRYONG RECREATION RESERVE
FORMER CORRYONG PRIMARY SCHOOL
CORRYONG COLLEGE
THOWGLA CREEK
PLAYLES HILL
CORRYONG HEALTH
CARAVAN PARK
GALLEON PARK
CEMETERY
MURRAY VALLEY HIGHWAY
SUGARLOAF ROAD
TO COLAC COLAC
(5min DRIVE)
ALBURY-WODONGA
(1.5hr DRIVE)
RESOURCE RECOVERY
& LANDFILL
Legend
COMMERCIAL CENTRE
STOCK ROUTE
HEAVY VEHICLE BYPASS EXTENSION
GREEN STREETS
CAR PARKING, PICK-UP/DROP-OFF
TOWN FEATURE
PARK / RESERVE
40KMH ZONE
TOWN GATEWAY
SCALE 1 : 20,000 @ A3
0
600m

3.6 Big Idea 05 Revitalise main street, strengthen heritage & small town character

Objective 2: Develop Town Centre Upgrade Design Guidelines

Action 01: Improve the main street character with guidance on the beautification of the retail core to maximise amenity for the community and the visitor economy.

Action 02: Celebrate the heritage value of the buildings to strengthen place identity and the local vernacular.

Action 03: Provide age-friendly public spaces and streets and 'bumping spaces' to support social interaction.

Action 04: Ensure consistent planting and increase tree canopy cover and shade to reduce heatwave conditions.

Action 05: Provide grants to support businesses / landowners to upgrade building facades and improve access into shops.

Action 06: Develop a plan to ensure upkeep and presentation of the retail core / building facades.

Figure 59. Main street upgrades, Kerang.

Objective 3: Strengthen Corryong as a historic destination

Action 01: Develop a historic walk of significant places and buildings to increase visibility of the town's history with interpretive signage and a walking map of key landmarks.

Action 02: Identify any sites of significant First Nations cultural heritage in / surrounding Corryong with traditional custodians.

Action 03: Consult First Nations people on the opportunities for new / upgraded open / public spaces along Cemetery Creek.

Action 04: Develop an Aboriginal place name strategy with traditional custodians to incorporate First Nations culture and heritage through acknowledgement, place names, truth-telling and stories.

Figure 60. Main street upgrades, Kerang.

Figure 61. Hansen Street, Corryong.

3.6 Big Idea 05 Revitalise main street, strengthen heritage & small town character

Theme 5.2: Main Street and Employment Opportunities

What we heard

'Diversification of employment industries and job opportunities' and 'development of the main street with more diverse shops, and commercial / office space' were the first and second most highly rated suggestions for how to improve Corryong in Engagement 1. Many suggestions were made on the type of retail the community would like to have in Corryong, with Albury-Wodonga the closest urban centre providing the variety in demand. Engagement 1 findings indicated support for expanding and diversifying the food and beverage offer to cater for tourism.

Engagement 2 also revealed a need to consider incentivising business investment with support for businesses in the form of start-up grants to maximise tourism opportunities.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Food and beverage and general business opportunities
+ 2 - Commercial expansion (land and businesses).

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on opportunities to strengthen the existing history and character of the township, support local economic development and improve amenity for residents and tourists by:

+ Expanding and improving the retail and commercial offer
+ Investigating opportunities to develop commercial / retail in Mixed Use Zones including shop-top housing.

Objective 1: Improve food and beverage opportunities in the township

Action 01: Provide more affordable and accessible food / groceries.

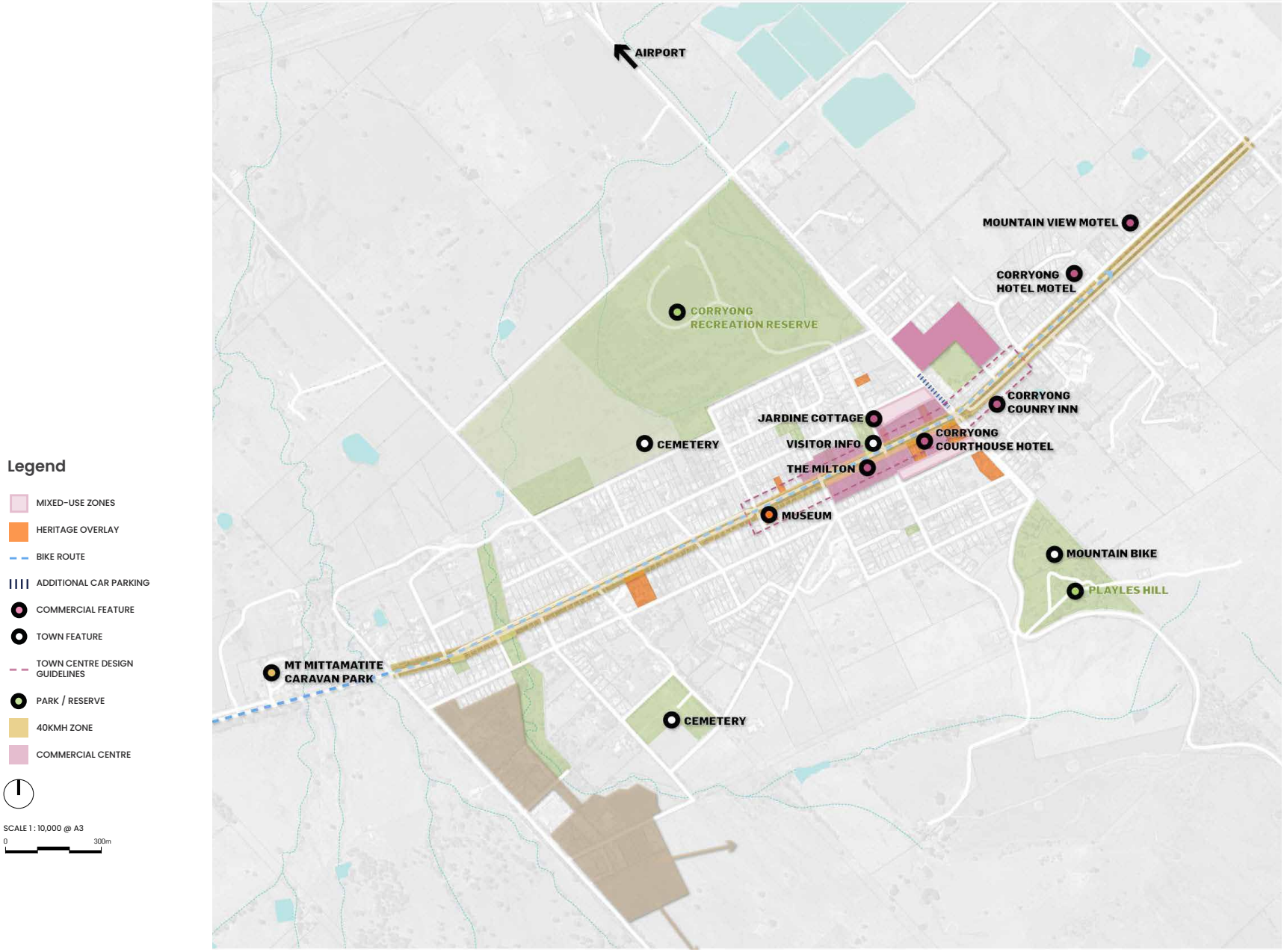
Action 02: Promote and increase access to 'farm-to-plate' opportunities in local cafés / restaurants.

Action 03: Increase diverse food and beverage opportunities catering to a broader audience such as wine bar and more upmarket dining experiences.

Action 04: Investigate capitalising on the airport for 'farm-to-plate' local produce for national and international markets.

Action 05: Increase the number of serviced locations (power and water) for temporary / pop-up events.

Figure 62. Increase alfresco dining in the town centre.


AIRPORT
MOUNTAIN VIEW MOTEL
CORRYONG HOTEL MOTEL
CORRYONG RECREATION RESERVE
CORRYONG COUNRY INN
JARDINE COTTAGE
CEMETERY
VISITOR INFO
CORRYONG COURTHOUSE HOTEL
THE MILTON
MUSEUM
MOUNTAIN BIKE
PLAYLES HILL
MT MITTAMATITE CARAVAN PARK
CEMETERY
Legend
MIXED-USE ZONES
HERITAGE OVERLAY
BIKE ROUTE
ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING
COMMERCIAL FEATURE
TOWN FEATURE
TOWN CENTRE DESIGN GUIDELINES
PARK / RESERVE
40KMH ZONE
COMMERCIAL CENTRE
SCALE 1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.6 Big Idea 05 Revitalise main street, strengthen heritage & small town character

Objective 2: Future proof the township for commercial expansion

Action 01: Investigate opportunities to diversify the retail and commercial offer on the main street including office space and supermarket / large format retail (Woolworths, Kmart and Coles).

Action 02: Consider rezoning industrial land adjacent the Former Corryong Junior Campus site to commercial use to take advantage of the site's proximity to the town centre.

Action 03: Investigate opportunities to intensify commercial uses in Mixed Use Zones.

Action 04: Consider the need for a commercial and industrial land use needs assessment and strategy.

Action 05: Investigate opportunities to support business development and incentivise investment into new start-ups or the expansion of existing businesses to cater for tourism markets.

Figure 63. Develop the existing industrial land adjacent the Former Corryong Junior Campus with larger format retail and commercial opportunities such as office accommodation.

Objective 3: Investigate and promote suitable business opportunities for the township and surrounds

Action 01: Explore the following business opportunities:

- Connecting with nature: Wilderness and environmental tourism opportunities such as learning about the environment and protecting ecosystems
- Equestrian: Horse boarding services, riding lessons and retail
- School camps: Consider potential sites for facilities
- Adventure tourism: Outdoor recreation businesses – rafting, kayaking, fishing, 4-wheel driving, trail running, cycle and motorcycle touring (gravel and road)
- Health and wellness: Market the Upper Murray as a health and wellbeing destination
- Arts and culture: Ceramic studio, workshop and gallery
- Share economy: Women's shed; Uber local to support local cafes / restaurants; remote worker accommodation hosting in private residences.
- Emerging / growing industries in education, health, aviation, construction and energy.

Figure 64. Develop a calendar of events to attract more visitors to the region.

4.0
Implementation Plan
OUR TOWN

4.1 Making it happen

Overview of making it happen

The Corryong Place Plan establishes a vision and framework for achieving the vision.

This part of the place plan sets out how the objectives may be achieved. Each objective is examined in terms of its:

- **Priority** (low-medium-high) – the priority ranking is informed by outcomes from community engagement and input from authorities
- **Timing** – a realistic ordering of which objectives can be feasibly achieved in the short, medium, or longer term
- **Partners** – authorities who have elected to work on the objectives listed.

Some objectives may require further work and studies, including changes to planning instruments in the future, in the form of structure plans, reference documents or other planning studies which should be undertaken separately to these place plans where necessary.

It is recommended that the place plan is reviewed regularly, and that regular catch-ups between Council and community are undertaken to monitor and check the progress of the place plan implementation.

Government authorities' workshop

On the 7 March 2024, the Draft Place Plans were presented as part of Engagement 2 to a group of state and local government authorities who have varying levels of involvement in the towns / region. This workshop was a follow-up to focus groups and 1:1 workshops undertaken during Engagement 1 to identify priority areas and opportunities for each authority.

The workshop was attended by representatives from a range of authorities as outlined in Table 1. Representatives from local and state government planning departments, emergency services and water management authorities were present, however it is acknowledged that there may be other relevant authorities that were not in attendance. These authorities should be engaged at a later date in the delivery of objectives as needed.

The aim of the workshop was to present the Draft Place Plans and objectives, raise any potential issues or priorities that authorities may have with relation to the Draft Place Plans, and identify partnerships to deliver the objectives in the future.

The following implementation tables set out where government authorities elected to work as partners to deliver particular elements or objectives of the place plan.

Future work should be undertaken to identify additional partners and begin to create connections between agencies to deliver the place plan.

Organisations represented
Towong Shire Council
Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) – Hume RPS
Country Fire Authority (CFA)
Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) Upper Murray
Victoria SES Tallangatta
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Department Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Ambulance Victoria
Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW)

Big Idea 01: Major centre servicing the region

THEME 1.1: Vibrant Hub for the Region

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Strengthen community facilities and services within the town centre.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Investigate options to create an Aquatic and Indoor Sports Centre.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Create a Centre of Training for Agriculture and Emerging Industries.	High	Long-term	
Objective 4	Develop a Masterplan for the Corryong Recreation Reserve.	Low	Medium-term	

THEME 1.2: Ensuring Long-Term Resilience

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Undertake and implement disaster and resilience planning to guide the future development of the township.	High	Long-term	CFA
Objective 2	Improve emergency preparedness by supporting emergency services and organisation.	High	**Short-term**	CFA
Objective 3	Expand and support the provision of reliable power during emergencies.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 4	Improve health and transport services to increase equitable access for all ages and abilities.	High	Medium-term	Ambulance Victoria, DTP – Transport
Objective 5	Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection and recycling and water reuse and recycling.	High	**Short-term**	

Big Idea 02: Gateway to the Snowy's & centre of adventure tourism

THEME 2.1: Centre of Adventure Tourism

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Promote Corryong as the centre of adventure tourism.	High	**Short-term**	
Objective 2	Market Corryong as the Gateway to the Snowy Mountains.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 3	Support the increase of short-term accommodation and agritourism.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 4	Leverage the Man From Snowy River Bush Festival by expanding the events calendar.	Medium	**Short-term**	

THEME 2.2: High Country Rail Trail

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Plan for and deliver the remaining sections of the High Country Rail Trail.	High	**Short-term**	CFA, DTP – Transport

THEME 2.3: Connecting to Regional Destinations / Attractions

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Upgrade and maintain existing roads and plan for new routes to improve connectivity across the Upper Murray region.	High	Long-term	

Big Idea 03: Sustainable housing for a resilient community

THEME 3.1: Increase Housing Supply

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Increase the supply of housing prioritised for key communities.	Medium	Medium-term	DFFH
Objective 2	Investigate opportunities to increase housing within the township.	Medium	Medium-term	CFA
Objective 3	Consider potential rezoning of land to increase housing supply.	Medium	Long-term	CFA

THEME 3.2: Preparedness and Infrastructure

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township.	High	**Short-term**	CFA
Objective 2	Plan and advocate for critical infrastructure upgrades to support the future development of the township.	High	Long-term	CFA
Objective 3	Develop initiatives to improve the energy efficiency of buildings.	High	**Short-term**	

Big Idea 04: Age & environmentally friendly streets & public spaces

THEME 4.1: Improve Streets and Public Spaces

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Increase tree canopy cover throughout the township.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Provide age-friendly and well-maintained footpaths and drainage.	Medium	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 3	Improve the quality and diversity of public spaces within the township.	Medium	Medium-term	

THEME 4.2: Connected and Safe Cycle Paths

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Provide a network of protected, connected and safe network of cycle paths.	Low	**Short-term**	DTP – Transport

THEME 4.3: Increase Nature Areas and Vegetation

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Restore and increase nature areas and vegetation within the township.	Low	Medium-term	CFA

Big Idea 05: Revitalise main street, strengthen heritage & small town character

THEME 5.1: Welcoming Arrival and Main Street Character

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Undertake streetscape upgrades.	Medium	**Short-term**	DTP – Transport
Objective 2	Develop Town Centre Upgrade Design Guidelines.	Low	**Short-term**	DTP – Planning DTP – Transport
Objective 3	Strengthen Corryong as a historic destination.	Low	Medium-term	

THEME 5.2: Main Street and Employment Opportunities

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Improve food and beverage opportunities in the township.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Future proof the township for commercial expansion.	Low	Medium-term	DTP – Planning
Objective 3	Investigate and promote suitable business opportunities for the township and surrounds.	High	Medium-term	

Impact Tomorrow

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OUR TOWN
TOWARDS 2030
Towong Placemaking and Township Co-Design Project
Mitta Mitta Place Plan - FINAL DRAFT | June-2024
towongshire

ClarkeHopkinsClarke and Towong Shire Council acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country on which the Our Town project is taking place.

While there are no Registered Aboriginal Parties in the project region, we acknowledge the following Parties we are aware of: Jaitmatang, Yaithmathang, Duduroa dhargal, Waveroo, Way-wurru, Wiradjuri and Ngarigo people as the traditional custodians of the land.

ClarkeHopkinsClarke acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and the Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land we work on.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise their custodianship over deep time and their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

Drawn by Foster Type and based on the AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia, ©AIATSIS 1996.
For more information about using this map please visit aiatsis.gov.au

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1.0
Introduction
OUR TOWN

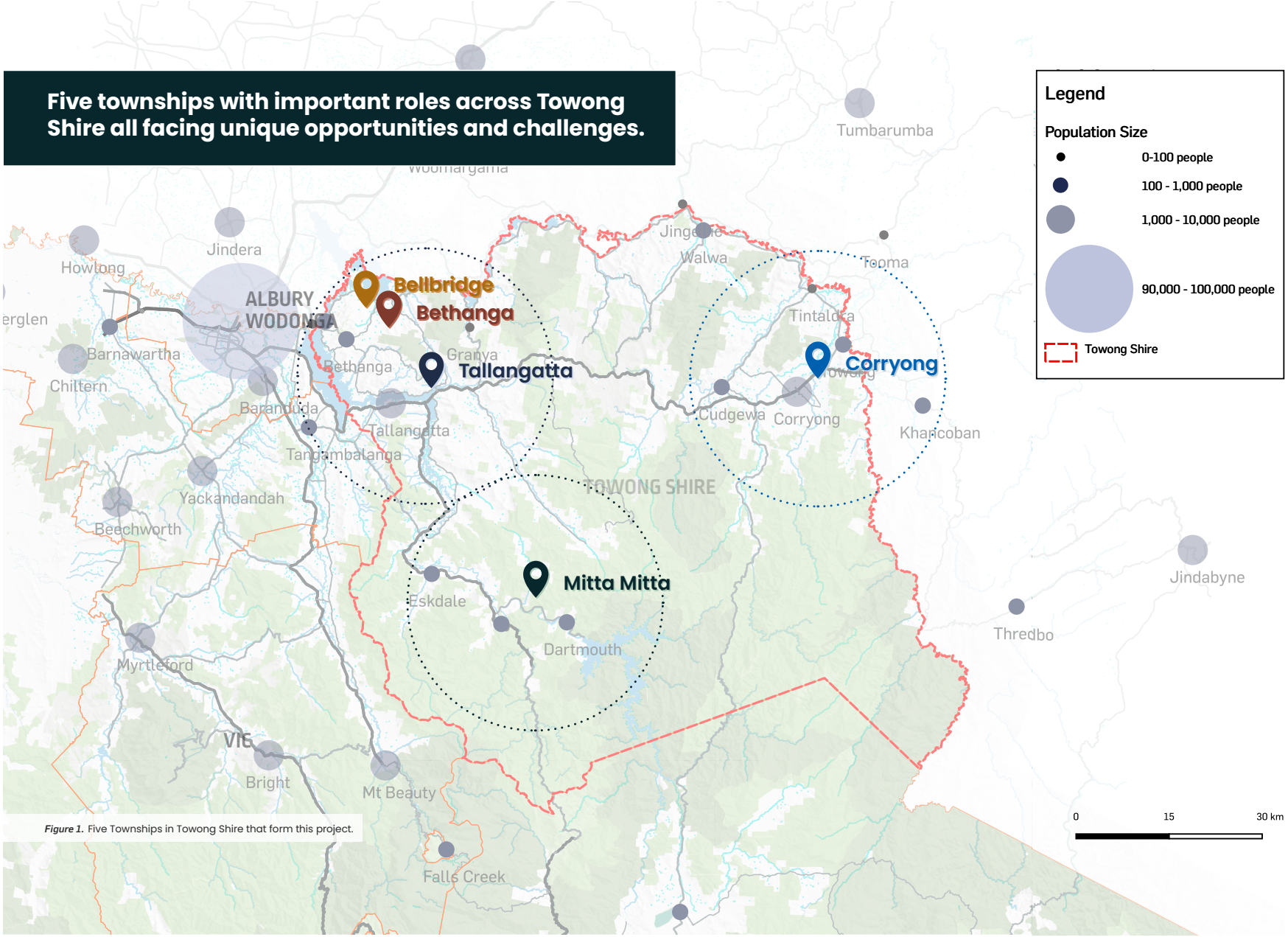


Figure 1. Five Townships in Towong Shire that form this project.

1.1 Project overview

The Mitta Mitta Place Plan is a 10-year roadmap for Council, community, and other stakeholders. The plan identifies community and other stakeholder priorities to guide the future shape and character of the township.

The Mitta Mitta Place Plan is part of Our Town Towards 2030, a Placemaking and Co-design Project (the project) initiated by Towong Shire Council for five townships across the Shire.

The project delivers town-based plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta. The plans have provided an opportunity to re-imagine the way each township works and has allowed us to bring together the big ideas that drive growth while identifying the services, infrastructure and public spaces required to support the population. Each plan identifies a shared set of goals and initiatives that can be developed and delivered over the next 10 years and beyond.

While the place plans have a ten-year lifespan, each plan provides a good base level summary of what people said; captures what is important to the community; and provides direction beyond the ten-year period of the plan.

Place-based approach

Towong Shire has adopted a place-based approach to master planning exemplified in the Mitta Valley Our Future Plan. This plan places community interests at the core of decision-making. The Council Plan 2021-25 identifies community engagement as a key strategy to deliver Council's Strategic Objective 'Organisational Improvement'. This strategy, places people at the centre of conversations about the future planning of the communities in which they live, work, study, visit and recreate. It is based on the belief that the people who are part of a community are best placed to understand and identify their needs.

Why do we need a Place Plan

Regional towns in Australia have experienced significant growth in recent years increasing pressure on services, housing, jobs, and infrastructure. The five towns – Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta – all face unique challenges, as well as opportunities, that have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the bushfires of 2019-20.

Our Town Towards 2030 has looked at ways to strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of the towns by helping each community to identify and prioritise its future needs, services and opportunities. The co-design project has enabled current communities' input into how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

Project purpose

The purpose of the project is to:

+ Develop a vision shared by the community and other stakeholders.
+ Identify community aspirations and opportunities to address the challenges facing the township.
+ Support the community to prioritise their future needs, services, and opportunities.
+ Align community and other stakeholder expectations including how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

How to read this document

This document is structured in four parts commencing with a project introduction, and understanding of the context and township as the first part.

The second part provides an overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat and Engagement 2: Planning Ahead.

The third part is the Place Plan comprised of the Big Ideas, and the objectives, actions and outcomes that will bring the ideas to life.

The fourth part is the Implementation Plan comprised of objectives, priorities, timing, and key partners.

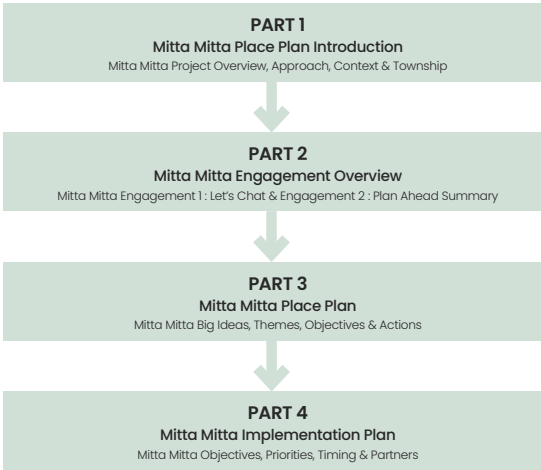


Figure 2. Format of this document, Mitta Mitta Place Plan.

Figure 3. Engagement 2 workshop, Mitta Mitta.

1.2 Creating a shared vision

Three engagement touchpoints were developed as part of a co-design process to inform the town vision and place plan. A broad spectrum of stakeholders, including residents, workers, visitors, students, and government authorities were included across all three engagement touchoints.

Place-based approach & asset based engagement

The engagement process was highly inclusive and collaborative to co-design solutions with the community that build upon the strengths, assets, and opportunities for each town. This is called an asset-based approach. Asset based engagement recognises and builds upon the value and resources that exist within the community.

Engagement touchpoints

As the first of three touchpoints, Engagement 1 was an opportunity to introduce the Our Town Towards 2030 project to each of the five communities and have conversations with people to understand what they value about their town and what really matters to them.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to present the Big Ideas, report back what we heard and how this could translate into future initiatives / projects, asking did we get it right?

Engagement 3 is the final engagement touchpoint. Feedback from Engagement 2 was collated and used to finalise the place plans during 'Delivering the Vision', keeping the community informed of the final project outcomes.

Figure 4. Three engagement touchpoints.

Figure 5. Mitta Mitta Township. Photograph R.J.Kelly.

1.3 Understanding the context

Every project begins with an understanding of the people, location and physical characteristics that define the township. Understanding the township at different scales – from regional, township to town centre – helps to build a picture of the unique features and qualities that contribute to place identity.

Region

With a population base of 171 inhabitants, fertile valley and magnificent alpine surroundings, Mitta Mitta is one of three small townships servicing the predominantly farming community in the Mitta Valley.

The existing township was established with the discovery of gold and originally the site of a remote sheep and cattle farm called Magorra Station.

We understand that prior to European settlement the area was home to the Yaitmathang people who migrated between the lower valleys and floodplains in winter and higher alpine areas around Mount Bogong in summer.

The township is located in a Declared Special Water Supply Catchment Area with protections on water quality and the environment, and a Bushfire Management Overlay.

Figure 6. Regional context.

1.3 Understanding the context

Township

The township of Mitta Mitta covers an area of approximately 170 hectares of land.

Located on the through-route from Omeo Gippsland to Tallangatta and Albury-Wodonga, the township sits 'at the end of the Valley' and is framed by bushland forming part of the Alpine National Park with Mount Welcome to the south.

The township abuts the mountain range to the south including the Pioneer Mine Historic Reserve and walking trails extending to Eskdale Spur, the Staircase Spur and Mount Bogong.

Mitta Mitta stretches to the north with key assets such as the airport, brewery and accommodation located on the periphery of the township with dwellings and sheds dispersed along key roads.

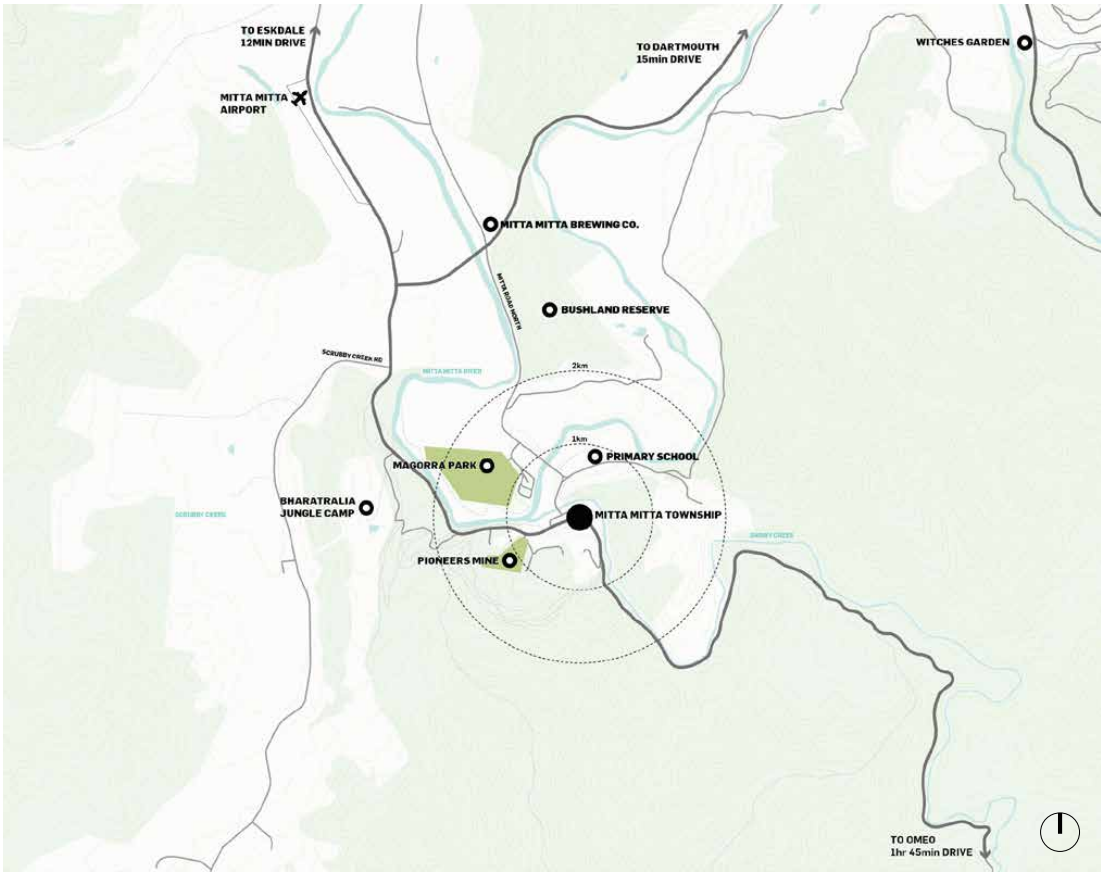


Figure 7. Township context.

Town Centre

The town centre is positioned at the confluence of the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek, and forms a community node at the General Store, Mitta Pub and Paddy's Reserve.

Magorra Park Recreation Reserve, including the Multi-purpose Centre, Golf Course and Caravan Park provides a community and recreational hub for residents and visitors and is the location of the Mighty Mitta Muster Festival.

Key emergency services are located within the town centre and along Mitta Road North.

The township includes a mix of residential buildings and sheds with large parcels of agricultural land to the north and east.

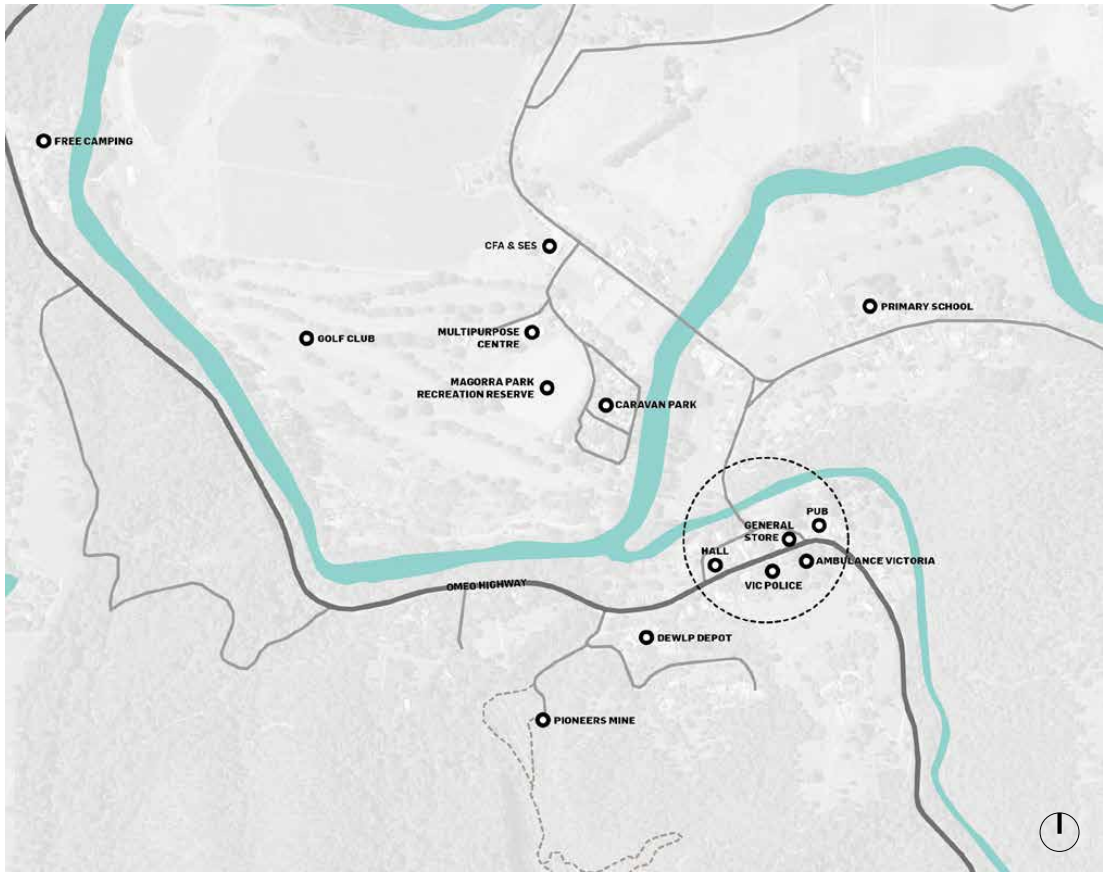


Figure 8. Town centre context.

Figure 9. Mitta Mitta Township. Photograph R.J.Kelly.

Figure 10. Memoral Hall / Mechanics Institute.

Figure 11. Magorra Park Recreation Reserve.

Figure 12. Picnic Area. Photograph R.J.Kelly.

Figure 13. Australian Alps.

Figure 14. Swimming in Snowy Creek. Photograph R.J.Kelly.

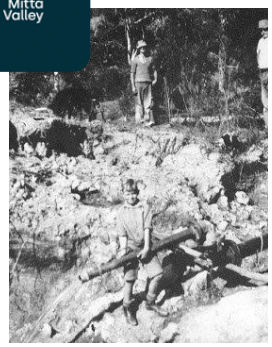


Figure 15. Pioneer Mine.

Figure 16. Mitta Pub.

Figure 17. Mitta General Store.

1.4 Township & surrounds character

Local Character

This plan shows Mitta Mitta's character areas and heritage, highlighting the heritage planning overlays, the township area or village centre, waterways, surrounding bushland, residential and farmland areas within the township, and recreation area for Magorra Park Recreation Reserve inclusive of the Golf Course and Caravan Park.

Mitta Mitta includes Heritage Overlays on several buildings in the town centre including the Mitta Pub and Memorial Hall / Mechanics Institute, the Primary School, and the historic precinct at Pioneer Mine.

These and the character of the existing township buildings and landscape are important considerations for a discussion on how to re-imagine the future of the township.

Key facilities, features, qualities and characteristics are captured in the adjacent images and following page.

Legend

- HERITAGE OVERLAY
- DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY
- DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY
- TOWNSHIP
- RESIDENTIAL
- BUSH RESIDENTIAL
- RURAL RESIDENTIAL
- FARMING
- BUSHLAND
- RECREATION
- WATERWAYS

SCALE 1 : 7,000 @ A3

0 210m

Figure 18. Mitta Mitta character and heritage.

Figure 19. Mitta Mitta Primary School.

Figure 20. Mitta Mitta playground.

Figure 21. Mitta Mitta Brewing Co.

Figure 22. Mitta Mitta Caravan Park.

Figure 23. Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre.

Figure 24. Mitta Mitta residence.

Figure 25. Paddy's Reserve.

Figure 26. Snowy Creek.

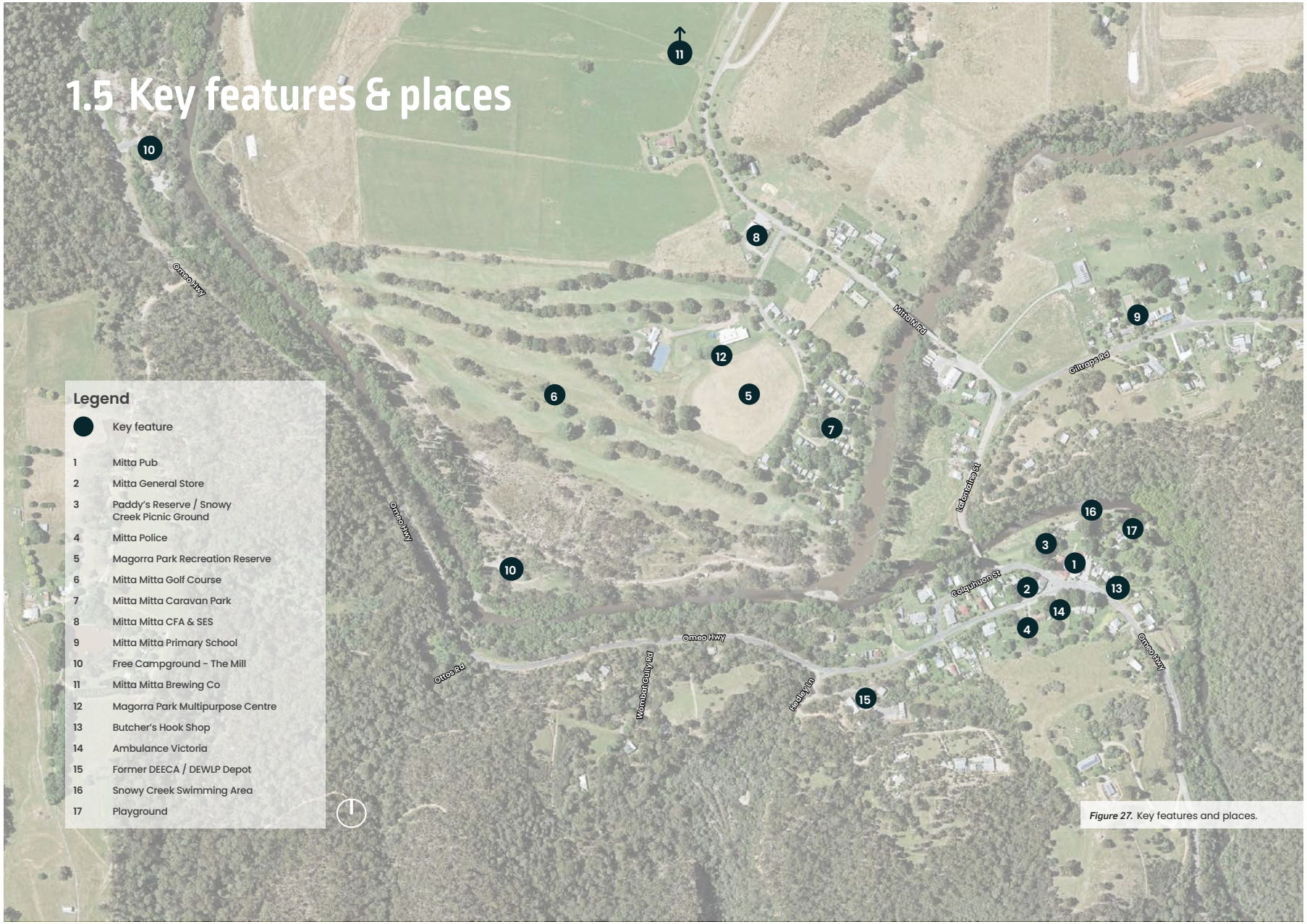


Figure 27. Key features and places.

2.0
What would make Mitta Mitta more sustainable and resilient?
ortunities for
Mitta Mitta over the next 10yrs?
Engagement
OUR TOWN

2.1 Engagement summary

Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy

Council's commitment to engagement is outlined in the Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy which "is committed to participatory democracy and providing community members with the opportunity to engage in decision making in relation to matters that affect them". This project has adopted key principles from Policy including:

+ Identifying key stakeholders and user groups impacted by the decisions.
+ Being respectful of and allowing space for a diversity of perspectives and views.
+ Embedding transparency and accountability by keeping participants informed and 'closing the loop'.

The Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy includes a public participation spectrum adapted from the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum with five levels of public participation: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower. This project has incorporated levels 1-4 at different stages of the project with the aim of building consensus with participants.

Figure 28. Engagement touchpoints.

"I love the fact that the locals 'get things done' and work together for the common good of the community."

Figure 29. Engagement collateral.

Engagement 1: Let's Chat

People were informed and encouraged to participate in a variety of ways including the 'Town-hall' style meetings, face-to-face and online meetings, survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters, and poster. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

*Number of people engaged is approximate and does not account for market stalls.

Engagement 2: Planning Ahead

Similar methods were used for Engagement 2 including 'Town-hall' style workshops, face-to-face and online workshops, online survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters, letterbox drops and advertising. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

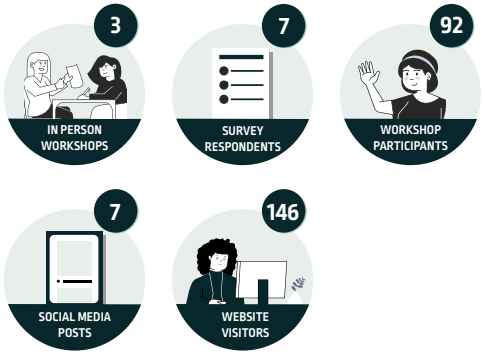


Figure 30. Engagement 2 workshop, Mitta Mitta.

"I think it is a unique place as neighbours are often treated like family and help each other out with no expectations of getting something in return."

2.2 Engagement 1: Let's chat

The first engagement, Let's Chat took place between March-April 2023 and included a broad spectrum of stakeholders – residents, workers, visitors, students, government departments and agencies.

Let's Chat included a number of methods including 'Town-hall' style meetings and events, face-to-face and online focus groups and 1:1 meetings, online and hardcopy surveys, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters, letterbox drops, posters and advertising.

"Let's Chat" reflects the broad and wide-ranging challenges and opportunities affecting each community. It also helps us to identify and leverage key strengths and assets in the development of the vision and place plans.

Four questions were asked, with more detailed conversations held with individuals or small groups. These were:

+ What makes your town special? What do you love and value?
+ What challenges does your town face?
+ What are the opportunities over the next 10 years?
+ What would make your town more environmentally sustainable and resilient?

The results of Let's Chat were compiled into a Draft Place Plan which included a project introduction, overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat; vision exercise for the workshops and survey; and a summary of 'what we heard' captured in three Big Ideas with potential initiatives / projects.

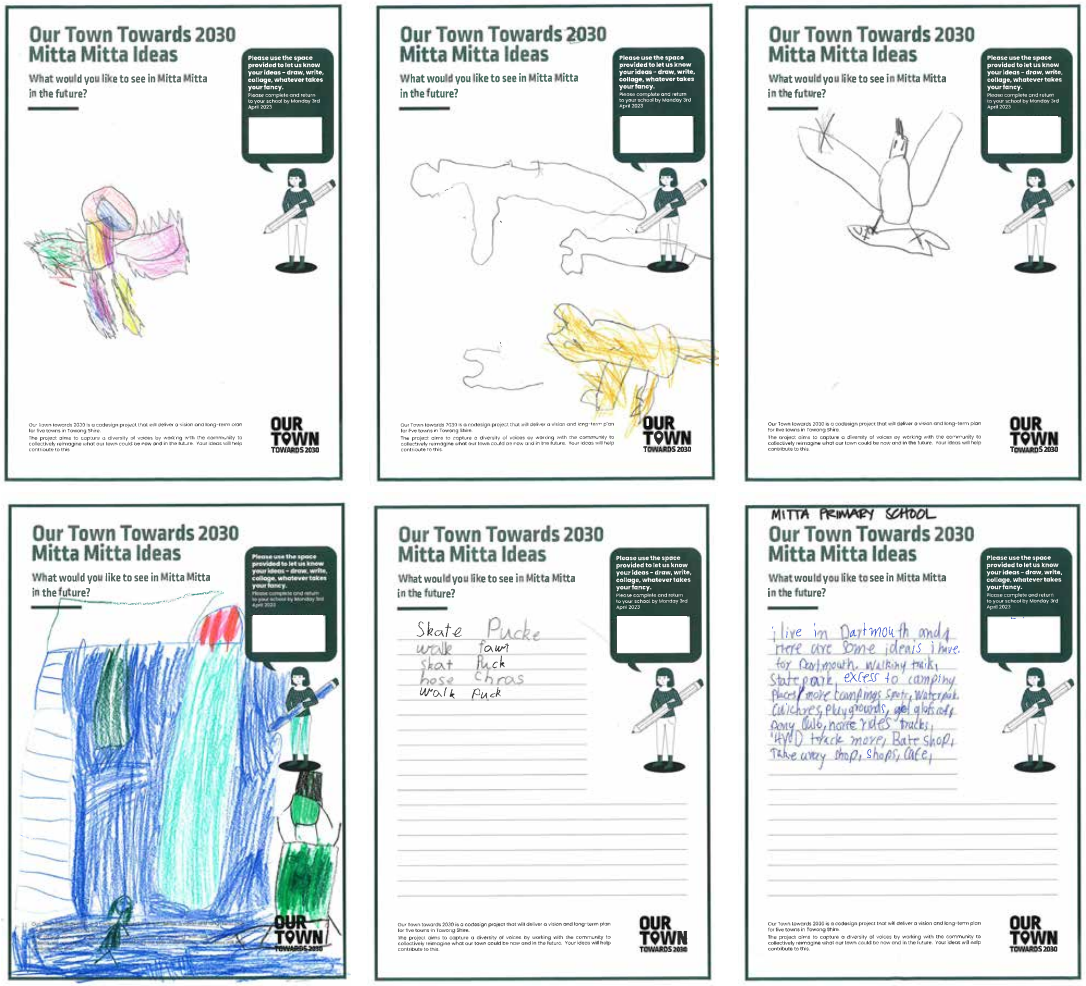


Figure 31. Responses to the Question: How can Mitta Mitta be a better place for their future Mitta Mitta Primary School Students, Years P-6.

> ***"I love the natural beauty of the Mitta Valley. The picturesque surrounds when you drop down into the valley from the top of Lockhart Gap is amazing."***

Strengths, Assets & Challenges

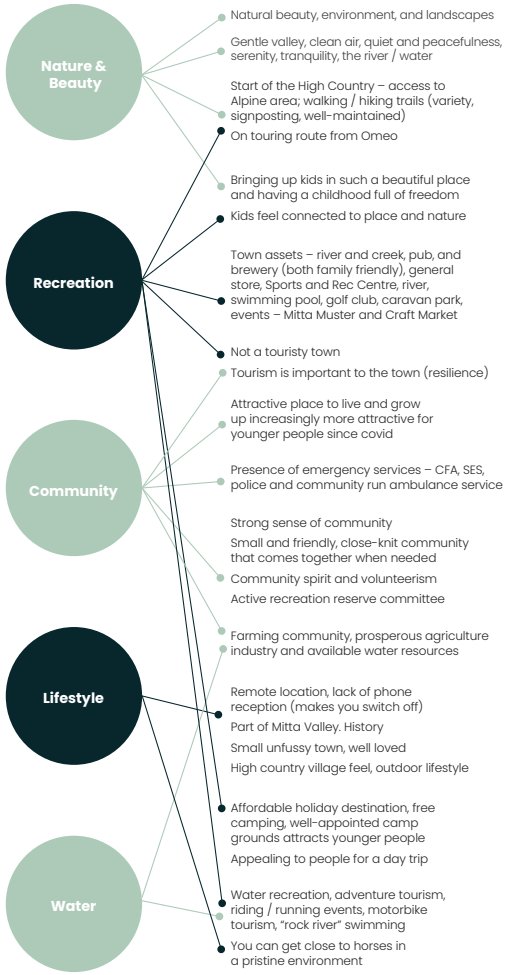
An analysis of responses to the questions 'What makes your town special?' and 'What do you love and value?' are summarised in the following strengths and assets, with responses to the question 'What challenges does your town face?' summarised in the following challenges. These have informed the vision and big ideas for the place plan.

Big Ideas

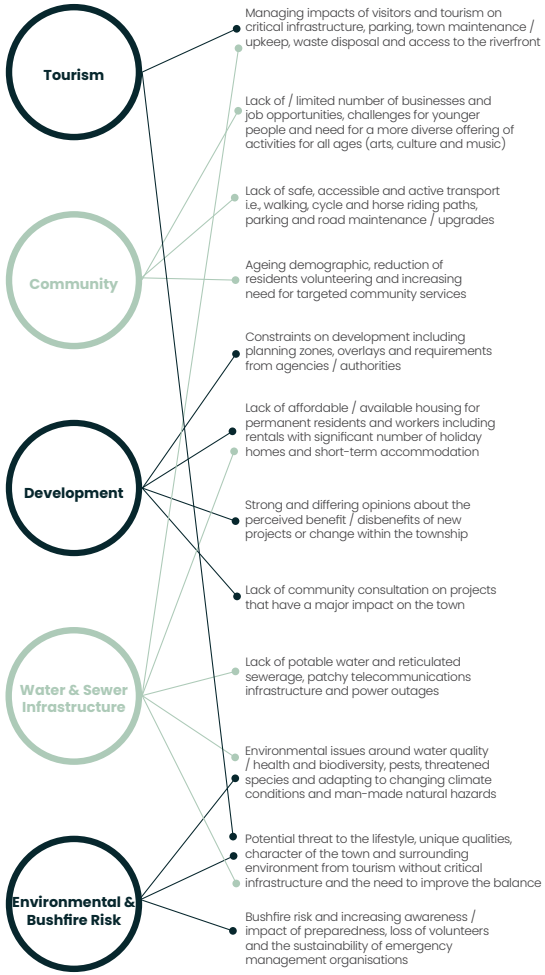
The three Big Ideas for Mitta Mitta broadly capitalise on:

+ Improving the liveability and sustainability of the township with critical infrastructure and housing.
+ Integrating the waterways with the township to provide more community gathering spaces.
+ Capitalising on the amenity and natural beauty with nature-based sustainable tourism to bolster the local economy.

Strengths & Assets



Challenges



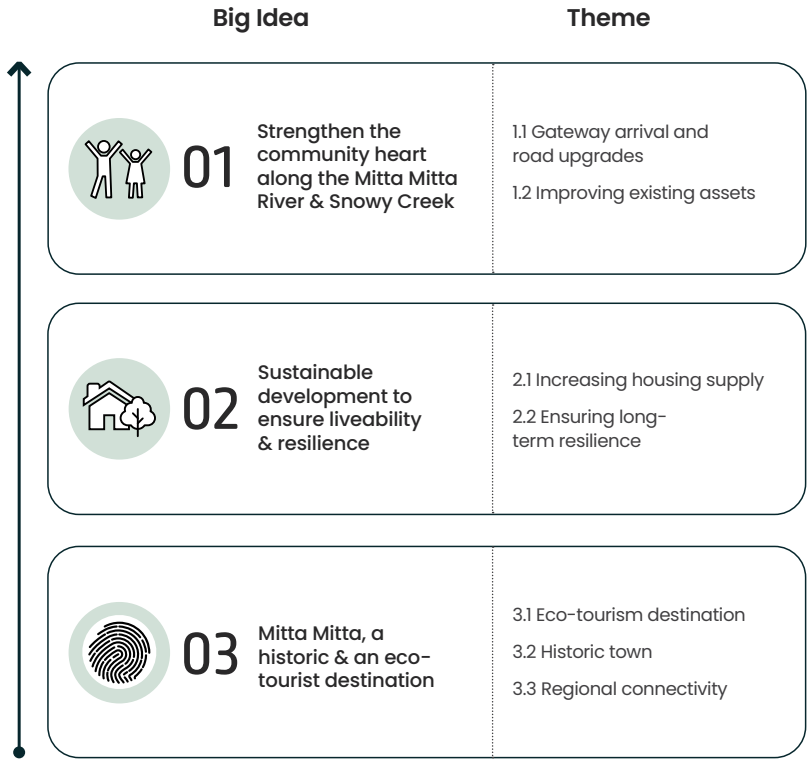
2.3 Engagement 2: Planning ahead

The second engagement, Planning Ahead took place between November 2023-January 2024 and included residents, workers, visitors, and government authorities. Planning Ahead was comprised of in-person workshops and an online survey replicating the face-to-face workshops. The workshop and survey were based on the Draft Place Plan which captured the key directions and outcomes to emerge from 'what we heard' during Engagement 1: Let's Chat.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to provide feedback on the Engagement 1 findings. A vision exercise was held with participants during the workshop to prioritise key words for the overaching direction for the place plan. These words were used to create the town vision.

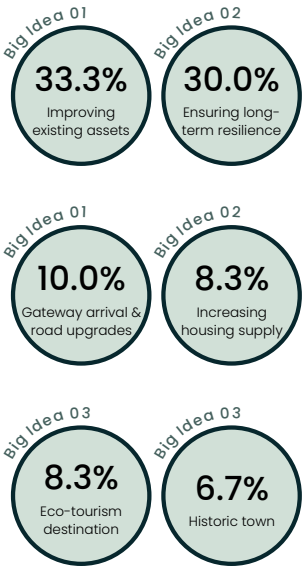
The three Big Ideas for Mitta Mitta were presented to participants, followed by two prioritisation exercises. The first exercise was focused on the themes, with participants requested to select their top three. The second exercise was focused on the initiatives / projects under each theme. Participants were requested to select their top ten initiatives / projects.

Results from the prioritisation exercise are captured in the diagram to the right. While Big Ideas 01 and 02 included the highest priority themes, across the three ideas, 'Strengthen the community heart along the Mitta Mitta River & Snowy Creek' was the highest rated big idea.



Theme Priorities

The highest rated themes across all of the Big Ideas are captured below.



Initiative & Project Priorities

During Engagement 2 stakeholders were requested to prioritise the most important initiatives / projects listed under each theme. The following eight initiatives / projects were rated as the top priorities for the community. Some initiatives / projects received equal rating and are grouped together. For example, 'Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre facility upgrades' and 'Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre & health services' received equal support at 5.8%.

TABLE OF HIGHEST RATED SURVEY RESULTS

Priority	Big Idea	Theme	Percentage	Initiative / Project
#1	02	2.1	12.2%	Water and sewage improvements.
#2	01	1.1	9.5%	Waterfront restoration.
#3	01	1.1	5.8%	Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre facility upgrades.
				Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre and health services.
#4	01	1.1	5.3%	Riverfront community spaces.
		1.2		Road upgrades, reduce speed limit and safer crossings.
	03	3.1	5.3%	Nature-based tourism, Historic Park Reserve Trail Head.
				Parking strategy and public bus service.

"Peace and quiet.
Town layout.
Swimming hole.
Golf Course and recreation reserve.
Town Hall.
Fishing.
Like the climate.
Warm in summer cool in winter.
Reliable rainfall.
The clean creeks and rivers.
Wildlife."

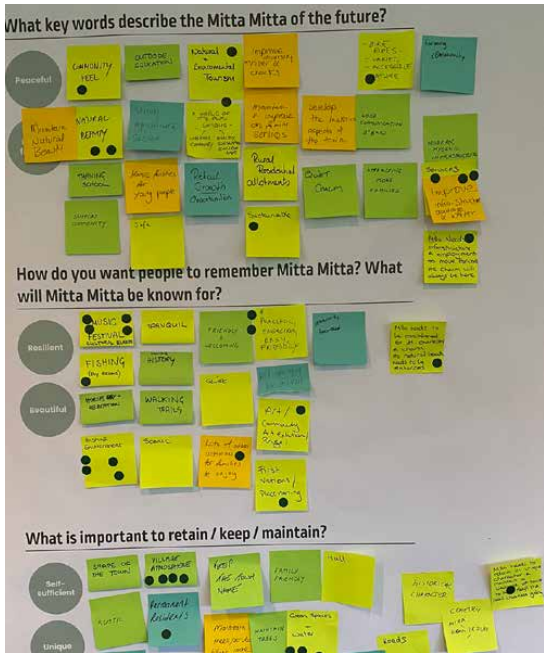


Figure 32. Engagement 2 vision exercise, Mitta Mitta.

3.0
Place Plan
OUR TOWN

Mitta Mitta's natural beauty and tranquil village atmosphere will be enhanced with sustainable modern assets and infrastructure developed to meet the growing needs of its residents while preserving the pristine environment.

It will continue to offer a family-friendly environment and a good upbringing for children with ample green spaces, access to rivers and creeks, and a strong agriculture sector supporting the farming community, attracting more families seeking a balanced and fulfilling rural lifestyle.

Mitta Mitta will be a cultural hub with vibrant music festivals and diverse events that celebrate its heritage and improve diversity, known for it's welcoming community, outdoor activities, walking trails, fly-fishing – a place where you can switch off.

Mitta Mitta Town Vision

3.1 Big ideas summary

Three Big Ideas emerged from an analysis of responses from Engagement 1. These were tested with community during Engagement 2. All of the big ideas received support, however, it was clear through the analysis that followed, that there are clear priorities across the community. These priorities are reflected in the numbering of each big idea and theme. In this instance the order of the big ideas remained unchanged, with a couple of the themes receiving higher priority such as 'Improving existing assets' under Big Idea 01 and 'Ensuring long-term resilience' under Big Idea 02. Based on feedback received at Engagement 2, Big Idea 03 'historic and eco-tourist destination' was revised to include 'family friendly'.

Format of the Big Ideas

Each Big Idea is comprised of themes that describe the outcomes we are seeking to achieve. Each theme includes a series of objectives outlining the different components of each theme. Each objective lists actions required to implement the objective. The actions can be initiatives or projects.

Figure 33. Format of the Big Ideas.

Big Idea	Theme
01 Strengthen the community heart along the Mitta Mitta River & Snowy Creek	1.1 Improving existing assets 1.2 Gateway arrival and road upgrades
02 Sustainable development to ensure liveability & resilience	2.1 Ensuring long-term resilience 2.2 Increasing housing supply
03 Family friendly, historic & eco-tourist destination	3.1 Family friendly, historic and eco-tourist destination 3.2 Historic town 3.3 Regional connectivity

3.2 Big Idea 01 Strengthen the community heart along the Mitta Mitta River & Snowy Creek

Theme 1.1: Improving Existing Assets

What we heard

Engagement 1 findings indicated that improving the presentation and experience of the town with safe and accessible places for community to gather, was one of the highest ranked opportunities. While comments reflect a strong sense of community spirit, findings suggest that increasing opportunities for well-being and community connection by strengthening existing community nodes / assets were supported, including catering for more diverse interests, changing demographic needs and community expectations.

Engagement 1 revealed a strong interest in the qualities of the natural environment with great value placed on access to the bush and waterways, and a need to enhance and protect these qualities through restoration and maintenance including weed / pest control. Landcare members also identified opportunities to expand their work through existing programs and environmental learning.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are listed below with equal weighting given to 'Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre upgrades' and 'Magorra Park & health services'. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Waterfront restoration
+ 2 - Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre upgrades
+ 2 - Magorra Park and health services
+ 3 - Riverfront community spaces
+ 4 - Strengthen the civic heart
+ 5 - Education Centre.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on strengthening existing community assets and nodes, leveraging the amenity and opportunities for water recreation at the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek to make them a central feature of the township. Key opportunities include:

+ Improving and increasing use of existing assets
+ Improving civic spaces and streets
+ Improving amenity, access to and health of waterways and foreshore
+ Increasing health, childcare and kindergarten services and facilities.

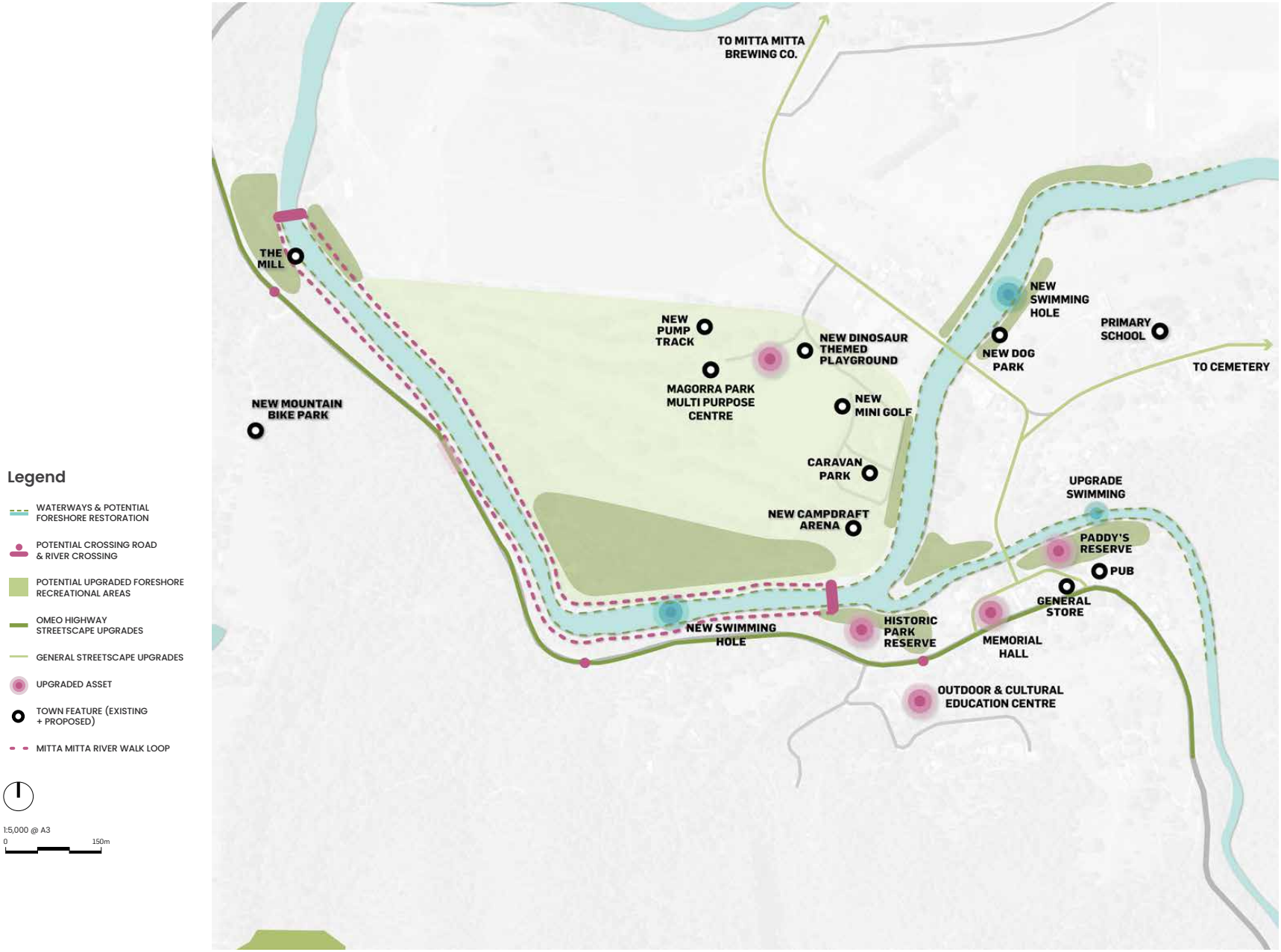
Objective 1: Restore the waterfront of the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek

Action 01: Investigate opportunities to protect and enhance the natural environment with a focus on the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek by:

+ Increasing biodiversity with native trees / vegetation
+ Selecting fire-retardant trees / vegetation indigenous to the local area
+ Reducing bank erosion and revitalising riparian zones
+ Incorporating a regular maintenance regime
+ Reducing the impact of agriculture.

Action 02: Incorporate the recommendations of the Mitta Mitta River in the Victoria's North and Murray Water Resource Plan.

Figure 34. Restoration of the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek. Mitta Mitta Rehabilitation Project, Mitta Mitta River, Eskdale.


TO MITTA MITTA BREWING CO.
THE MILL
NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK
NEW PUMP TRACK
NEW DINOSAUR THEMED PLAYGROUND
MAGORRA PARK MULTI PURPOSE CENTRE
NEW MINI GOLF
CARAVAN PARK
NEW CAMPDRAFT ARENA
NEW SWIMMING HOLE
NEW DOG PARK
PRIMARY SCHOOL
TO CEMETERY
UPGRADE SWIMMING
PADDY'S RESERVE
PUB
GENERAL STORE
HISTORIC PARK RESERVE
MEMORIAL HALL
OUTDOOR & CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTRE
Legend
WATERWAYS & POTENTIAL FORESHORE RESTORATION
POTENTIAL CROSSING ROAD & RIVER CROSSING
POTENTIAL UPGRADED FORESHORE RECREATIONAL AREAS
OMEO HIGHWAY STREETSCAPE UPGRADES
GENERAL STREETSCAPE UPGRADES
UPGRADED ASSET
TOWN FEATURE (EXISTING + PROPOSED)
MITTA MITTA RIVER WALK LOOP
1:5,000 @ A3
0
150m

3.2 Big Idea 01 Strengthen the community heart along the Mitta Mitta River & Snowy Creek

Objective 2: Upgrade the Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre building and outdoor facilities

Action 01: Upgrade Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre and Recreation Reserve including:

+ Magorra Park vehicular entry and road duplication
+ Storage shed and cool room
+ Lighting upgrades to the football oval for events
+ Upgrade tennis court as a dual court for tennis and netball
+ New multi-purpose court for tennis, netball and basketball
+ New pump track and skate park
+ Upgrade playground with all ages and abilities nature play
+ New local outdoor gym or potential indoor gym
+ Gymnastics equipment
+ Indoor gaming room.

Action 02: Advocate for a mobile library located at the Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre.

Action 03: Investigate the potential to provide facilities for in-demand professionals such as dentist, doctor, legal and librarian services.

Objective 3: Improve health, childcare and kindergarten services at the Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre

Action 01: Review current health including maternal child health services, childcare and kindergarten programs at Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre to determine the community services required. These include but are not limited to health and medical services, preventative, at-home care, new early childhood services and an increase in childcare services.

Figure 35. New all ages / abilities nature playground at Magorra Park Recreation Reserve. Nature's Playground, Adelaide Zoo.

Figure 36. Colourful multi-purpose courts at the Magorra Park Recreation Reserve. Splash Project basketball court, Tel Aviv.

Figure 37. Potential Pump and Skate Park at Magorra Park Recreation Reserve. Coldstream Station Pumtrack, Yarra Ranges Council.

Objective 4: Improve the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek riverfront community spaces

Action 01: Investigate opportunities to increase / improve spaces and access for active and passive recreation along the riverfront including:

- Safe and accessible swimming areas including the regular removal of tree branches
- Off-lead dog park at Baden's Beach
- Facilities for rafting, river and creek kayaking, fishing, including a flat area for fly fishing casting lessons and fish cleaning area
- 5km exercise trail and bouldering rock formations
- Camping with riverfront access
- Bird hides for bird watching
- Locations for events, food and coffee vans including power and water
- Historic Park Reserve facilities
- Local vegetable garden
- Washing and rubbish facilities at The Mill Campground
- Improved facilities at the Caravan Park with potential mini golf at the Mitta Mitta River riverfront.

Action 02: Investigate the location for a new bridge between the Historic Park Reserve and Magorra Park Recreation Reserve to provide direct access to the town centre and create a town loop walk to The Mill Campground.

Action 03: Review current waterways / foreshore access to determine preferred locations for recreational infrastructure including vehicular and boat access and parking.

Action 04: Investigate the opportunity and potential locations for a Pony Club and Arena.

Figure 38. New and upgraded community spaces along the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek. Banks of the Saone, Rochetaillée.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Strengthen the community heart along the Mitta Mitta River & Snowy Creek

Objective 5: Strengthen the civic heart with improvements to existing public spaces and facilities within the township

Action 01: Improve public spaces to be safe, accessible, culturally safe and biodiverse including:

+ Upgrade Paddy's Reserve with more trees to increase shade including a water drinking fountain
+ Upgrade toilets at Paddy's Reserve including a fully accessible toilet and shower
+ Upgrade toilets at the Memorial Hall / Mechanics Institute
+ Improve public space in front of the Mitta Pub for outdoor dining
+ Provide wayfinding signage at decision points for amenities, walking trails, facilities, and destinations.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities to increase use of existing facilities such as Memorial Hall / Mechanics Institute including community / commercial opportunities such as:

+ Music, dance, performance, theatre and arts events
+ Gallery exhibition space, makers space and music making space
+ Exercise, yoga, pilates and well-being classes
+ For hire opportunities for celebrations
+ Training and commercial opportunities listed under 'Objective 6 Create an Outdoor and Cultural Education Centre' for training and commercial uses.

Action 03: Investigate opportunities to assist community members with the provision of public liability insurance for activities and events.

Figure 39. Increasing use of Memorial Hall / Mechanics Institute with activities / events such as local and visiting performers and bush dances.

Objective 6: Create an Outdoor and Cultural Education Centre for training and commercial uses

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to repurpose the DEECA Depot for educational purposes including:

- Agricultural / beef industry education
- Environmental education to learn about river systems, flora / fauna, inspiring the next generation of river stewards
- Outdoor training and emergency rescue training
- Aboriginal culture and significance of the local area
- Landcare programs for control of pests and weeds and the impacts of climate change; teaching people how to take care of / manage land and Landcare for Country pilot program with First Nations people
- Local FM radio broadcast and Radio National service
- Facilities for in-demand professional services such as dentist, doctor, legal and librarian
- Hub for outdoor activities such as canoe or bike hire
- Mechanic's workshop.

Figure 40. Incorporate outdoor learning spaces.

Objective 7: Create inviting, safe and shaded streets for all ages and abilities

Action 01: Improve the quality of streets in the township with:

- Continuous footpaths connecting key facilities / destinations commencing with a footpath between the town centre to The Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre, Caravan Park, and Mitta Mitta Brewing Co.
- Public seating, lighting, areas for outdoor dining, signs, and materials in character with the local area
- Improvements to drainage and the installation of curb and gutters or alternatives where required
- Water-sensitive urban design with swales and permeable paving / surfaces to filter stormwater
- Fire retardant native trees / vegetation indigenous to the area commencing with key walking routes between the town centre, Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre, Caravan Park, and Mitta Mitta Brewing Co.
- Improving biodiversity by providing habitats for native species.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities to introduce biodiversity corridors linking nature areas.

Figure 41. Increase shady streets and create a welcoming arrival. Continuous tree canopy, Yackandandah.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Strengthen the community heart along the Mitta Mitta River & Snowy Creek

Theme 1.2: Gateway Arrival and Road Upgrades

What we heard

Roads / driving are the main form of transport in the township with Omeo Highway providing the north-south route connecting Tallangatta / Corryong to Omeo. The Highway forms part of the main street through the town centre with a lack of safe pedestrian access to housing, key services / businesses, and attractions such as walking trails, camping grounds and the future Mountain Bike Park located on either side of the Highway. In addition, the existing Mitta Mitta River Walk joins a small section of the narrow Highway – a result of a lack of trail maintenance – creating unsafe conditions for pedestrians and cyclists. Increased visitation to the township from the Mountain Bike Park and The Mill Campground is expected to result in larger numbers of tourists using the Mitta Mitta River Walk to shop at the Mitta General Store and dine at the Mitta Pub.

A predominantly farming community, ageing road infrastructure and an issue with logistics and the movement of goods in / out of the town were also identified as a concern. The poor state of Mitta North Road was referred to several times as unsafe and requiring road widening, in addition to the increasing use of the road for cyclists and pedestrians visiting Mitta Mitta Brewing Co. and travelling between Mitta Mitta, Dartmouth, Eskdale and beyond.

Vehicle speed and speed limit through the town centre were identified as an issue, particularly for younger children, an ageing population and visitors regularly crossing the Highway.

Engagement 1 findings were reinforced during Engagement 2 with key priorities emerging in road upgrades, a reduction in travel speed and safer crossings.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

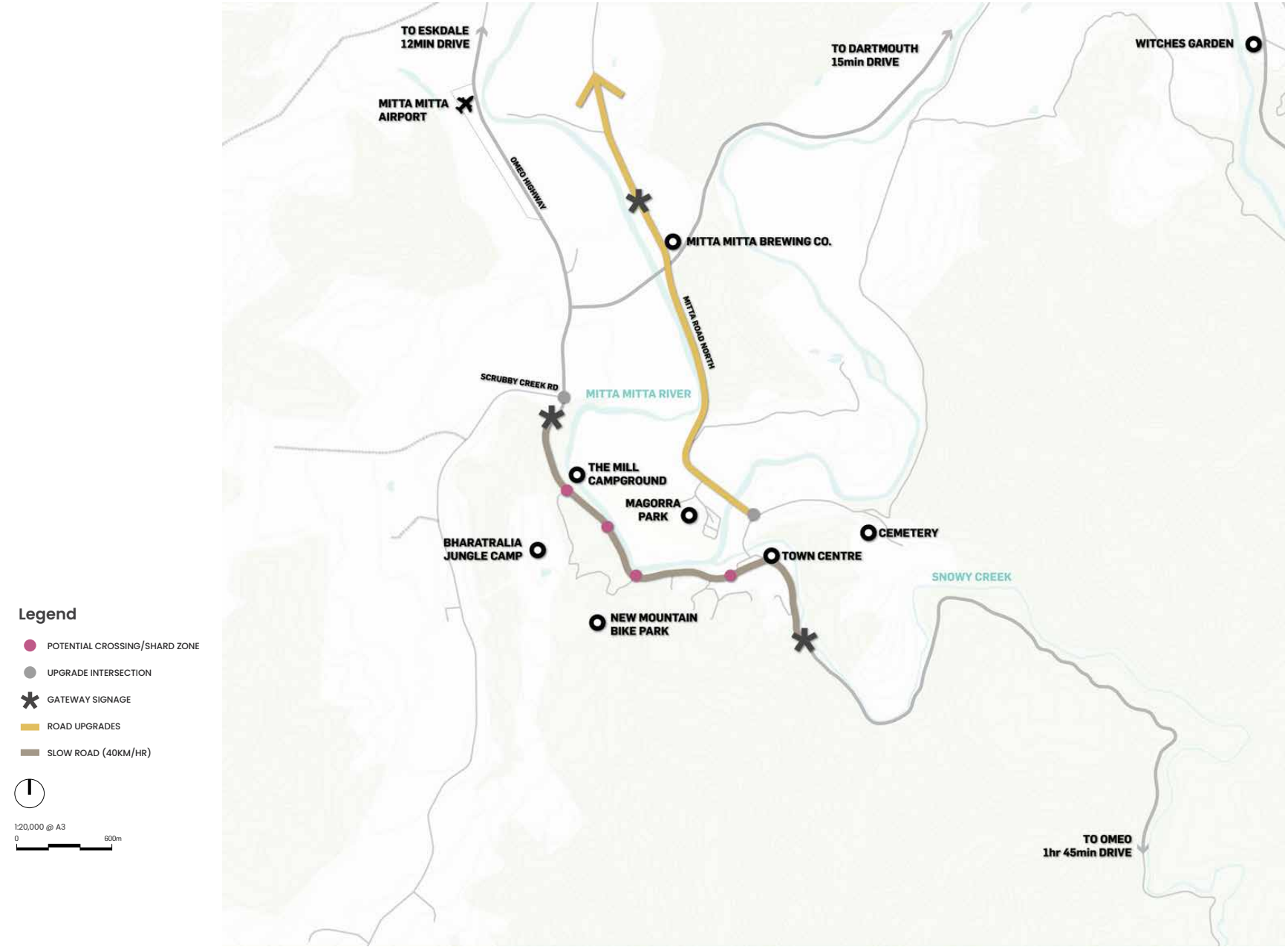
+ 1 - Road upgrades, reduce speed and safer crossings
+ 2 - Gateway arrival including signage and trees with safer intersections.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on improving general road transport and safety including the sense of arrival into the township by:

+ Upgrading key roads
+ Reducing the speed limit through the town centre
+ Improving intersections and crossings
+ Incorporating a regular maintenance regime
+ Gateway beautification and signage.

Figure 42. New gateway signage design for the Mitta Valley. Welcome to Tallandoon signage concept, Towong Shire.


TO ESKDALE
12MIN DRIVE
MITTA MITTA
AIRPORT
OMEO HIGHWAY
TO DARTMOUTH
15min DRIVE
WITCHES GARDEN
MITTA MITTA BREWING CO.
MITTA ROAD NORTH
SCRUBBY CREEK RD
MITTA MITTA RIVER
THE MILL
CAMPGROUND
MAGORRA
PARK
CEMETERY
BHARATRALIA
JUNGLE CAMP
TOWN CENTRE
SNOWY CREEK
NEW MOUNTAIN
BIKE PARK
TO OMEO
1hr 45min DRIVE
Legend
POTENTIAL CROSSING/SHARD ZONE
UPGRADE INTERSECTION
GATEWAY SIGNAGE
ROAD UPGRADES
SLOW ROAD (40KM/HR)
1:20,000 @ A3
0
600m

3.2 Big Idea 01 Strengthen the community heart along the Mitta Mitta River & Snowy Creek

Objective 1: Upgrade Roads, reduce speed limits and introduce safer crossings

Action 01: Improve connectivity between Mitta Mitta, Dartmouth and Eskdale through the following:

+ Identifying key freight routes
+ Undertaking general road upgrades such as potholes
+ Road widening of Mitta Road North to Mitta Mitta Brewing Co. and Eskdale to address road safety concerns and accommodate an increase in visitor numbers
+ Introducing a walking trail along Mitta Road North to Mitta Mitta Brewing Co.

Action 02: Reduce the speed limit to 40km/hr on Omeo Highway through the central township from The Mill Campground to the southern entry.

Action 03: Undertake a safety audit of key routes to determine where safety improvements are required including dedicated shared paths and crossings.

The following routes and trails have been identified:

+ Circuit from Mitta Mitta to Mitta North Road, Dartmouth Road, and Omeo Highway back to Mitta Mitta
+ Mitta Mitta River Walk where the trail merges with Omeo Highway.

Action 04: Investigate locations for pedestrian crossings at key locations or intersections such as:

+ Walking trails to the Mitta Mitta Historic Park Reserve and Trail Head
+ Mountain Bike trails to The Mill Trail Head and Campground
+ Walking Trails to Deep Gully, Upper Pioneer Mine, Mount Welcome / Disappointment
+ Potential shared zone where the Mitta Mitta River Walk joins the Highway or alternatively reinstate the off-road trail for pedestrians access.

Objective 2: Improve the gateway arrival into the township and create safer intersections

Action 01: Create a sense of arrival at entry locations to / from Towong Shire and the Australian Alps with gateway and wayfinding signage at decision points, trees, public art and beautification at the following locations:

+ Omeo Highway northern entry after Scrubby Creek Road / before The Mill Campground
+ Omeo Highway southern entry at the start of the township
+ Mitta Road North before the Mitta Mitta Brewing Co.

Action 02: Improve the intersection at Omeo Highway and Scrubby Creek Road.

Action 03: Improve the intersection at Mitta North Road and Giltraps Road for right-turning vehicles towards the town centre to address the current blind-spot.

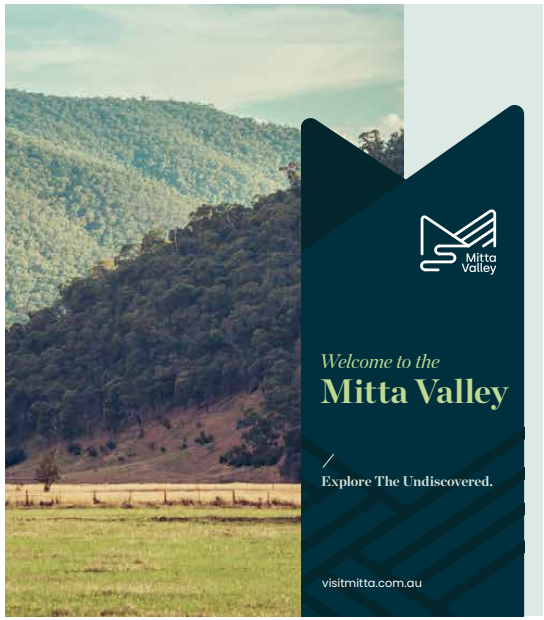


Figure 43. Mitta Valley Brand Identity Signage for Gateway Signage into the Township.

Figure 44. Gateway beautification with artwork. 'Arcade' by Gijs Van Vaerenbergh.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Sustainable development to ensure liveability & resilience

Theme 2.1: Ensuring Long-Term Resilience

What we heard

A lack of reticulated water / sewerage, followed by unreliable telecommunications were the highest ranked suggestions for how to improve the township. Engagement 1 findings were reinforced during Engagement 2, with reticulated water and sewerage receiving the highest support of all initiatives / projects. There is a strong sense that without this basic infrastructure, the township cannot cope with any development.

In the absence of water and sewerage infrastructure, drinking water is provided by the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek or rainwater tanks, while septic systems are required for waste. Poor water quality and health impacts have resulted from visitors during weekends, holidays, and events, when the existing infrastructure comes under strain and is unable to cope with the increased demand. The opportunity to improve water and sewage would ensure that capacity is able to meet demand, supporting the development of the Mountain Bike Park and other initiatives to sustain the township into the future.

Bushfire preparedness was the highest ranked opportunity for environmental sustainability and resilience during Engagement 1. These findings were reinforced during Engagement 2, followed by 'Plan for long-term resilience', acknowledging the need to plan for and provide emergency services for future hazards and disasters.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are listed below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

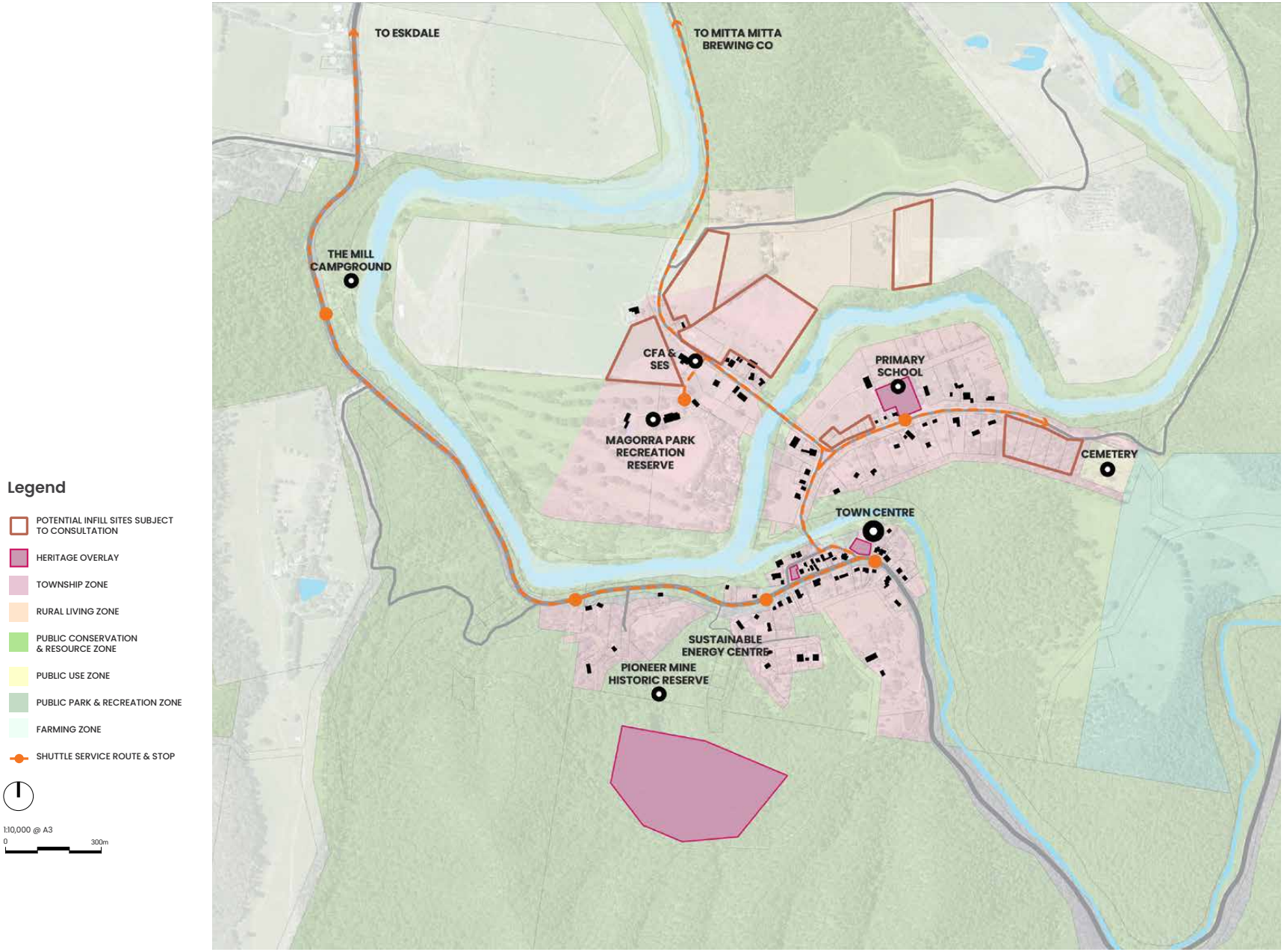
+ 1 - Critical infrastructure upgrades
+ 2 - Bushfire preparedness
+ 3 - Plan for long-term resilience
+ 4 - Water reuse / recycling and green waste / recycling

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on increasing the long-term resilience of the township through the provision of:

+ Critical infrastructure to support liveability and the development of constrained sites
+ Bushfire preparedness
+ Planning for long-term disaster and resilience.

Figure 45. Free Green Waste Disposal Program for Fire Danger Period, Mount Alexander Shire Council.


TO ESKDALE
TO MITTA MITTA BREWING CO
THE MILL CAMPGROUND
CFA & SES
PRIMARY SCHOOL
MAGORRA PARK RECREATION RESERVE
CEMETERY
TOWN CENTRE
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY CENTRE
PIONEER MINE HISTORIC RESERVE
Legend
POTENTIAL INFILL SITES SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION
HERITAGE OVERLAY
TOWNSHIP ZONE
RURAL LIVING ZONE
PUBLIC CONSERVATION & RESOURCE ZONE
PUBLIC USE ZONE
PUBLIC PARK & RECREATION ZONE
FARMING ZONE
SHUTTLE SERVICE ROUTE & STOP
1:10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.3 Big Idea 02 Sustainable development to ensure liveability & resilience

Objective 1: Plan and advocate for critical infrastructure to support the liveability of the township

Action 01: Advocate for North East Water to include Mitta Mitta in their priority list for the provision of reticulated sewerage and water.

Action 02: Advocate for improvements to the telecommunications infrastructure, internet service and the mobile phone network for reliable communications particularly during emergency situations and peak tourism periods.

Action 03: Provide learning opportunities for the community to better understand the different telecommunication services available.

Action 04: Advocate for upgrades to the existing electricity infrastructure network.

Action 05: Investigate alternative power solutions including hydro, battery and micro-grid.

Objective 2: Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township

Action 01: Upgrade existing buildings, manage vegetation and ensure new buildings comply with requirements and guidelines to mitigate the impact of bushfires.

Action 02: Develop cost-effective methods to retrofit existing buildings for bushfire preparedness.

Objective 3: Plan for natural and man-made hazards and disasters and emergency preparedness

Action 01: Incorporate disaster and resilience planning to reduce the impact of natural and man-made hazards and disasters.

Action 02: Implement the recommendations of the Bushfire Risk Assessment to guide the future development of the township.

Action 03: Plan for the future upgrade and potential needs of existing emergency services and infrastructure including consultation with emergency services organisations for projects such as adventure tourism which can impact existing commitments.

Action 04: Include hazard resilience in future planning such as buildings, infrastructure, open space and vegetation including higher stormwater drainage and run-off, infrastructure that can cope with floods and storms, vegetation that reduces risks of fire and wind damage.

Action 05: Address the trend towards a decrease in volunteerism with succession planning.

Objective 4: Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling

Action 01: Investigate options for alternative waste to energy and water treatment solutions.

Action 02: Investigate options to reduce waste, improve recycling including green waste recycling, collection and management.

Action 03: Identify barriers and investigate options to reduce water use, increase reuse for buildings and community facilities.

Figure 46. Modular alternate power sources. Yackandandah Town Battery.

Figure 47. Alternative power sources. Yackandandah Town Battery.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Sustainable development to ensure liveability & resilience

Theme 2.2: Increasing Housing Supply

What we heard

Engagement 1 findings indicated that 'Increasing access to housing supply and diversity of housing types' was the fifth highest ranked suggestions for how to improve the township after improving critical infrastructure (water and sewage) and telecommunications, retaining the town's character, increasing employment opportunities and improving the township presentation and community spaces.

Housing supply is constrained by the the Bushfire Management Overlay; GMW / EPA requirements adjacent waterways; and a lack of existing housing available for permanent residents, with a significant number of housing long-term holiday homes for families. It is also worth noting that due to the extreme fire risk, the township boundary is highly unlikely to be expanded, limiting opportunities to provide additional housing.

Engagement 1 findings indicated that limited housing supply / choice for residents and workers including rentals, is a key issue in the township creating a barrier for employment, a lack of volunteers for community led services, with fewer permanent residents to support existing businesses, sporting groups and the local school.

Engagement 2 findings supported 'Increasing housing choice and Prioritised housing for key communities', reflecting the need to increase housing supply while acknowledging the difficulty of delivering new housing in a highly constrained environment.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are listed below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Increase housing choice and Prioritised housing for key communities
+ 2 - Increase housing in existing township and Rural Living Zones.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on increasing housing supply in the township through the provision of:

+ Increasing the availability of permanent and rental housing for locals
+ Prioritising housing for residents and workers
+ Diversifying housing choice
+ Increasing housing within the township.

Objective 1: Increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities

Action 01: Investigate options to increase housing prioritising residents and workers.

Action 02: Investigate options to provide a greater range of housing typologies including Respite Home / Aged Care, ageing in place, key sector worker, seasonal worker accommodation, multi-generational homes and co-housing.

Action 03: Investigate pathways with government to reduce housing used as holiday homes and short-term accommodation to increase the number of long-term rental properties.

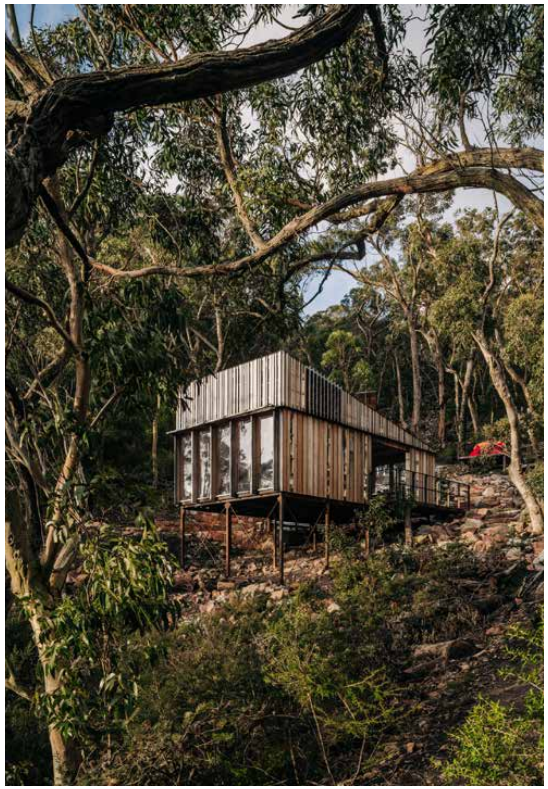


Figure 48. Provide new housing that enhances the local environment and character.

Objective 2: Investigate opportunities to increase housing in the existing Township and Rural Living Zones

Action 01: Explore opportunities to provide infill housing on small and large vacant sites in the township Zone subject to recommendations of the Bushfire Risk Assessment. Selected sites in the Township Zone are subject to Development Plan Overlay 2.

Action 02: Investigate appropriate residential densities subject to recommendations of the Bushfire Risk Assessment:

+ Increasing single storey to 2-3 storey on smaller lots in proximity to the town centre
+ Underdeveloped lots within the township for alternative housing models.

Action 03: Explore opportunities to provide infill housing on large vacant site in the Rural Living Zone.

Action 04: Investigate opportunities to increase density on underdeveloped land in Rural Living Zones subject to recommendations of the Bushfire Risk Assessment. Sites in the Rural Living Zone are subject to Design and Development Overlay 1.

Figure 49. Low density infill housing in Rural Living Zones.

Figure 50. Cooperative housing models for shared ownership and communal living – Sumu Yakushima Regenerative Residence, Yakushima.

Figure 51. Increasing housing density while maximising the amenity and natural features of the environment.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Family friendly, historic & eco-tourist destination

Theme 3.1: Family Friendly, Historic and Eco-Tourist Destination

What we heard

Retaining the town's character and accessible public transport and walking / cycling trails / routes were the second (equal with telecommunications) and sixth respectively ranked opportunities from Engagement 1. While existing trails were identified as an asset, maintenance could be improved including trail signage. Safety concerns were raised about trails, in particular, those adjacent to roads with the Mitta Mitta River Walk singled out as a walking path of particular concern, where a lack of maintenance has resulted in the trail joining the Omeo Highway.

Diversifying the local economy is the third highest rated opportunity, with work underway to strengthen the beef and dairy industry with training, a mobile abattoir and diverse products under Mitta Valley Beef. Alternatives to the beef industry include nature-based tourism and events with the addition of a new Mountain Bike Park expected to increase visitor numbers. Findings indicate that tourism initiatives are to ensure the unique qualities of the township and surrounding environment are protected and enhanced.

Engagement 1 findings indicated that there is concern about the poor state of assets and infrastructure in the township and a lack of capacity and suitable amenity to accommodate an increase in visitors placing increasing demand on overstretched resources including: a lack of reticulated water / sewerage; public toilets; parking within the town centre; accommodation; and eating experiences.

Engagement 1 findings were reinforced during Engagement 2 with key priorities emerging in nature-based tourism, upgrading the Historic Park Reserve for walking trails and developing a strategy to manage an increase in parking demand during weekends, holiday periods and events.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are listed below with equal weighting for nature-based tourism, parking strategy and public bus service. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Nature-based tourism
+ 1 - Parking strategy and public bus service
+ 2 - Events calendar and marketing campaign
+ 3 - Increase accommodation choice and destination businesses.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on developing a local tourism strategy tailored to Mitta Mitta's strengths and assets and balances the needs of residents with visitors by:

+ Focusing on nature-based, family friendly and historic tourism
+ Improving infrastructure to support the development of the township for economic opportunities
+ Providing a maintained network of paths / trails with wayfinding signage and facilities
+ Improving the Mitta Mitta Historic Park Reserve Trail Head
+ Diversifying accommodation choice
+ Supporting businesses to invest in the township
+ Developing a parking strategy to determine and manage parking requirements.

Objective 1: Improve nature-based tourism and upgrade Mitta Mitta Historic Park Reserve Trail Head for walking trails

Action 01: Investigate opportunities to provide a network of safe off-road trails and dedicated shared paths for walking, cycling, running and horse riding connecting facilities, recreational areas and open spaces with Mitta Mitta, Dartmouth and Eskdale.

This includes discussions with private landowners and relevant government authorities where trails are proposed on privately owned or crown land.

Action 02: Upgrade and expand the trail network with new trails connecting existing trails for day and multi-day hikes from the township to Mount Disappointment, Mount Bogong, Eskdale Spur, Mount Benambra and Mount Granite with trail head facilities such as huts and trail signage.

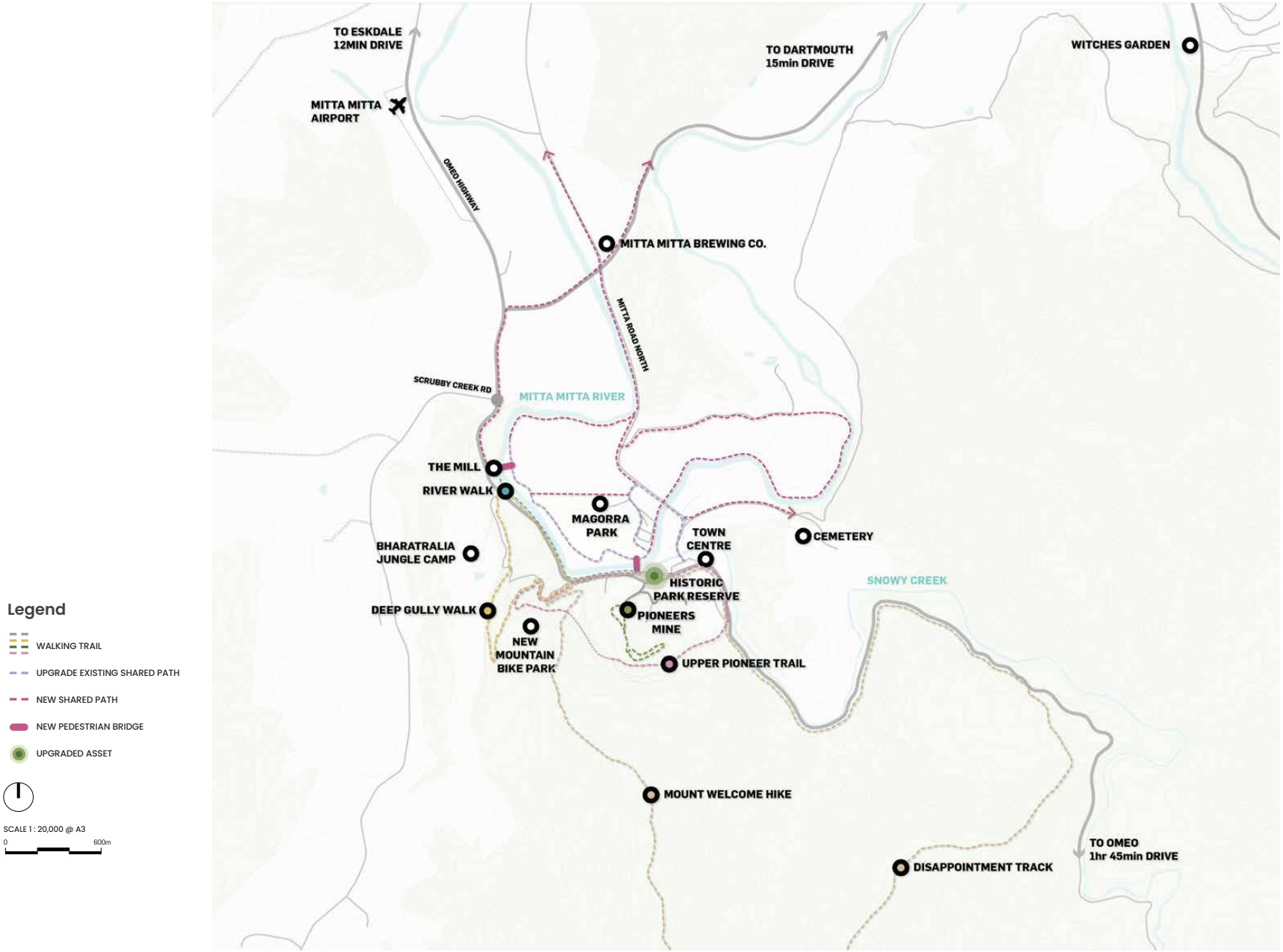
This includes discussions with private landowners and relevant government authorities where trails are proposed on privately owned or crown land.

Action 03: Upgrade the Mitta Mitta Historic Park Reserve Trail Head with facilities including tourist information, maps, interpretive and wayfinding signage.

Action 04: Restore the segment of the the Mitta Mitta River Walk joining the Omeo Highway. Seal and maintain the length of Mitta Mitta River Walk from the Historic Park Reserve Trail Head to The Mill Campground.

Action 05: Investigate options for trails and camping areas for horse riders.

Action 06: Incorporate regular maintenance programs to trails and trail head facilities.


TO ESKDALE
12MIN DRIVE
TO DARTMOUTH
15min DRIVE
WITCHES GARDEN
MITTA MITTA
AIRPORT
OMEO HIGHWAY
MITTA MITTA BREWING CO.
MITTA ROAD NORTH
SCRUBBY CREEK RD
MITTA MITTA RIVER
THE MILL
RIVER WALK
MAGORRA
PARK
TOWN
CENTRE
CEMETERY
BHARATRALIA
JUNGLE CAMP
HISTORIC
PARK RESERVE
SNOWY CREEK
DEEP GULLY WALK
PIONEERS
MINE
NEW
MOUNTAIN
BIKE PARK
UPPER PIONEER TRAIL
MOUNT WELCOME HIKE
TO OMEO
1hr 45min DRIVE
DISAPPOINTMENT TRACK
Legend
WALKING TRAIL
UPGRADE EXISTING SHARED PATH
NEW SHARED PATH
NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
UPGRADED ASSET
SCALE 1 : 20,000 @ A3
0
600m

3.4 Big Idea 03 Family friendly, historic & eco-tourist destination

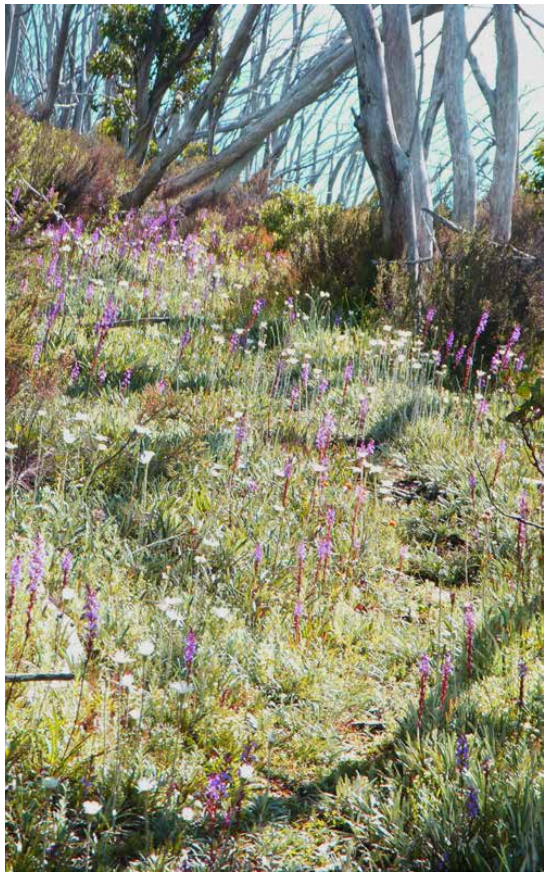


Figure 52. Alpine trails to Mount Bogong.

Objective 2: Improve parking and public transport services for the township

Action 01: Develop a parking strategy that caters for overflow car parking for increased visitation periods and events including RV / long vehicle parking and RV dump points focused on the town centre and Magorra Park Recreation Reserve.

Action 02: Advocate for a public bus service between Albury-Wodonga and Omeo / Gippsland, stopping in Tallangatta and Mitta Mitta.

Action 03: Investigate options to provide a community shuttle to health services and other key locations in the township that can be used by tour operators for events and the Mountain Bike Park.

Action 04: Investigate options to provide car parking at the DEECA Depot site.

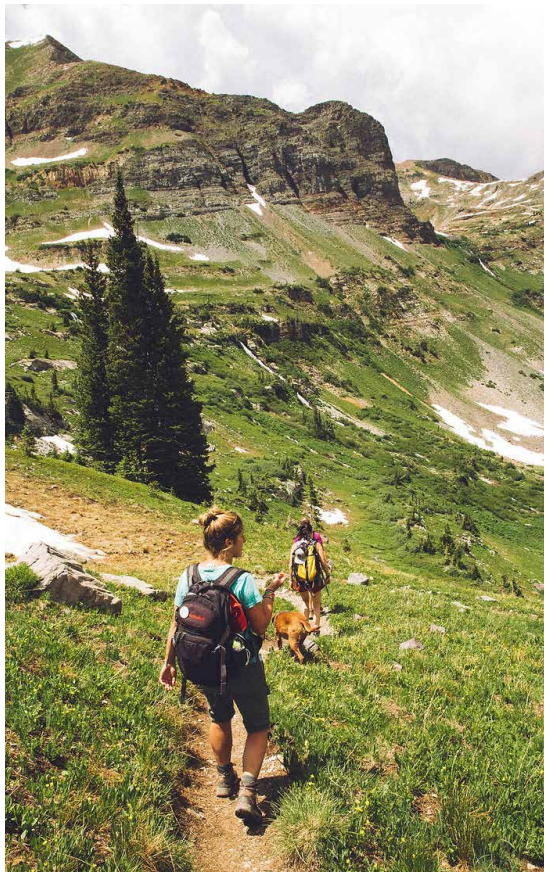
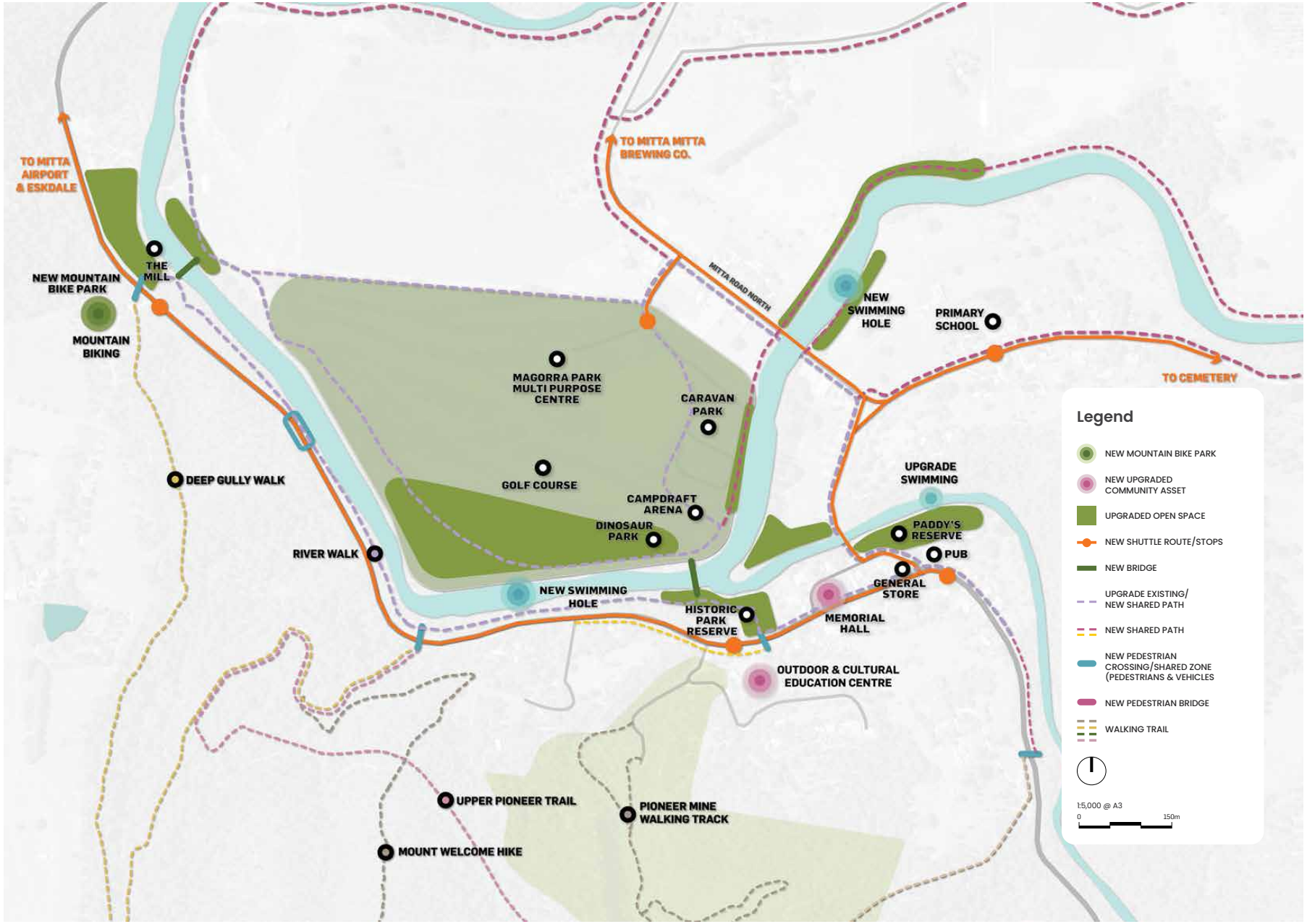


Figure 53. Day and multi-day hikes in the surrounding bushland and parks.


TO MITTA AIRPORT & ESKDALE
TO MITTA MITTA BREWING CO.
MITTA ROAD NORTH
THE MILL
NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK
MOUNTAIN BIKING
NEW SWIMMING HOLE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
TO CEMETERY
MAGORRA PARK MULTI PURPOSE CENTRE
CARAVAN PARK
GOLF COURSE
DEEP GULLY WALK
UPGRADE SWIMMING
CAMPDRAFT ARENA
DINOSAUR PARK
PADDY'S RESERVE
PUB
RIVER WALK
GENERAL STORE
NEW SWIMMING HOLE
HISTORIC PARK RESERVE
MEMORIAL HALL
OUTDOOR & CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTRE
UPPER PIONEER TRAIL
PIONEER MINE WALKING TRACK
MOUNT WELCOME HIKE
Legend
NEW MOUNTAIN BIKE PARK
NEW UPGRADED COMMUNITY ASSET
UPGRADED OPEN SPACE
NEW SHUTTLE ROUTE/STOPS
NEW BRIDGE
UPGRADE EXISTING/ NEW SHARED PATH
NEW SHARED PATH
NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING/SHARED ZONE (PEDESTRIANS & VEHICLES
NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
WALKING TRAIL
1:5,000 @ A3
0
150m

3.4 Big Idea 03 Family friendly, historic & eco-tourist destination

Objective 3: Develop a marketing campaign and expand the events calendar

Action 01: Develop a balanced activation and events calendar with seasonal events that leverage existing events such as the Mitta to Mount Beauty Mountain Bike Ride and The Great Alpine Challenge run catering for:

+ Family-friendly activities and events
+ Music, arts and cultural activities
+ Landcare and environmental activities
+ Sports and recreation activities
+ Agribusiness and learning
+ Touring and running itineraries
+ Food offering with farmgate, farm-to-plate, and hospitality activities.

Figure 54. Adventure tourism cycling events.

Objective 4: Increase accommodation choice to cater for a diverse audience

Action 01: Investigate and support the development of a broader range of short-stay accommodation options targeted at family friendly, historic and nature based / eco-tourism markets such as:

+ Water-based recreation
+ Agritourism
+ Cycling and mountain biking
+ Hiking and trail running
+ Motorbike touring and 4-wheel driving
+ Hang gliding
+ Aviation tourists.

Action 02: Investigate diverse accommodation types suited to the target audiences such as:

+ Tiny homes / cabins in a landscape settings
+ Eco-resort / lodge with high quality accommodation
+ Farm stay accommodation
+ Diversifying accommodation options at the Mitta Mitta Caravan Park.

Action 03: Support the development of services suited to target audiences such as pick-up / drop-off, bicycle maintenance and secure bicycle storage facilities.

Figure 55. Camping in the surrounding bushland and parks.

Objective 5: Support destination businesses to invest in the township

Action 01: Provide support to businesses seeking to invest in the township and surrounding area for the following (but not limited to) opportunities including:

+ Agritourism farmgate and learning / workshops
+ Equestrian business opportunities such as Pony Club, horse boarding services, riding lessons and retail
+ Adventure tourism, leveraging the Mountain Bike Park including leasable space / pop-ups for bicycle retail / repair
+ Targeted outdoor recreation businesses – rafting, kayaking, fishing, 4-wheel driving, trail running, cycle and motorcycle touring (gravel and road)
+ Potential locations for an Abattoir / Protein Recovery Plant
+ Social enterprises such as community nursery and food hub / cooperative and cafe with regenerative agriculture farm with learning / employment pathways
+ Arts based businesses such as ceramic studio, workshop and gallery
+ Connecting with nature such as wilderness and environmental tourism, learning about the environment and protecting ecosystems
+ Food and hospitality such as bakery, food market to sell locally grown produce and capitalising on the airport for 'farm to plate' local produce.

Figure 56. Social enterprise providing community nursery, locally grown food and cafe showcasing regenerative agriculture. Common Ground Project, Freshwater Creek.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Family friendly, historic & eco-tourist destination

Theme 3.2: Historic Town

What we heard

The name Mitta Mitta is from the First Nations name for "mida-modunga' which translates to where reeds grow. The township has a rich history spanning thousands of years from First Nations people to European explorers and Chinese miners. The Jaitmathang people lived in this area for over twenty thousand years, migrating between the lower valleys and floodplains in winter and higher alpine areas around Mount Bogong in summer to feast on Bogong moths.

The first European explorers to the area were Hume and Hovell in 1824 followed by the establishment of the township by early pastoralists in 1835, with a remote sheep and cattle farm called Magorra Station. The discovery of gold in 1852 in the Snowy Creek behind the existing Mitta Pub, led to mining in the river, creeks and streams, including Chinese miners who brought their own mining practices. The arrival of new technology called hydraulic sluicing led to the development of a mine to the south of the township at the site of the current Pioneer Mine Historic Reserve.

This painting attributed to Eugene von Gerard of the Upper Mitta Mitta River 1863-64, illustrates the presence of First Nations people on the Mitta Mitta River. Regarded as Australia's greatest colonial landscape painter, von Gerard undertook extensive travels throughout the south-eastern colonies of Australia during his time in Victoria (1852-1882) with many paintings featuring this region.

Engagement 1 findings have identified references to First Nation's names for Mount Welcome and Mount Misery from an Argus article dated 16 November 1883. Engagement 1 findings were reinforced during Engagement 2 with a key priority emerging in 'Incorporating First Nations History in the town's heritage'.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Incorporate First Nation's history
+ 2 - Historic Park Reserve upgrade and town walks.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on preserving and enhance the unique historic elements that celebrate the township's heritage and increase visibility of the town's history by:

+ Exploring First Nations history
+ Upgrading the Historic Park Reserve historic and trail information
+ Developing a historic walk.

Objective 1: Incorporate First Nation's history into the township

Action 01: Identify any sites of significant First Nations cultural heritage in / surrounding Mitta Mitta with traditional custodians.

Action 02: Develop an Aboriginal place name strategy with traditional custodians to incorporate First Nation's culture and heritage through acknowledgment, place names, truth-telling and stories.

Action 03: Consult First Nations people on the opportunities for new / upgraded open / public spaces along the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek foreshore.

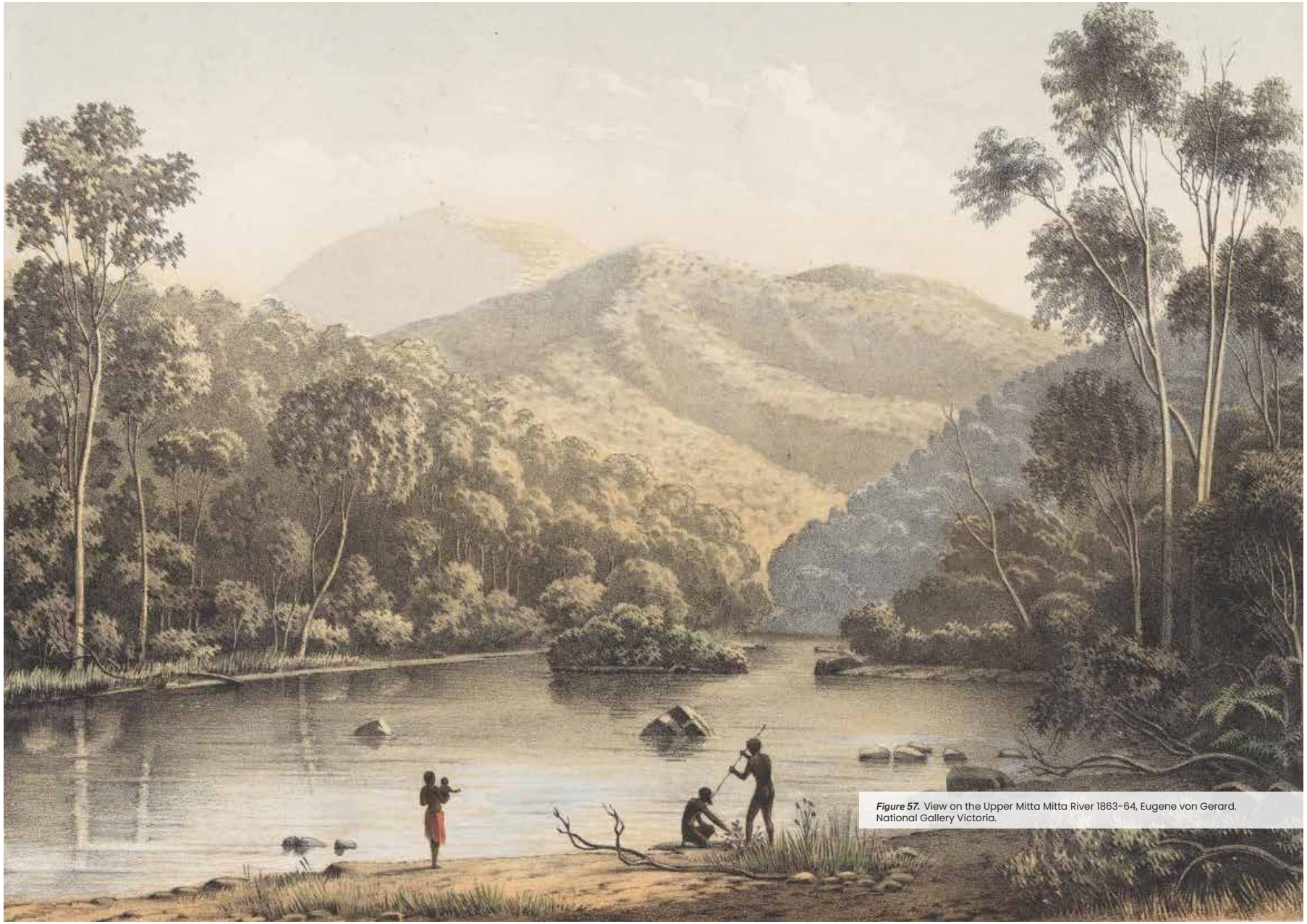


Figure 57. View on the Upper Mitta Mitta River 1863-64, Eugene von Gerard. National Gallery Victoria.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Family friendly, historic & eco-tourist destination

Objective 2: Upgrade the Historic Park Reserve and town walks

Action 01: Upgrade the Historic Park Reserve as the trail head for walks at the Pioneer Mine Historic Reserve, providing historic and trail information.

Action 02: Develop a historic walk of significant places and buildings with community through the township with interpretive signage.

Figure 58. Wayfinding signage for trails and historic information.

Figure 59. Upgraded Trail Head facilities at the Historic Park Reserve. Pima Canyon Trail Head, Arizona.

Legend

1. HISTORIC PRECINCT: MINER'S HUT, DREDGE ARTEFACTS, 4-HEAD BATTERY AND PELTON WHEEL.

2. PIONEER MINE / WALK: WALKING TRACK WITHIN THE OPEN CUT WITH EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF HYDRAULIC SLUICING. THE TOP OF THE PIONEER MINE HAS VIEWS AND HERITAGE EXAMPLES OF WATER RACES.

3. MEMORIAL HALL: THE CENTRE FOR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR 100 YEARS.

4. METHODIST / ANGLICAN CHURCH (NOW A PRIVATE RESIDENCE).

5. SITE OF FORMER HOTEL.

6. BUTCHER'S HOOK CRAFT SHOP: PREVIOUSLY THE SMALLEST BANK IN AUSTRALIA (ANZ) NOW A CRAFT SHOP.

7. MITTA PUB: HISTORICAL BUILDING (NOT HERITAGE LISTED).

8. WHERE GOLD WAS FIRST DISCOVERED AT MITTA MITTA (1852).

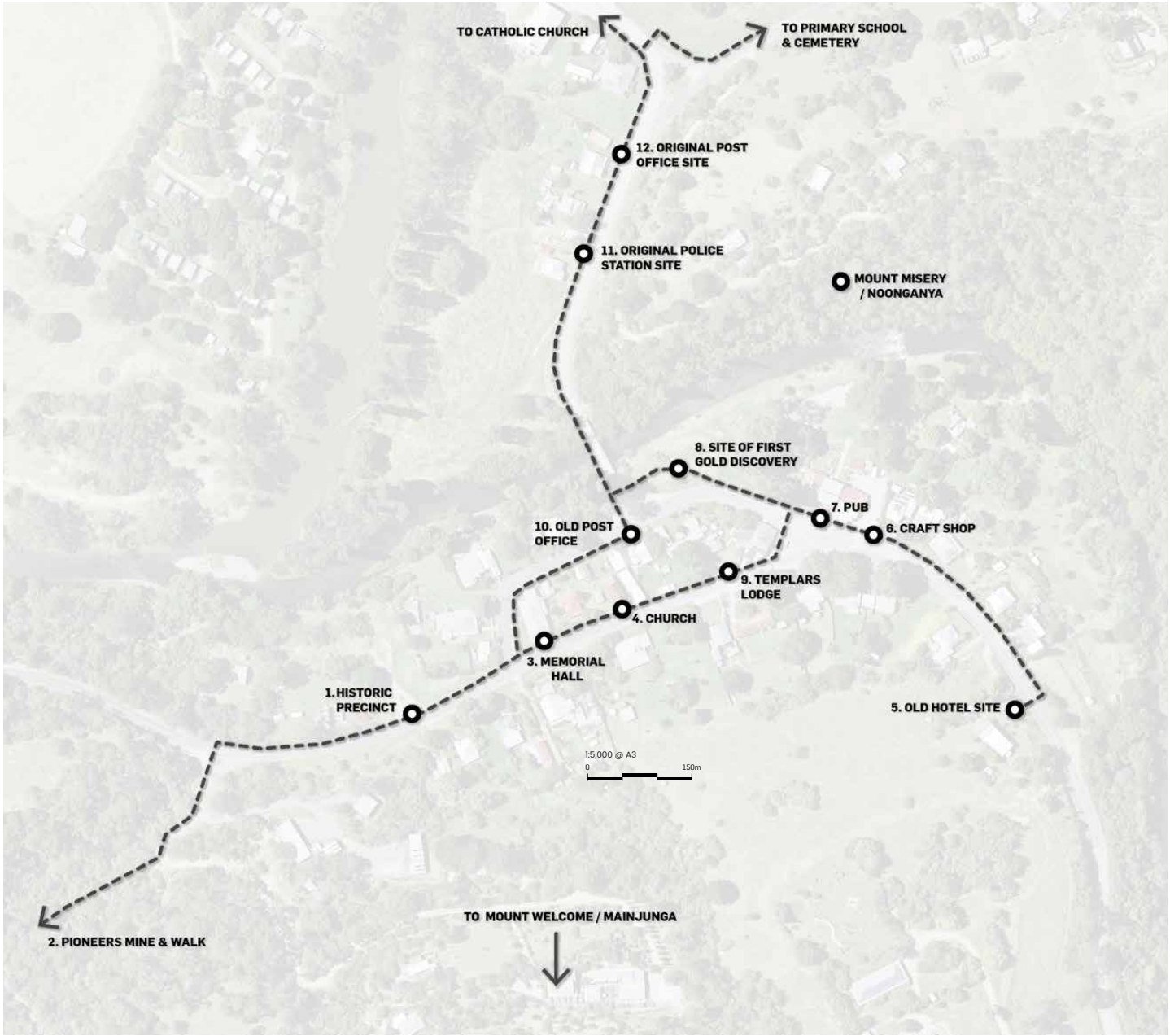
9. TEMPLARS' LODGE: COURT HOUSE FOR A SHORT PERIOD (NOW A PRIVATE RESIDENCE).

10. SITE OF FORMER OLD MITTA POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE OPERATOR.

11. SITE OF ORIGINAL POLICE STATION AND POLICE PADDOCKS.

12. SITE OF THE ORIGINAL POST OFFICE, THEN GENERAL STORE.

SCALE 1 : 2,500 @ A3
0 75m



3.4 Big Idea 03 Family friendly, historic & eco-tourist destination

Theme 3.3: Regional Connectivity

What we heard

Mitta Mitta is located to the east of a cluster of well known townships and mountains that form the central Alpine National Park. Currently, routes to key destinations such as Mount Hotham / Dinner Plain are via Omeo Highway to the south, and for Mount Beauty / Mount Buffalo / Falls Creek / Bright to the north on Omeo Highway, before taking various routes south such as Gundowring Road / Mullagong Road / Kiewa Valley Highway.

Engagement 1 findings indicated that improvements to roads connecting Mitta Mitta to this particular cluster of townships is a key opportunity to capitalise on visitors to the region. In addition, Mitta Mitta is well placed to access Mount Bogong with existing trails to Granite Flat and Eskdale Spur via The Hollow Way Road at the Omeo Highway junction near the Snowy Creek Campground.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

In this instance, 'Regional Connectivity' was singled out as a theme and initiative / project, with the addition of EV Charging Station included in the initiatives / projects. While the theme was rated the lowest priority in Big Idea 03, the initiative / project was given equal first position with 'Incorporate First Nations History' in the theme 'Regional Connectivity', indicating that improving road infrastructure to nearby areas is important to the community.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on improving regional connectivity to destinations within the Alpine National Park to improve access for residents, workers and visitors. This includes the potential to have an EV charging station in the township to support the current touring route from Gippsland on the Omeo Highway, addressing a current gap in the provision of existing EV charging stations.

Objective 1: Improve regional connectivity and install an EV Charging Station

Action 01: Investigate options to provide a road loop that connects Mitta Mitta with Mount Hotham / Dinner Plain, Mount Beauty / Mount Buffalo / Falls Creek / Bright and Mount Bogong.

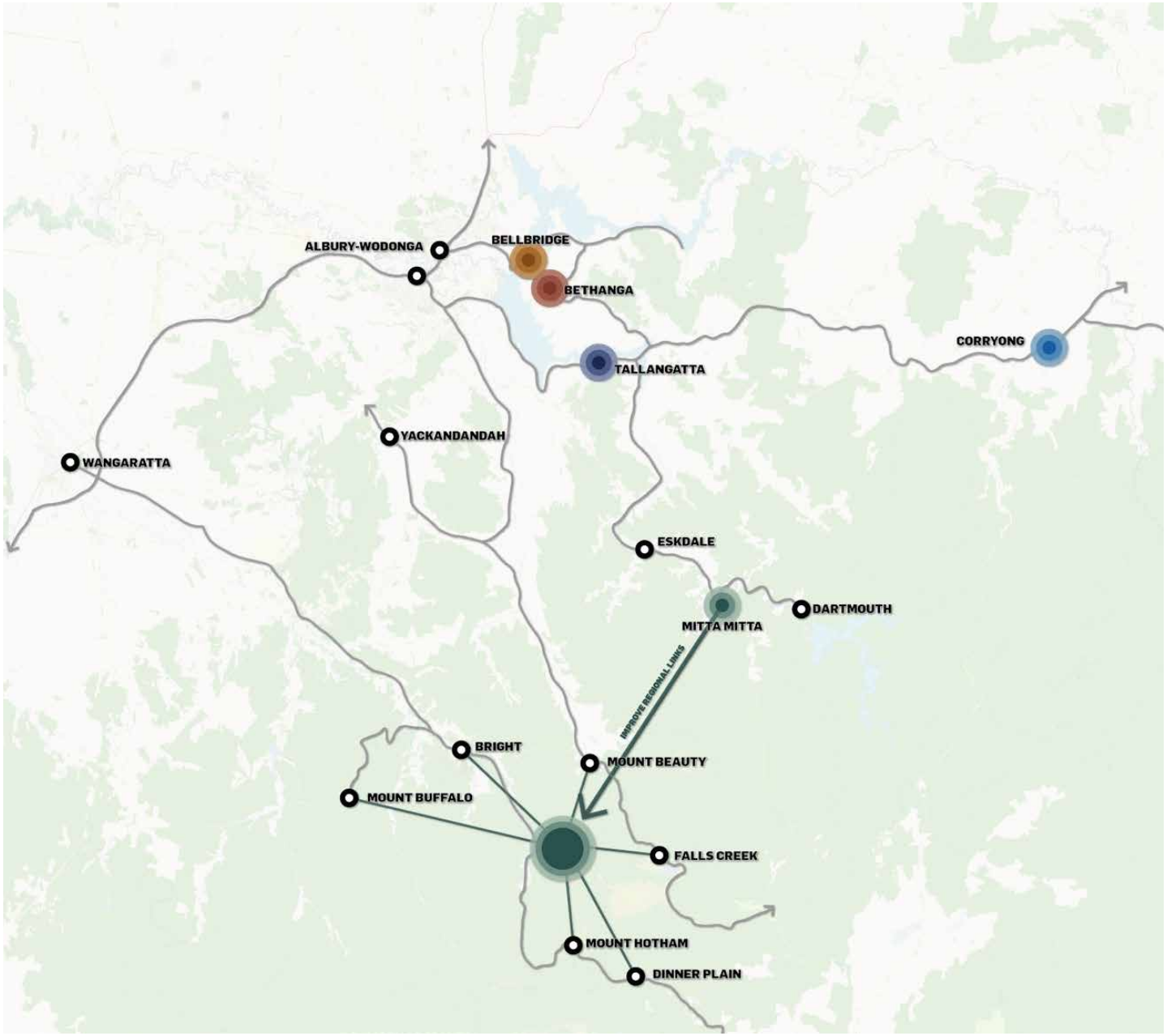
Action 02: Partner with adjoining East Gippsland Shire Council and Alpine Shire Council, to plan for and deliver key road upgrades connecting Mitta Mitta to key destinations.

Action 03: Include provision for an EV charging station, with potential locations to be discussed with community.

Potential locations include:

+ Parking on south side of Omeo Highway near the intersection of Colquhuon Street
+ Former DEECA Depot site
+ Magorra Caravan Park / Golf Course.

Figure 60. EV charging station supports the touring route to Omeo.


ALBURY-WODONGA
BELLBRIDGE
BETHANGA
CORRYONG
TALLANGATTA
YACKANDANDAH
WANGARATTA
ESKDALE
DARTMOUTH
MITTA MITTA
IMPROVE REGIONAL LINKS
BRIGHT
MOUNT BEAUTY
MOUNT BUFFALO
FALLS CREEK
MOUNT HOTHAM
DINNER PLAIN
SCALE 1 : 500,000 @ A3
0
25km

4.0
Implementation Plan
OUR TOWN

4.1 Making it happen

Overview of making it happen

The Mitta Mitta Place Plan establishes a vision and framework for achieving the vision.

This part of the place plan sets out how the objectives may be achieved. Each objective is examined in terms of its:

- **Priority** (low-medium-high) – the priority ranking is informed by outcomes from community engagement and input from authorities.
- **Timing** – a realistic ordering of which objectives can be feasibly achieved in the short, medium, or longer term.
- **Partners** – authorities who have elected to work on the objectives listed.

Some objectives may require further work and studies, including changes to planning instruments in the future, in the form of Structure Plans, reference documents or other planning studies which should be undertaken separately to these place plans where necessary.

It is recommended that the place plan is reviewed regularly, and that regular catch-ups between Council and community are undertaken to monitor and check the progress of the place plan implementation.

Government authorities' workshop

On the 7 March 2024, the Draft Place Plans were presented as part of Engagement 2 to a group of state and local government authorities who have varying levels of involvement in the towns / region. This workshop was a follow-up to focus groups and 1:1 workshops undertaken during Engagement 1 to identify priority areas and opportunities for each authority.

The workshop was attended by representatives from a range of authorities as outlined in Table 1. Representatives from local and state government planning departments, emergency services and water management authorities were present, however it is acknowledged that there may be other relevant authorities that were not in attendance. These authorities should be engaged at a later date in the delivery of objectives as needed.

The aim of the workshop was to present the Draft Place Plans and objectives, raise any potential issues or priorities that authorities may have with relation to the Draft Place Plans, and identify partnerships to deliver the objectives in the future.

The following implementation tables set out where government authorities elected to work as partners to deliver particular elements or objectives of the place plan.

Future work should be undertaken to identify additional partners and begin to create connections between agencies to deliver the place plan.

Organisations represented
Towong Shire Council
Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) – Hume RPS
Country Fire Authority (CFA)
Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) Upper Murray
Victoria SES Tallangatta
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Department Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Ambulance Victoria
Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW)

Big Idea 01: Strengthen the community heart along the Mitta Mitta River & Snowy Creek

THEME 1.1: Improving Existing Assets

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Restore the waterfront of the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek.	High	**Short-term**	NECMA
Objective 2	Upgrade the Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre building and outdoor facilities.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Improve health, childcare and kindergarten services at the Magorra Park Multi-purpose Centre.	High	**Short-term**	Ambulance Victoria
Objective 4	Improve the Mitta Mitta River and Snowy Creek riverfront community spaces.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 5	Strengthen the civic heart with improvements to existing public spaces and facilities within the township.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 6	Create an Outdoor and Cultural Education Centre for training and commercial uses.	Low	Long-term	
Objective 7	Create inviting, safe and shaded streets for all ages and abilities.	Low	**Short-term**	DTP – Transport

THEME 1.2: Gateway Arrival and Road Upgrades

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Upgrade Roads, reduce speed limits and introduce safer crossings.	High	**Short-term**	DTP – Transport
Objective 2	Improve the gateway arrival into the township and create safer intersections.	Low	**Short-term**	DTP – Transport

Big Idea 02: Sustainable development to ensure liveability and resilience

THEME 2.1: Ensuring Long-Term Resilience

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Plan and advocate for critical infrastructure to support the liveability of the township.	High	Long-term	CFA
Objective 2	Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township.	Medium	**Short-term**	CFA
Objective 3	Plan for natural and man-made hazards and disasters and emergency preparedness.	Medium	Medium-term	CFA
Objective 4	Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling.	Medium	**Short-term**	

THEME 2.2: Increasing Housing Supply

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities.	Medium	Long-term	CFA
Objective 2	Investigate opportunities to increase housing in the existing township and Rural Living Zones.	Medium	Medium-term	CFA

Big Idea 03: Family friendly, historic and eco-tourist destination

THEME 3.1: Family Friendly, Historic and Eco-Tourist Destination				
OBJECTIVES		**PRIORITY**	**TIMING**	**PARTNERS**
Objective 1	Improve nature-based tourism and upgrade Mitta Mitta Historic Park Reserve Trail Head for walking trails.	High	Medium-term	Ambulance Victoria (MTB Park)
Objective 2	Improve parking and public transport services for the township.	High	Long-term	DTP – Planning
Objective 3	Develop a marketing campaign and expand the events calendar.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 4	Increase accommodation choice to cater for a diverse audience.	Low	Long-term	CFA
Objective 5	Support destination businesses to invest in the township.	Low	Medium-term	
THEME 3.2: Historic Town				
OBJECTIVES		**PRIORITY**	**TIMING**	**PARTNERS**
Objective 1	Incorporate First Nation's history into the township	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 2:	Upgrade the Historic Park Reserve and town walks	Medium	Medium-term	
THEME 3.3: Regional Connectivity				
OBJECTIVES		**PRIORITY**	**TIMING**	**PARTNERS**
Objective 1	Improve regional connectivity and install an EV Charging Station	Medium	Medium-term	

Impact Tomorrow

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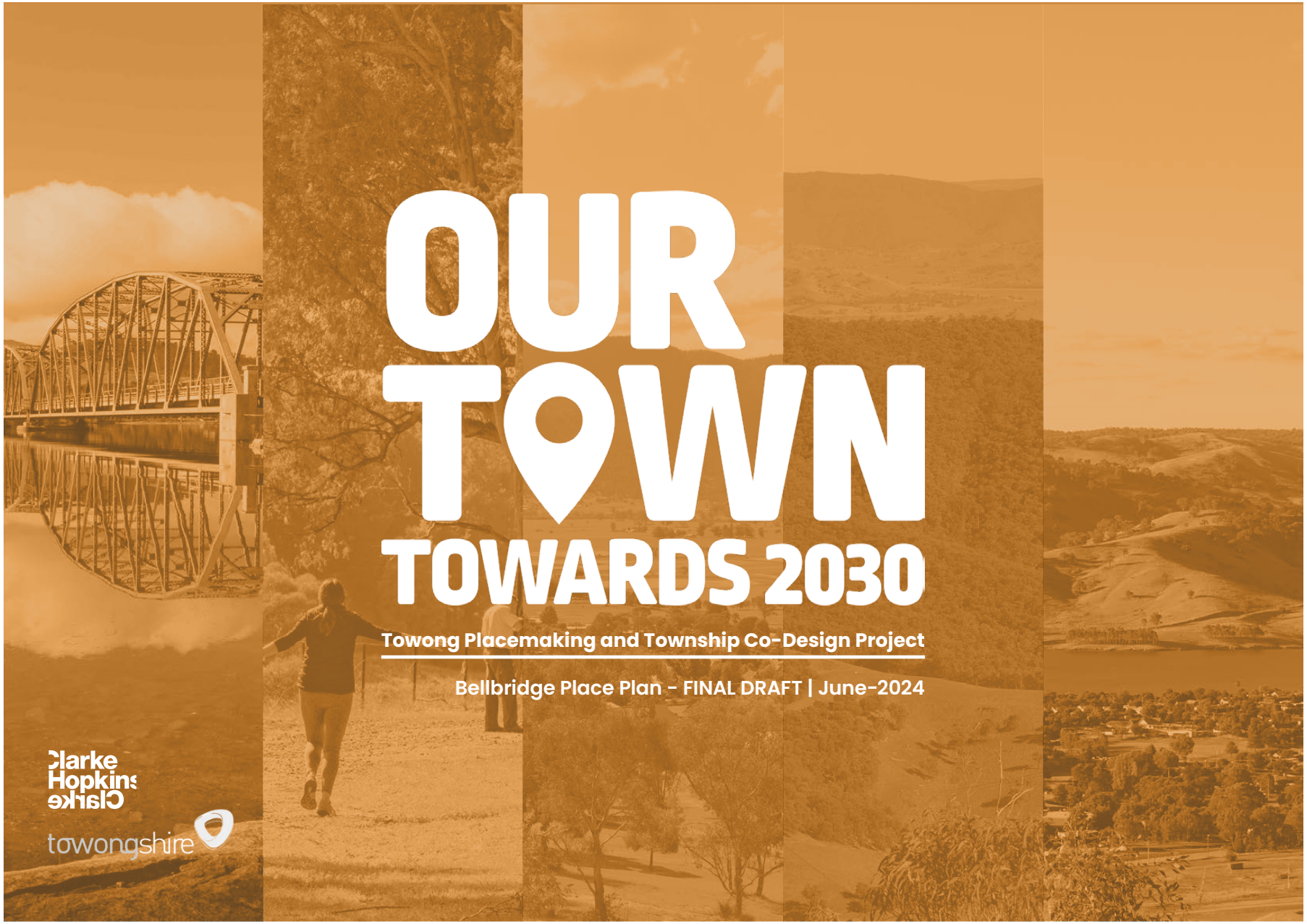
OUR TOWN
TOWARDS 2030
Towong Placemaking and Township Co-Design Project
Bellbridge Place Plan - FINAL DRAFT | June-2024
towongshire

ClarkeHopkinsClarke and Towong Shire Council acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country on which the Our Town project is taking place.

While there are no Registered Aboriginal Parties in the project region, we acknowledge the following Parties we are aware of: Jaitmatang, Yaithmathang, Duduroa dhargal, Waveroo, Way-wurru, Wiradjuri and Ngarigo people as the traditional custodians of the land.

ClarkeHopkinsClarke acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and the Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land we work on.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise their custodianship over deep time and their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

Drawn by Foster Type and based on the AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia, ©AIATSIS 1996.
For more information about using this map please visit aiatsis.gov.au

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1.0
Introduction
OUR TOWN

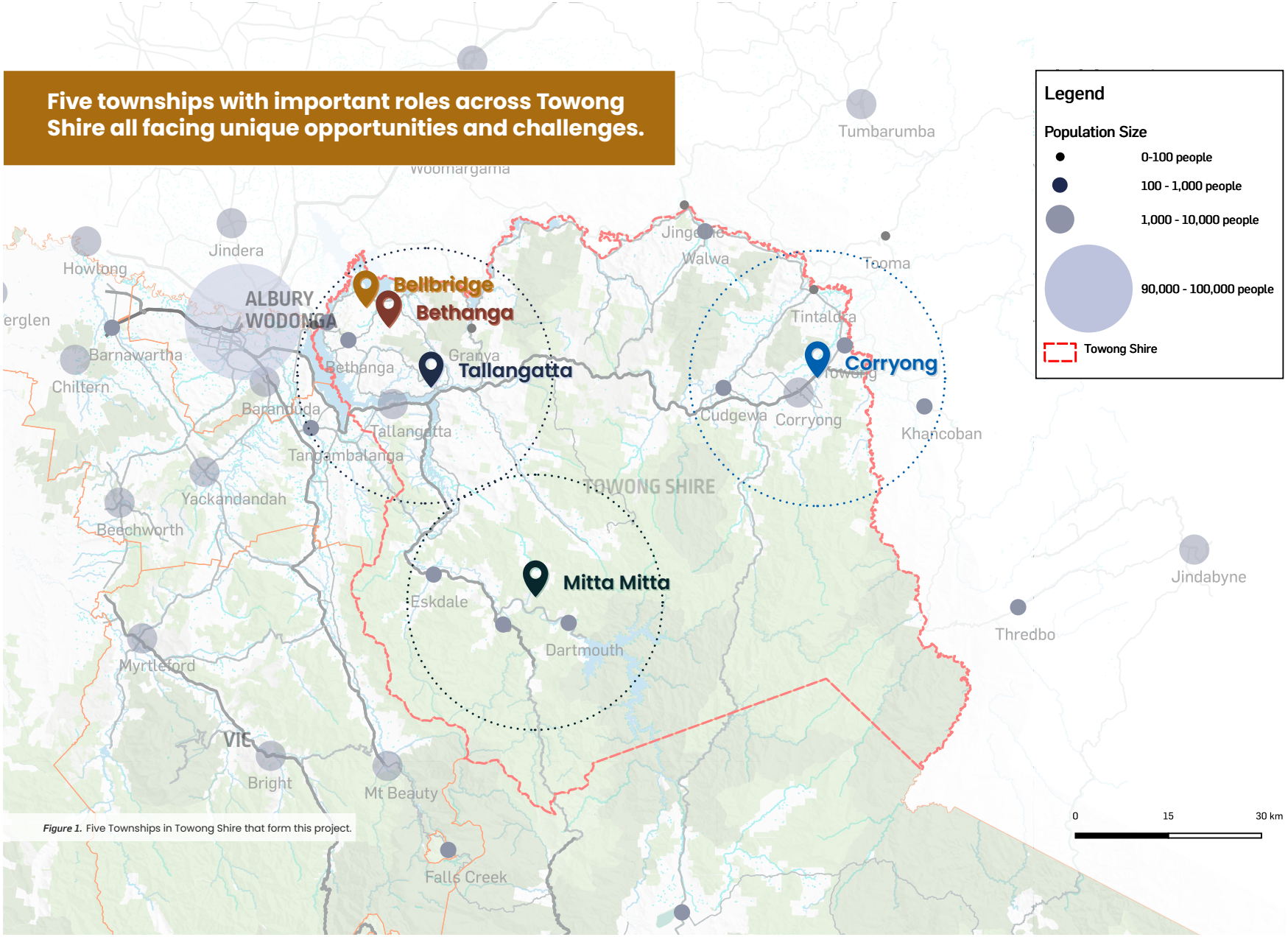


Figure 1. Five Townships in Towong Shire that form this project.

1.1 Project overview

The Bellbridge Place Plan is a 10-year roadmap for Council, community and other stakeholders. The plan identifies community and other stakeholder priorities to guide the future shape and character of the township.

The Bellbridge Place Plan is part of Our Town Towards 2030, a Placemaking and Co-design Project (the project) initiated by Towong Shire Council for five townships across the Shire.

The project delivers town-based plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta. The plans have provided an opportunity to re-imagine the way each township works and has allowed us to bring together the big ideas that drive growth while identifying the services, infrastructure and public spaces required to support the population. Each plan identifies a shared set of goals and initiatives that can be developed and delivered over the next 10 years and beyond.

While the place plans have a ten-year lifespan, each plan provides a good base level summary of what people said; captures what is important to the community; and provides direction beyond the ten-year period of the plan.

Place-based approach

Towong Shire has adopted a place-based approach to master planning exemplified in the Our Bellbridge Masterplan. This plan places community interests at the core of decision-making. The Council Plan 2021-25 identifies community engagement as a key strategy to deliver Council's Strategic Objective 'Organisational Improvement'.

This strategy, places people at the centre of conversations about the future planning of the communities in which they live, work, study, visit and recreate. It is based on the belief that the people who are part of a community are best placed to understand and identify their needs.

Why do we need a Place Plan

Regional towns in Australia have experienced significant growth in recent years increasing pressure on services, housing, jobs, and infrastructure. The five towns – Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta – all face unique challenges, as well as opportunities, that have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the bushfires of 2019-20.

Our Town Towards 2030 has looked at ways to strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of the towns by helping each community to identify and prioritise its future needs, services and opportunities. The co-design project has enabled current communities' input into how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

Project purpose

The purpose of the project is to:

+ Develop a vision shared by the community and other stakeholders.
+ Identify community aspirations and opportunities to address the challenges facing the township.
+ Support the community to prioritise their future needs, services, and opportunities.
+ Align community and other stakeholder expectations including how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

How to read this document

This document is structured in four parts commencing with a project introduction, and understanding of the context and township as the first part.

The second part provides an overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat and Engagement 2: Planning Ahead.

The third part is the Place Plan comprised of the Big Ideas, and the objectives, actions and outcomes that will bring the ideas to life.

The fourth part is the Implementation Plan comprised of objectives, priorities, timing, and key partners.

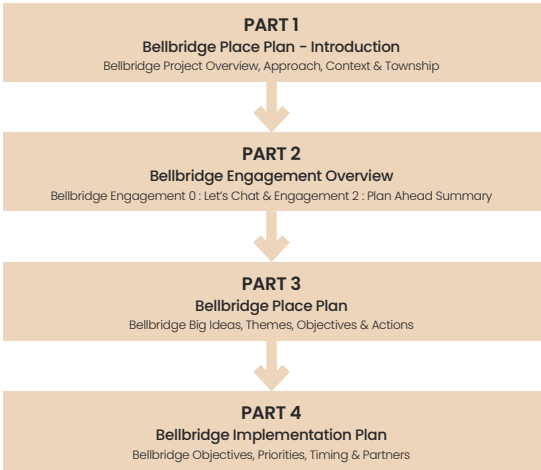


Figure 2. Format of this document, Bellbridge Place Plan.

Figure 3. Engagement 2 workshop, Bellbridge.

1.2 Creating a shared vision

Three engagement touchpoints were developed as part of a co-design process to inform the town vision and place plan. A broad spectrum of stakeholders, including residents, workers, visitors, students, and government authorities were included across all three engagement touchpoints.

Place-based approach & asset based engagement

The engagement process was highly inclusive and collaborative to co-design solutions with the community that build upon the strengths, assets and opportunities for each town. This is called an asset based approach. Asset based engagement recognises and builds upon the value and resources that exist within the community.

Engagement touchpoints

As the first of three touch-points, Engagement 1 was an opportunity to introduce the Our Town Towards 2030 project to each of the five communities and have conversations with people to understand what they value about their town and what really matters to them.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to present the Big Ideas, report back what we heard and how this could translate into future initiatives / projects, asking did we get it right?

Engagement 3 is the final engagement touchpoint. Feedback from Engagement 2 was collated and used to finalise the place plans during 'Delivering the Vision', keeping the community informed of the final project outcomes.

Figure 4. Three engagement touchpoints.

Figure 5. Lake Hume foreshore, Bellbridge.

1.3 Understanding the context

Every project begins with an understanding of the people, location and physical characteristics that define the township. Understanding the township at different scales – from regional, township to town centre – helps to build a picture of the unique features and qualities that contribute to place identity.

Region

With a population base of 393 inhabitants, Bellbridge is a very small township located on the Victoria and New South Wales border.

Bellbridge is immediately east of the Bethanga Bridge, built during 1927-30 when the Hume Weir was completed and the backed-up waters inundated this section of the river. The bridge is 752 metres long and is heritage listed.

We understand that prior to European settlement the area was home to the Jaitmatang and Pallanganmiddang / Waywurru First Nations people.

The township is located in a Declared Special Water Supply Catchment Area with protections on water quality and the environment.

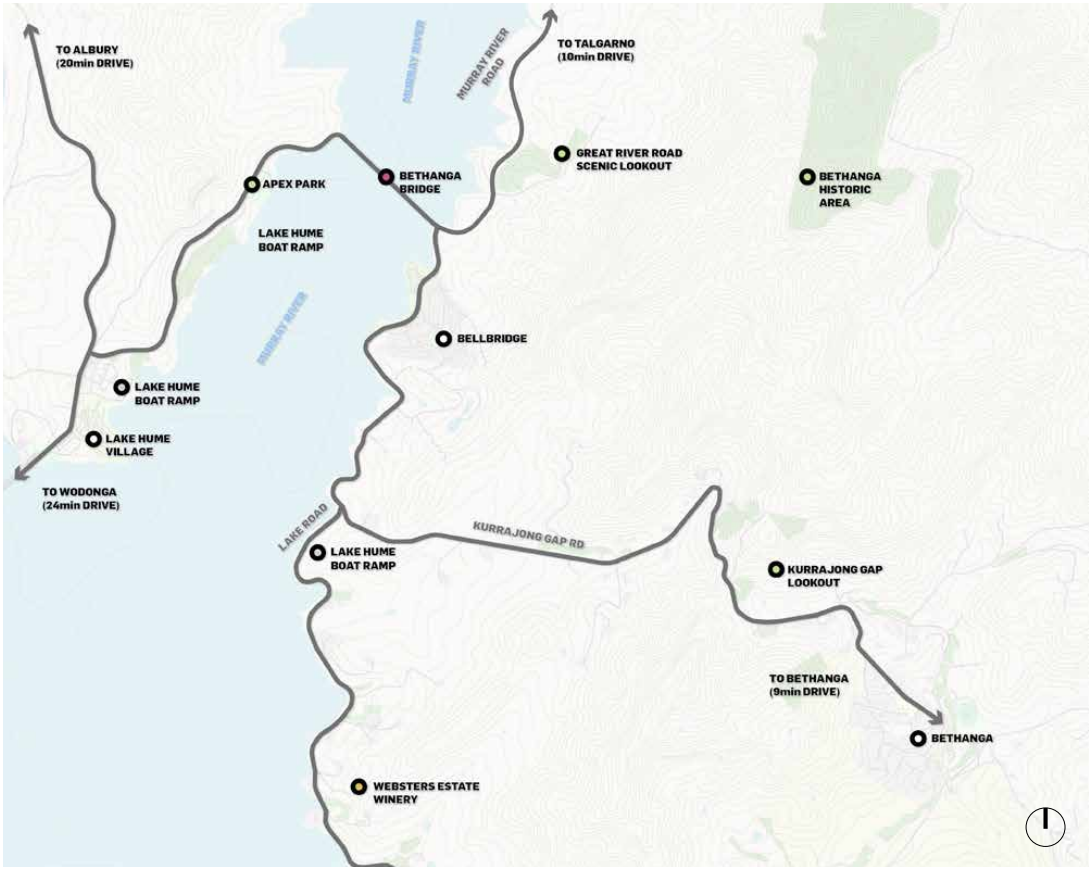


Figure 6. Regional context.

1.3 Understanding the context

Township

The township covers an area of approximately 32 hectares on hills rising up from the Lake Hume foreshore to the east.

Located on Lake Road and the western banks of Lake Hume, Bellbridge is 20km east of the regional city Albury, 8km north-west of Bethanga and just south of the Murray River Road which follows the Murray River towards the small townships of Talgarno and Granya.

Established in the 1970's from a farming property called Belmer, the township commences immediately south of Bethanga Bridge and stretches north-south along the Lake Hume foreshore.

Figure 7. Township context.

Town Centre

Bellbridge is a commuter suburb comprised of predominantly residential buildings.

The urban settlement is typical of housing developments of the 1970's with curved roads and cul-de-sacs.

The core township is comprised of single and double storey free standing dwellings with larger rural lots located to the south.

The key destination is Lake Hume known for water sports, the Hume Boat Club with foreshore and recreational facilities. The kindergarten, tennis courts and open space with skatepark are co-located at Craig Drive Reserve.

Figure 8. Town centre context.

Figure 9. View of Lake Hume.

Figure 10. Bethanga Bridge.

Figure 11. Hume Boat Club.

Figure 12. Lake Hume picnic area.

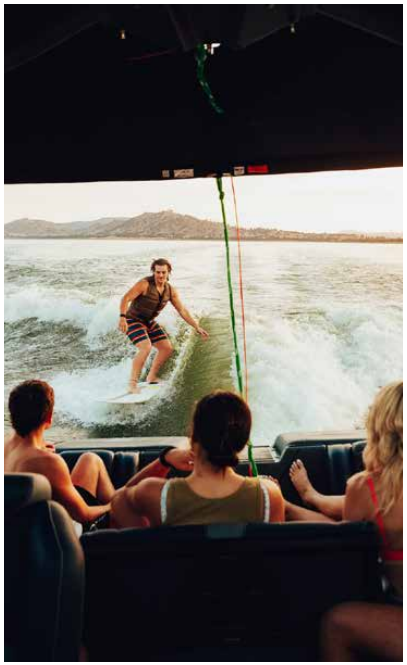


Figure 16. Lake water sports.

Figure 13. Kurrajong Gap lookout.

Figure 14. Lake Hume brand logo.

Figure 15. Walking trail Bellbridge foreshore.

1.4 Township & surrounds character

Local Character

Bellbridge is a small township established in the 1970's as a commuter suburb 20km east of the regional urban centre Albury-Wodonga. The spectacular setting on the north-eastern banks of Lake Hume and proximity to the heritage listed Bethanga Bridge are defining features.

This plan shows Bellbridge's character and heritage, highlighting the heritage overlay on Bethanga Bridge, suburban and rural residential areas within the township, recreation, open space and community infrastructure at Craig Drive Reserve, and recreation at the Lake Hume foreshore.

These are important considerations for a discussion on how to re-imagine the township's future.

Key facilities, features, qualities and characteristics are captured in the adjacent images across the following page.

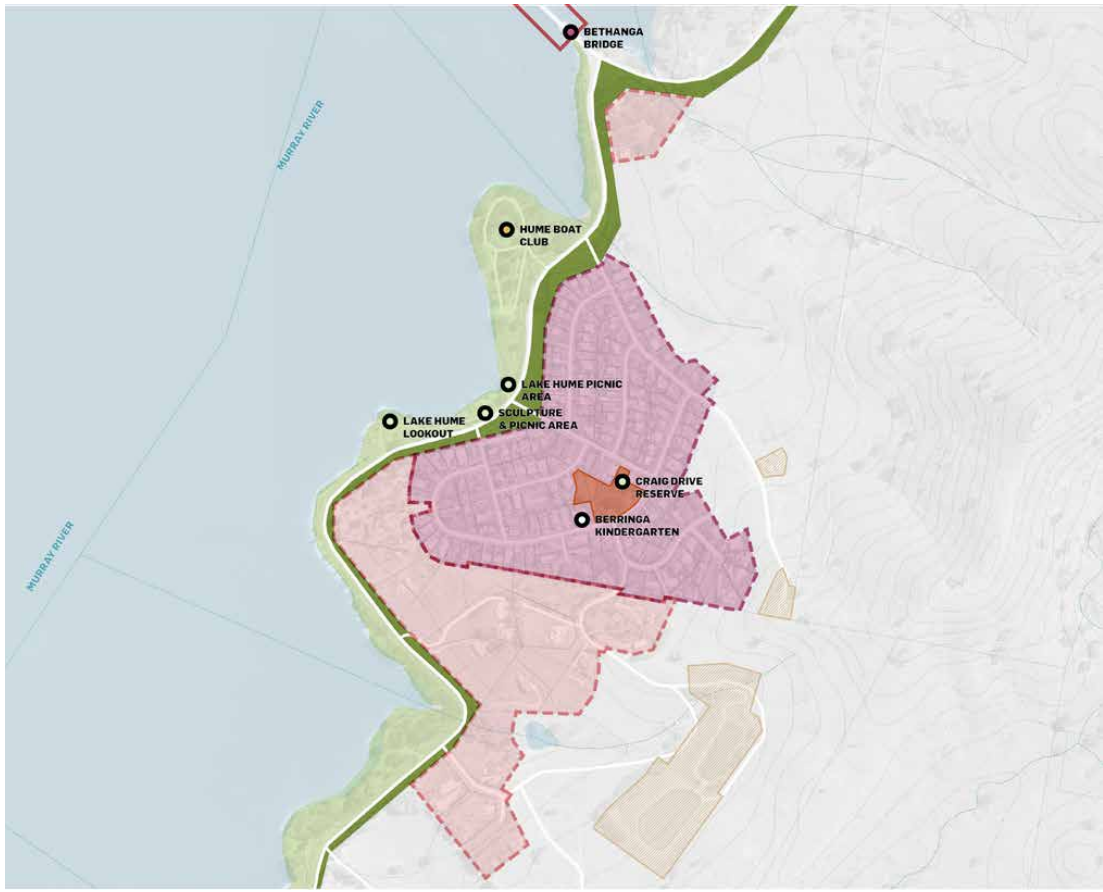


Figure 17. Bellbridge planning zones, character and heritage.

Figure 18. Lake Hume.

Figure 19. Lake Hume foreshore, Bellbridge.

Figure 20. Berringa Kindergarden.

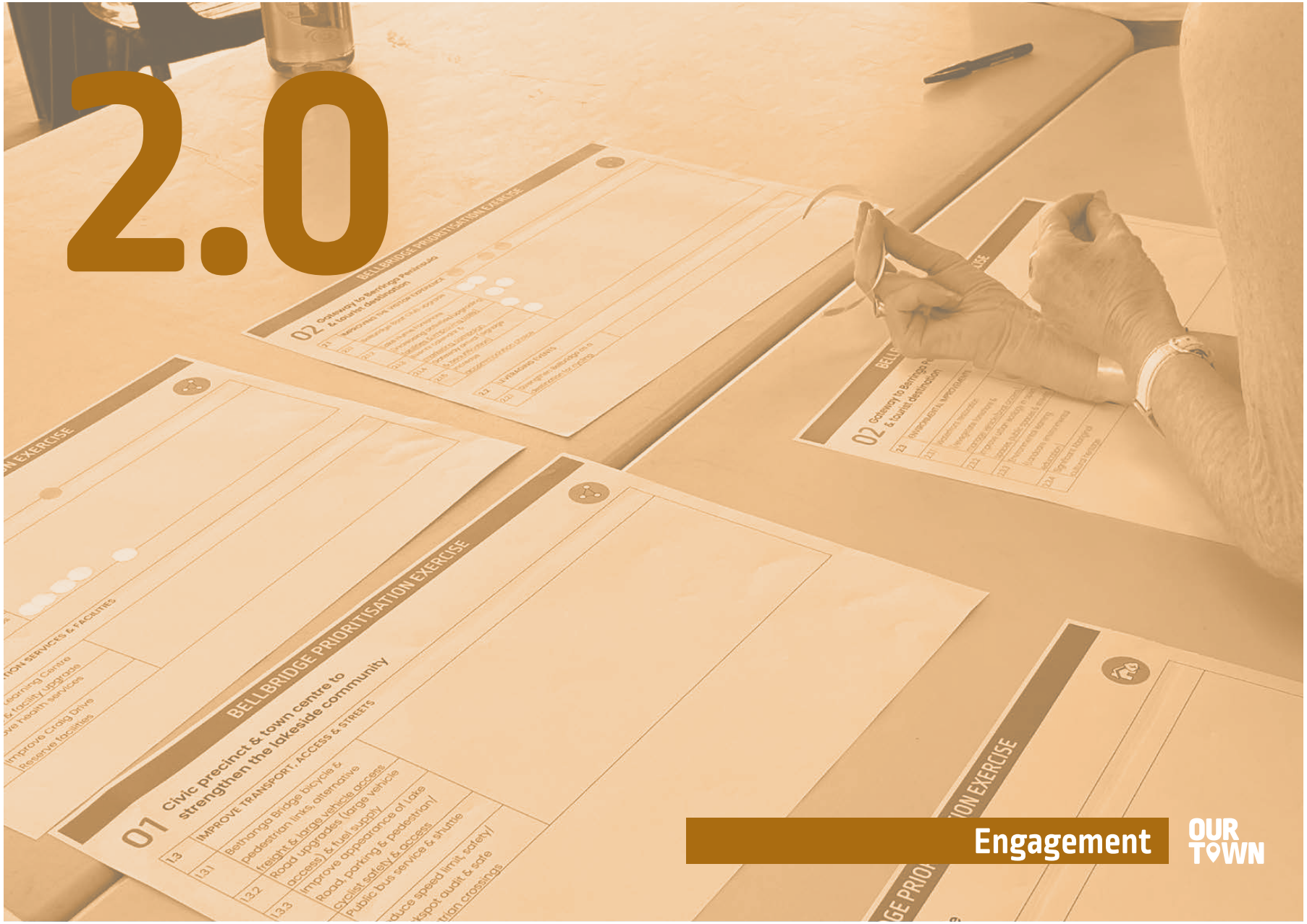
Figure 21. House on Murray Place.

Figure 22. House on Mitta Avenue.

Figure 23. Kurrajong Gap lookout.

Figure 24. Roy Williams Park at Craig Drive Reserve.

Figure 25. Key features and places.


2.0
BELLBRIDGE PRIORITISATION EXERCISE
01 Civic precinct & town centre to strengthen the lakeside community
IMPROVE TRANSPORT, ACCESS & STREETS
Bethamgo Bridge bicycle & pedestrian links, alternative freight & large vehicle access
Road upgrades (large vehicle access) & fuel supply
Improve appearance of Lake Road, parking & pedestrian/ cyclist safety & access
Public bus service & shuttle
Engagement
OUR TOWN

2.1 Engagement summary

Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy

Council's commitment to engagement is outlined in the Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy which "is committed to participatory democracy and providing community members with the opportunity to engage in decision making in relation to matters that affect them". This project has adopted key principles from Policy including:

+ Identifying key stakeholders and user groups impacted by the decisions.
+ Being respectful of and allowing space for a diversity of perspectives and views.
+ Embedding transparency and accountability by keeping participants informed and 'closing the loop'.

The Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy includes a public participation spectrum adapted from the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum with five levels of public participation: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower. This project has incorporated levels 1-4 at different stages of the project with the aim of building consensus with participants.

Figure 26. Engagement touchpoints.

"A place where people can come to Bellbridge, enjoy the lake, have breakfast lunch or dinner in a nice cafe / restaurant and a small shop for essentials."

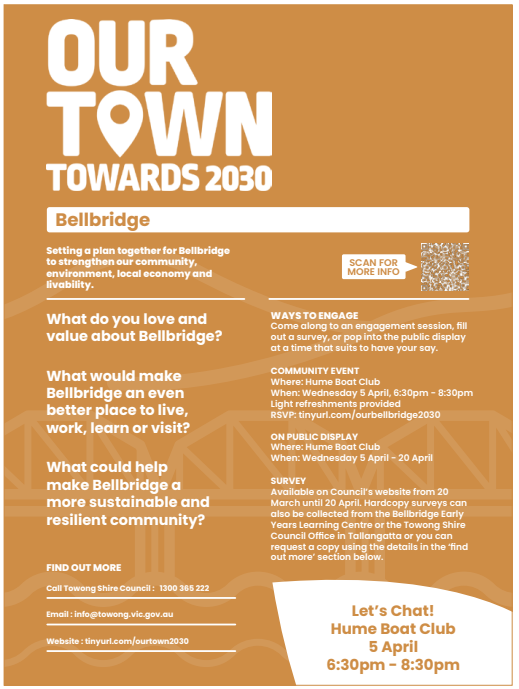


Figure 27. Engagement collateral.

Engagement 1: Let's Chat

People were informed and encouraged to participate in a variety of ways including the 'Town-hall' style meetings, face-to-face and online meetings, surveys, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters, letterbox drops, posters and advertising. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

Engagement 2: Planning Ahead

Similar methods were used for Engagement 2 including 'Town-hall' style workshops, face-to-face and online workshops, online survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletter and letterbox drops. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

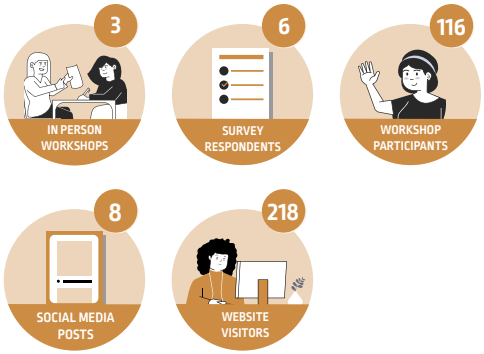


Figure 28. Engagement 2 community event, Bellbridge.

"Bellbridge's rural feel on the urban fringe of Albury-Wodonga. Bellbridge's views of Lake Hume, Hume Dam Wall, Bethanga Bridge and the surrounding countryside make it unique."

2.2 Engagement 1: Let's chat

The first engagement, Let's Chat took place between March-April 2023 and included a broad spectrum of stakeholders – residents, workers, visitors, students, government departments and agencies.

Let's Chat included a number of methods including 'Town-hall' style meetings and events, face-to-face and online focus groups and 1:1 meetings, online and hardcopy survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters and poster.

"Let's Chat" reflects the broad and wide ranging challenges and opportunities affecting each community. It also helps us to identify and leverage key strengths and assets in the development of the vision and place plans.

Four questions were asked, with more detailed conversations held with individuals or small groups. These were:

+ What makes your town special? What do you love and value?
+ What challenges does your town face?
+ What are the opportunities over the next 10 years?
+ What would make your town more environmentally sustainable and resilient?

The results of Let's Chat were compiled into a Draft Place Plan which included a project introduction, overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat; vision exercise for the workshops and survey; and a summary of 'what we heard' captured in three Big Ideas with potential initiatives / projects.

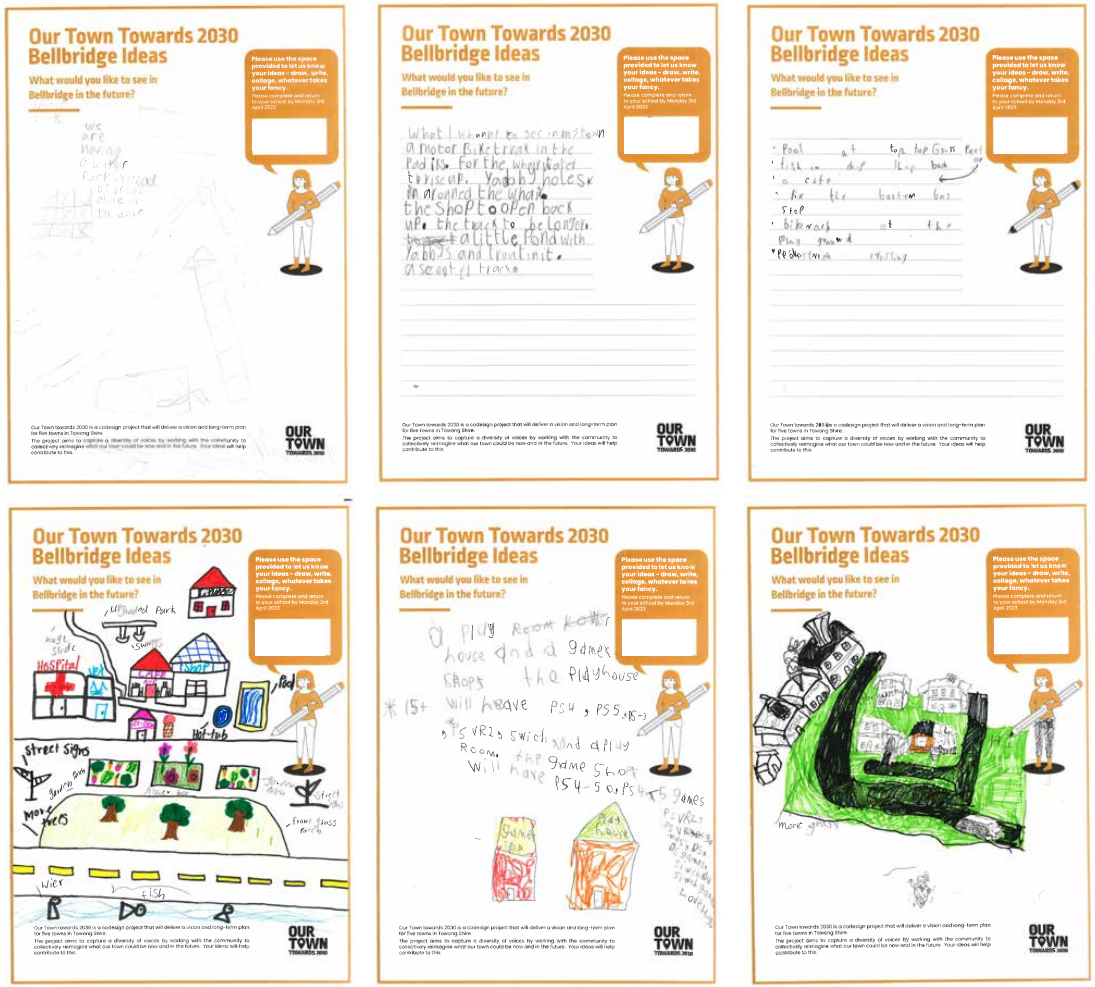


Figure 29. Responses to the Question: How can Bellbridge be a better place for their future. Bethanga Primary School students, Years P-6.

"The limitations of Bethanga Bridge in being able to cater safely for bicycle and pedestrian traffic (e.g. during the conduct of the Lake Hume Cycle Challenge)."

Strengths, Assets & Challenges

An analysis of responses to the questions 'What makes your town special?' and 'What do you love and value?' are summarised in the following strengths and assets, with responses to the question 'What challenges does your town face?' summarised in the following challenges. These have informed the vision and big ideas for the place plan.

Big Ideas

The three Big Ideas for Bellbridge broadly capitalise on:

+ Bellbridge's locational advantages and proximity to Albury-Wodonga.
+ Recreation and tourism potential from it's location on Lake Hume.
+ Creating community nodes and a town centre for the township.

2.3 Engagement 2: Planning ahead

The second engagement, Planning Ahead took place between November 2023-January 2024 and included residents, workers, visitors and government authorities. Planning Ahead was comprised of in-person workshops and an online survey replicating the face-to-face workshops. The workshop and survey were based on the Draft Place Plan which captured the key directions and outcomes to emerge from 'what we heard' during Engagement 1: Let's Chat.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to provide feedback on the Engagement 1 findings. A vision exercise was held with participants during the workshop to prioritise key words for the overarching direction for the place plan. These words were used to create the town vision.

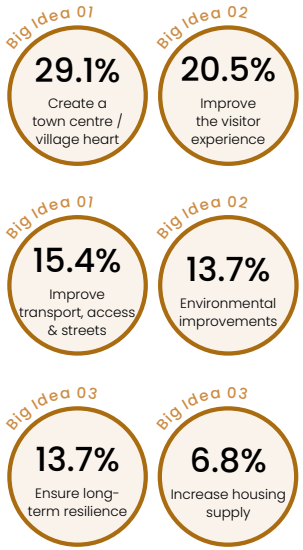
The three Big Ideas for Bellbridge were presented to participants, followed by two prioritisation exercises. The first exercise was focused on themes, with participants requested to select their top three. The second exercise was based on the initiatives / projects under each theme. Participants were requested to select their top ten initiatives / projects.

Results from the prioritisation exercise are captured in the diagram to the right. While Big Idea 01, and 02 included the highest priority themes, across the three ideas, 'Civic precinct & town centre to strengthen the lakeside community' was the highest rated big idea.

Big Idea	Theme
01 Civic precinct & town centre to strengthen the lakeside community	1.1 Create a town centre / village heart 1.2 Improve health and education services / facilities 1.3 Improve transport, access and streets
02 Gateway to Berringa Peninsula & tourist destination	2.1 Improve visitor experience 2.2 Leverage events 2.3 Environmental improvements
03 Increasing housing supply while retaining the small town feel	3.1 Increase housing supply 3.2 Ensure long-term resilience

Theme Priorities

The highest rated themes are captured below.



Initiative & Project Priorities

During Engagement 2 stakeholders were requested to prioritise the most important initiatives / projects listed under each theme. The following six initiatives / projects were rated as the top priorities for the community.

TABLE OF HIGHEST RATED SURVEY RESULTS				
Priority	**Big Idea**	**Theme**	**Percentage**	**Initiative / Project**
#1	01	1.1	12.1%	Food and beverage opportunities.
#2	02	2.1	11.0%	Bellbridge Boat Club upgrade.
#3	03	3.2	7.4%	Critical infrastructure upgrades (telecommunications).
#4	01	1.3	7.2%	Bethanga Bridge cycle / pedestrian links, alternative large vehicle access.
#5	02	2.3	6.6%	Waterfront restoration (revegetation, manage vehicle / boat access).
#6	02	2.1	5.2%	Upgrade Lake Hume foreshore (activities, facilities and trails).

"I love that it still has a village feel and yet close to larger towns of Albury Wodonga.

The lake and hill views are the reason I moved here but fell in love with its serenity. "

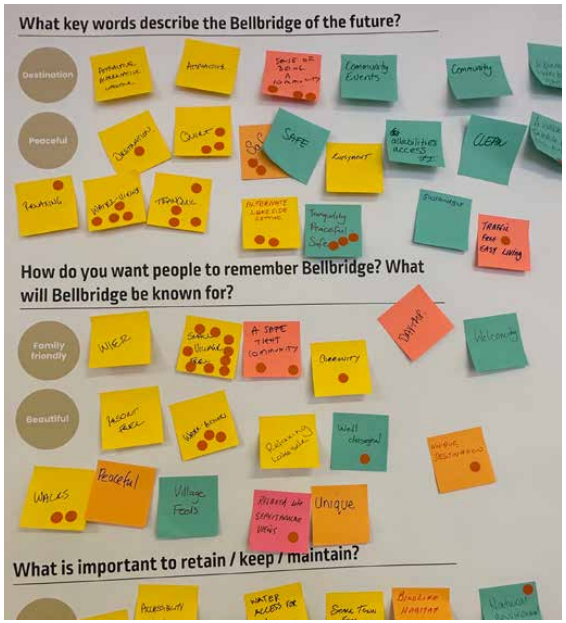
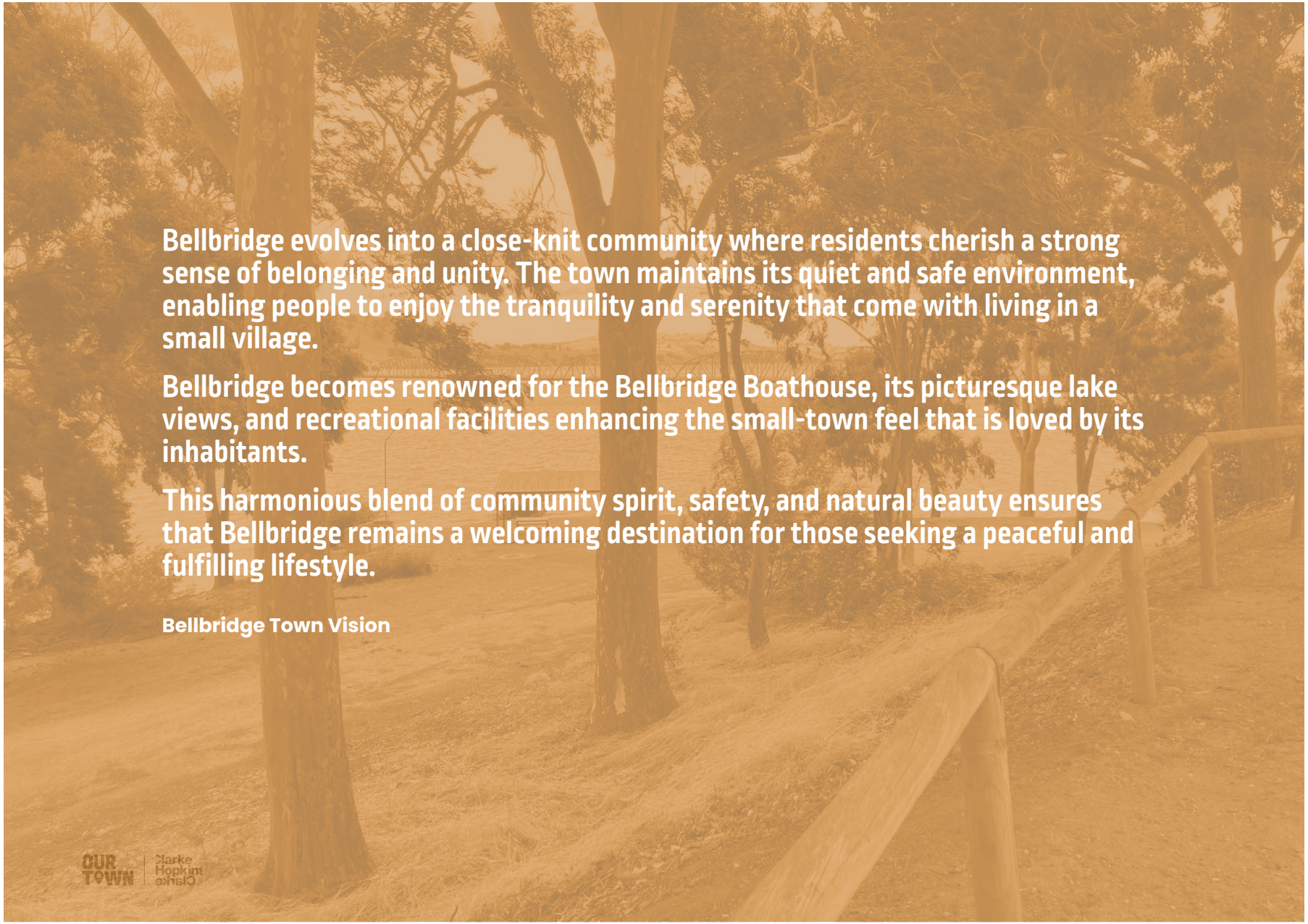


Figure 30. Engagement 2 vision exercise, Bellbridge.

3.0
Place Plan
OUR TOWN


Bellbridge evolves into a close-knit community where residents cherish a strong sense of belonging and unity. The town maintains its quiet and safe environment, enabling people to enjoy the tranquility and serenity that come with living in a small village.
Bellbridge becomes renowned for the Bellbridge Boathouse, its picturesque lake views, and recreational facilities enhancing the small-town feel that is loved by its inhabitants.
This harmonious blend of community spirit, safety, and natural beauty ensures that Bellbridge remains a welcoming destination for those seeking a peaceful and fulfilling lifestyle.
Bellbridge Town Vision
28
OUR TOWN
Clarke Hopkins Clarke

3.1 Big ideas summary

Three Big Ideas emerged from an analysis of responses from Engagement 1. These were tested with community during Engagement 2. All of the big ideas received support, however, it was clear through the analysis that followed, that there are clear priorities across the community. These priorities are reflected in the numbering of each big idea with 'Civic precinct & town centre to strengthen the lakeside community' receiving the most support, followed by 'Gateway to Berringa Peninsula & tourist destination', and 'Increase housing supply while retaining the small town feel'.

Format of the Big Ideas

Each Big Idea is comprised of themes that describe the outcomes we are seeking to achieve. Each theme includes a series of objectives outlining the different components that make up each theme. Each objective lists actions required to implement the objective. The actions can be projects or initiatives.

Figure 31. Format of the Big Ideas.

Big Idea	Theme
01 Civic precinct & town centre to strengthen the lakeside community	1.1 Create a town centre / village heart 1.2 Improve transport, access and streets 1.3 Improve health and education services / facilities
02 Gateway to Berringa Peninsula & tourist destination	2.1 Improve visitor experience 2.2 Environmental improvements 2.3 Leverage events
03 Increase housing supply while retaining the small town feel	3.1 Ensure long-term resilience 3.2 Increase housing supply

3.2 Big Idea 01 Civic precinct to strengthen the lakeside community

Theme 1.1: Create a Village Heart

What we heard

Bellbridge functions as a predominantly residential town with many residents travelling to work in the region. The township lacks a centre with shops and other community services and has limited dedicated open space for recreational activities. While the Early Learning Centre is valued by the community for its role in buildings bonds amongst residents, there are few places for the community to meet and socialise. In addition, without commercial premises, there is little opportunity to capitalise on the visitor economy from people visiting Lake Hume on weekends and holidays.

Engagement 2 findings reinforced the importance of creating a community hub with 'Food and beverage opportunities' the highest rated initiative / project across all of the Big Ideas. It is important to note that with the proximity of Bellbridge to Albury with access to retail and services, most residents did not support the inclusion of a small supermarket or small scale town centre, preferring to focus on small scale retail such as a cafe to create a community hub.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Food and beverage opportunities
+ 2 - Create a community hub with retail / commercial and public spaces
+ 3 - New community infrastructure such as Early Years Learning Centre / Library (community hub).

What is proposed

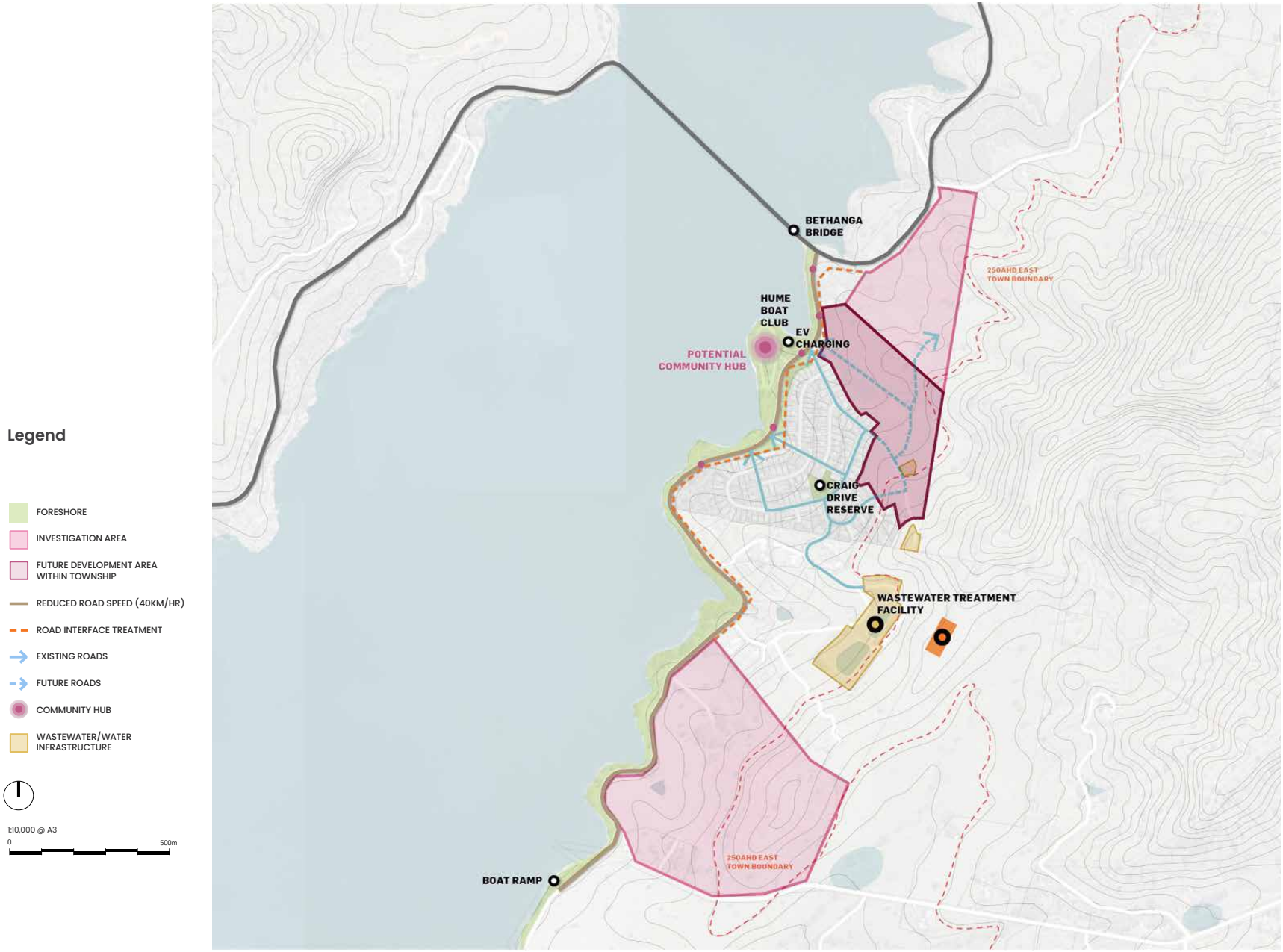
This Big Idea prioritises spaces for public life by creating a village heart at the Hume Boat Club redevelopment. While the focus is on providing a cafe or other dining experiences, the urban village can also include community facilities and other potential commercial spaces to broaden the uses and offer.

+ Cafe and fresh food retail
+ Small community hub with community spaces and commercial uses.

Objective 1: Explore food and beverage opportunities

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity for new food and beverage opportunities such as cafe, fresh food / groceries and providore and a range of dining including wine bar and more upmarket experiences in the township.

Figure 32. Fresh food & providore. The Sir George, Jugiong.


Legend
FORESHORE
INVESTIGATION AREA
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AREA WITHIN TOWNSHIP
REDUCED ROAD SPEED (40KM/HR)
ROAD INTERFACE TREATMENT
EXISTING ROADS
FUTURE ROADS
COMMUNITY HUB
WASTEWATER/WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
1:10,000 @ A3
0
500m
BETHANGA BRIDGE
250AHD EAST TOWN BOUNDARY
HUME BOAT CLUB
EV CHARGING
POTENTIAL COMMUNITY HUB
CRAIG DRIVE RESERVE
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
250AHD EAST TOWN BOUNDARY
BOAT RAMP

3.2 Big Idea 01 Civic precinct to strengthen the lakeside community

Figure 33. Build upon strengths of waterfront setting.

Figure 34. Food and beverage anchor.

Objective 2: Create a community hub with retail, commercial and public spaces at the Hume Boat Club

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity for a small scale community hub at the Hume Boat Club, with shops, cafés / restaurants and office space.

Action 02: Ensure the community hub includes civic spaces, attractive streetscapes, alfresco dining, new toilets, adequate and accessible parking and serviced locations (power and water) for temporary / pop-up events.

Figure 35. Bellbridge Cafe at Bellbridge Boathouse, Source: Four18, Towong Shire.

Figure 36. Glenroy Community Hub.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Civic precinct to strengthen the lakeside community

Theme 1.2: Improve Transport, Access and Streets

What we heard

Engagement 1 findings indicated a lack of footpaths, drainage / storm water management, narrow roads and cars speeding along Lake Road creating safety issues and a barrier between the township and foreshore. Increasing traffic on Bethanga Bridge including a lack of pedestrian and cyclist access, limited load capacity for freight and alternate bridge crossings constrain transport access to the township.

Engagement 2 findings reinforced transport and road access as a key issue for the community with anti-social driving behaviour a key concern along Lake Road, and the associated safety issues exacerbated by a windy road with significant blind spots. In addition, unsafe access into the Hume Boat Club and other picnic areas along the foreshore were identified, requiring changes to existing entry / exit points. Parking areas including for large vehicles such as buses or caravans / trailers for boats are also required, to cater for an increase in visitor numbers.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Bethanga Bridge cycle / pedestrian links, alternative large vehicle access
+ 2 - Improve Lake Road appearance, safety / access for parking / pedestrians / cyclists
+ 3 - Public bus service and shuttle
+ 4 - Road upgrades (large vehicle access) and fuel supply.

What is proposed

'Bethanga Bridge cycle / pedestrian links, alternative large vehicle access' was the fourth highest rated initiative / project across all of the Big Ideas during Engagement 2, reinforcing the importance to community. This Big Idea focuses on improving transport access across a range of transport modes including:

+ Addressing the limitations of Bethanga Bridge
+ Adapting the roads to accommodate large vehicles
+ Increasing parking for cars, caravans / trailers, buses and public transport
+ Improving access to the Hume Boat Club and other picnic areas along the foreshore.

Objective 1: Provide cycle and pedestrian access to Bethanga Bridge with alternative large vehicle access

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to provide bicycle and pedestrian access on Bethanga Bridge including alternative freight and large vehicle access.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide an alternative freight and large vehicle route to Bellbridge.

Objective 2: Improve the appearance of Lake Road and address safety and access for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles

Action 01: Investigate opportunities to improve the appearance of Lake Road with beautification, artwork, landscape, trees and vegetation.

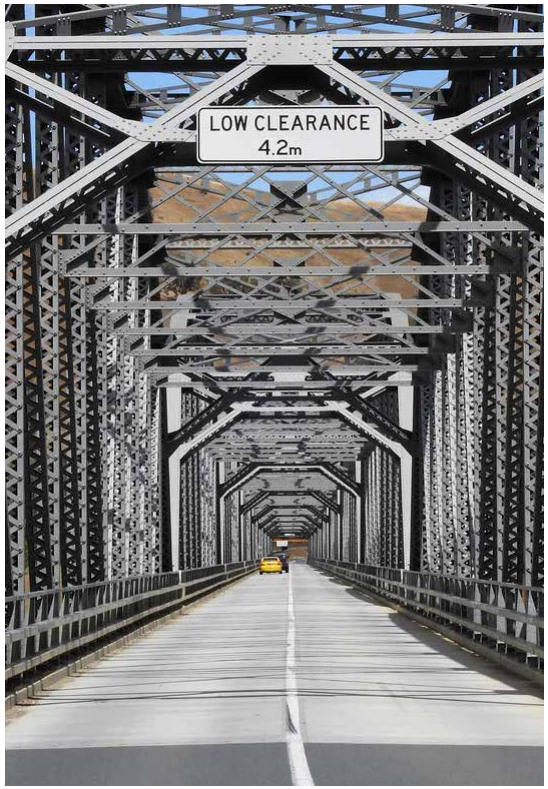


Figure 37. Bethanga Bridge.

Action 02: Undertake a safety audit of key routes to identify blackspots and determine where safety improvements are required including dedicated shared paths and crossings.

Investigate points for pedestrian crossings at key locations or intersections such as:

+ Bethanga Bridge and Hume Boat Club
+ Street intersections at Hillcrest Avenue, Mitta Avenue, Lyndon Avenue and Eucalypt Drive
+ Kurrajong Gap Road.

Action 03: Investigate measures to address anti-social driving along Lake Road south of Mitta Avenue and Eucalypt Drive, including potential speed cameras or speed humps.

Action 04: Investigate alternate access arrangements into the Hume Boat Club to address the current safety issue.

Action 05: Investigate alternate access arrangements into the picnic area opposite Eucalypt Drive, to address the blindspot with the existing entry / exit points. Reinstate the 5km/hr speed sign to the existing parking access to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

Action 06: Investigate reducing the speed limit along Lake Road from Bethanga Bridge to the Lake Hume boat ramp south of Kurrajong Gap Road to 40km/hr.

Objective 3: Investigate the provision of a public bus and shuttle service

Action 01: Advocate for improvements to the public bus service from Bellbridge to Albury-Wodonga.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide a school bus service from Bellbridge to Albury.

Action 03: Investigate the opportunity to provide a community shuttle from key locations in the township to services in Albury that can also be used by tour operators.

Objective 4: Undertake road upgrades for large vehicle access and investigate the provision of fuel supply

Action 01: Review road and access requirements in the township catering for recreational vehicles including road widening for larger vehicles.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide a petrol station including marine fuel in the township.

Objective 5: Improve parking to cater for a range of vehicles and increase in visitor numbers

Action 01: Develop a parking strategy that caters for overflow car parking and boat parking for increased visitation periods and events including RV / long vehicle parking and RV dump points. Include the projected increase in visitation numbers and any potential future expansion of the township.

Objective 6: Improve regional connectivity with an EV charging station at the Hume Boat Club

Action 01: Include provision for an EV charging station at the Hume Boat Club redevelopment.

Figure 38. Cycle bridge.

Figure 39. School / shuttle bus service.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Civic precinct to strengthen the lakeside community

Theme 1.3: Improve Health and Education Services and Facilities

What we heard

The Berringa Community Centre in Bellbridge includes early years services such as childcare, kindergarten and maternal and child health. Located adjacent to the Craig Drive Reserve, the Community Centre co-locates community infrastructure with recreation and sporting facilities such as the skate park, tennis courts, play area, picnic area and shelter with BBQ. Most facilities except the tennis courts were recently upgraded. Comments were made during Engagement 1 and 2 about the low usage of the courts, with some suggestions to remove the courts and consolidate the number of tennis clubs in the Shire.

The development of the Hume Boat Club will shift the focus of the community hub to the foreshore. The role and function of the existing community hub at Craig Drive Reserve is to be considered as part of the overall growth and development of Bellbridge. The existing small park is well-located to serve the surrounding residential area. However, the concentration of facilities along the foreshore would contribute towards creating a livelier atmosphere at the Hume Boat Club redevelopment and increase safety through passive surveillance.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Upgrade existing Early Years Learning Centre /services
+ 2 - Improve health services
+ 2 - Improve Craig Drive Reserve facilities.

What is proposed

This Big Idea provides additional community infrastructure and services to meets the needs of the community. While many services are available in Albury, it was acknowledged that some local services would support and build community connections within the township. Improving community infrastructure identified in Engagement 1 and 2 is focused on increasing the capacity of the Early Learning Years Centre, and providing additional health services and small library.

Objective 1: Improve community infrastructure to cater for the growing population

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to provide a new Early Years Learning Centre at the Hume Boat Club community hub.

Action 02: Consider the option to upgrade the existing facility to meet future services and demand.

Action 03: Consider the option to upgrade the existing Early Years Learning Centre to meet future services and demand.

Action 04: Investigate the opportunity to provide a small library as part of the community hub.

Figure 40. BiraBira Early Learning Centre, Melbourne.

Objective 2: Improve health services for targeted to the ageing demographic and families

Action 01: Review access to current health services and determine childcare, kindergarten and maternal child health services; other health and medical services; at-home care or preventative community health services that are required.

Objective 3: Upgrade facilities at the Craig Drive Reserve

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to improve the facilities at Craig Drive Reserve with toilets, upgrade tennis courts and new half-court basketball. Consider the potential relocation of the tennis courts with any future development of the Lake Hume foreshore or expansion of the township boundary.

Figure 41. Roy Willilams Park, Bellbridge.

Figure 42. Potential tennis court upgrades.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Gateway to Berringa Peninsula & tourist destination

Theme 2.1: Improve the Visitor Experience

What we heard

Lake Hume, Bethanga Bridge, walking trails and recreational activities are what people love and value about the township. Highly ranked improvements include 'Accessible public transport and walking / cycling trails and routes' and 'Improving and expanding tourism including events, services, facilities, and accommodation'. The Lake Hume foreshore lacks a central point for the local community and visitors to enjoy. A lack of amenities to attract visitors including holiday rentals, tourist facilities and parking, roads too narrow for boats, a lack of general maintenance and upkeep including walking trails and safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists and people swimming near jetski's were identified. The limitations of Bethanga Bridge were also highlighted for a lack of pedestrian / cyclist access, increasing traffic including larger vehicles unsuitable for Bethanga Bridge.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Hume Boat Club upgrade
+ 2 - Upgrade Lake Hume foreshore (activities, facilities and trails)
+ 3 - Gateway arrival (signage and beautification)
+ 4 - Events calendar and marketing campaign
+ 5 - Increase accommodation choice.

What is proposed

The upgrade of the Hume Boat Club was the second highest ranked initiative / project across all of the Big Ideas in Engagement 2 and has reinforced the importance of the foreshore to the township, and the potential to create a community focal point. This Big Idea leverages the opportunities of the Lake Hume foreshore to become a community meeting place and tourist destination by:

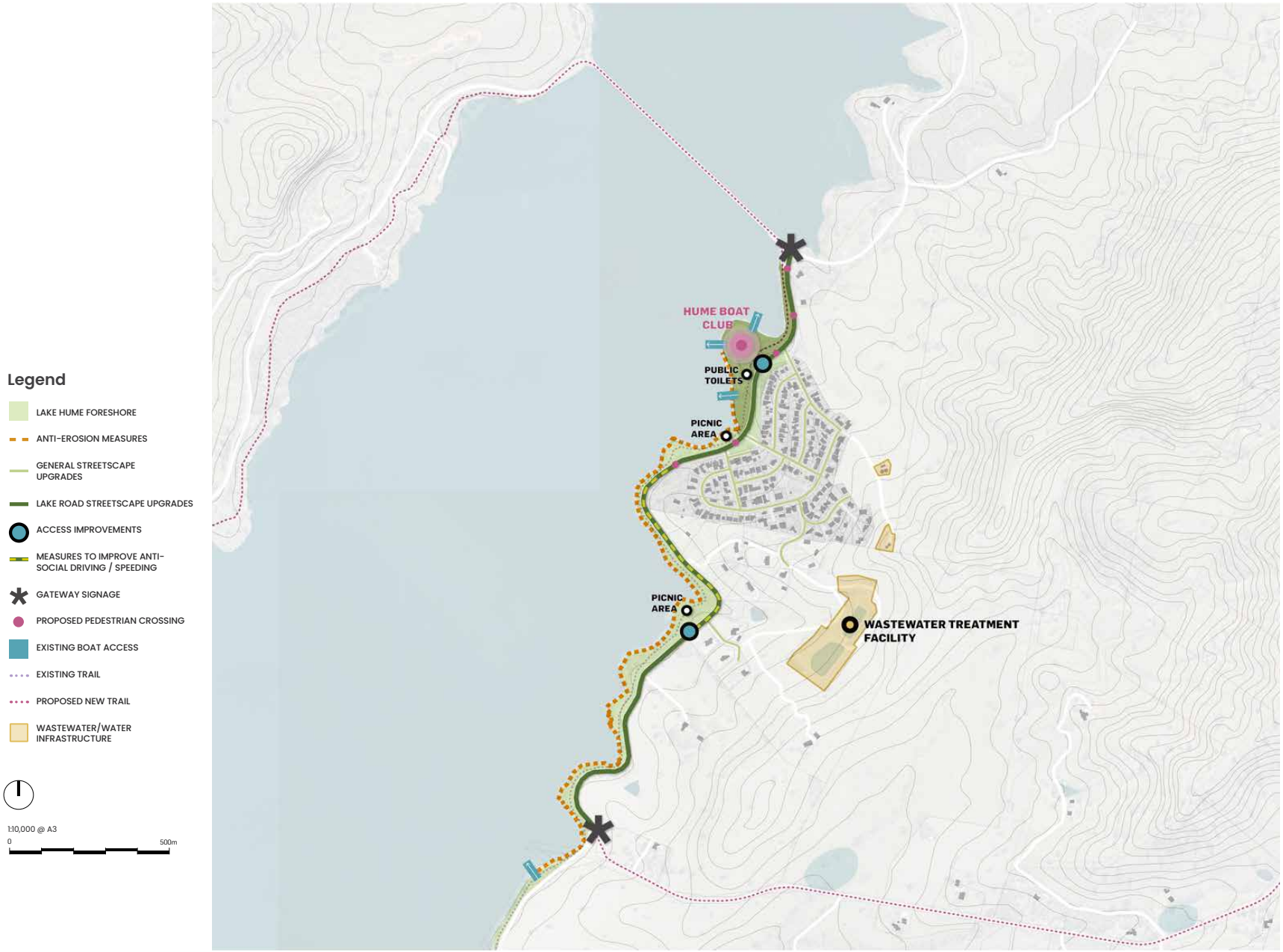
+ Leveraging the iconic status of Bethanga Bridge as a gateway to the Shire and Berringa Peninsula
+ Improvements to Lake Hume foreshore and streetscapes
+ Tourist facilities and infrastructure.

Objective 1: Implement the upgrade to the Hume Boat Club

Action 01: Upgrade the Hume Boat Club with a new Boathouse Club to create a community node on the Lake Hume foreshore.

Proposed uses include a café, decking, club rooms / function space, commercial premises, public amenities, car parking, landscaping and visitor information centre.

Figure 43. New Bellbridge Boathouse, Source: Four18, Towong Shire.


Legend
LAKE HUME FORESHORE
ANTI-EROSION MEASURES
GENERAL STREETSCAPE UPGRADES
LAKE ROAD STREETSCAPE UPGRADES
ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS
MEASURES TO IMPROVE ANTI-SOCIAL DRIVING / SPEEDING
GATEWAY SIGNAGE
PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
EXISTING BOAT ACCESS
EXISTING TRAIL
PROPOSED NEW TRAIL
WASTEWATER/WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
1:10,000 @ A3
0
500m
HUME BOAT CLUB
PUBLIC TOILETS
PICNIC AREA
PICNIC AREA
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

3.3 Big Idea 02 Gateway to Berringa Peninsula & tourist destination

Figure 44. Lakeside cafe, Strandzuid Amsterdam.

Figure 45. Lakeside beach.

Figure 46. Lakeside beach facilities.

Objective 2: Upgrade Lake Hume foreshore with improved facilities, activities and trails

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to add complementary uses and infrastructure to Lake Hume foreshore to strengthen the community node and capitalise on the Boat Club's location and amenity including the following activities:

+ Floating pontoons for events and fireworks
+ Boat launch area, boat maintenance and fuel area
+ Facilities for kayaking, wakeboarding, water skiing, jet-skiing, tube-riding, and stand-up paddleboarding
+ Swimming beach with lifeguard
+ Slow speed and separated area for boats
+ Children's nature play area
+ Beach volleyball
+ Exercise trail
+ Bird hides for bird watching
+ Rock climbing boulders
+ Fish bait, ice and cleaning area
+ Change / shower facilities
+ Boat / kayaks / canoe for hire facilities
+ Locations for events, food and coffee vans including power and water.

Action 02: Extend the trail network and improve maintenance ensuring trails are fully accessible:

+ Trail to Bethanga Bridge and Albury to connect with the Murray River Red Gum Trail
+ Trail to Bethanga and Websters Estate Winery.

Objective 3: Improve the sense of arrival at the town's gateway

Action 01: Create a sense of arrival at entry locations with gateway and wayfinding signage at decision points, public art and beautification. Gateway locations include:

+ Lake Road and Bethanga Bridge intersection
+ Southern Lake Road entry at Kurrajong Gap Road
+ Information display advertising upcoming events.

Objective 4: Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign

Action 01: Develop an activation and events calendar with seasonal events for community and visitors catering for:

+ Food and wine offering with winery, farmgate, farm-to-plate, and hospitality activities
+ Music, arts and cultural activities
+ Food and wine offering with winery, farmgate, farm-to-plate, and hospitality activities
+ Landcare and environmental activities
+ Sports and recreation activities
+ Touring and running itineraries
+ Leverage events such as the Lake Hume Challenge.

Objective 5: Increase accommodation choice

Action 01: Broaden short-stay accommodation options targeted at water-based recreation, cycling, mountain biking, hiking, trail running, motorbike touring and grey nomads.

Explore opportunity to provide camping facilities along the foreshore.

Figure 47. Integrate signage and public art at arrival locations to Bellbridge.

Figure 48. Potential to have fireworks on Bethanga Bridge.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Gateway to Berringa Peninsula & tourist destination

Theme 2.2: Environmental Improvements

What we heard

The Lake Hume foreshore is one of the greatest assets and strengths of the township attracting hundreds of families during the summer. Signs of erosion along the foreshore are evident particularly at the picnic area adjacent Eucalypt Drive, south of the picnic area towards Kurrajong Gap Road and the boat ramp, and adjacent the Hume Boat Club. Engagement 2 findings reinforced the urgent need to address erosion control to safeguard the precious asset, prevent creating a safety hazard and washing out the existing trail.

In addition to erosion control, many residents discussed issues with water flows and drainage impacting building works, with several underground springs identified.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Waterfront restoration (revegetation, manage vehicle / boat access)
+ 2 - Improve urban ecology in open spaces, public spaces and streets
+ 3 - Increase awareness of First Nations cultural heritage
+ 4 - Environmental learning (Landcare education) for new residents.

What is proposed

'Waterfront restoration' was the fifth highest ranked initiative / project across all the Big Ideas, highlighting the importance of protecting and enhancing the foreshore. This Big Idea leverages the opportunities of the Lake Hume foreshore by:

+ Undertaking environmental improvements to Lake Hume foreshore
+ Improving urban ecology in public spaces and streets
+ Recognising First Nations cultural significance
+ Increasing knowledge about Landcare issues.

Objective 1: Restore the waterfront of Lake Hume (revegetation, manage vehicle / boat access)

Action 01: Reduce bank erosion and restore riparian zones.

Action 02: Review current access to Lake Hume foreshore to determine preferred locations for vehicular and boat access and parking.

Action 03: Support GMW to manage the foreshore through measures such as a Friend's group subject to discussion with GMW.

Action 04: Advocate for state government and water authority investment in the health, management and maintenance of the Lake Hume foreshore and ecosystems within and surrounding the township.

Figure 49. Waterfront restoration to reduce erosion.

Objective 2: Improve urban ecology in open spaces, public spaces and streets

Action 01: Allocate nature areas and biodiversity corridors.

Action 02: Protect existing trees / vegetation and increase biodiversity.

Action 03: Enhance and protect habitats of threatened species.

Action 04 Address pests and invasive species through existing programs.

Action 05: Create a weed control crew to remove noxious weeds.

Action 06: Continuing to support research into biological control including the potential impact of changing weather and climate patterns to tried and tested methods.

Objective 3: Increase awareness of First Nations cultural heritage

Action 01: Identify any sites of significant First Nations cultural heritage in / surrounding Bellbridge with traditional custodians.

Action 02: Develop an Aboriginal place name strategy with traditional custodians to incorporate First Nations culture and heritage through acknowledgment, place names, truth-telling and stories.

Action 03: Consult First Nations people on the opportunities for new / upgraded open / public spaces along the Lake Hume foreshore.

Figure 50. Riparian restoration.

Figure 51. Environmental learning.

Objective 4: Provide opportunities for new residents to increase knowledge about the environment

Action 01: Provide opportunities for Landcare environmental education to residents and to inspire the next generation of stewards including:

+ Control of pests and weeds and the impacts of climate change
+ Teaching people how to take care of / manage land
+ Landcare for Country pilot program with First Nations people.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Gateway to Berringa Peninsula & tourist destination

Theme 2.3: Leverage Events

What we heard

Bellbridge attracts many weekend visitors from the region to participate in year round recreation including swimming, boating, fishing, camping and sightseeing. Water-based activities include wakeboarding, water skiing, jet-skiing, tube-riding, and stand-up paddleboarding with picnic facilities and a walking trail along the Lake Hume foreshore from the Hume Boat House to Kurrajong Gap Road.

The Lake Hume Cycle Challenge includes two routes through Bellbridge and Bethanga with plans by Albury City to build a trail to Bethanga Bridge. With increasing interest in on-road and off-road cycling, there is potential to strengthen Bellbridge as a destination for cycling by creating a safe network of trails and touring routes while also encouraging healthier modes of transport for locals.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

In this instance, 'Leveraging events' was singled out as a theme and initiative / project. The theme did not receive support, with minor support allocated to the initiative / project, indicating this is a low priority for community.

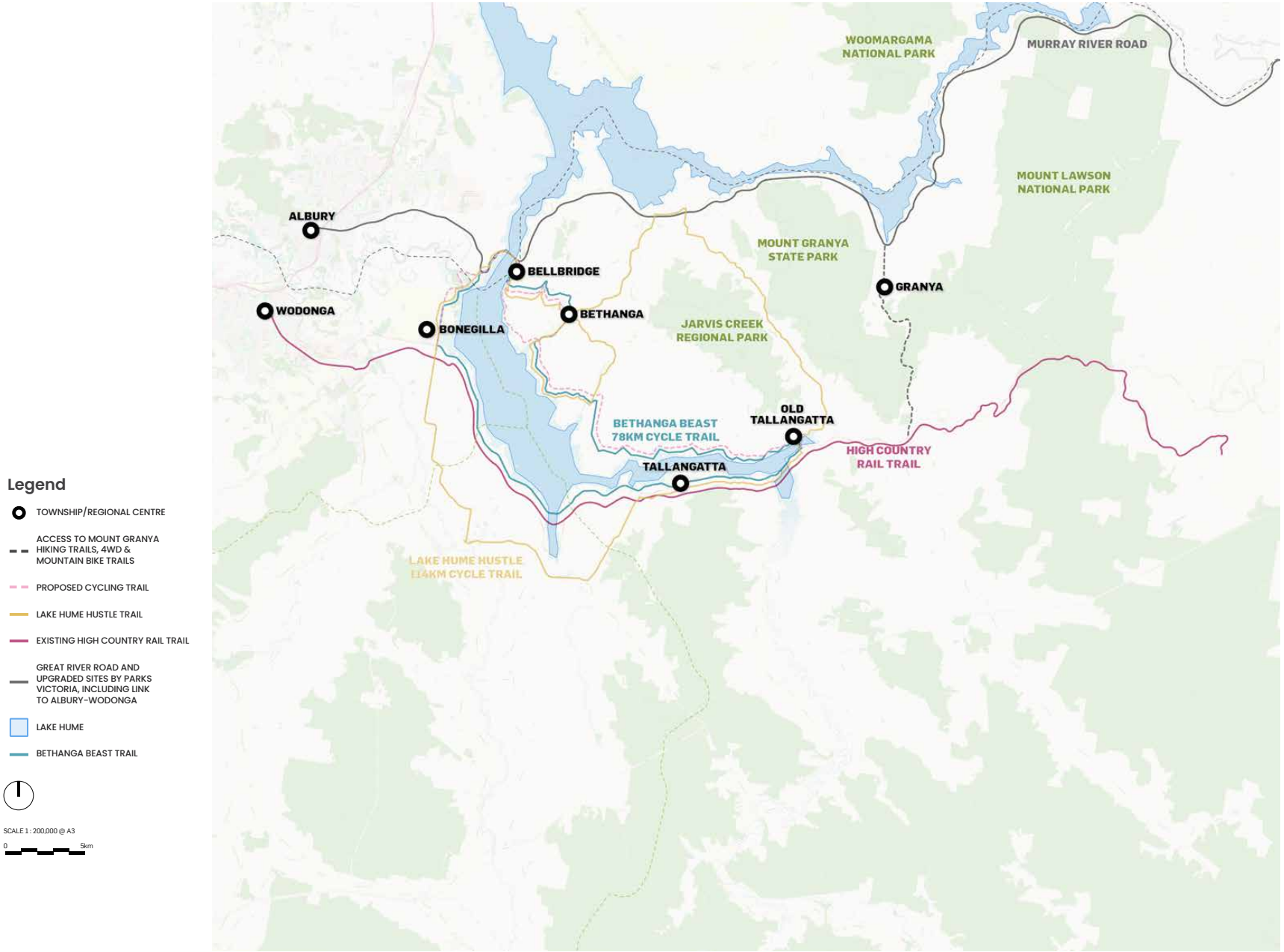
What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to support tourism and active transport by improving regional connectivity for cyclists. It leverages the proposed trail around Lake Hume in a study called Activating Lake Hume connecting Tallangatta with Tallangatta East, Bellbridge, Lake Hume and Bonegilla. There is an opportunity to expand the proposed trail to include another loop at Bethanga, to extend the trail network and capitalise on the tourism potential of the small township, and support the Lake Hume Challenge.

Objective 1: Strengthen Bellbridge as a cycling destination

Action 01: Develop a calendar of events that build upon the cycling events in the Shire.

Figure 52. Walking / cycling trails.


WOOMARGAMA NATIONAL PARK
MURRAY RIVER ROAD
MOUNT LAWSON NATIONAL PARK
ALBURY
MOUNT GRANYA STATE PARK
BELLBRIDGE
GRANYA
WODONGA
BETHANGA
BONEGILLA
JARVIS CREEK REGIONAL PARK
OLD TALLANGATTA
BETHANGA BEAST 78KM CYCLE TRAIL
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
TALLANGATTA
LAKE HUME HUSTLE 114KM CYCLE TRAIL
Legend
TOWNSHIP/REGIONAL CENTRE
ACCESS TO MOUNT GRANYA HIKING TRAILS, 4WD & MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
PROPOSED CYCLING TRAIL
LAKE HUME HUSTLE TRAIL
EXISTING HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
GREAT RIVER ROAD AND UPGRADED SITES BY PARKS VICTORIA, INCLUDING LINK TO ALBURY-WODONGA
LAKE HUME
BETHANGA BEAST TRAIL
SCALE 1 : 200,000 @ A3
0
5km

3.4 Big Idea 03 Increase housing supply while retaining the small town feel

Theme 3.1: Ensuring Long-Term Resilience

What we heard

The 2019-20 bushfires had a significant impact on the region and while Bellbridge was indirectly impacted by the fires, Engagement 1 revealed a strong need to consider and plan for bushfire preparedness. These findings were reinforced during Engagement 2, with 'Ensuring long-term resilience' the fourth ranked theme equal with 'Environmental improvements'.

Preferred measures to achieve environmental sustainability and resilience are overwhelmingly in support of improving internet / telecommunications infrastructure, ranked the third highest initiative / project across all the Big Ideas during Engagement 2. This was followed by 'renewable energy generation / water / waste'.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Critical infrastructure upgrades (telecommunications)
+ 2 - Bushfire preparedness (upgrade buildings and manage vegetation)
+ 2 - Renewable energy generation, waste / water reuse and recycling
+ 3 - Critical infrastructure upgrades (water, sewerage and electricity)
+ 4 - Plan for man-made and natural hazards / disasters and emergency services.

What is proposed

This Big Idea proposes that the liveability and long-term resilience of the town is enhanced by:

+ Improving telecommunications infrastructure and energy resilience
+ Preparing for bushfires
+ Increasing water and waste minimisation / reuse
+ Long-term planning for emergency services, disaster and resilience.

Objective 1: Plan and advocate for upgrades to telecommunications to support the future development of the township

Action 01: Advocate for improvements to the telecommunications infrastructure, internet service and the mobile phone network for reliable communications.

Action 02: Provide learning opportunities for the community to better understand the different telecommunication services available.

Figure 53. Upgrade the telecommunications network.

Objective 2: Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township

Action 01: Upgrade existing buildings, manage vegetation and ensure new buildings comply with requirements and guidelines to mitigate the impact of bushfires.

Action 02: Develop cost-effective methods to retrofit existing buildings for bushfire preparedness.

Figure 54. Designing for bushfire risk, House at Flat Rock.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Increase housing supply while retaining the small town feel

Objective 3: Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling

Action 01: Investigate options for renewable energy generation to develop an energy resilience strategy including the potential for a town battery and micro-grid or alternative solutions in solar and wind.

Action 02: Investigate options to reduce waste, improve recycling including green waste recycling, collection and management and alternative waste to energy solutions.

Action 03: Identify barriers and investigate options to reduce water use, increase reuse for buildings and community facilities including on-site water storage and water treatment solutions.

Figure 55. Raingarden, Sunvale Community Park by Brimbank City Council.

Objective 4: Plan and advocate for upgrades to water, sewerage and electricity to support the future development of the township

Action 01: Advocate for North East Water to provide timely upgrades to existing water and sewerage infrastructure to ensure sufficient capacity for future residential and town centre growth for short-long term growth scenarios.

Action 02: Investigate odour associated with water drainage and water run-off.

Action 03: Advocate for upgrades to the existing electricity infrastructure networks.

Figure 56. Bellbridge.

Objective 5: Plan for natural and man-made hazards and disasters and emergency services to improve the township's long-term resilience

Action 01: Incorporate disaster and resilience planning to reduce the impact of natural and man-made hazards and disasters.

Action 02: Determine if a Bushfire Risk Assessment is required to guide the future development of the township.

Action 03: Plan for a new purpose built Country Fire Authority facility in proximity to the community hub.

Action 04: Plan for future upgrade and potential needs of existing emergency services and infrastructure as the population increases including consultation with emergency services organisations for future projects which can impact existing commitments.

Action 05: Include hazard resilience in future planning such as buildings, infrastructure and vegetation including higher storm water drainage and run-off, infrastructure that can cope with floods and storms, vegetation that reduce risks of fire and wind damage.

Action 06: Investigate opportunities to provide Council assistance in response to hazards on Shire land. (State Emergency Services).

Action 07: Investigate opportunities to increase police presence in the township.

Action 08: Develop strategy to build a volunteer base through community groups.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Increase housing supply while retaining the small town feel

Theme 3.2: Increase Housing Supply

What we heard

Bellbridge is valued for being a small township with a relaxed lifestyle. It's proximity to the expanding growth front of Albury-Wodonga, scenic location, availability of residential zoned land and access to services make it an attractive location for new residents looking to maintain a semi-rural lifestyle close to employment, shops and services. 'Retaining and complementing the existing character and village feel / relaxed lifestyle of the township' was the most highly ranked suggestion on how to improve the township. This indicates that the growth of the township needs to be sensitive and respond to the existing character, in order to ensure that the small town feel is retained.

These findings were reinforced during Engagement 2, with concern expressed by some community members about the future growth of the township and the potential loss of the relaxed and quiet lifestyle valued by the community.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Increase housing choice
+ 2 - Develop the lot to the north zoned for residential in the existing town
+ 3 - Investigation areas to increase land available for Rural Living
+ 4 - Infill housing in existing residential zones (Township and Low Density Residential Zone)

What is proposed

This Big Idea proposes that the liveability and long-term resilience of the town is enhanced by:

+ Ensuring new development is complementary to the existing character
+ Increasing housing choice through more differentiated housing types and lot sizes
+ Increasing housing supply through development of land zoned for residential use
+ Increasing housing supply through potential future rezoning of land.

Objective 1: Increase housing choice to cater for diverse demographic needs

Action 01: Provide a greater range of housing lot sizes and typologies to increase housing choice and accommodate a variety of household types and changing demographic needs including for ageing in place, younger families, key sector workers and seasonal worker accommodation.

Figure 57. New housing development.

Legend
POTENTIAL INFILL SITES (SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION)
GENERAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONE
RURAL ACTIVITY ZONE
PUBLIC USE ZONE
250AHD EAST TOWN BOUNDARY
EPA 200M BUFFER
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AREA WITHIN TOWNSHIP
INVESTIGATION AREAS FOR FUTURE HOUSING
1:10,000 @ A3
0
500m
BETHANGA BRIDGE
LAKE HUME
LAKE HUME
250AHD EAST TOWN BOUNDARY
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
NEW POND
250AHD EAST TOWN BOUNDARY

3.4 Big Idea 03 Increase housing supply while retaining the small town feel

Objective 2: Develop the large lot to the north zoned for residential in the existing town

Action 01: There is an opportunity to provide housing on a large site zoned for general residential use in the township offering outlook and amenity with Lake Hume views and access to the foreshore. The site is subject to a Development Plan Overlay (DPO2) for residential development.

Action 02: Future development of the site is to consider the:

+ Underground spring and water flows draining towards Lake Hume, with potential to retain the open space abutting the existing residences and protect existing habitat
+ Ensure future development maintains privacy to residents abutting the vacant parcel
+ Investigate the retention of existing mature trees on-site
+ Consider alternate road access to the east and south-east aligning with the 250AHD east town boundary
+ Integrate future development with the foreshore ensuring safe pedestrian and cyclist crossings and links
+ Streetscape enhancement to Lake Drive frontage include footpaths, lighting, seating and water drinking fountain
+ Consider providing a range of differentiated residential products to broaden the dwelling types on offer.

Figure 58. Bellbridge existing residential development.

Objective 3: Consider potential investigation areas to increase land available for Rural Living

Action 01: Investigate rezoning Rural Activity Zone to the north and south of the township, subject to the recommendations of a Bushfire Risk Assessment.

There is potential to provide a differentiated residential product to the market, as opposed to more conventional housing typically delivered through the General Residential Zone.

Figure 59. Rural living on larger lots.

Objective 4: Investigate the potential to provide infill housing in existing residential zones on underdeveloped lots

Action 01: Subject to consultation with landowners, explore the opportunity to increase housing supply on vacant lots within the township to maximise access to existing critical infrastructure, including the potential for higher density i.e. smaller lots / townhouses to increase housing diversity.

4.0
Implementation Plan
OUR TOWN

4.1 Making it happen

Overview of making it happen

The Bellbridge Place Plan establishes a vision and framework for achieving the vision.

This part of the place plan sets out how the objectives may be achieved. Each objective is examined in terms of its:

- **Priority** (low-medium-high) – the priority ranking is informed by outcomes from community engagement and input from authorities
- **Timing** – a realistic ordering of which objectives can be feasibly achieved in the short, medium, or longer term
- **Partners** – authorities who have elected to work on the objectives listed.

Some objectives may require further work and studies, including changes to planning instruments in the future, in the form of Structure Plans, reference documents or other planning studies which should be undertaken separately to these place plans where necessary.

It is recommended that the place plan is reviewed regularly, and that regular catch-ups between Council and community are undertaken to monitor and check the progress of the place plan implementation.

Government authorities' workshop

On the 7 March 2024, the Draft Place Plans were presented as part of Engagement 2 to a group of state and local government authorities who have varying levels of involvement in the towns / region. This workshop was a follow-up to focus groups and 1:1 workshops undertaken during Engagement 1 to identify priority areas and opportunities for each authority.

The workshop was attended by representatives from a range of authorities as outlined in Table 1. Representatives from local and state government planning departments, emergency services and water management authorities were present, however it is acknowledged that there may be other relevant authorities that were not in attendance. These authorities should be engaged at a later date in the delivery of objectives as needed.

The aim of the workshop was to present the Draft Place Plans and objectives, raise any potential issues or priorities that authorities may have with relation to the Draft Place Plans, and identify partnerships to deliver the objectives in the future.

The following implementation tables set out where government authorities elected to work as partners to deliver particular elements or objectives of the place plan.

Future work should be undertaken to identify additional partners and begin to create connections between agencies to deliver the place plan.

Organisations represented
Towong Shire Council
Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) – Hume RPS
Country Fire Authority (CFA)
Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) Upper Murray
Victoria SES Tallangatta
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Department Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Ambulance Victoria
Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW)

Big Idea 01: Civic precinct to strengthen the lakeside community

THEME 1.1: Create a Village Heart

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Explore food and beverage opportunities.	High	**Short-term**	
Objective 2	Create a community hub with retail, commercial and public spaces at the Hume Boat Club.	Medium	Medium-term	

THEME 1.2: Improve Transport, Access and Streets

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Provide cycle and pedestrian access to Bethanga Bridge with alternative large vehicle access.	High	Long-term	
Objective 2	Improve the appearance of Lake Road and address safety and access for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.	High	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 3	Investigate the provision of a public bus and shuttle service	High	Long-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 4	Undertake road upgrades for large vehicle access and investigate the provision of fuel supply.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 5	Improve parking to cater for a range of vehicles and increase in visitor numbers.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 6	Improve regional connectivity with an EV charging station at the Boat Club.	Low	**Short-term**	

THEME 1.3: Improve Health and Education Services and Facilities

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Improve community infrastructure to cater for the growing population.	Medium	Medium-term	Ambulance Victoria
Objective 2	Improve health services for targeted to the ageing demographic and families.	Low	Medium-term	Ambulance Victoria
Objective 3	Upgrade facilities at the Craig Drive Reserve.	Low	**Short-term**	Ambulance Victoria

Big Idea 02: Gateway to Berringa Peninsula & tourist destination

THEME 2.1: Improve the Visitor Experience

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Implement the upgrade to the Hume Boat Club.	High	**Short-term**	GMW
Objective 2	Upgrade Lake Hume foreshore with improved facilities, activities and trails.	High	Medium-term	GMW
Objective 3	Improve the sense of arrival at the town's gateway.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 4	Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign.	Low	**Short-term**	GMW
Objective 5	Increase accommodation choice.	Low	Medium-term	

THEME 2.2: Environmental Improvements

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Restore the waterfront of Lake Hume (revegetation, manage vehicle / boat access).	High	Medium-term	GMW
Objective 2	Improve urban ecology in open spaces, public spaces and streets.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Increase awareness of First Nations cultural heritage.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 4	Provide opportunities for new residents to increase knowledge about the environment .	Low	**Short-term**	

THEME 2.3: Leverage Events

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Strengthen Bellbridge as a cycling destination.	Medium	Medium-term	

Big Idea 03: Increase housing supply while retaining the small town feel

THEME 3.1: Ensuring Long-Term Resilience

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Plan and advocate for upgrades to telecommunications to support the future development of the township.	High	Long-term	CFA
Objective 2	Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township.	Medium	**Short-term**	CFA
Objective 3	Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 4	Plan and advocate for upgrades to water, sewerage and electricity to support the future development of the township.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 5	Plan for natural and man-made hazards and disasters and emergency services to improve the township's long-term resilience.	Low	Medium-term	CFA

THEME 3.2: Increase Housing Supply

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Increase housing choice to cater for diverse demographic needs.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Develop the large lot to the north zoned for residential in the existing town.	Medium	Medium-term	CFA
Objective 3	Consider potential investigation areas to increase land available for Rural Living.	Low	Medium-term	DTP – Planning, CFA
Objective 4	Investigate the potential to provide infill housing in existing residential zones on underdeveloped lots.	Low	Medium-term	CFA

Impact Tomorrow

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OUR TOWN
TOWARDS 2030
Towong Placemaking and Township Co-Design Project
Bethanga Place Plan - FINAL DRAFT | June-2024
towongshire

ClarkeHopkinsClarke and Towong Shire Council acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country on which the Our Town project is taking place.

While there are no Registered Aboriginal Parties in the project region, we acknowledge the following Parties we are aware of: Jaitmatang, Yaithmathang, Duduroa dhargal, Waveroo, Way-wurru, Wiradjuri and Ngarigo people as the traditional custodians of the land.

ClarkeHopkinsClarke acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and the Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land we work on.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise their custodianship over deep time and their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

Drawn by Foster Type and based on the AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia, ©AIATSIS 1996.
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1.0
Introduction
OUR TOWN

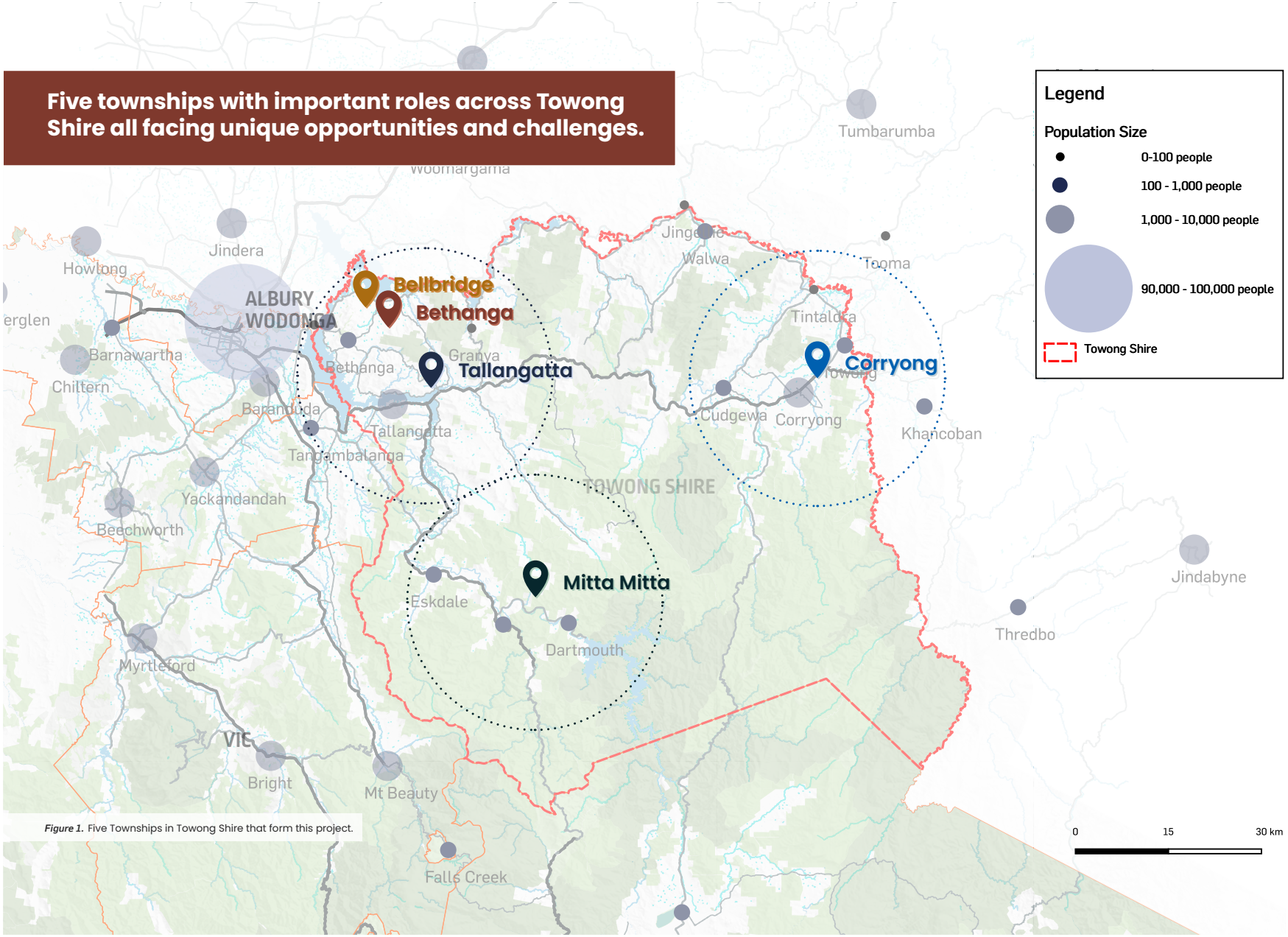


Figure 1. Five Townships in Towong Shire that form this project.

1.1 Project overview

The Bethanga Place Plan is a 10-year roadmap for Council, community and other stakeholders. The plan identifies community and other stakeholder priorities to guide the future shape and character of the township.

The Bethanga Place Plan is part of Our Town Towards 2030, a Placemaking and Co-design Project (the project) initiated by Towong Shire Council for five townships across the Shire.

The project delivers town-based plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta. The plans have provided an opportunity to re-imagine the way each township works and has allowed us to bring together the big ideas that drive growth while identifying the services, infrastructure and public spaces required to support the population. Each plan identifies a shared set of goals and initiatives that can be developed and delivered over the next 10 years.

While the place plans have a ten year lifespan, each plan provides a good base level summary of what people said; captures what is important to the community; and provides direction beyond the ten-year period of the plan.

Place-based approach

Towong Shire has adopted a place-based approach to master planning exemplified in the Mitta Valley Our Future Plan. This plan places community interests at the core of decision-making. The Council Plan 2021-25 identifies community engagement as a key strategy to deliver Council's Strategic Objective 'Organisational Improvement'. This strategy, places people at the centre of conversations about the future planning of the communities in which they live, work, study, visit and recreate. It is based on the belief that the people who are part of a community are best placed to understand and identify their needs.

Why do we need a Place Plan

Regional towns in Australia have experienced significant growth in recent years increasing pressure on services, housing, jobs and infrastructure. The five towns – Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta – all face unique challenges, as well as opportunities, that have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the bushfires of 2019-20.

Our Town Towards 2030 has looked at ways to strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of the towns by helping each community to identify and prioritise its future needs, services and opportunities. The co-design project has enabled current communities' input into how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

Project purpose

The purpose of the project is to:

+ Develop a vision shared by the community and other stakeholders.
+ Identify community aspirations and opportunities to address the challenges facing the township.
+ Support the community to prioritise their future needs, services and opportunities.
+ Align community and other stakeholder expectations including how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

How to read this document

This document is structured in four parts commencing with a project introduction, and understanding of the context and township as the first part.

The second part provides an overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat and Engagement 2: Planning Ahead.

The third part is the Place Plan comprised of the Big Ideas, and the outcomes, objectives and actions that will bring the ideas to life.

The fourth part is the Implementation Plan comprised of actions, timeframes and key stakeholders / partners.

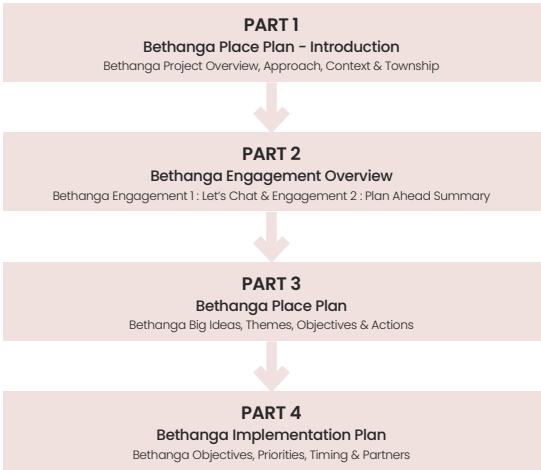


Figure 2. Format of this document, Bethanga Place Plan.

Figure 3. Engagement 1 workshop, Bethanga.

1.2 Creating a shared vision

Three engagement touchpoints were developed as part of a co-design process to inform the town vision and place plan. A broad spectrum of stakeholders, including residents, workers, visitors, students, and government authorities were included across all three engagement touchoints.

Place-based approach & asset based engagement

The engagement process was highly inclusive and collaborative to co-design solutions with the community that build upon the strengths, assets and opportunities for each town. This is called an asset based approach. Asset based engagement recognises and builds upon the value and resources that exist within the community.

Engagement touchpoints

As the first of three touch-points, Engagement 1 was an opportunity to introduce the Our Town Towards 2030 project to each of the five communities and have conversations with people to understand what they value about their town and what really matters to them.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to present the Big Ideas, report back what we heard and how this could translate into future initiatives / projects, asking did we get it right?

Engagement 3 is the final engagement touchpoint. Feedback from Engagement 2 was collated and used to finalise the place plans during 'Delivering the Vision', keeping the community informed of the final project outcomes.

Figure 4. Three engagement touchpoints.

Figure 5. Bethanga Recreation Reserve.

1.3 Understanding the context

Every project begins with an understanding of the people, location and physical characteristics that define the township. Understanding the township at different scales – from regional, township to town centre – helps to build a picture of the unique features and qualities that contribute to place identity.

Region

With a population base of 485 inhabitants, Bethanga is a very small township less than 5km from the Victoria and New South Wales border.

Bethanga is 26km south-east of the regional city Albury, approximately 8kms to the south-east of Bethanga and the heritage listed Bethanga Bridge built between 1927-30 when the Hume Weir was completed.

We understand that prior to European settlement the area was home to the Jaitmatang and Pallanganmiddang / Waywurru First Nations people.

The township is located in a Declared Special Water Supply Catchment Area with protections on water quality and the environment.

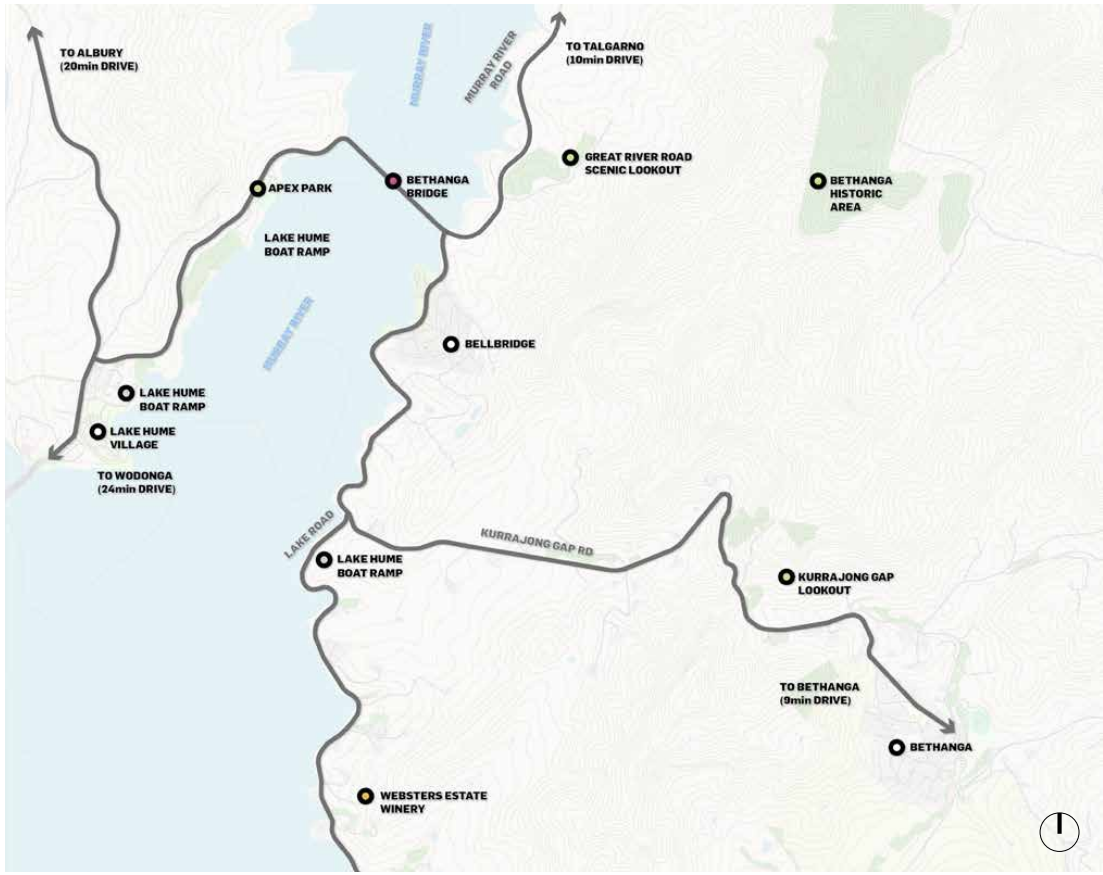


Figure 6. Regional context.

1.3 Understanding the context

Township

The township covers an area of approximately 168 hectares and is positioned at the bottom of the valley with steeper hills rising up to the north and west and gentler hills to the east and south.

Lake Hume foreshore is 4km to the south-west with nearby towns Talgarno 10km to the north-east, Bethanga 8km north-west and Old Tallangatta 50km to the south-east.

Pastoralists occupied the area in 1836 before the discovery of gold in 1875 followed by copper in 1877.

The township has an unusual shape and settlement pattern originating from mining activity, with the upper town defined by the Wallace Bethanga Smelter – now a designated Historic Area – and the lower town by the Harris and Hollow's Smelter.

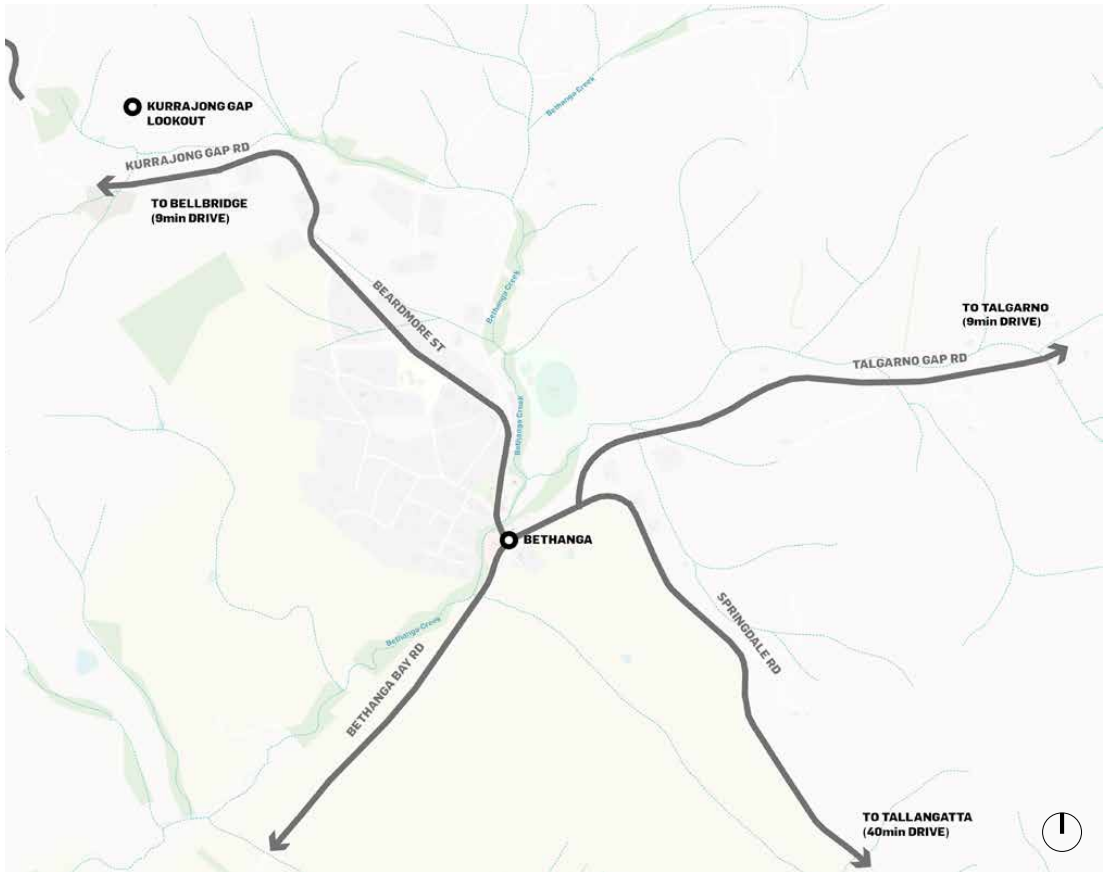


Figure 7. Township context.

Town Centre

The village centre is located on Bridge Street at the intersection of Bethanga Bay Road, Springdale Road and Bethanga Creek, situated to the east of the township.

Key destinations are located along Beardmore and Bridge Streets including the Bethanga General Store, Hotel, Hall, Primary School, playground, Fire Station and Police Station.

The Recreation Reserve is the largest open space in the township and includes a pavilion, oval, courts and camping facilities.

The core township is comprised of predominantly single storey free standing dwellings with larger rural lots located around the township.

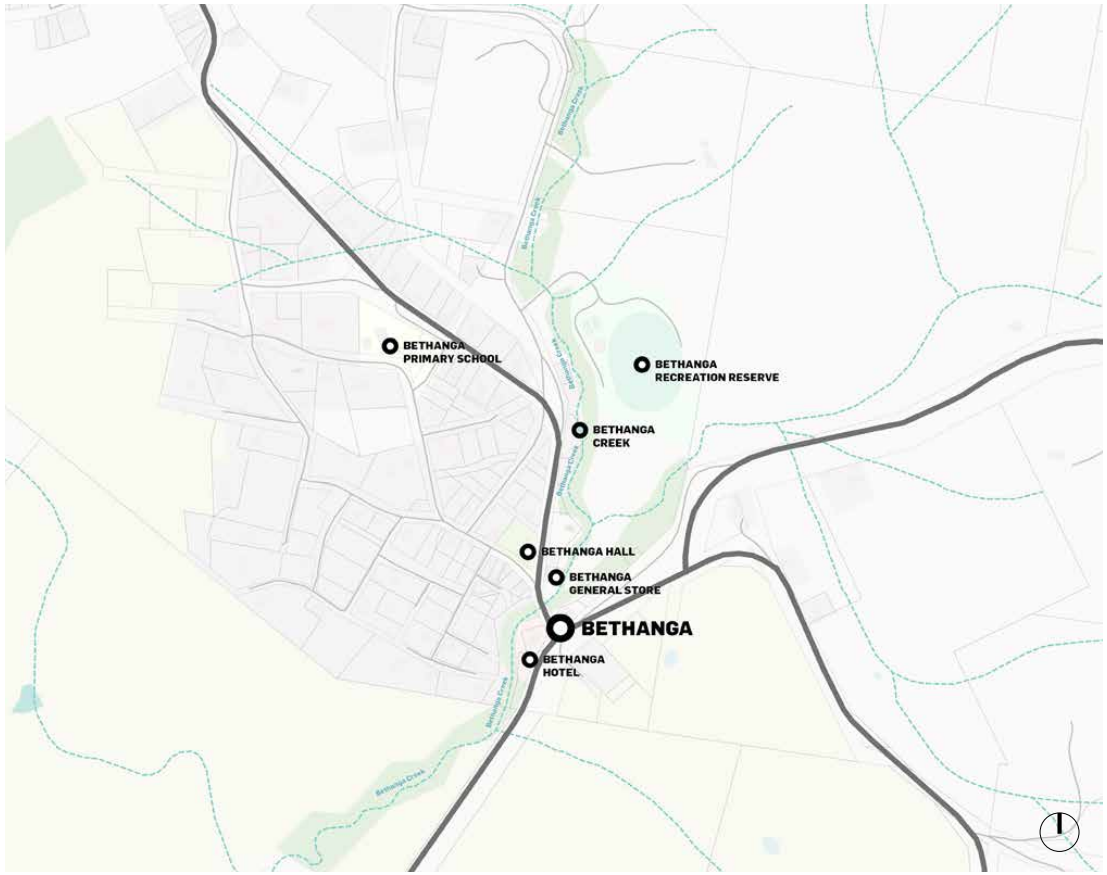


Figure 8. Town centre context.

Figure 9. Bethanga General Store.

Figure 10. Bethanga Township.

Figure 11. Bethanga Primary School Art Show.

Figure 12. Bethanga playground.

Figure 16. Bethanga Hotel.

Figure 13. Kurrajong Gap lookout.

Figure 14. Lake Hume brand logo.

Figure 15. Bethanga Creek trail.

1.4 Township & surrounds character

Local Character

Bethanga is a unique township nestled in a valley and surrounded by rolling hills. It's unique mining heritage is evident in the remnants of the mine shaft, tailings and drag lines. Key buildings such as the Memorial Hall, General Store, Post Office, Hotel, Rechabite Hall, Catholic and Anglican Church, are reminders of what was once a bustling township built on gold and copper mining.

The village centre is located at the confluence of Bethanga Creek, Bethanga Bay Road, Springdale Road, Bridge Street and the township's central open space. Various water courses flow into Bethanga Creek.

This plan shows Bethanga's character and heritage, highlighting the townships layout, contours, heritage overlays, open space adjacent to the Bethanga Creek, residential area between public conservation and resource zones and surrounding farmland.

These and the character of the existing township buildings and landscape are important considerations for a discussion on how to re-imagine the future of the township.

Key facilities, features, qualities and characteristics are captured in the adjacent images across the following page.

Legend

- VILLAGE CENTRE
- TOWNSHIP ZONE
- HERITAGE OVERLAY
- PUBLIC CONSERVATION & RESOURCE ZONE
- PUBLIC PARK & RECREATION ZONE
- FARMING ZONE
- PUBLIC USE ZONE

1:5,000 @ A3

0 150m

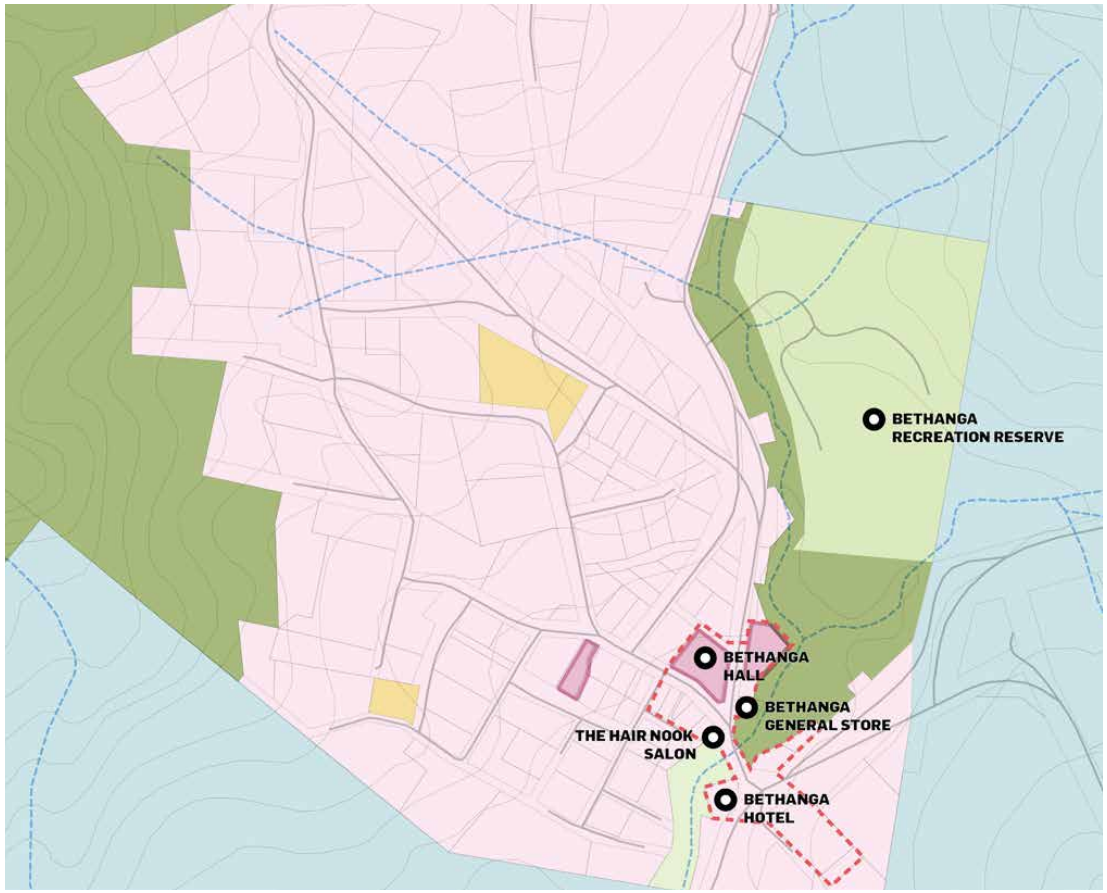


Figure 17. Bethanga planning zones, character and heritage.

Figure 18. Bethanga Memorial Hall.

Figure 19. Bethanga Rechabite Hall.

Figure 20. Bethanga Primary School.

Figure 21. Bethanga Anglican Church.

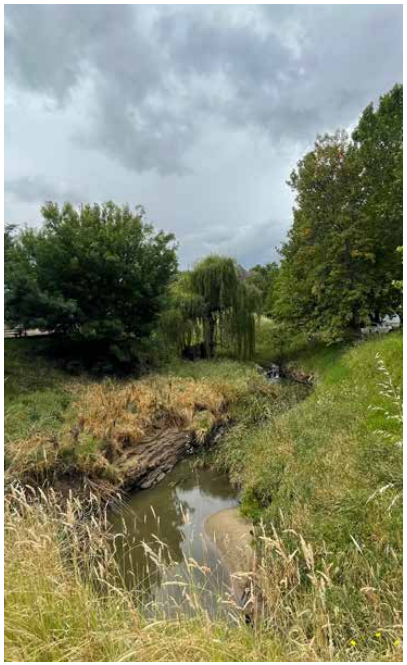


Figure 24. Bethanga Creek.

Figure 22. Bethanga Hotel.

Figure 23. Bethanga General Store.

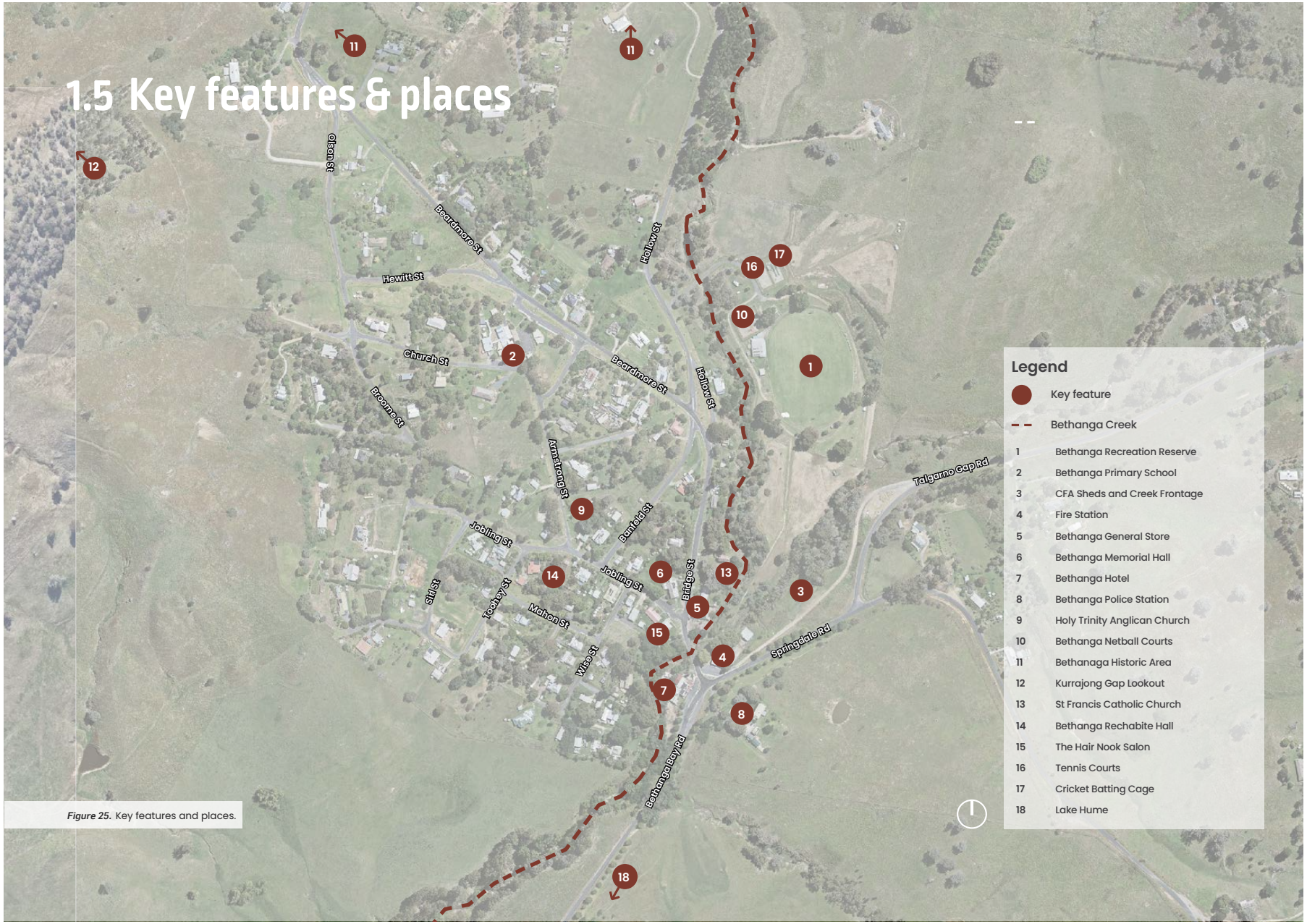


Figure 25. Key features and places.

2.0
Engagement
OUR TOWN

2.1 Engagement summary

Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy

Council's commitment to engagement is outlined in the Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy which "is committed to participatory democracy and providing community members with the opportunity to engage in decision making in relation to matters that affect them". This project has adopted key principles from Policy including:

+ Identifying key stakeholders and user groups impacted by the decisions.
+ Being respectful of and allowing space for a diversity of perspectives and views.
+ Embedding transparency and accountability by keeping participants informed and 'closing the loop'.

The Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy includes a public participation spectrum adapted from the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum with five levels of public participation: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower. This project has incorporated levels 1-4 at different stages of the project with the aim of building consensus with participants.

Engagement 1: "Lets Chat"
Diverse engagement methods

↓

Engagement 2: "Planning Ahead"
Vision & 4 Big Ideas

↓

Engagement 3: "Delivering the Vision"
Bethanga Place Plan

Figure 26. Engagement touchpoints.

"Bethanga is a quaint, charming and tight knit community. I love Bethanga's sense of history which makes it unique but more needs to be done with that Bethanga's geographical position nestled among hills, close to weir and driving distance from Albury / Wodonga makes it unique."

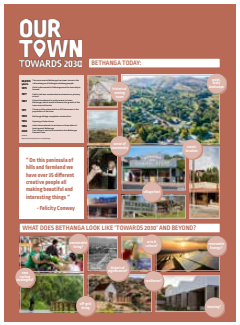


Figure 27. Engagement collateral.

Engagement 1: Let's Chat

People were informed and encouraged to participate in a variety of ways including the 'Town-hall' style meetings, face-to-face and online meetings, surveys, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters, letterbox drops, posters and advertising. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

Engagement 2: Planning Ahead

Similar methods were used for Engagement 2 including 'Town-hall' style workshops, face-to-face and online workshops, online survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletter and letterbox drops. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

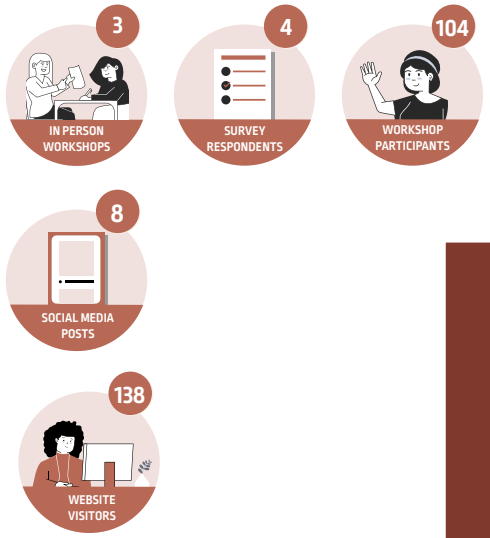


Figure 28. Engagement 2 community event, Bethanga.

"Bethanga has a beautiful community.

A community of like minded people who always look out for each other.

It has its heart and soul imbedded with environment, farming, caring, 'quirkiness' especially in the arts and crafts, with a potential in tourism.

Take one look around at the Peninsula Market and you'll see most of this on display.

The lake and the beautiful rolling hills attract people who are like-minded, outdoor-sy and ready to roll up their sleeves!

It's a perfect place for young families and for retirees.

It's a bit of a hidden gem in the hills.

It'd be an awesome place to promote the arts with maybe a small art gallery built for locals to display their works!"

2.2 Engagement 1: Let's chat

The first engagement, Let's Chat took place between March-April 2023 and included a broad spectrum of stakeholders – residents, workers, visitors, students, government departments and agencies.

Let's Chat included a number of methods including 'Town-hall' style meetings and events, face-to-face and online focus groups and 1:1 meetings, online and hardcopy survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters, poster and advertising.

"Let's Chat" reflects the broad and wide ranging challenges and opportunities affecting each community. It also helps us to identify and leverage key strengths and assets in the development of the vision and place plans.

Four questions were asked, with more detailed conversations held with individuals or small groups. These were:

+ What makes your town special? What do you love and value?
+ What challenges does your town face?
+ What are the opportunities over the next 10 years?
+ What would make your town more environmentally sustainable and resilient?

The results of Let's Chat were compiled into a Draft Place Plan which includes a project introduction, overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat; vision exercise for the workshops and survey; and a summary of 'what we heard' captured in four Big Ideas with potential initiatives / projects.

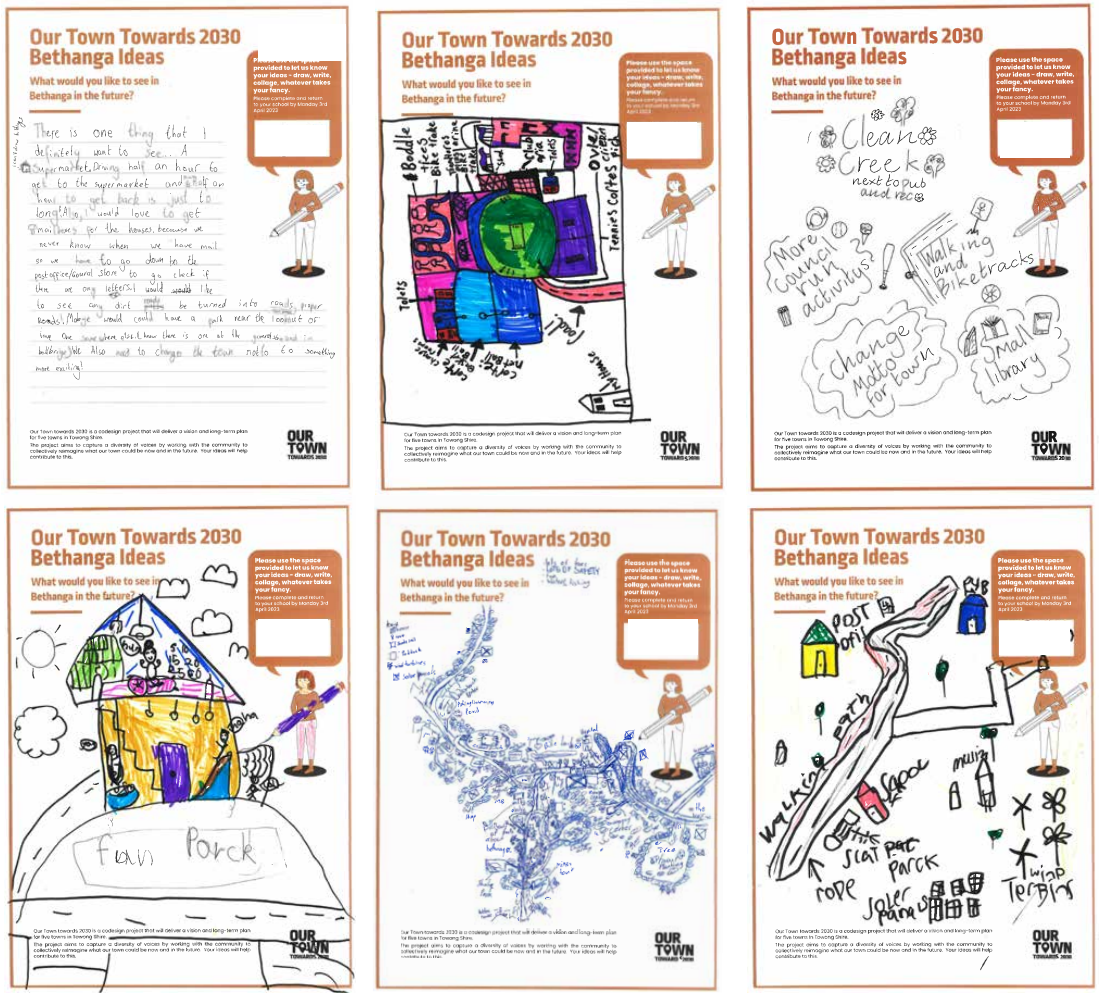


Figure 29. Responses to the question: How can Bethanga be a better place for their future. Bethanga Primary School students, Years P-6.

"Retaining and maintenance of old / historic features, keeping the look of old Bethanga with new infrastructure & ammenities."

Strengths, Assets & Challenges

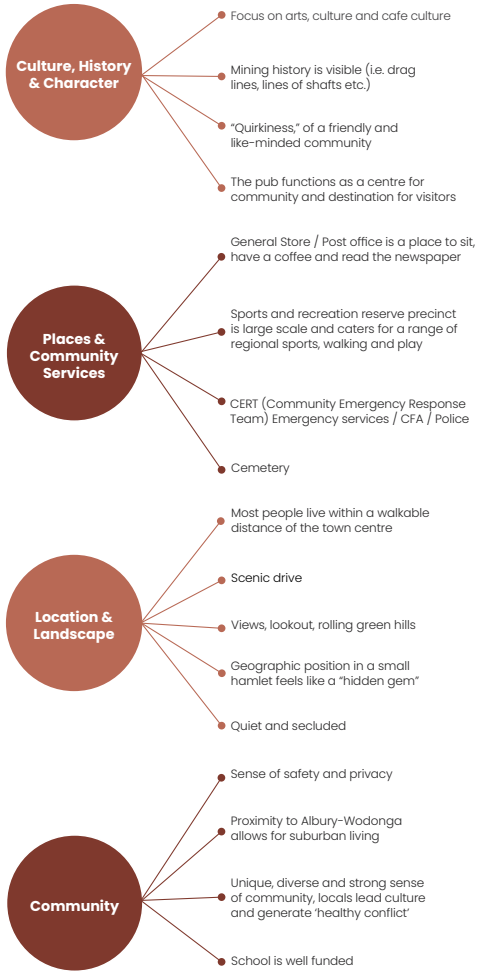
An analysis of responses to the questions 'What makes your town special?' and 'What do you love and value?' are summarised in the following strengths and assets, with responses to the question 'What challenges does your town face?' summarised in the following challenges. These have informed the vision and big ideas for the place plan.

Big Ideas

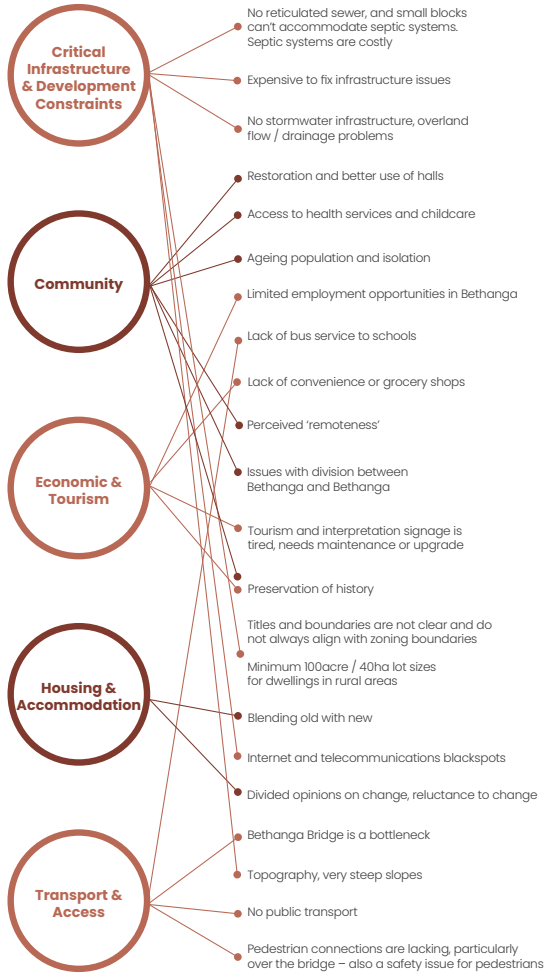
The four Big Ideas for Bethanga broadly capitalise on:

+ Retaining Bethanga's existing village character while growing the town.
+ Potential to strengthen community and increase the visitor economy through heritage, arts and culture.
+ Integrating Bethanga Creek and Recreation Reserve with the village heart.
+ Environmental improvements to increase the township's sustainability and long-term resilience.

Strengths & Assets



Challenges



2.3 Engagement 2: Planning ahead

The second engagement, Planning Ahead took place between November 2023-January 2024 and included residents, workers, visitors and government authorities. Planning Ahead was comprised of in-person workshops and an online survey replicating the face-to-face workshops. The workshop and survey were based on the Draft Place Plan which captured the key directions and outcomes to emerge from 'what we heard' during Engagement 1: Let's Chat.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to provide feedback on the Engagement 1 findings. A vision exercise was held with participants during the workshop to prioritise key words for the overaching direction for the place plan. These words were used to create the town vision.

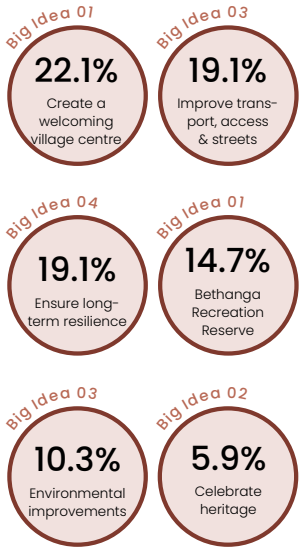
The four Big Ideas for Bethanga were presented to participants, followed by two prioritisation exercises. The first exercise was focused on themes, with participants requested to select their top three. The second exercise was based on the initiatives / projects under each theme. Participants were requested to select their top ten initiatives / projects.

Results from the prioritisation exercise are captured in the diagram to the right. While Big Ideas 01, 03 and 04 included the highest priority themes, across the four ideas, 'Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve', and 'Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable' were the highest rated big ideas.

Big Idea	Theme
01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve	1.1 Create a welcoming village centre 1.2 Bethanga Recreation Reserve 1.3 Strengthen community infrastructure / services
02 Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture	2.1 Celebrate heritage 2.2 Improve amenity and broaden the visitor offer
03 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable	3.1 Environmental improvements 3.2 Environmentally sustainable design 3.3 Improve transport, access & streets
04 Grow the township while retaining the village character	3.1 Increase housing supply 3.2 Ensure long-term resilience

Theme priorities

The highest rated themes are captured below.



"I love the quiet, secluded nature of the town, the history and the connection to the natural environment."

Initiative & Project Priorities

During Engagement 2 stakeholders were requested to prioritise the most important initiatives / projects listed under each theme. The following nine initiatives / projects were rated as the top priorities for the community. Some initiatives / projects received equal rating and are grouped together. For example 'Road upgrades & maintenance (incl. fuel)' and 'ncrease tree canopy cover' received equal support at 6.8%.

TABLE OF HIGHEST RATED SURVEY RESULTS

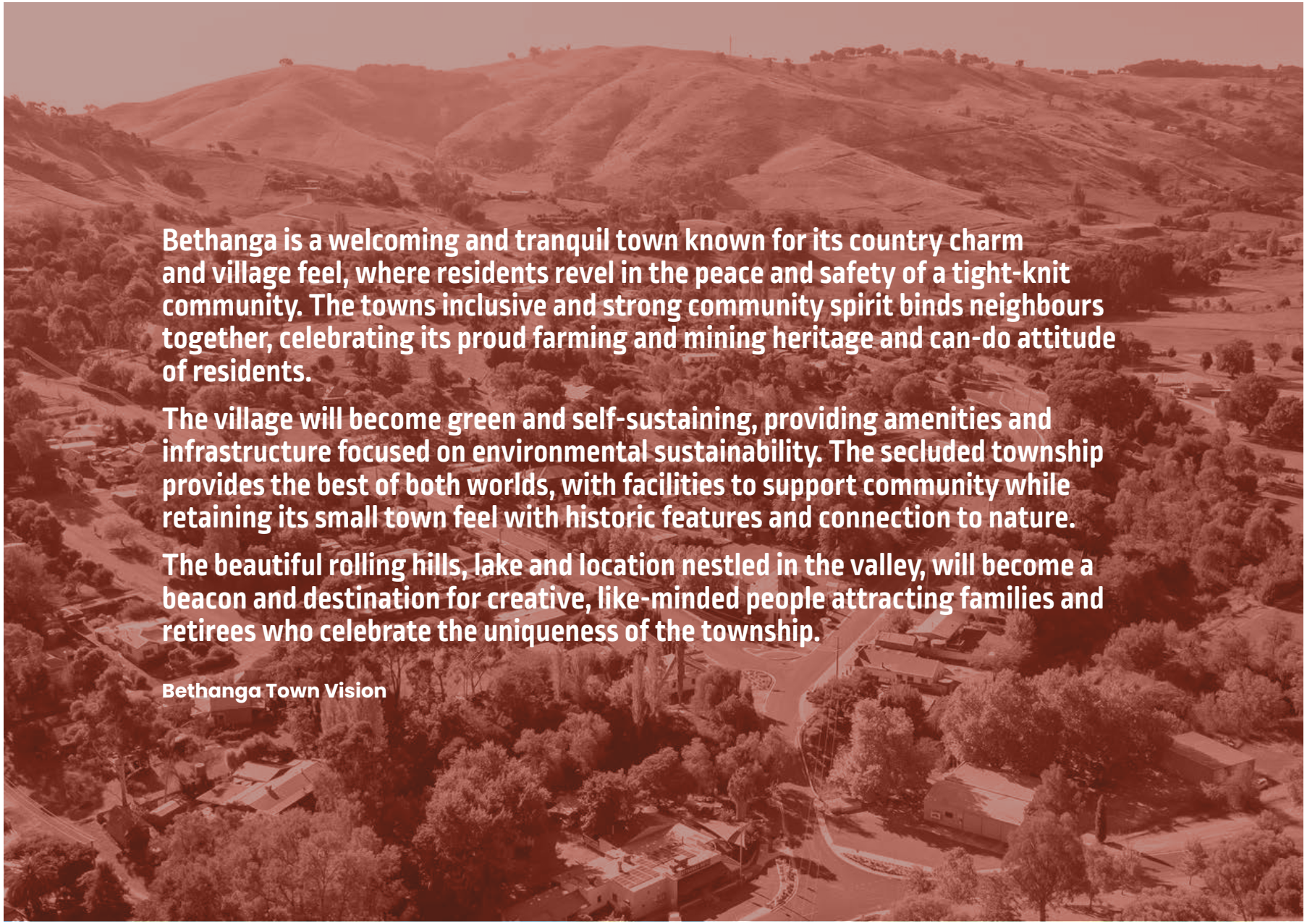
Priority	Big Idea	Theme	Percentage	Initiative / Project
#1	03	3.1	10.9%	Water and sewage improvements.
#2	02	2.1	6.8%	Road upgrades and maintenance (incl. fuel).
		2.1		Increase tree canopy cover.
#3	01	1.2	6.4%	Upgrade Bethanga Recreation Reserve buildings / facilities.
		1.1		Village centre streetscape imrovements.
#4	01	1.2	5.0%	Upgrade Bethanga Recreation Reserve external facilities.
#5	01 & 02	1.2	4.1%	Improve links with the village centre.
		2.2		Bethanga Creek environmental rehabilitation and trails.
		2.1		Improve footpaths, crossings and wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage.

Figure 30. Engagement 2 vision exercise, Bethanga.

3.0

Place Plan

OUR TOWN


Bethanga is a welcoming and tranquil town known for its country charm and village feel, where residents revel in the peace and safety of a tight-knit community. The towns inclusive and strong community spirit binds neighbours together, celebrating its proud farming and mining heritage and can-do attitude of residents.
The village will become green and self-sustaining, providing amenities and infrastructure focused on environmental sustainability. The secluded township provides the best of both worlds, with facilities to support community while retaining its small town feel with historic features and connection to nature.
The beautiful rolling hills, lake and location nestled in the valley, will become a beacon and destination for creative, like-minded people attracting families and retirees who celebrate the uniqueness of the township.
Bethanga Town Vision

3.1 Big ideas summary

Four Big Ideas emerged from an analysis of responses from Engagement 1. These were tested with community during Engagement 2. All of the big ideas received support, however, it was clear through the analysis that followed, that there are clear priorities across the community. These priorities are reflected in the numbering of each big idea with 'Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve' receiving the most support, followed by 'Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable', 'Grow the township while retaining the village character', and ' Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture'.

Format of the Big Ideas

Each Big Idea is comprised of themes that describe the outcomes we are seeking to achieve. Each theme includes a series of objectives outlining the different components that make up each theme. Each objective lists actions required to implement the objective. The actions can be projects or initiatives.

Figure 31. Format of the Big Ideas.

Big Idea	Theme
01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve	1.1 Create a welcoming village centre 1.2 Bethanga Recreation Reserve 1.3 Strengthen community infrastructure / services
02 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable	2.1 Improve transport, access and streets 2.2 Environmental improvements 2.3 Environmentally sustainable design
03 Grow the township while retaining the village character	3.1 Ensure long-term resilience 3.2 Increase housing supply
04 Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture	4.1 Celebrate heritage 4.2 Improve amenity and broaden the visitor offer

3.2 Big Idea 01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve

Theme 1.1: Create a Welcoming Village Centre

What we heard

'Making the Bethanga Creek a feature of the town', and 'development of a village heart with retail / commercial space' were two of the highest rated suggestions on how to improve the township during Engagement 1. Together, the Creek, General Store, hair salon, Post Office, Memorial Hall, Churches, CFA, Police Station and Recreation Reserve converge to form the heart of the community at the base of the valley. Initial findings indicate that the village centre lacks cohesion including direct access to key assets such as the Recreation Reserve and Creek environs, with limited retail / commercial spaces for future expansion. Road maintenance, a lack of footpaths, signage and stormwater drainage, and pedestrian safety particularly at the Creek crossing on Bridge Street were identified as issues.

Engagement 2 findings reinforced the need for improved streetscapes in the town centre with 'Village centre streetscape improvements' and 'Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage' the third and fifth respectively highest ranked initiatives / projects across the Big Ideas.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Streetscape improvements
+ 2 - Gateway arrival and intersections
+ 3 - Retail / commercial expansion
+ 4 - Parking strategy.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on strengthening the village heart with:

+ Streetscape improvements including bridges, footpaths, crossings, signage and reducing vehicle travel speed
+ Increasing commercial opportunities and improving parking in the village centre.

Objective 1: Undertake streetscape improvements in the village centre

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to provide a separated shared path for pedestrians and cyclists over Bethanga Creek to the village centre and address safety concerns. Explore options to upgrade the existing bridge or provide a separate bridge for pedestrians and cyclists.

Action 02: Improve streetscapes within the village centre with continuous and accessible footpaths, wayfinding signage, lighting, alfresco dining and stormwater drainage to support walkability and address issues around overland flows. Priority streets include Beardmore and Bridge Streets to key destinations such as the Primary School.

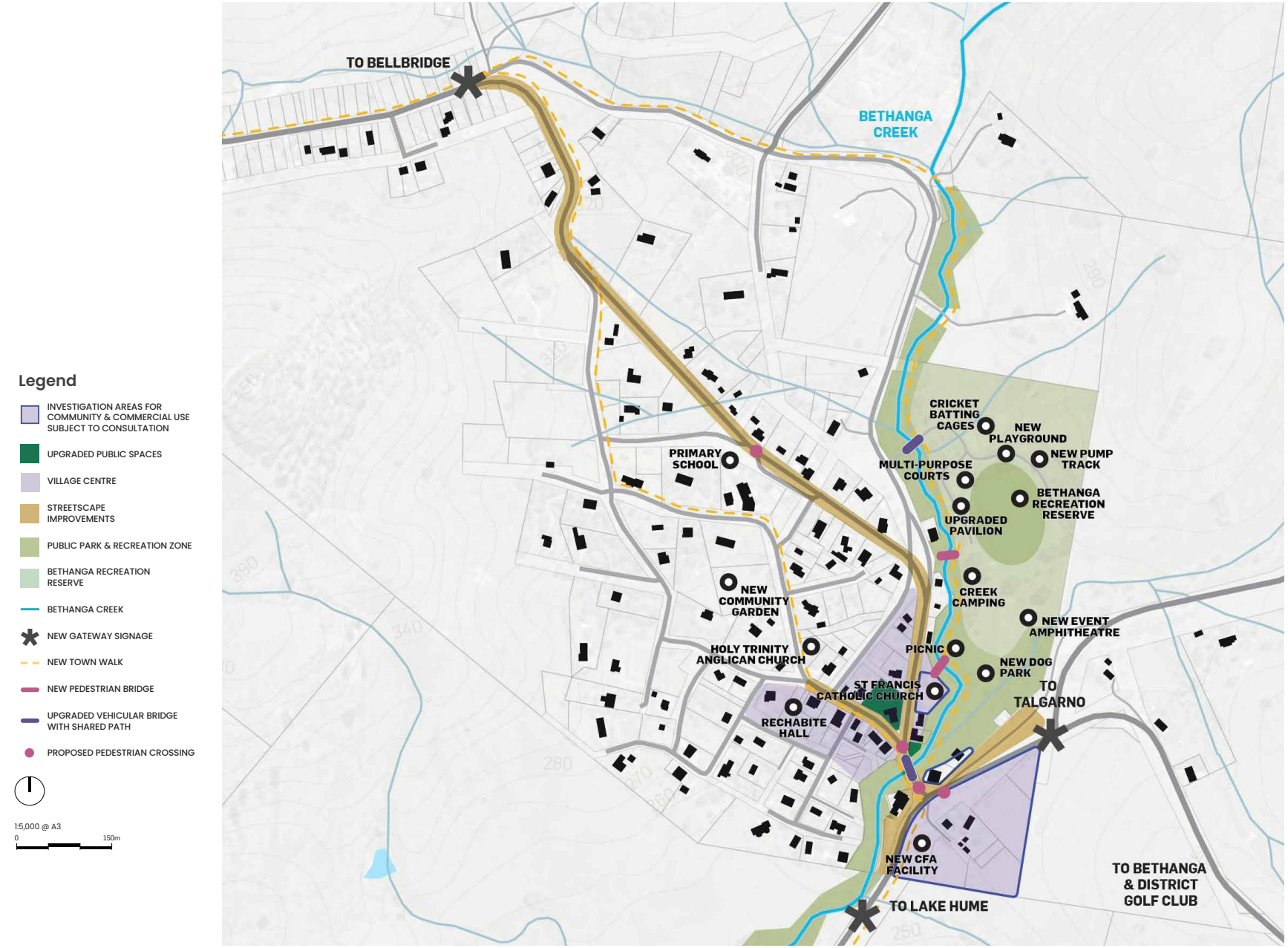
Action 03: Reduce the speed limit to 40km/hr through the central township on Beardmore and Bridge Streets from Hollows Road to Bethanga Bay and Springdale Roads.

Action 03: Investigate locations for pedestrian crossings or intersections such as:

+ Bethanga Primary School on Beardmore Street
+ Bethanga General Store and playground at Bridge Street
+ Jobling Street at Bridge Street
+ Springdale Road at the Bridge Street intersection.

Figure 32. Bridge over Bethanga Creek with Memorial Hall and village centre in the distance.

Figure 33. Cost effective ways to improve pedestrian crossings with artwork.


Legend
INVESTIGATION AREAS FOR COMMUNITY & COMMERCIAL USE SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION
UPGRADED PUBLIC SPACES
VILLAGE CENTRE
STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS
PUBLIC PARK & RECREATION ZONE
BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE
BETHANGA CREEK
NEW GATEWAY SIGNAGE
NEW TOWN WALK
NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
UPGRADED VEHICULAR BRIDGE WITH SHARED PATH
PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
1:5,000 @ A3
0
150m
TO BELLBRIDGE
BETHANGA CREEK
CRICKET BATTING CAGES
NEW PLAYGROUND
NEW PUMP TRACK
PRIMARY SCHOOL
MULTI-PURPOSE COURTS
BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE
UPGRADED PAVILION
NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN
CREEK CAMPING
NEW EVENT AMPHITHEATRE
HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH
PICNIC
NEW DOG PARK
ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH
TO TALGARNO
RECHABITE HALL
NEW CFA FACILITY
TO BETHANGA & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB
TO LAKE HUME

3.2 Big Idea 01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve

Figure 34. Welcoming village centre streetscape, Bright.

Objective 2: Improve the gateway arrival and intersections

Action 01: Create a sense of arrival at entry locations to / from Bethanga / Talgarno / Lake Hume with gateway and wayfinding signage at decision points, public art and beautification.

Gateway locations include:

+ Beardmore and Hollow Streets and Kurrajong Gap Road
+ Bethanga Bay Road
+ Springdale Road.

Figure 35. Gateway beautification with artwork. Compilation, Adrian Mauriks.

Objective 3: Future proof the township for commercial expansion

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to expand retail and commercial uses in the town centre. Future investigation areas for village centre expansion have been proposed on Bridge Street and at the junction of Bridge Street, Bethanga Bay and Springdale Roads including:

+ St Francis Church, recently sold, for potential adaptive reuse as a mixed use development including small scale retail / commercial and community space i.e., gallery / exhibition space in the Church building
+ Small site with sheds currently leased by the CFA at a prominent location on Springdale Road opposite the Hotel and adjacent the Creek environs with potential access to the Recreation Reserve
+ Large site to the south of Springdale Road surrounding the Police Station, suited to larger retail / commercial use and including a potential new purpose built facility for the Country Fire Authority.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities to support small businesses in the local community.

Objective 4: Improve parking within the village centre

Action 01: Develop a parking strategy that responds to current and future parking requirements and considers:

+ Potential increase in parking at the Memorial Hall
+ Events and overflow car parking
+ Current and future uses including the impact of potential village centre expansion
+ Larger vehicles (RV / long vehicle parking)
+ Incorporating greening into car spaces
+ RV dump points.

Figure 36. Small scale retail / grocer.

Figure 37. Increase parking in the Bethanga village centre.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve

Theme 1.2: Bethanga Recreation Reserve

What we heard

'Additional services and community facilities for health, sport, recreation, arts and cultural activity' was the third highest rated suggestion on how to improve the township during Engagement 1. Findings indicate that the Bethanga Recreation Reserve is one of the greatest assets of the township providing a community hub for sport, recreation, camping, and an alternative space to the Memorial Hall for diverse community activities and events. A master plan is currently being developed for the Recreation Reserve to guide the future redevelopment of the site.

Engagement 2 findings reinforce the importance to community of the Recreation Reserve, with the upgrade of the building and external grounds the third and fourth highest ranked initiatives / projects across the Big Ideas. Comments also revealed that the Recreation Reserve building is a preferred location for additional community facilities and services, with the redevelopment of the facility to accommodate services such as allied health and co-working spaces. In addition, the upgrade of links to the Recreation Reserve were also supported to improve access, better integrate the facility with the township and support increasing use of the building and grounds.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Bethanga Recreation Reserve facilities upgrade including community services
+ 2 - New outdoor recreational facilities
+ 3 - Improve links with the village centre.

What is proposed

This Big Idea supports the resilience of the village, by improving the Recreation Reserve and integrating the facility and open space with the village centre through the following:

+ Upgrading the Recreation Reserve building and external grounds to serve the needs of the community
+ Providing spaces in the upgraded facility to cater for diverse services
+ Improving links between the Recreation Reserve and village centre with upgraded bridges and new shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

Objective 1: Upgrade the Bethanga Recreation Reserve facilities including community services

Action 01: Upgrade existing facilities and infrastructure at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve taking into consideration the following:

+ Sporting opportunities including lower league sports teams and sport development for cricket, soccer, tennis, gym, horse riding and netball
+ Potential relocation of tennis courts and club from Bellbridge to Bethanga
+ Community hub with meeting rooms / multi-purpose spaces for health services such as allied health and co-working spaces
+ Incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles for water and energy to increase self-sufficiency.

Figure 38. Upgraded Bethanga Creek crossing.

Figure 39. Upgraded courts at Bethanga Recreation Reserve.

Objective 2: Improve the Bethanga Recreation Reserve grounds with new outdoor recreational facilities

Action 01: Investigate introducing new recreational facilities / infrastructure such as:

+ Nature playground to cater for pre-schoolers and primary school children in proximity to the Recreation Reserve building and oval to maintain good visibility for parents / carers
+ Outdoor fitness stations
+ Dog park
+ Pump track and BMX trails
+ Open event amphitheatre for local and visiting performances / festivals
+ Drought resistant landscape.

Objective 3: Improve connectivity between the Bethanga Recreation Reserve and the village centre

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to improve access and links between the village centre and the Bethanga Recreation Reserve with:

+ Shared pedestrian and cyclist bridges
+ Upgraded vehicular access
+ Improved walking / nature trails
+ Access to Bethanga Creek.

Figure 40. Outdoor amphitheatre for events.

Figure 41. Nature nature playground at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve, Adelaide Zoo.

Figure 42. La Rosa Reserve Stream, Auckland.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve

Theme 1.3 : Strengthen Community Infrastructure and Services

What we heard

Bethanga is serviced by existing community infrastructure including the Memorial Hall, Playground, Recreation Reserve, and Primary School. The towns location in proximity to Albury-Wodonga provides good access to a range of services. The Primary School caters for P-6 and is known for the Art Show which encourages students to engage in creative activity and hosts an annual Art Show at the Memorial Hall. While the township does have a centre with a general store / cafe, post office and hair salon, Engagement 1 findings indicated a need to create more opportunities for inclusive, safe spaces for community to come together, and in particular increase engagement and participation of younger people.

Engagement 2 findings indicate that increasing health, education and mail services are the highest priorities within the theme, followed by other initiatives such as community garden and cultural activities such as music festivals, also important to support a vibrant and creative community.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Investigate need to improve health, education and mail services
+ 2 - Community vegetable garden
+ 3 - New local bi-monthly music festival
+ 3 - Small scale community infrastructure
+ 4 - Bethanga Memorial Hall upgrade.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on improvements to community infrastructure and services to increase community cohesion and inclusivity with safe spaces for community connection, engagement / participation through the following:

+ A needs assessment of health and education services to cater for young families and an ageing population
+ Activities that can build on inclusivity and foster bonds between community members
+ Increasing use of existing assets.

Objective 1: Investigate need to improve health, education and mail services

Action 01: Undertake a needs analysis to determine the improvements required for the following services:

+ Health and medical services including at-home care and preventative community health services
+ Education services to determine future growth / planning including early learning services
+ Investigate potential improvements to the mail service.

Figure 43. Increase community spaces to cater for young people, Kindergarten & Playspace, Xian County Sunshine.

Objective 2: Establish a community vegetable garden

Action 01: Create a large scale community garden to grow vegetables on the site indicated south of the Primary School.

Objective 3: Create a local bi-monthly music festival

Action 01: Create a new local music festival to be held bi-monthly and to increase the entertainment offer and showcase local talent.

Objective 4: Increase the provision of community infrastructure

Action 01: Consider the inclusion of a small scale community infrastructure such as small library and small gallery space.

Objective 5: Upgrade the Bethanga Memorial Hall

Action 01: Consider the potential upgrade to the open space at the Memorial Hall to cater for events / activities such as outdoor cinema.

Objective 6: Provide opportunities to increase community cohesion

Action 01: Introduce opportunities to improve community cohesion through measures such as a community noticeboard at the General Store or Post Office.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities to build closer connections between Bethanga and Bellbridge.

Figure 44. Community garden.

Figure 45. Art gallery in refurbished church.

Figure 46. Small library and community spaces, Dimboola.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable

Theme 1.1: Improve Transport, Access and Streets

What we heard

Engagement 1 findings indicated a theme emerging around nature / environment, trails, cycling, touring routes and transport with 'accessible public transport and walking and cycling trails / routes' the seventh highest rated suggestion of how to improve the township. While the focus of this Big Idea is about the environment and sustainability, this theme concentrates on transport and streetscape improvements.

Engagement 2 findings reinforce the importance of this theme, with 'Improve transport, access and streets' the second highest ranked theme in equal position with 'Ensuring long-term resilience' across the Big Ideas. Within the theme, the two equally ranked initiatives / projects of the highest priority are 'Increase tree canopy cover' and 'Road upgrades and maintenance including fuel supply', followed by 'Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage' and 'Expand the trail and road cycling network'. The ranking allocated to road upgrades and tree canopy cover reinforce comments made during engagement about the need to improve and maintain roads in need of repair, and to continue initiatives underway such as the tree planting program aimed at beautifying the township. Engagement findings also indicate an interest to think beyond 2030 and address a warming climate through initiatives such as greening to improve the thermal comfort of streets.

There is overlap between this theme and 'Create a Welcoming Village Centre' in Big Idea 01 which focuses primarily on improvements to the village centre, while this theme applies to the entire township.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Increase tree canopy cover
+ 1 - Road upgrades and maintenance including fuel supply
+ 2 - Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage
+ 3 - Expand the trail and road cycling network
+ 4 - Create a Great Lake Road Drive with roadside infrastructure.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on sustainability by:

+ Streetscape improvements, and expanding the trail and cycling networks
+ Improving road connectivity.

Objective 1: Increase tree canopy cover throughout the township

Action 01: Provide continuous tree canopy cover to streets throughout the township, commencing with key streets within the village centre, followed by streets connecting community infrastructure to the town centre, Bethanga Creek and residential areas. Investigate current issues around tree spacing, proximity to overhead powerlines and ongoing maintenance requirements.

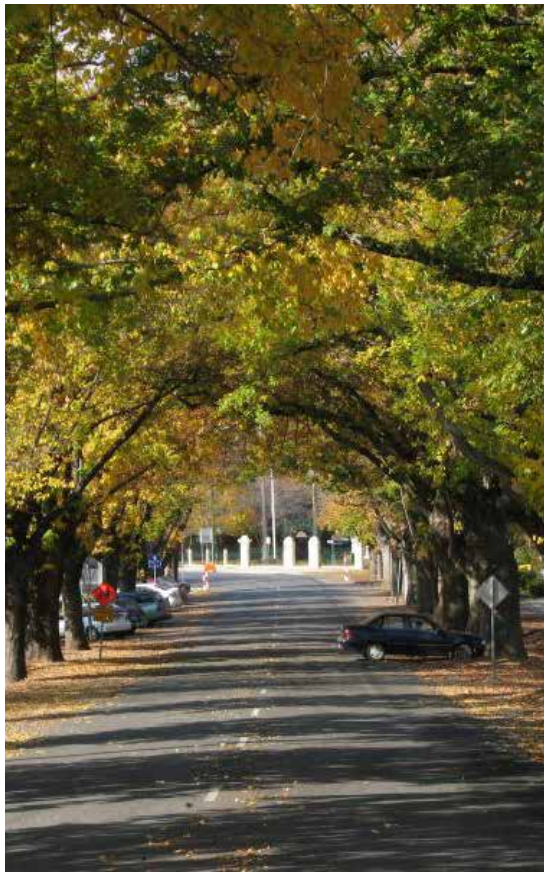
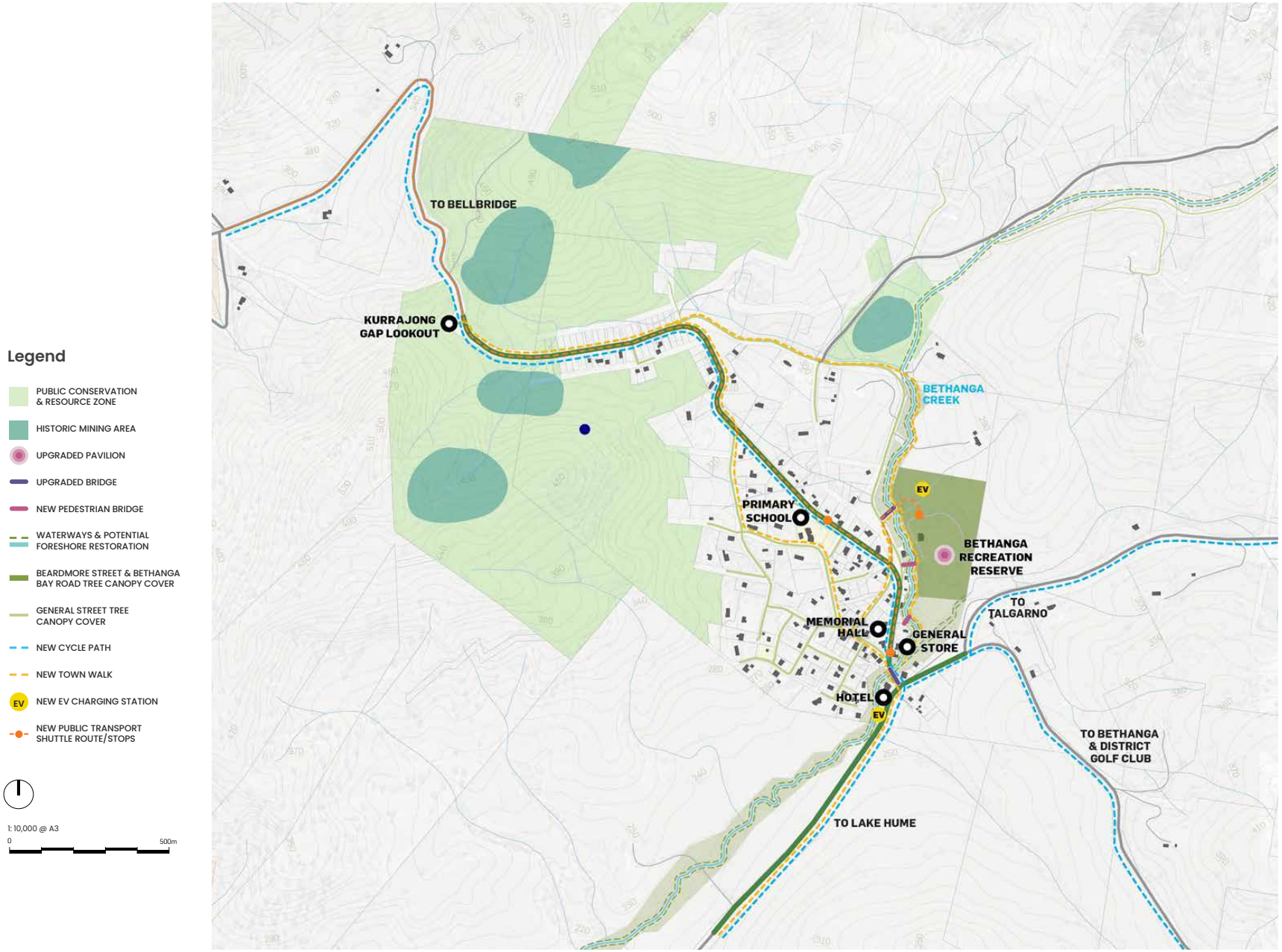


Figure 47. Increase shade to streets and create a welcoming arrival. Continuous tree canopy, Yackandandah.


TO BELLBRIDGE
KURRAJONG GAP LOOKOUT
BETHANGA CREEK
EV
PRIMARY SCHOOL
BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE
TO TALGARNO
MEMORIAL HALL
GENERAL STORE
HOTEL
EV
TO BETHANGA & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB
TO LAKE HUME
Legend
PUBLIC CONSERVATION & RESOURCE ZONE
HISTORIC MINING AREA
UPGRADED PAVILION
UPGRADED BRIDGE
NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
WATERWAYS & POTENTIAL FORESHORE RESTORATION
BEARDMORE STREET & BETHANGA BAY ROAD TREE CANOPY COVER
GENERAL STREET TREE CANOPY COVER
NEW CYCLE PATH
NEW TOWN WALK
EV
NEW EV CHARGING STATION
NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT SHUTTLE ROUTE/STOPS
1: 10,000 @ A3
0
500m

3.3 Big Idea 02 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable

Objective 2: Upgrade and maintain roads including provision for fuel

Action 01: Upgrade and maintain existing roads including road widening, signage and surface treatment. Roads identified during engagement include but are not limited to:

+ Kurrajong Gap Road
+ Talgarno Gap Road
+ Bethanga Bay Road.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide a petrol station including marine fuel for recreation activities at Lake Hume.

Objective 3: Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage

Action 01: Provide continuous and fully accessible footpaths connecting key facilities in the township.

Action 02: Provide / improve curbs, gutters and stormwater drainage to streets to address issues with overland flow and blocked culverts.

Action 03: Implement water-sensitive urban design with swales to filter stormwater and permeable paving / surfaces to decrease water run-off.

Action 04: Provide wayfinding signage at key decision points for pedestrians and cyclists.

Action 05: Review street lighting to determine where upgrades are required.

Action 06: Provide crossings at key locations such as the Primary School, community facilities and open space.

Action 07: Identify and implement measures to assist residents with the maintenance of nature strips on steep roadsides.

Objective 4: Expand cycling and horse riding trails and the road cycling network

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to improve and expand the existing trail and road cycling network including:

+ Nature trail along Bethanga Creek connecting the village centre to Kurragong Gap Lookout
+ Existing trail along Bethanga Bay Road not currently maintained, including a review of the existing gravel surface and potential replacement to address safety issues
+ Road cycling network within the township and to nearby destinations.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to identify the preferred routes for safe pop-up cycling lanes in the township.

Roads identified during engagement to provide cycling infrastructure include:

+ Kurrajong Gap Road to Bellbridge foreshore trail and future cycle paths to Albury City
+ Talgarno Gap Road to Talgarno
+ Bethanga Bay Road to Bethanga Cemetery, Lake Hume and Tallangatta East to the High Country Rail Trail.

Action 03: Identify opportunities to improve the walk from Bethanga to Bellbridge and Talgarno:

+ Bellbridge to Bethanga 7.6km
+ Bethanga to Talgarno 9.6km.

Action 04: Identify opportunities for horse riding trails and camp areas.

Objective 5: Create a Great Lake Road Drive with roadside infrastructure

Action 01: Opportunity to create a 'Great Lake Road' and market / promote the drive as per the Great River Road on Murray River Road with:

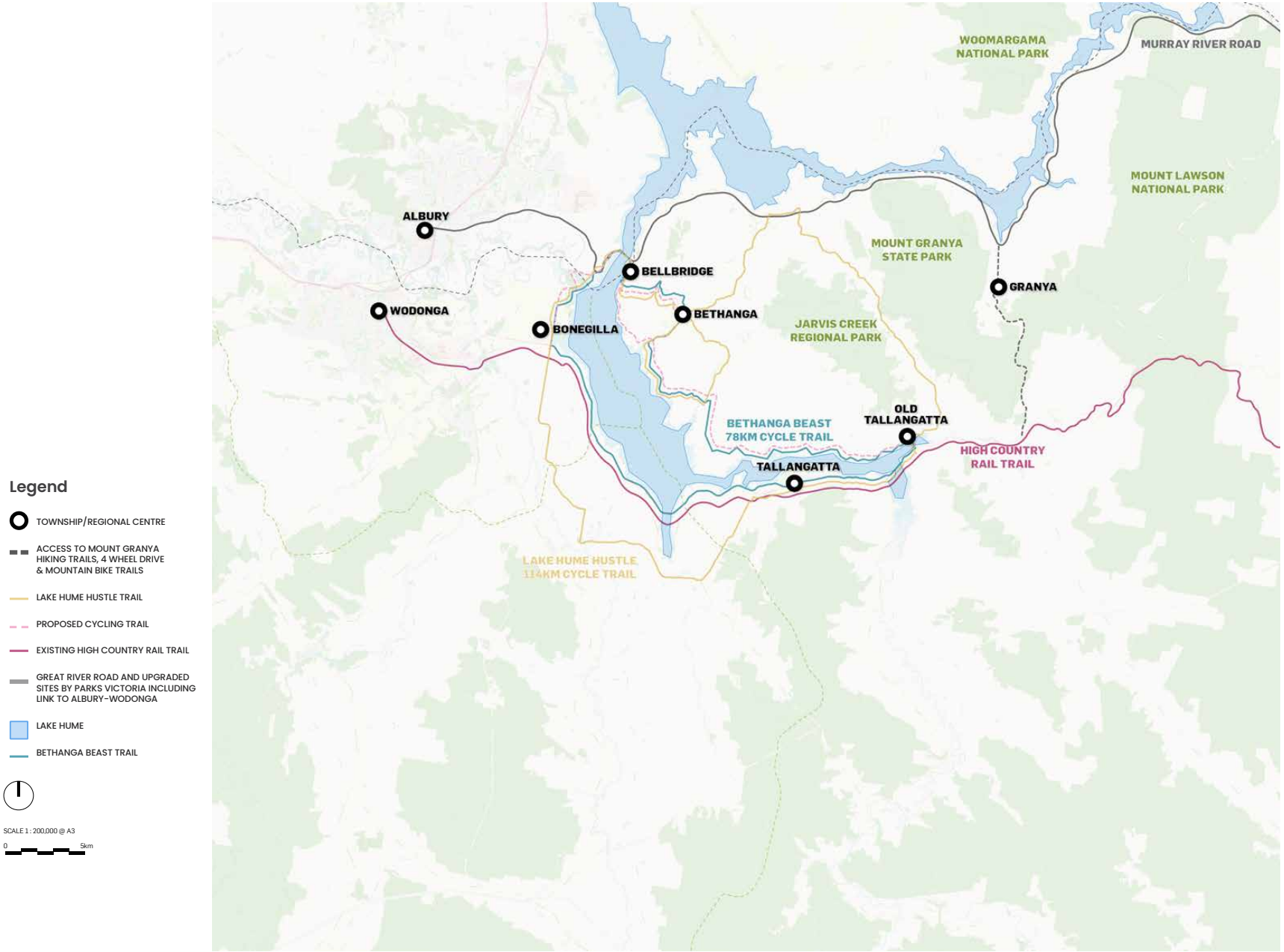
+ Lookouts
+ Interpretive signage
+ Artwork
+ Walking trails
+ Toilets.

Objective 6: Introduce public bus service and shuttle

Action 01: Advocate for public bus service to / from Albury-Wodonga and Tallangatta to access services as a priority, followed by Corryong and Mitta Mitta. Investigate the option to divert the existing bus service to Corryong via Tallangatta, Bethanga, Bellbridge to Albury-Wodonga.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity with schools in Albury to provide bus services.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide a community shuttle to health service and other key locations in the township.


WOOMARGAMA NATIONAL PARK
MURRAY RIVER ROAD
MOUNT LAWSON NATIONAL PARK
ALBURY
MOUNT GRANYA STATE PARK
BELLBRIDGE
GRANYA
WODONGA
BONEGILLA
BETHANGA
JARVIS CREEK REGIONAL PARK
BETHANGA BEAST 78KM CYCLE TRAIL
OLD TALLANGATTA
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
TALLANGATTA
LAKE HUME HUSTLE 114KM CYCLE TRAIL
Legend
TOWNSHIP/REGIONAL CENTRE
ACCESS TO MOUNT GRANYA HIKING TRAILS, 4 WHEEL DRIVE & MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
LAKE HUME HUSTLE TRAIL
PROPOSED CYCLING TRAIL
EXISTING HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
GREAT RIVER ROAD AND UPGRADED SITES BY PARKS VICTORIA INCLUDING LINK TO ALBURY-WODONGA
LAKE HUME
BETHANGA BEAST TRAIL
SCALE 1 : 200,000 @ A3
0
5km

3.3 Big Idea 02 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable

Theme 2.2 : Environmental Improvements

What we heard

Sustainability and the environment emerged as an important theme during Engagement 1 with particular focus on Bethanga Creek and the remnants of the historic mining areas. The Creek, Recreation Reserve and public conservation areas to the east and west are great assets providing amenity and focal points for the township. The Creek environs and bridge crossings have been damaged from previous flooding, with visible erosion along the banks of the waterway, and water quality a concern resulting from previous mining activity. Mining waste or tailings are visible upon arrival into the township detracting from efforts to beautify the streetscape and are a potential health hazard. Findings in Engagement 1 were reinforced during Engagement 2, highlighting the potential to improve the Creek and mining areas.

While the historic mines and Creek can be viewed as environmental issues, they offer considerable opportunities for the township by providing unique points of interest for visitors as well as for community, preserving the township's unique history and restoring the environment.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Bethanga Creek environmental rehabilitation and trails
+ 2 - Mining area environmental rehabilitation and trails.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on improving the environment by:

+ Rehabilitating the mining areas, Bethanga Creek and environs
+ Improving recreation infrastructure and facilities.

Objective 1: Investigate the environmental rehabilitation of Bethanga Creek

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to undertake the environmental rehabilitation of Bethanga Creek by:

+ Increasing planting of native trees / vegetation and biodiversity
+ Selecting fire-retardant and drought resistant trees / vegetation
+ Reducing bank erosion and revitalising riparian zones
+ Including landscape elements and water features
+ Creating play areas and integrating trails and nature walks with the village centre and Recreation Reserve
+ Incorporating stormwater treatment systems capturing and treating run-off
+ Reducing the impact of agriculture.

Figure 48. Stormwater treatment, Water Reuse Project, Sydney Park.

Objective 2: Investigate the environmental rehabilitation of the historic mining area

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to undertake the environmental rehabilitation of the existing mining areas to beautify the township, improve amenity and address environmental concerns including:

+ Integrate the mining area with the township and surrounds with trails for walking and cycling
+ Develop a Landcare program to remove the mining waste or landscape the mine tailings
+ Identify environmental issues including waterflows, landscape repair and biodiversity recovery
+ Create a tourist attraction with lookouts and interpretive signage.

Figure 49. Historic mine restoration and walking trails, Igualada Spain.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable

Theme 2.3 : Environmentally Sustainable Design

What we heard

The third theme in this Big Idea focuses on environmentally sustainable design. During Engagement 1, the highest rated opportunities for environmental sustainability and resilience in order from first to fourth priority were renewable energies, bushfire preparedness, waste minimisation / recycling and water reuse / recycling.

During Engagement 2, 'Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)' was ranked third out of three themes in Big Idea 02. Within the theme, three initiatives / projects were equally weighted in first place, followed by 'Incorporating Environmentally Sustainable Design principles'.

While, ESD generally emerged as an important priority, it is clear that a focus on greening, transport, and environmental rehabilitation are focus areas for the community.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - EV charging station for vehicles and bicycles
+ 1 - Renewable energy generation
+ 1 - Water reuse / recycling and green waste / recycling
+ 2 - Incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on incorporating environmentally sustainable design by:

+ Installing an EV charging station
+ Exploring renewable energy generation
+ Conserving and reusing water
+ Reducing green waste and introducing green waste recycling
+ Incorporating ESD into new developments.

Objective 1: Install an EV charging station for vehicles and bicycles

Action 01: Include provision for an EV charging station, with potential locations to be discussed with community.

Potential locations include:

+ Bethanga Hotel in the village centre
+ Bethanga Recreation Reserve.

Figure 50. Electric vehicle (EV) charging station, Shepparton.

Objective 2: Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling

Action 01: Investigate options for renewable energy generation to develop an energy resilience strategy including the potential for a town battery and micro-grid or alternative solutions in solar and wind.

Action 02: Investigate options to reduce waste, improve recycling including green waste recycling, collection and management and alternative waste to energy solutions.

Action 03: Identify barriers and investigate options to reduce water use, increase reuse for buildings and community facilities including on-site water storage and water treatment solutions.

Objective 3: Incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles into new building works

Action 01: Ensure new works incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles into buildings and grounds to create green and healthy buildings.

Figure 51. Green waste collection.

Figure 52. Alternative power sources. Yackandandah town battery.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Increasing housing supply while retaining the small town feel

Theme 3.1: Ensure Long-Term Resilience

What we heard

The township's location and proximity to Albury-Wodonga make it an ideal commuter town for remote workers, however residential development is currently constrained by a lack of reticulated water and sewerage, unclear title boundaries with unaligned zoning boundaries, small lot sizes and restrictive planning requirements for development adjacent waterways.

While many dwellings are self-sufficient with septic systems, rain water tanks and solar power, Engagement 1 findings indicate support for the provision of reticulated water and sewerage infrastructure to reduce existing constraints on undevelopable lots, and improvements to telecommunications infrastructure and services to realise the township's economic, environmental, health and social opportunities.

During Engagement 1, support for bushfire preparedness, was one of the highest rated opportunities followed by renewable energies in how to improve environmental sustainability of the township.

Engagement 2 findings reinforce these key directions from Engagement 1, with 'Ensuring long-term resilience' the second highest ranked theme in equal place with 'Improve transport, access and streets' across the Big Ideas, and 'Water and sewage improvements' the highest priority of all the initiatives / projects.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

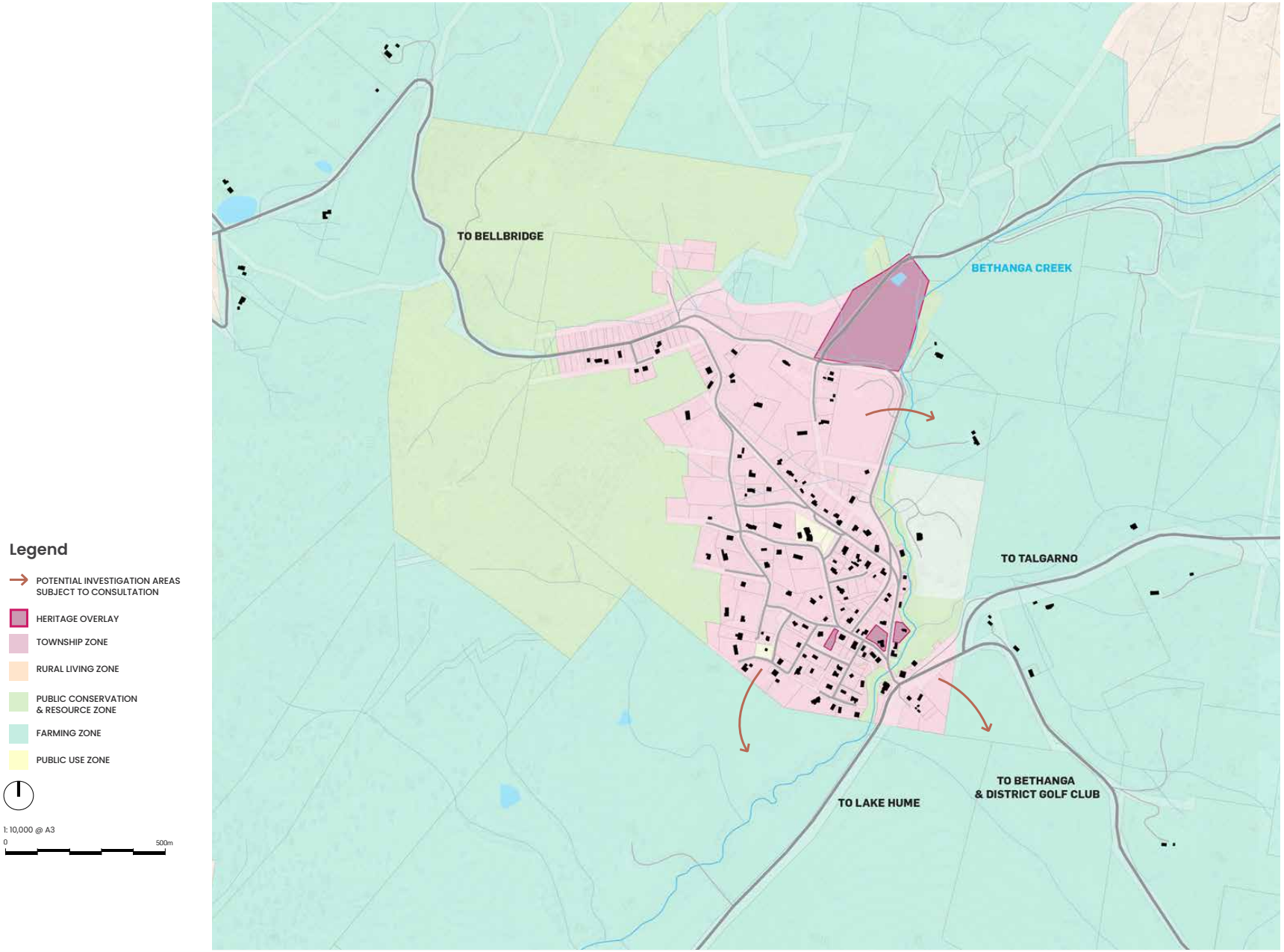
+ 1 - Critical infrastructure improvements (water and sewage)
+ 2 - Critical infrastructure upgrades (telecommunications and electricity)
+ 2 - Bushfire preparedness
+ 3 - Disaster and resilience planning and emergency preparedness.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on increasing the long-term resilience and liveability of the township through the provision of:

+ Critical infrastructure
+ Enabling the development of constrained sites
+ Embedding bushfire preparedness
+ Planning for long-term disaster and resilience.

Figure 53. Water collection and septic tanks.


TO BELLBRIDGE
BETHANGA CREEK
TO TALGARNO
TO BETHANGA & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB
TO LAKE HUME
Legend
POTENTIAL INVESTIGATION AREAS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION
HERITAGE OVERLAY
TOWNSHIP ZONE
RURAL LIVING ZONE
PUBLIC CONSERVATION & RESOURCE ZONE
FARMING ZONE
PUBLIC USE ZONE
1: 10,000 @ A3
0
500m

3.4 Big Idea 03 Increasing housing supply while retaining the small town feel

Objective 1: Plan and advocate for critical infrastructure to support the liveability of the township

Action 01: Advocate for North East Water to include Bethanga in their priority list for the provision of reticulated sewerage and water. Potential options include:

+ Extending the existing wastewater treatment facility from Bellbridge
+ Installing a pumping station at Bethanga Bay to service the township.

Action 02: Investigate alternate funding models for the implementation of reticulated water and sewerage infrastructure such as incremental payments in Council rates.

Action 03: Advocate for improvements to the telecommunications infrastructure, internet service and the mobile phone network for reliable communications particularly during emergency situations.

Action 04: Provide learning opportunities for the community to better understand the different telecommunication services available.

Action 05: Advocate for upgrades to the existing electricity infrastructure network.

Objective 2: Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township

Action 01: Upgrade existing buildings, manage vegetation and ensure new buildings comply with requirements and guidelines to mitigate the impact of bushfires.

Action 02: Develop cost-effective methods to retrofit existing buildings for bushfire preparedness.

Action 03: Upgrade the Bethanga Recreation Reserve for emergency situations.

Figure 54. Bethanga township.

Objective 3: Plan for natural and man-made hazards and disasters and emergency preparedness

Action 01: Incorporate disaster and resilience planning to reduce the impact of natural and man-made hazards and disasters.

Action 02: Determine if a Bushfire Risk Assessment is required to guide the future development of the township.

Action 03: Plan for a new purpose built Country Fire Authority facility in the village centre to the south of the Police Station. Investigate opportunities to provide mains water for fire trucks and engines.

Action 04: Plan for future upgrade and potential needs of existing emergency services and infrastructure as the population increases, including consultation with emergency services organisations for future projects which can impact existing commitments.

Action 05: Include hazard resilience in future planning such as buildings, infrastructure, open space and vegetation including higher stormwater drainage and run-off, infrastructure that can cope with floods and storms, vegetation that reduces risks of fire and wind damage.

Action 06: Consult the State Emergency Services to determine how Council can provide assistance in response to hazards on Shire land.

Figure 55. Rural housing.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Increasing housing supply while retaining the small town feel

Theme 3.2 : Increase Housing Supply

What we heard

'Retaining / complementing the character and lifestyle of the township' was the second highest rated opportunity after 'making the Creek a central feature' during Engagement 1, indicating that future development needs to be sensitive to the township's character and low density lifestyle, with increases in density achieved through small acreages rather than following the example of nearby residential subdivision developments. Other findings indicate support for the provision of housing for an ageing population.

The Towong Shire Settlement Strategy identifies that rural land zoned Rural Activity Zone to the north, east and south of the Bethanga settlement is not deemed to be of high quality for the purpose of agriculture, and proposes potential rezoning to Rural Living to meet demonstrated demand. Preliminary advice from the Country Fire Authority supports future development to the east of the township due to the topography and access requirements, and also because it is in the opposite direction of bushfire risk from the north-east.

Engagement 2 findings prioritise an increase in land for rural living over increasing housing density within the existing township and rural living zones. This indicates that an increase in housing supply is supported, however, not at the expense of increasing density on existing lots and changing the existing low density character of the township. The second highest rated initiative / project in this theme is 'Increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities', recognising the need to accommodate an ageing population and increase options for retirement living.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Investigation areas to increase land available for Rural Living
+ 2 - Increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities
+ 3 - Increase housing in existing Township and Rural Living Zones.

What is proposed

This Big Idea proposes to increase housing supply through:

+ Investigation areas for rezoning land to Rural Living
+ Diversifying housing choice for a changing demographic
+ Increasing housing density within land zoned for residential.

Objective 1: Investigation areas to increase land available for rural living

Action 01: Investigate rezoning existing farmland to Rural Living Zone, subject to the recommendations of a Bushfire Risk Assessment. Consider the option to increase density through the provision of small acreages by reducing parcel size.

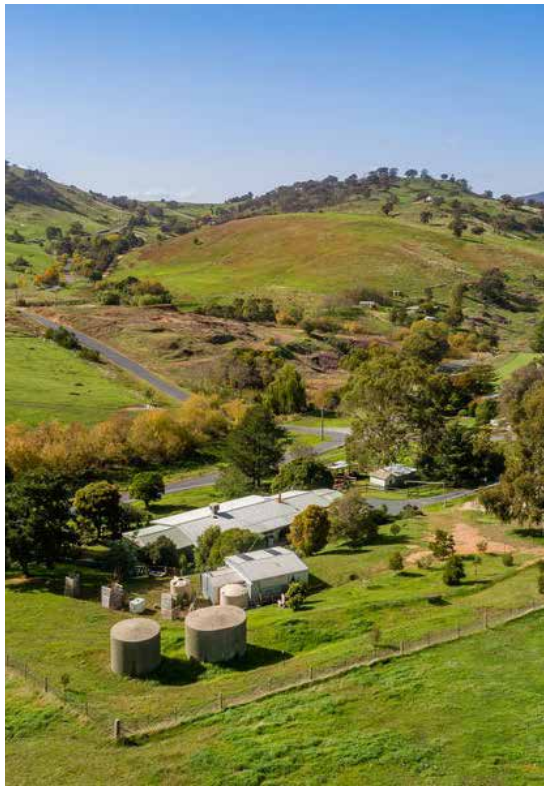


Figure 56. Land in and around Bethanga.

Objective 2: Increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities

Action 01: Investigate options to increase housing prioritising residents and workers.

Action 02: Investigate options to provide a greater range of housing typologies including Retirement Village, ageing in place, younger families, key sector workers, seasonal worker accommodation, multi-generational homes and co-housing.

Action 03: Investigate pathways with government to reduce housing used as holiday homes and short-term accommodation to increase the number of long-term rental properties.

Objective 3: Increase housing in the existing Township and Rural Living Zones

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to provide infill housing on vacant sites in the Township Zone in proximity to the town centre, subject to septic system requirements or future reticulated water and sewerage provision.

Figure 57. Off-grid house, Naturvillan Sweden.

Figure 58. Passive housing.

Figure 59. Community living and gardens.

3.5 Big Idea 04 Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture

Theme 4.1: Celebrate Heritage

What we heard

History was another strong theme that emerged during Engagement 1 focused on the township's mining heritage. While remnants of the old mines such as mine shaft, mine tailings and drag lines are evident, there is a sense that more could be done to preserve the mining heritage including replacing the existing interpretive signage and creating a series of town walks. The Rechabite Hall, St Francis Church, Anglican Church and Cemetery were also identified as important to the town's heritage with suggestions to preserve history through the restoration of Rechabite Hall. The celebration of history provides an opportunity for people to participate in community as well as create a visitor drawcard.

Engagement 2 findings reinforced this approach, however received less support as a theme and group of initiatives / projects across the Big Ideas. The highest ranked initiative / project in this theme is 'Historic town walks and mining trails' which overlaps with the theme 'Environmental rehabilitation' focused on the restoration of the mining areas, Bethanga Creek and includes a trail network.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Historic town walks and mining trails
+ 2 - Permanent historic exhibition
+ 3 - Historical and information hub at Rechabite Hall
+ 4 - Incorporate First Nations cultural heritage and knowledge.

What is proposed

This Big Idea capitalises on the potential to:

+ Increase visibility of the town's history
+ Increase use of existing assets
+ Incorporate First Nations culture and history.

Objective 1: Create historic town walks and mining trails to celebrate the township's history

Action 01: Develop a historic walk of significant places and buildings to increase visibility of the town's history. Include interpretive signage and a walking map of key landmarks of:

+ Bethanga Memorial Hall
+ Rechabite Hall
+ St Francis Catholic Church
+ Holy Trinity Anglican Church
+ Wallace's Smelting Works and historic mine area around Kurrajong Gap Lookout.

Action 01: Create a multiple loop town walk, with interpretive signage about the history of the township and it's people including an all ages and abilities segment.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to develop a cemetery route to Bethanga and Talgarno Cemeteries utilising the proposed trail along Bethanga Bay Road to Lake Hume.

Figure 60. Historic mine restoration and walking trails, Igualada Spain.

Legend
MINING AREA
HERITAGE OVERLAY
PUBLIC PARK & RECREATION ZONE
UPPER TOWNSHIP WALLACE BETHANGA SMELTER
LOWER BETHANGA HARRIS & HOLLOWS SMELTER
UPGRADED COMMUNITY ASSET
LOOKOUT
MINE TAILINGS
MINE SHAFT
TOWN WALK
HISTORIC WALK
NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
UPGRADED VEHICULAR BRIDGE WITH SHARED PATH
1: 10,000 @ A3
0
500m
TO BELLBRIDGE
KURRAJONG GAP LOOKOUT
BETHANGA CREEK
WALLACE'S SMELTING WORKS
PURPLE SANDS
FORMER CHINESE MARKET GARDENS
PRIMARY SCHOOL
UPGRADED PAVILION
BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE
CREEK CAMPING
HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH
MEMORIAL HALL
ST FRANCIS CHURCH
GENERAL STORE
RECHABITE HALL
HOTEL
TO TALGARNO
TO BETHANGA & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB
TO LAKE HUME

3.5 Big Idea 04 Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture

Figure 61. Historic trail with informational signage.

Figure 62. Gallery / exhibition space.

Figure 63. Wallace Bethanga Chlorination Works, Circa 1897.

Objective 2: Create a permanent historic exhibition on the township's history

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to create a historical and information hub with a permanent exhibition on the history of the township in joint partnership with the Primary School and an architecture / planning school. The permanent exhibition is to include information on the mining history, the establishment of the township and First Nations history. The exhibition could replace the existing panels outside the Memorial Hall. Potential locations for the permanent exhibition include:

+ Memorial Hall
+ Rechabite Hall
+ St Francis Catholic Church
+ Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

Consider the potential to relocate Rechabite Hall to a central location such as the Memorial Hall, Bethanga Playground or Recreation Reserve. The Hall is in a poor state and requires major refurbishment.

Objective 3: Incorporate First Nations cultural heritage and knowledge into the township

Action 01: Identify any sites of significant First Nations cultural heritage in / surrounding Bethanga with traditional custodians.

Action 02: Develop an Aboriginal place name strategy with traditional custodians to incorporate First Nation's culture and heritage through acknowledgment, place names, truth-telling and stories.

Action 03: Consult First Nations people on the opportunities for new / upgraded open / public spaces along the Bethanga Creek foreshore.

Theme 4.2 : Improve Amenity and Broaden the Visitor Offer

What we heard

'Additional community services and facilities' and 'improving and expanding tourism were the third and fifth highest rated opportunities to improve the township during Engagement 1. Findings indicate a strong interest in the arts, culture, events and food / hospitality to build upon existing activities / events such as the Primary School Art Show and local arts community. While the Memorial Hall provides one of the two community buildings available for art classes / events / exhibitions, and Bethanga Store and Post Office create spaces for artist's and collaborators, there is a lack of purpose-built community infrastructure to create an artist's hub or to attract more visitor's and artists to the area. Other findings that support the visitor economy include accommodation and developing a 'foodie' culture to build upon the Hotel and General Store.

Engagement 2 findings indicate this theme is the third lowest priority for community across the Big Ideas while the highest ranked initiative / project in the theme is 'Create an arts, culture and community hub'. It could be argued that existing arts and culture actvities / events are already in place and that the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall and master plan for the Recreation Reserve have lessened the focus on this themes and initiatives / projects.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Create an arts, culture and community hub
+ 2 - Increase use of Bethanga Hall
+ 2 - Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign
+ 3 - Increase short-term accommodation
+ 4 - Attract destination businesses.

What is proposed

This Big Idea capitalises on the potential to:

+ Strengthen the arts and culture community
+ Improve amenity and broaden the visitor offer
+ Increase use of existing assets.

Figure 64. Music event featuring local talent.

3.5 Big Idea 04 Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture

Theme 4.2 : Improve Amenity and Broaden the Visitor Offer

Objective 1: Create an arts, culture and community hub

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity for an arts, culture and community hub to support the arts and culture community and attract visitors to the area. Potential locations include:

+ St Francis Catholic Church building and site for an adaptive reuse of the church as a gallery / exhibition space, new civic space and other retail / commercial uses, with potential to include the historic and information hub and Rechabite Hall
+ Bethanga Recreation Reserve upgrade to incorporate artist's spaces such as exhibition, workshops and performance spaces.

Objective 2: Increase use of Memorial Hall

Action 01: Identify any potential upgrades to the Memorial Hall to support activities / events such as:

+ Music, dance, performance, theatre and arts events
+ Gallery exhibition space, maker's space and music making space
+ Food and makers market
+ Exercise classes, yoga, pilates and well-being
+ For hire opportunities for celebrations.

Objective 3: Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign

Action 01: Develop an activation and events calendar and marketing campaign with seasonal events for community and visitors building upon existing events / activities such as the Bethanga Primary School Art Show and Art in the Afternoon:

+ Annual music event and bi-monthly / monthly music events / festival
+ Seasonal maker's market
+ Exhibitions
+ Opportunity to develop a biennial design competition such as a landscape garden for the Recreation Reserve with installations and events
+ Food offering with farmgate, farm-to-plate, and hospitality activities
+ Touring and running itineraries
+ Leverage other events in Towong Shire
+ Equestrian events building upon the gymkhana
+ Landcare and environmental activities
+ Sports and recreation activities
+ Agribusiness and learning.

Figure 65. Art in the Afternoon, Bethanga Memorial Hall.

Figure 66. Local maker's market.

Objective 4: Increase short-term accommodation

Action 01: Broaden the short-stay accommodation options including:

+ Premium end of the market, tiny homes / cabins in landscape settings, eco-resort / lodge and farm stay
+ In combination with other attractions such as the winery.

Action 02: Review current camping facilities at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve for any upgrades required to support on-going use for camping / caravan sites.

Objective 4: Investigate and promote suitable business opportunities for the township and surrounds

Action 01: Explore the following opportunities to increase visitor attractions such as:

+ Food and hospitality such as bakery, food market to sell locally grown produce, farm-to-plate local produce / events and olive picking
+ Agritourism farmgate and learning / workshops
+ Flower tourism and pick your own flowers
+ Arts based businesses such as ceramic studio, workshop and gallery
+ Social enterprises such as community nursery and food hub / cooperative and cafe with regenerative agriculture farm, learning / employment pathways
+ Equestrian business opportunities such as horse boarding services, riding lessons and retail
+ Targeted outdoor recreation businesses such as kayaking, fishing, 4-wheel driving, trail running, cycle and motorcycle touring (gravel and road)
+ Connecting with nature such as wilderness and environmental tourism, learning about the environment and protecting ecosystems
+ Health and well-being spa, massage and health services with accommodation.

Figure 67. Farm to plate, Portland Maine.

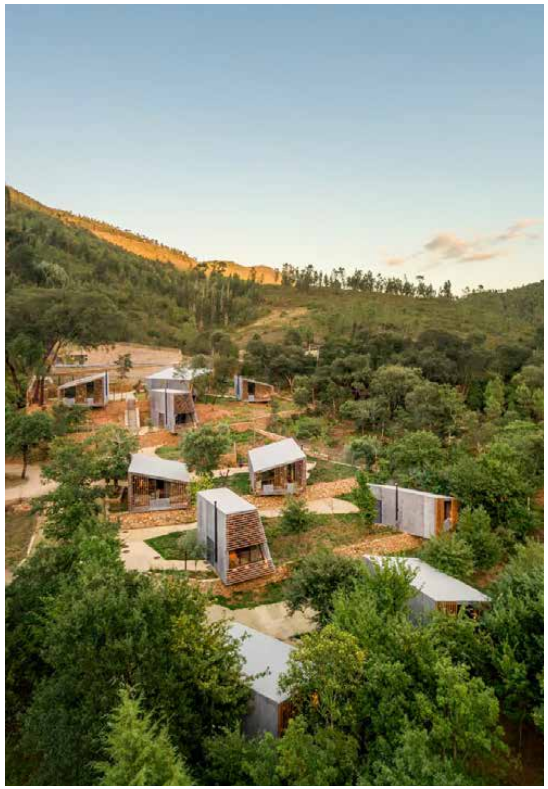


Figure 68. Paradinha Hotel Retreat Accommodation, Portugal.

4.0
BETHANGA
GENERAL STORE
Implementation Plan
OUR TOWN

4.1 Making it happen

Overview of making it happen

The Bethanga Place Plan establishes a vision and framework for achieving the vision.

This part of the Place Plan sets out how the objectives may be achieved. Each objective is examined in terms of its:

- **Priority** (low-medium-high) – the priority ranking is informed by outcomes from community engagement and input from authorities
- **Timing** – a realistic ordering of which objectives can be feasibly achieved in the short, medium, or longer term
- **Partners** – authorities who have elected to work on the objectives listed.

Some objectives may require further work and studies, including changes to planning instruments in the future, in the form of Structure Plans, reference documents or other planning studies which should be undertaken separately to these place plans where necessary.

It is recommended that the place plan is reviewed regularly, and that regular catch-ups between Council and community are undertaken to monitor and check the progress of the place plan implementation.

Government authorities' workshop

On the 7 March 2024, the Draft Place Plans were presented as part of Engagement 2 to a group of state and local government authorities who have varying levels of involvement in the towns / region. This workshop was a follow-up to focus groups and 1:1 workshops undertaken during Engagement 1 to identify priority areas and opportunities for each authority.

The workshop was attended by representatives from a range of authorities as outlined in Table 1. Representatives from local and state government planning departments, emergency services and water management authorities were present, however it is acknowledged that there may be other relevant authorities that were not in attendance. These authorities should be engaged at a later date in the delivery of objectives as needed.

The aim of the workshop was to present the Draft Place Plans and objectives, raise any potential issues or priorities that authorities may have with relation to the Draft Place Plans, and identify partnerships to deliver the objectives in the future.

The following implementation tables set out where government authorities elected to work as partners to deliver particular elements or objectives of the place plan.

Future work should be undertaken to identify additional partners and begin to create connections between agencies to deliver the place plan.

Organisations represented
Towong Shire Council
Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) – Hume RPS
Country Fire Authority (CFA)
Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) Upper Murray
Victoria SES Tallangatta
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Department Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Ambulance Victoria
Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW)
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

Big Idea 01: Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve

THEME 1.1: Create a Welcoming Village Centre

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Undertake streetscape improvements in the village centre.	High	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 2	Improve the gateway arrival and intersections.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 3	Future proof the township for commercial expansion.	Medium	Long-term	DTP – Planning
Objective 4	Improve parking within the village centre.	Medium	**Short-term**	DTP – Planning

THEME 1.2: Bethanga Recreation Reserve

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Upgrade the Bethanga Recreation Reserve facilities including community services.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Improve the Bethanga Recreation Reserve grounds with new outdoor recreational facilities.	High	**Short-term**	
Objective 3	Improve connectivity between the Bethanga Recreation Reserve and the village centre.	High	Medium-term	DTP – Transport

THEME 1.3: Strengthen Community Infrastructure and Services

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Investigate need to improve health, education and mail services.	Medium	Medium-term	Ambulance Victoria
Objective 2	Establish a community vegetable garden.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Create a local bi-monthly music festival.	Low	**Short-term**	
Objective 4	Increase the provision of community infrastructure.	Low	Long-term	
Objective 5	Upgrade the Bethanga Memorial Hall.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 6	Provide opportunities to increase community cohesion.	Low	Long-term	

Big Idea 02: Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable

THEME 2.1: Improve Transport, Access and Streets

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Increase tree canopy cover throughout the township.	High	Long-term	
Objective 2	Upgrade and maintain roads including provision for fuel.	High	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 3	Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage.	High	**Short-term**	DTP – Transport
Objective 4	Expand cycling and horse riding trails and the road cycling network.	Medium	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 5	Create a Great Lake Road Drive with roadside infrastructure.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 6	Introduce public bus service and shuttle.	Low	Long-term	DTP – Transport

THEME 2.2: Environmental Improvements

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Investigate the environmental rehabilitation of Bethanga Creek.	High	Medium-term	NECMA, DEECA
Objective 2	Investigate the environmental rehabilitation of the historic mining area.	Medium	Long-term	

THEME 2.3: Environmentally Sustainable Design

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Install an EV charging station for vehicles and bicycles.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 2	Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 3	Incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles into new building works.	Low	**Short-term**	

Big Idea 3: Increasing housing supply while retaining the small town feel

THEME 3.1: Ensure Long-Term Resilience

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Plan and advocate for critical infrastructure to support the liveability of the township.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township.	Medium	**Short-term**	CFA
Objective 3	Plan for natural and man-made hazards and disasters and emergency preparedness.	Medium	Medium-term	CFA

THEME 3.2: Increase Housing Supply

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Investigation areas to increase land available for rural living.	Medium	Medium-term	CFA DTP – Planning
Objective 2	Increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities.	Low	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Increase housing in the existing Township and Rural Living Zones.	Low	Long-term	CFA, DTP – Planning

Big Idea 4: Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture

THEME 4.1: Celebrate Heritage

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Create historic town walks and mining trails to celebrate the township's history.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 2	Create a permanent historic exhibition on the township's history.	Medium	Long-term	
Objective 3	Incorporate First Nations cultural heritage and knowledge into the township.	Low	Medium-term	

THEME 4.2: Improve Amenity and Broaden the Visitor Offer

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Create an arts, culture and community hub.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Increase use of Memorial Hall.	High	**Short-term**	
Objective 3	Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign.	Low	**Short-term**	
Objective 4	Increase short-term accommodation.	Low	Medium-term	
Objective 5	Investigate and promote suitable business opportunities for the township and surrounds.	Low	Medium-term	

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Impact Tomorrow

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OUR TOWN
TOWARDS 2030
Towong Placemaking and Township Co-Design Project
Tallangatta Place Plan - FINAL DRAFT | June-2024
towongshire

ClarkeHopkinsClarke and Towong Shire Council acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country on which the Our Town project is taking place.

While there are no Registered Aboriginal Parties in the project region, we acknowledge the following Parties we are aware of: Jaitmatang, Yaithmathang, Duduroa dhargal, Waveroo, Way-wurru, Wiradjuri and Ngarigo people as the traditional custodians of the land.

ClarkeHopkinsClarke acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and the Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin Nation and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land we work on.

We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise their custodianship over deep time and their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

Drawn by Foster Type and based on the AIATSIS map of Indigenous Australia, ©AIATSIS 1996.
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1.0
Introduction
OUR TOWN

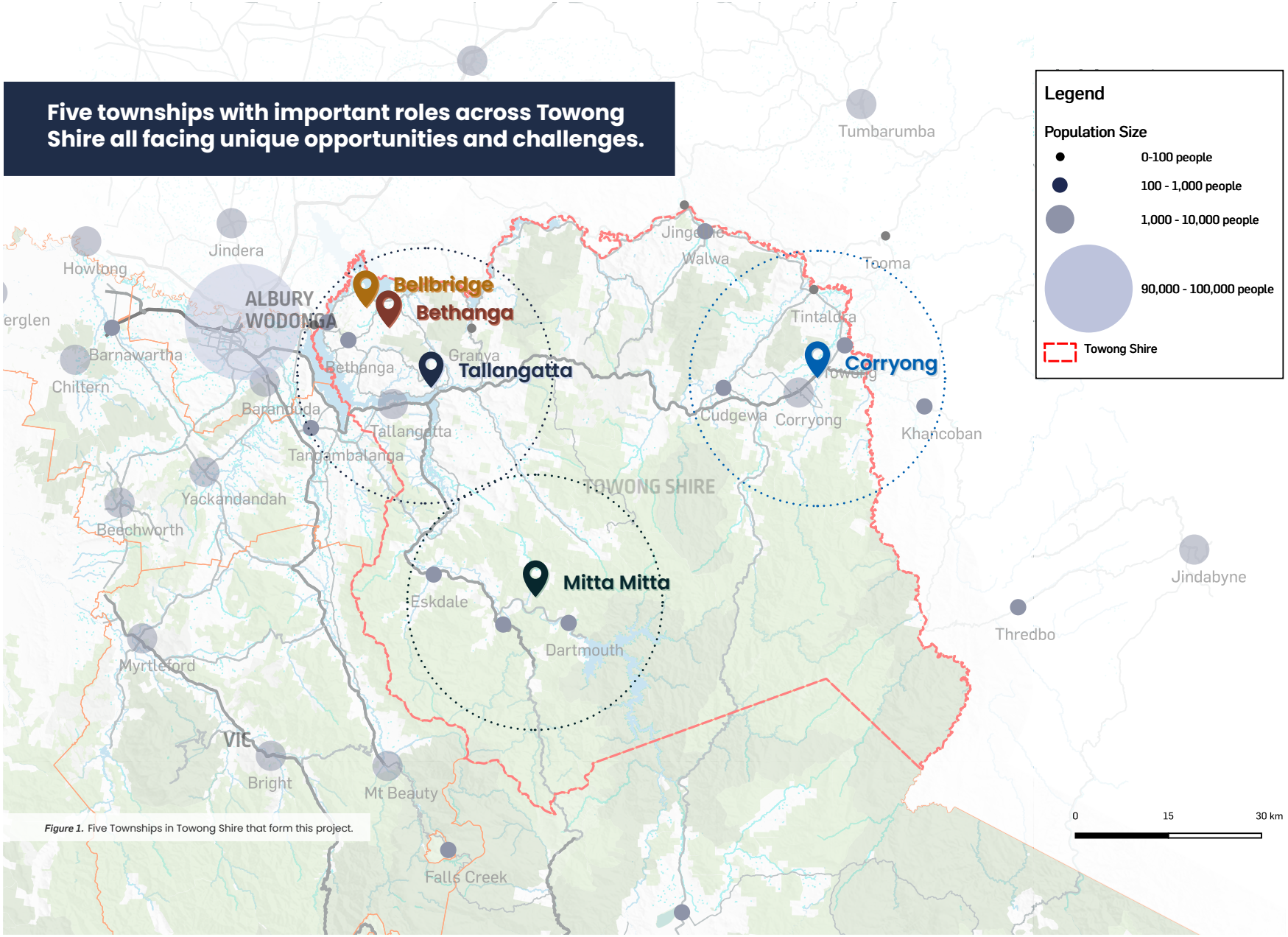


Figure 1. Five Townships in Towong Shire that form this project.

1.1 Project overview

The Tallangatta Place Plan is a 10-year roadmap for Council, community and other stakeholders. The plan identifies community and other stakeholder priorities to guide the future shape and character of the township.

The Tallangatta Place Plan is part of Our Town Towards 2030, a Placemaking and Co-design Project (the project) initiated by Towong Shire Council for five townships across the Shire.

The project delivers town-based plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta. The plans have provided an opportunity to re-imagine the way each township works and has allowed us to bring together the big ideas that drive growth while identifying the services, infrastructure and public spaces required to support the population. Each plan identifies a shared set of goals and initiatives that can be developed and delivered over the next 10 years and beyond.

While the place plans have a ten-year lifespan, each plan provides a good base level summary of what people said; captures what is important to the community; and provides direction beyond the ten-year period of the plan.

Place-based approach

Towong Shire has adopted a place-based approach to master planning exemplified in the Tallangatta Tomorrow Masterplan. This plan places community interests at the core of decision-making. The Council Plan 2021-25 identifies community engagement as a key strategy to deliver Council's Strategic Objective 'Organisational Improvement'.

This strategy, places people at the centre of conversations about the future planning of the communities in which they live, work, study, visit and recreate. It is based on the belief that the people who are part of a community are best placed to understand and identify their needs.

Why do we need a Place Plan

Regional towns in Australia have experienced significant growth in recent years increasing pressure on services, housing, jobs, and infrastructure. The five towns – Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta – all face unique challenges, as well as opportunities, that have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the bushfires of 2019-20.

Our Town Towards 2030 has looked at ways to strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of the towns by helping each community to identify and prioritise its future needs, services and opportunities. The co-design project has enabled current communities' input into how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

Project purpose

The purpose of the project is to:

+ Develop a vision shared by the community and other stakeholders.
+ Identify community aspirations and opportunities to address the challenges facing the township.
+ Support the community to prioritise their future needs, services, and opportunities.
+ Align community and other stakeholder expectations including how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

How to read this document

This document is structured in four parts commencing with a project introduction, and understanding of the context and township as the first part.

The second part provides an overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat and Engagement 2: Planning Ahead.

The third part is the Place Plan comprised of the Big Ideas, and the objectives, actions and outcomes that will bring the ideas to life.

The fourth part is the Implementation Plan comprised of objectives, priorities, timing, and key partners.

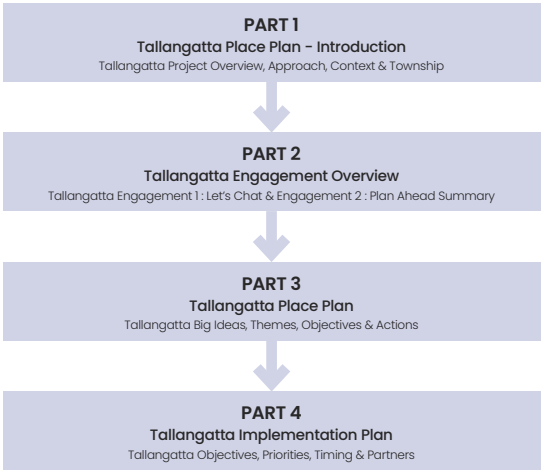


Figure 2. Format of this document, Tallangatta Place Plan.

Figure 3. Engagement 1 workshop, Tallangatta.

1.2 Creating a shared vision

Three engagement touchpoints were developed as part of a co-design process to inform the town vision and place plan. A broad spectrum of stakeholders, including residents, workers, visitors, students, and government authorities were included across all three engagement touchpoints.

Place-based approach & asset based engagement

The engagement process was highly inclusive and collaborative to co-design solutions with the community that build upon the strengths, assets and opportunities for each town. This is called an asset based approach. Asset based engagement recognises and builds upon the value and resources that exist within the community.

Engagement touchpoints

As the first of three touch-points, Engagement 1 was an opportunity to introduce the Our Town Towards 2030 project to each of the five communities and have conversations with people to understand what they value about their town and what really matters to them.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to present the Big Ideas, report back what we heard and how this could translate into future initiatives / projects, asking did we get it right?

Engagement 3 is the final engagement touchpoint. Feedback from Engagement 2 was collated and used to finalise the place plans during 'Delivering the Vision', keeping the community informed of the final project outcomes.

Figure 4. Three engagement touchpoints.

Figure 5. Tallangatta Township with Lake Hume in the background.

1.3 Understanding the context

Every project begins with an understanding of the people, location and physical characteristics that define the township. Understanding the township at different scales – from regional, township to town centre – helps to build a picture of the unique features and qualities that contribute to place identity.

Region

With a population base of 1,175 inhabitants, Tallangatta is a minor economic and cultural centre servicing the surrounding agricultural area with local health, education and professional services.

The township is located in a Declared Special Water Supply Catchment Area with protections placed on water quality and the environment.

Located on the southern banks of the Mitta Arm of Lake Hume, the township was established in the 1950's after it was moved to higher ground with the expansion of the Luke Hume Reservoir.

We understand that prior to European settlement the area was home to the Jaitmatang and Pallanganmiddang / Waywurru First Nations people.

Figure 6. Regional context.

1.3 Understanding the context

Township

The township of Tallangatta covers an area of approximately 146 hectares on land sloping towards the north with Memorial Park located on a high-point within the township.

One of the largest towns servicing Towong Shire, the township is located 38km east of Albury-Wodonga to the north of the Murray Valley Highway, the main route from Victoria to the NSW Snowy Mountains.

The compact township stretches east-west with the sports precinct and industrial zones buffering the town centre to the south, and Showgrounds, Golf Course and three schools to the west. Housing wraps around the town centre with the Health facilities located to the east.

Figure 7. Township context.

Town Centre

The town centre is based on a flat v-shape with a central axis linking the two town parks – The Triangles and Memorial Park – and the commercial core. Retail and commercial properties face The Triangles, providing a pleasant outlook and amenity for the north facing main street.

The Rowen Park Recreation Reserve is the sports precinct for the township with nearby recreational facilities including the outdoor pool and lawn bowls.

Key assets in the township include the library, childcare and kindergarten at the Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre, two primary and one secondary schools, health service, Bolga Court Aged Care and Lakeview Nursing Home, Council Offices, and regional offices for state government departments and agencies.

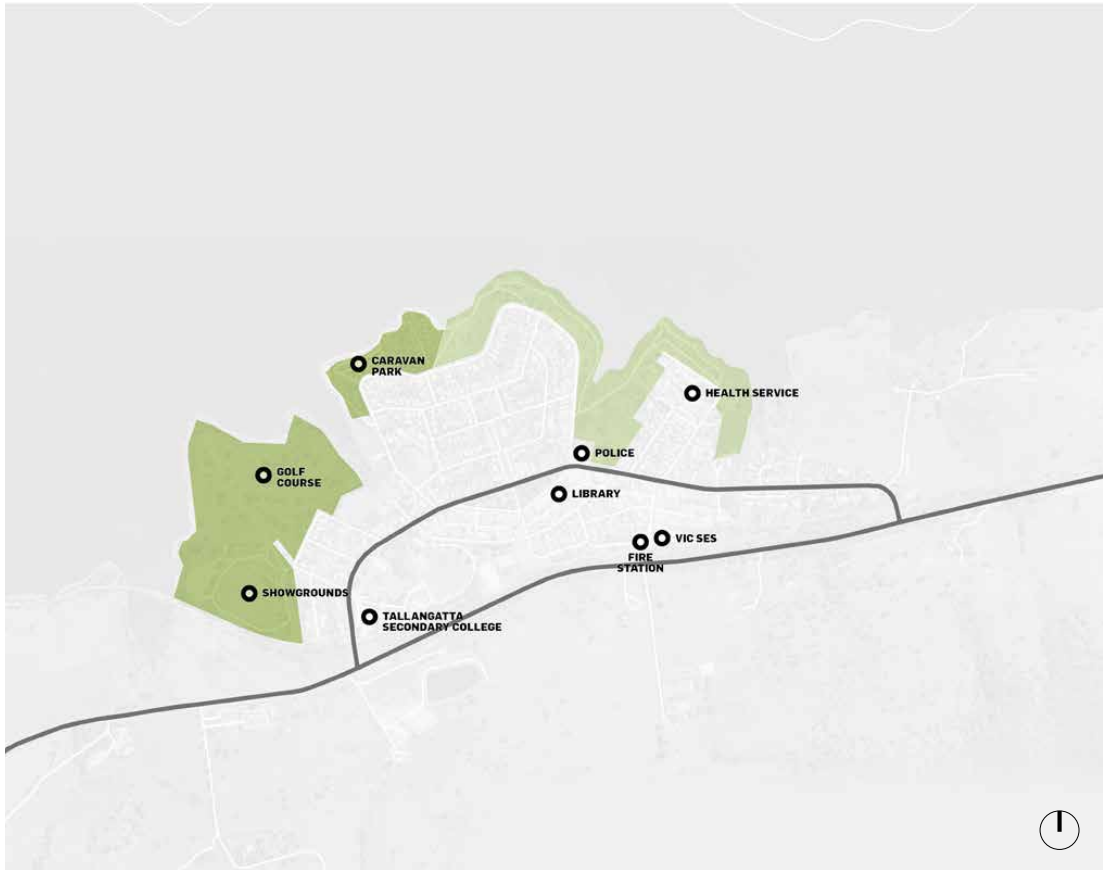


Figure 8. Town centre context.

Figure 9. Lake Hume.

Figure 10. Tallangatta Show.

Figure 11. Rowen Park Recreation Reserve.

Figure 12. Tallangatta Library.

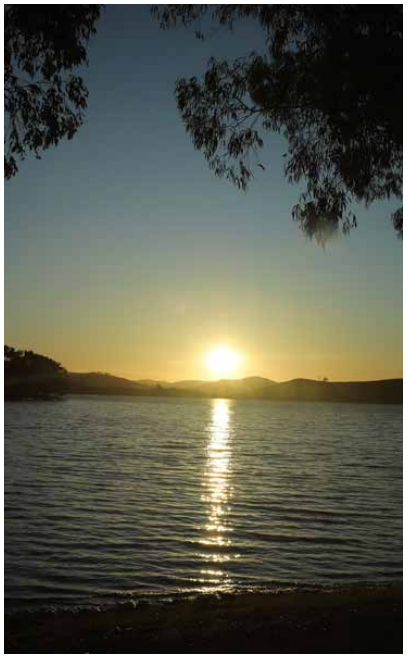


Figure 16. Lake Hume foreshore.

Figure 13. Tallangatta RSL war memorial and The Triangles Park.

Figure 15. Town centre / main street.

Figure 14. Lake Hume brand logo.

1.4 Township & surrounds character

Local Character

Tallangatta's unique heritage and Notable Town status as 'The Town That Moved' is evident in this plan and a key part of re-imagining what Tallangatta can be in the next 10 years.

Key facilities, features, qualities and characteristics are captured in the adjacent images across the following page.

Figure 17. Tallangatta planning zones, character and heritage.

Legend

- EXTENT OF FOOTHILLS
- INDUSTRIAL AREA
- COMMERCIAL AREA
- CIVIC BUILDINGS
- HERITAGE OVERLAY
- PUBLIC USE ZONE
- GOLF CLUB & COURSE
- RECREATION
- FORESHORE, OPEN SPACE & VACANT LAND
- SCHOOL AREA
- KEY FEATURE

1:10,000 @ A3

0 300m

Figure 18. Tallangatta lookout.

Figure 19. Lake Hume foreshore Golf Course.

Figure 20. Lakelands Caravan Park, Lake Hume foreshore.

Figure 21. 'Sandy the War Horse' sculpture. Brett Garling.

Figure 22. Tallangatta Library, Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre.

Figure 23. Lake Hume lookout.

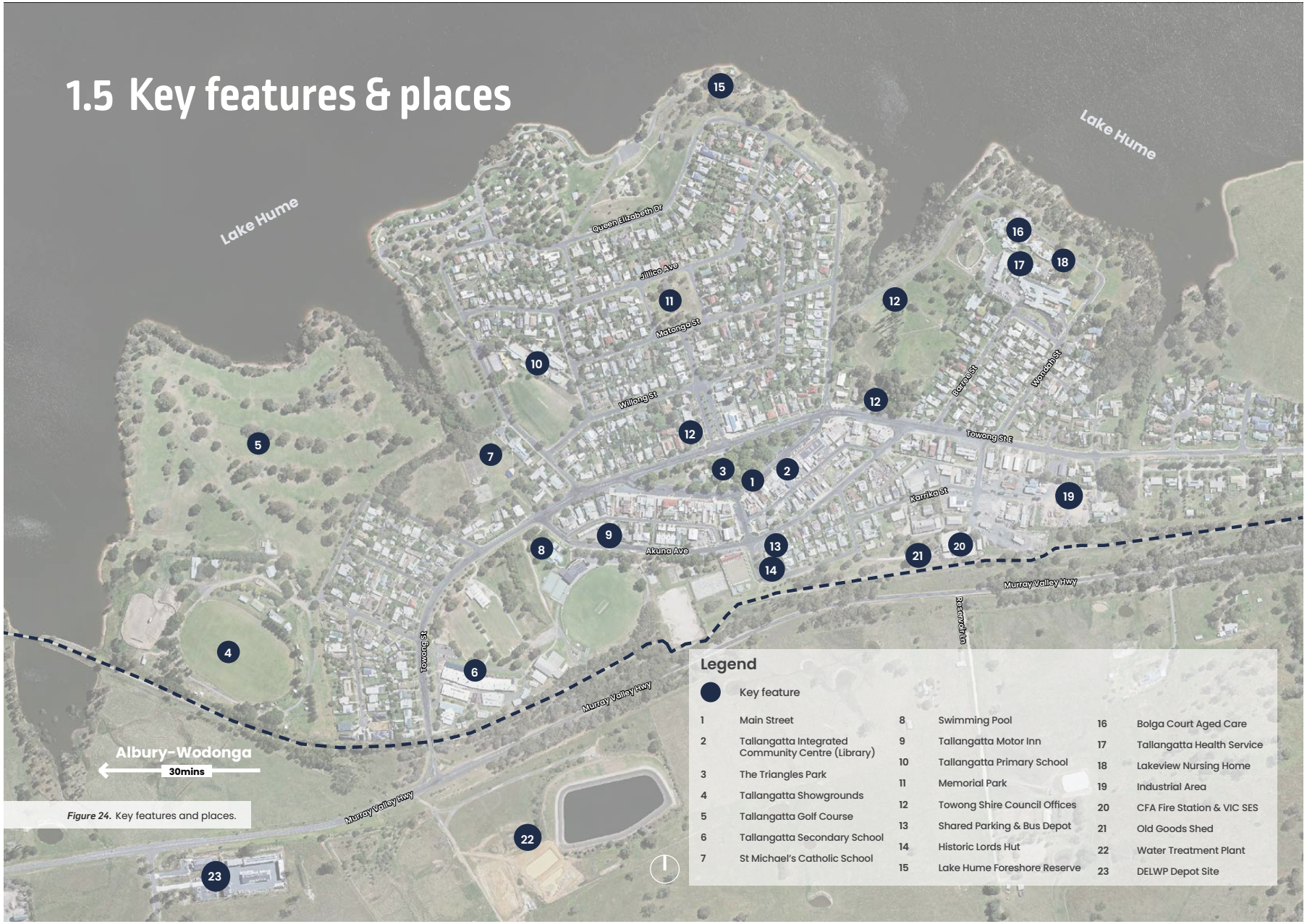


Figure 24. Key features and places.

2.0
OUR TOWN
TOWARDS 2030
Engagement
OUR TOWN

2.1 Engagement summary

Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy

Council's commitment to engagement is outlined in the Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy which "is committed to participatory democracy and providing community members with the opportunity to engage in decision making in relation to matters that affect them". This project has adopted key principles from Policy including:

+ Identifying key stakeholders and user groups impacted by the decisions.
+ Being respectful of and allowing space for a diversity of perspectives and views.
+ Embedding transparency and accountability by keeping participants informed and 'closing the loop'.

The Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy includes a public participation spectrum adapted from the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum with five levels of public participation: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower. This project has incorporated levels 1-4 at different stages of the project with the aim of building consensus with participants.

Engagement 1: "Lets Chat"
Diverse engagement methods

↓

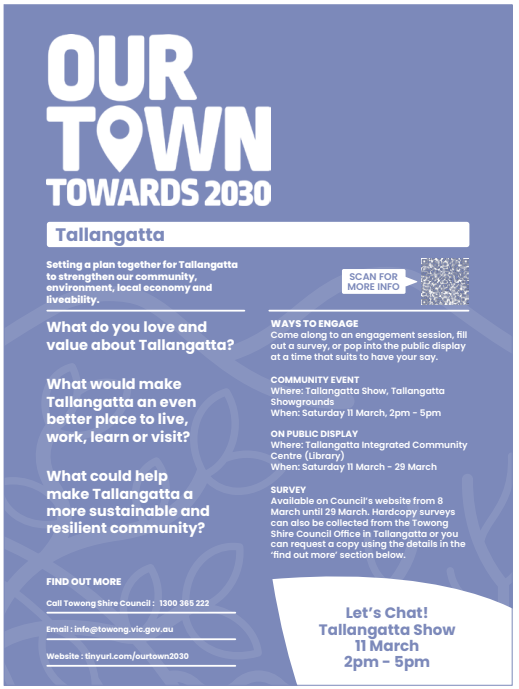
Engagement 2: "Planning Ahead"
Vision & 7 Big Ideas

↓

Engagement 3: "Delivering the Vision"
Tallangatta Place Plan

Figure 25. Engagement touchpoints.

" Tallangatta is an amazing little town because of its natural beauty and environmental attractions. Being a short drive from Wodonga it brings tourists here all year round. The history is unique and the lake is a fantastic drawcard for locals and visitors alike."



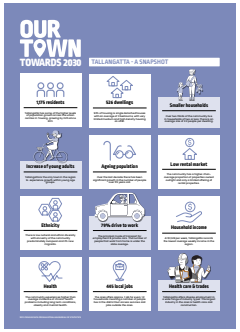


Figure 26. Engagement collateral.

Engagement 1: Let's Chat

People were informed and encouraged to participate in a variety of ways including the 'Town-hall' style meetings, face-to-face and online meetings, surveys, targeted social media posts, e-newsletter, poster and advertising. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

*Number of people engaged is approximate and does not account for market stalls.

Engagement 2: Planning Ahead

Similar methods were used for Engagement 2 including 'Town-hall' style workshops, face-to-face and online workshops, online survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletter, letterbox drops and advertising. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

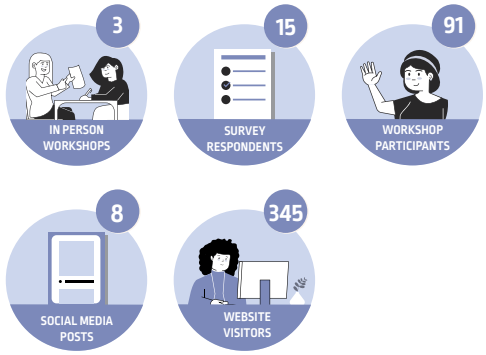


Figure 27. Engagement 2 workshop, Tallangatta.

> *"Love the town, would love to see it flourish and become not only an awesome place to live and work. But also visit."*

2.2 Engagement 1: Let's chat

The first engagement, Let's Chat took place between March-April 2023 and included a broad spectrum of stakeholders – residents, workers, visitors, students, government departments and agencies.

Let's Chat included a number of methods including 'Town-hall' style meetings and events, face-to-face and online focus groups and 1:1 meetings, online and hardcopy survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters and poster.

"Let's Chat" reflects the broad and wide ranging challenges and opportunities affecting each community. It also helps us to identify and leverage key strengths and assets in the development of the vision and place plans.

Four questions were asked, with more detailed conversations held with individuals or small groups. These were:

+ What makes your town special? What do you love and value?
+ What challenges does your town face?
+ What are the opportunities over the next 10 years?
+ What would make your town more environmentally sustainable and resilient?

The results of Let's Chat were compiled into a Draft Place Plan which included a project introduction, overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat; vision exercise for the workshops and survey; and a summary of 'what we heard' captured in seven Big Ideas with potential initiatives / projects.

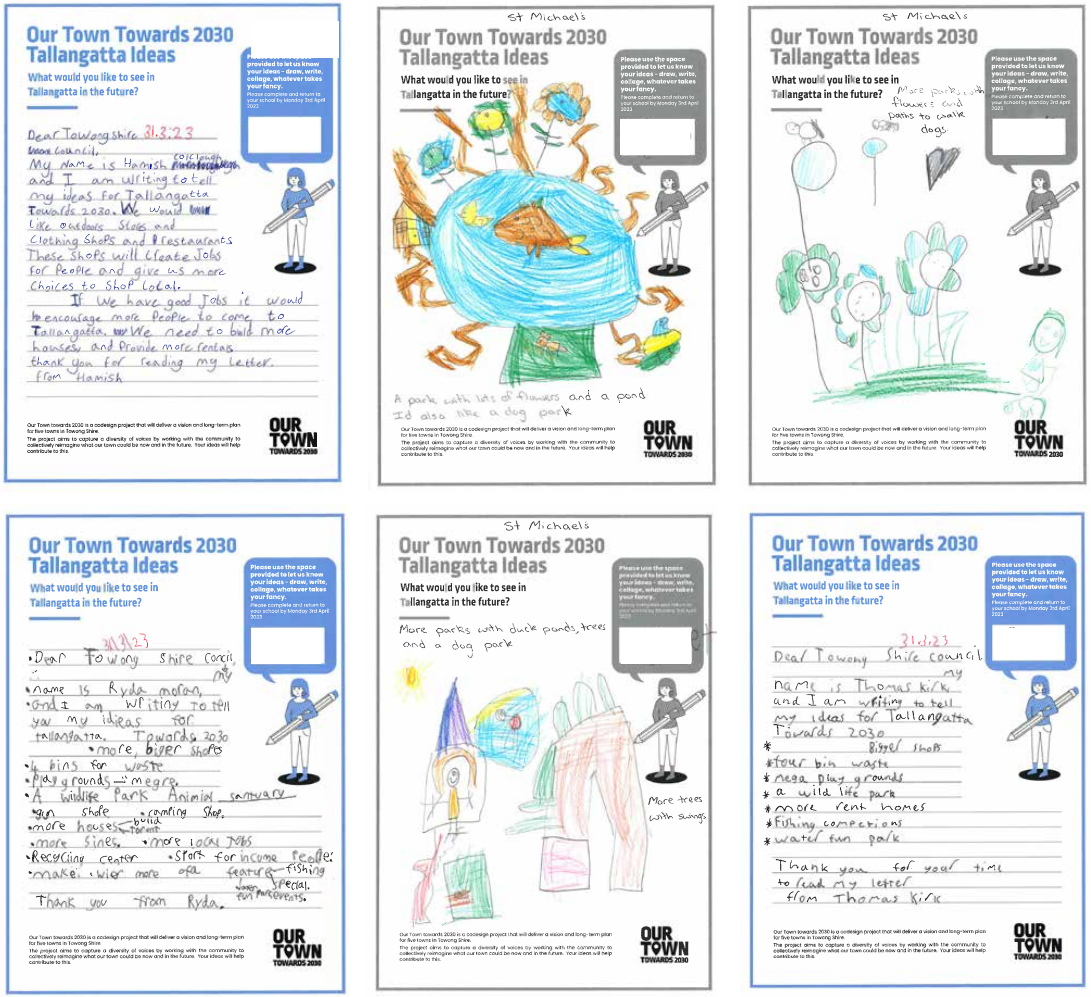


Figure 28. 1. Responses to the Question: How can Tallangatta be a better place for their future. Tallangatta College students, Years P-12.

"Everything is in walking distance.

Water and walking tracks is something you don't get everywhere."

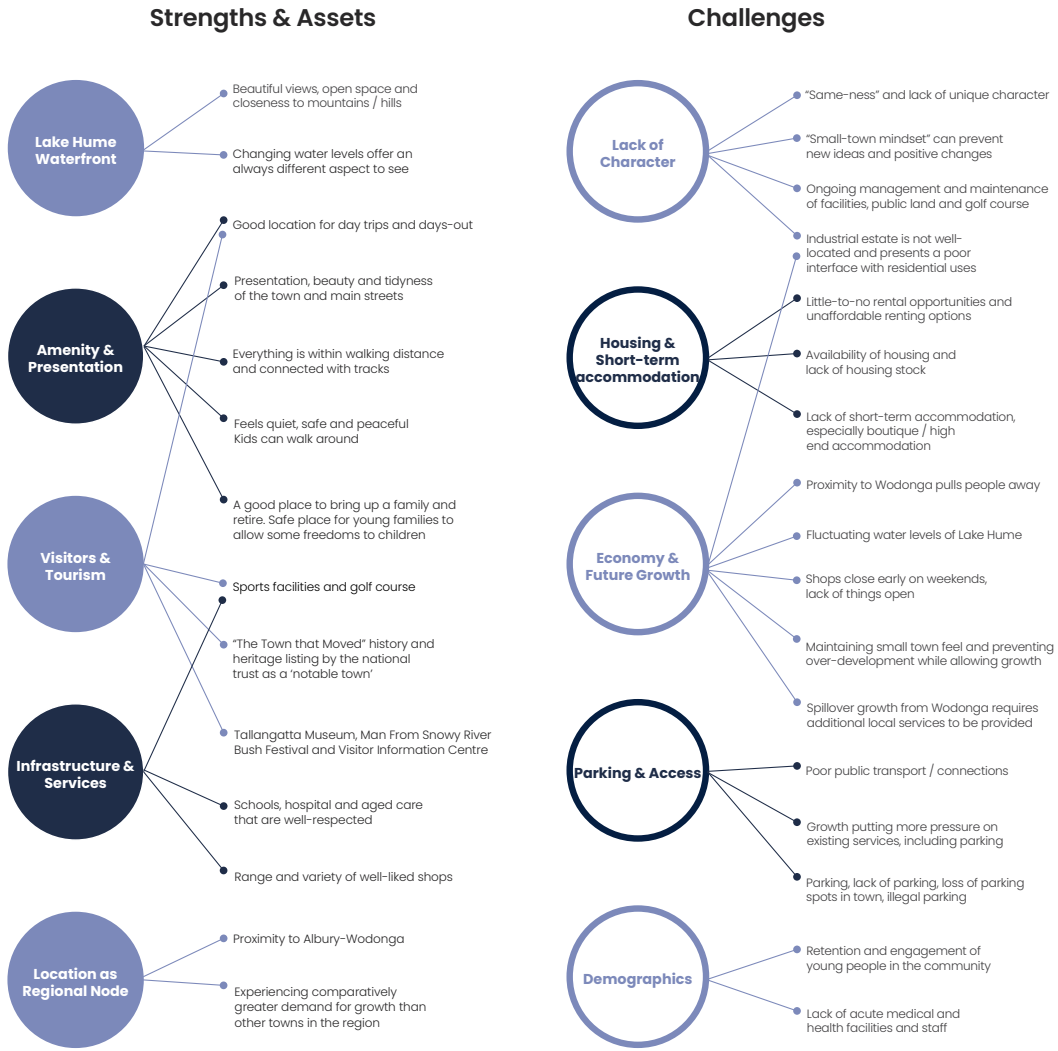
Strengths, Assets & Challenges

An analysis of responses to the questions 'What makes your town special?' and 'What do you love and value?' are summarised in the following strengths and assets, with responses to the question 'What challenges does your town face?' summarised in the following challenges. These have informed the vision and big ideas for the place plan.

Big Ideas

The seven Big Ideas for Tallangatta broadly capitalise on:

+ Tallangatta's tourism potential from it's location on Lake Hume.
+ Recreational activities and heritage qualities.
+ Bolstering the local economy with a focus on the town centre.
+ Improvements to the liveability and sustainability of the township.



2.3 Engagement 2: Planning ahead

The second engagement, Planning Ahead took place between November 2023-January 2024 and included residents, workers, visitors, students and government authorities. Planning Ahead was comprised of in-person workshops and an online survey replicating the face-to-face workshops. The workshop and survey were based on the Draft Place Plan which captured the key directions and outcomes to emerge from 'what we heard' during Engagement 1: Let's Chat.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to provide feedback on the Engagement 1 findings. A vision exercise was held with participants during the workshop to prioritise key words for the overaching direction for the place plan. These words were used to create the town vision.

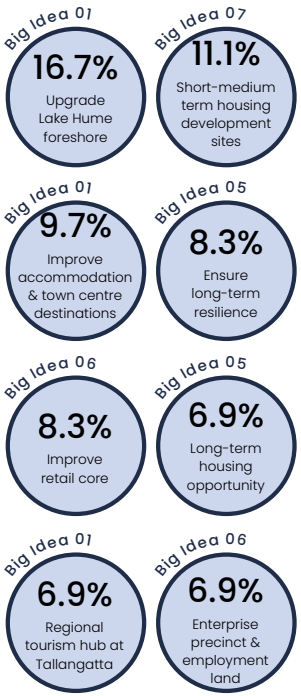
The seven Big Ideas for Tallangatta were presented to participants, followed by two prioritisation exercises. The first exercise was focused on the themes, with participants requested to select their top three. The second exercise was based on the initiatives / projects under each theme. Participants were requested to select their top ten initiatives / projects.

Results from the prioritisation exercise are captured in the diagram to the right. While Big Ideas 01, 07, 05 and 06 included the highest priority themes, across the seven ideas, 'Welcoming & visitor friendly destination' and 'Sustainable housing to support future growth' were the highest rated big ideas.

Big Idea		Theme
01	Welcoming & visitor friendly destination	1.1 Regional tourism hub at Tallangatta 1.2 Connect to surrounding trails and lookouts 1.3 Improve accommodation and town centre destinations 1.4 Upgrade Lake Hume foreshore
02	Strengthen Tallangatta's strong & diverse community	2.1 New and upgraded community assets 2.2 Expand community facilities / services & events
03	Celebrate Tallangatta's proud & unique heritage	3.1 Strengthen historic town
04	Inviting & walkable streets for all ages & abilities	4.1 Improve streets / public spaces 4.2 Pop-up cycle paths
05	Resilient, green & clean energy town	5.1 Ensure long-term resilience 5.2 Increase nature areas and urban ecology
06	Thriving retail core & enterprise precinct	6.1 Improve retail core 6.2 Enterprise precinct and employment land
07	Sustainable housing to support future growth	7.1 Short-medium term housing development sites 7.2 Long-term housing opportunity

Theme Priorities

The highest rated themes are captured below.



Initiative & Project Priorities

During Engagement 2 stakeholders were requested to prioritise the most important initiatives / projects listed under each theme. The following eight initiatives / projects were rated as the top priorities for the community. Some initiatives / projects received equal rating and are grouped together. For example 'Increase tree canopy cover' and 'Upgrade Golf Course & Showgrounds' received equal support at 4.1%.

TABLE OF HIGHEST RATED SURVEY RESULTS

Priority	Big Idea	Theme	Percentage	Project
#1	01	1.4	9.2%	Dam the narrows to create a permanent water source.
#2	05	5.1	6.2%	Renewable energy, water and green waste reuse / recycling.
#3	06	6.1	5.6%	Parking improvements.
#4	04	4.1	4.1%	Increase tree canopy cover.
#5	01	1.4	4.1%	Upgrade Golf Course and Showgrounds.
#6	05	5.2	3.6%	Restore Lake Hume foreshore and wetlands.
#7	01	1.3	3.6%	Arts and culture attraction at the Butter Factory.
#8	01	1.4	3.6%	Improve Lake Hume foreshore activities / facilities and Caravan Park.

"Tallangatta is a great place for young families, it offers them safety and opportunities.

I love that there are people wanting to expand on these opportunities and help the town move forward and grow."

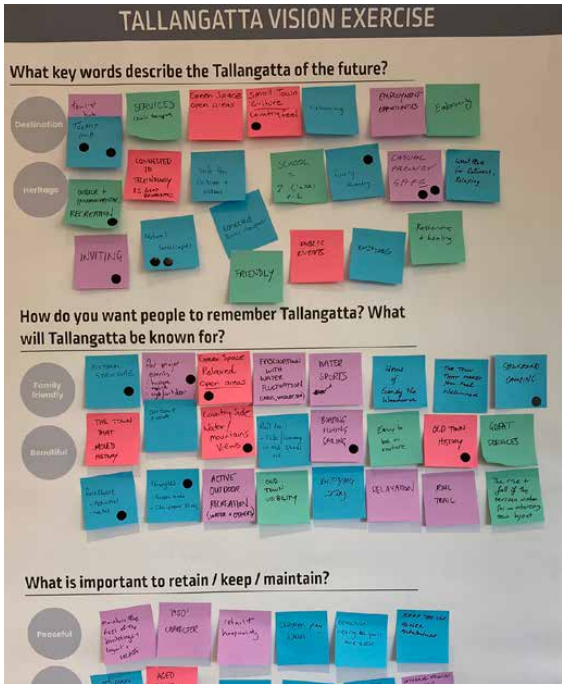


Figure 29. Engagement 2 vision exercise, Tallangatta.

3.0
Place Plan
OUR TOWN

Tallangatta's idyllic and picturesque location on the Lake Hume foreshore will be enhanced with sustainable modern assets and infrastructure to create a year-round seasonal destination for family-friendly recreation and nature lovers.
Known for it's vibrant city centre with high quality services and amenities, Tallangatta's well-maintained and accessible parks and picturesque foreshore spaces, ephemeral and ecologically diverse landscape abundant with wildlife and native species enhances the overall experience for residents and visitors alike.
Tallangatta's welcoming and inclusive community creates a casual, friendly, and safe atmosphere, making it an attractive place for families, workers and retirees. Embodying the best of old and new, the township continues to celebrate it's unique heritage while looking firmly towards the future reflecting the town's forward thinking community.
Tallangatta Town Vision

3.1 Big ideas summary

Seven Big Ideas emerged from an analysis of responses from Engagement 1. These were tested with community during Engagement 2. All of the big ideas received support, however, it was clear through the analysis that followed, that there are clear priorities across the community. These priorities are reflected in the numbering of each big idea with 'Welcoming & visitor friendly destination' receiving the most support, followed by 'Sustainable housing to support future growth', 'Thriving retail core & enterprise precinct', 'Resilient, green & clean energy town', 'Strengthen Tallangatta's strong & diverse community', 'Inviting & walkable streets for all ages & abilities, and 'Celebrate Tallangatta's proud & unique heritage'.

Format of the Big Ideas

Each Big Idea is comprised of themes that describe the outcomes we are seeking to achieve. Each theme includes a series of objectives outlining the different components that make up each theme. Each objective lists actions required to implement the objective. The actions can be projects or initiatives.

Figure 30. Format of the Big Ideas.

Big Idea		Theme
01	Welcoming & visitor friendly destination	1.1 Upgrade Lake Hume foreshore 1.2 Improve accommodation and town centre destinations 1.3 Regional tourism hub at Tallangatta 1.4 Connect to surrounding trails and lookouts
02	Sustainable housing to support future growth	2.1 Short-medium term housing development sites 2.2 Long-term housing opportunity
03	Thriving retail core & enterprise precinct	3.1 Improve retail core 3.2 Enterprise precinct and employment land
04	Resilient, green & clean energy town	4.1 Ensure long-term resilience 4.2 Increase nature areas and urban ecology
05	Strengthen Tallangatta's strong & diverse community	5.1 New and upgraded community assets 5.2 Expand community facilities / services and events
06	Inviting & walkable streets for all ages & abilities	6.1 Improve streets / public spaces 6.2 Pop-up cycle paths
07	Celebrate Tallangatta's proud & unique heritage	7.1 Strengthen historic town

3.2 Big Idea 01 Welcoming & visitor friendly destination

Theme 1.1: Upgrade Lake Hume Foreshore

What we heard

Increasing access to Lake Hume including further upgrades to existing facilities was the highest rated suggestion to the question 'what would make Tallangatta an even better place to live, work, learn or visit' during Engagement 1. Further comments show a significant interest in providing more family friendly spaces and activities including a destination playground and improvements to the Tallangatta Showgrounds and Golf Club / Course.

These finding were reinforced during Engagement 2, with 'Upgrade the Lake Hume foreshore' the highest rated theme across the Big Ideas. In addition, 'Dam the narrows' was the highest rated initiative / project across the Big Ideas, indicating strong support for a permanent water source in Lake Hume. While this project remains a priority for the community, recent studies to determine the projects viability have shown that the high cost of creating a permanent water source have lead to the de-prioritisation of the project. Community opinion also revealed interest in, and the beauty of the temporal nature of the foreshore resulting from the fluctuating water levels in the Lake, and the opportunity to rehabilitate and restore the ecology and biodiversity of the expanded foreshore area to leverage the foreshore's potential as a year-round destination.

GMW is responsible for the management and upkeep of the Lake Hume foreshore and Lakelands Caravan Park. Ongoing works are underway to improve access to the foreshore, upgrade facilities, accommodation and access for larger RV vehicles, with a master plan for the Caravan Park under development.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Dam the Narrows to create a permanent water source / frontage
+ 2 - Upgrade the Golf Course and Tallangatta Showgrounds
+ 3 - Improve the foreshore including activities / facilities, and the Lakelands Caravan Park.

What is proposed

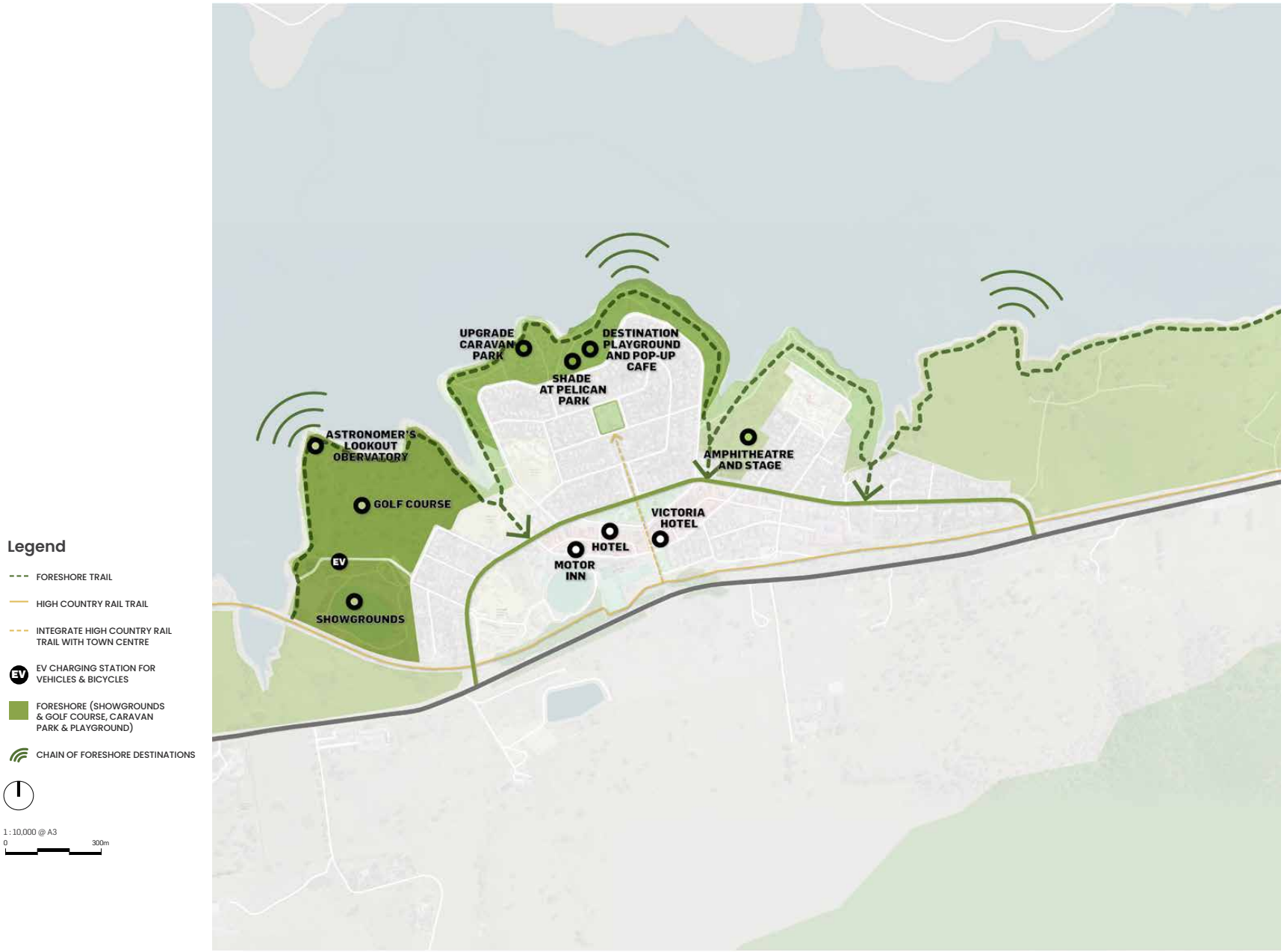
This Big Idea builds upon the improvements to the foreshore underway to include a nature playground or splash park, with potential to relocate the swimming pool to this location, include a pop-up cafe pavilion / location for food trucks with power and water.

A chain of destinations is proposed, providing a focal point for each 'finger' of the foreshore that can be staged to coincide with the development of the foreshore over time.

Objective 1: Dam the Narrows to create a permanent water source and frontage

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to apply for funding if / when financial sources become available to create a permanent water source and frontage with a new dam at the Lake Hume foreshore.

Figure 31. Old Tallangatta lookout.


UPGRADE CARAVAN PARK
DESTINATION PLAYGROUND AND POP-UP CAFE
SHADE AT PELICAN PARK
ASTRONOMER'S LOOKOUT OBERVATORY
AMPHITHEATRE AND STAGE
GOLF COURSE
VICTORIA HOTEL
HOTEL
MOTOR INN
EV
SHOWGROUNDS
Legend
FORESHORE TRAIL
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
INTEGRATE HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL WITH TOWN CENTRE
EV CHARGING STATION FOR VEHICLES & BICYCLES
FORESHORE (SHOWGROUNDS & GOLF COURSE, CARAVAN PARK & PLAYGROUND)
CHAIN OF FORESHORE DESTINATIONS
1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.2 Big Idea 01 Welcoming & visitor friendly destination

Figure 32. Tallangatta Show.

Figure 33. Upgrade Tallangatta Golf Course, Mount Lawley (WA).

Figure 34. High quality short-term accommodation, Phillip Island.

Objective 2: Upgrade the Golf Course and Tallangatta Showgrounds

Action 01: Prepare a master plan for the Tallangatta Showgrounds and Golf Club to improve and expand the offer for the town and broader region. This would include discussions with the multiple user groups and requires agreement between GMW and DEECA.

The scope for the Showgrounds element of the master plan would consider a mix of general upgrades and specific projects including:

+ New Indoor Arena with a stadium capacity of 100 people to be used during wet weather for cattle running, stud stock and cattle sales and other events such as music festivals and expos
+ General upgrades to the Agricultural Show workshop as a multi-purpose space, horse ramps, toilets, water and power infrastructure
+ Camp Draft Arena shade cloth
+ Upgrade the caravan facilities for larger caravans and RV-vehicles
+ Opportunity to provide training facilities for the CFA.

The scope for the Golf Club element of the master plan would consider a mix of general upgrades and specific projects including:

+ Retaining / reconfiguring the 9 hole golf course
+ New Golf Clubhouse with conference facilities for events with potential to share facilities with tShowgrounds Arena.

Action 02: Investigate options for on-site short-term high quality accommodation in and around the Showgrounds and Golf Course.

Action 03: Expand the events calendar for the Showgrounds and Golf Club to cater for a more diverse demographic.

Figure 35. Pelican Park, Tallanagatta foreshore.

Objective 3: Improve the foreshore activities, facilities and Lakelands Caravan Park

Action 01: Provide public facilities for active and passive recreation to encourage activity for all age groups and abilities including residents and visitors. Potential improvements inclue:

+ Destination playground such as nature play / splash park
+ Amenities (furniture and lighting)
+ Shade at Pelican Park
+ Pop-up café or site for food / coffee van with water and power
+ Amphitheatre and stage area for performances and outdoor cinema
+ Outdoor fitness stations on the walking circuit / trails
+ Investigate with GMW the opportunity to relocate the swimming pool to the foreshore
+ Boardwalk and bird hides dotted along the foreshore
+ Facilities for water sports and recreation including wharfs and pontoons (fishing, swimming, paddle boarding etc.)
+ Review current vehicle access to the foreshore to determine preferred locations for boat access and parking.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to integrate the GMW master plan with the Golf Course and Showgrounds master plan and destination park to ensure integration across the primary foreshore.

Action 03: Create a 'chain of foreshore destinations', to provide a focal point for each 'finger' with staged delivery as the township grows / expands, which may include:

+ Astronomer's lookout
+ Destination park for all abilities
+ Future lookout
+ Provide new pedestrian bridges between the Golf Course and Caravan Park and to the east of the Health Service.

Figure 36. Bird hides along the Lake Hume foreshore, CoedGwern Bird Hide.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Welcoming & visitor friendly destination

Theme 1.2: Improve Accommodation and Town Centre Destinations

What we heard

Improving and expanding tourism including events, services, facilities, accommodation and arts and cultural facilities / activities were in the second highest grouping of suggestions to the question 'what would make Tallangatta an even better place to live, work, learn or visit' during Engagement 1. Further survey comments show significant interest in supporting tourism with a wider range of opportunities to attract more visitors to the township, attract residents and provide more diverse activities for younger people. This theme was the third highest ranked across the Big Ideas, with support for short-term accommodation high on the list of initiatives / projects, including ambitious projects such as the redevelopment of the Butter Factory into an arts and culture attraction.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Create an arts and culture attraction at the Butter Factory
+ 2 - Increase short-term accommodation choice
+ 3 - Courthouse reuse
+ 4 - Events calendar / marketing campaign for tourist destination
+ 5 - Improve the arrival experience with beautification / signage, Towong Street Boulevard and EV charging
+ 5 - Upgrade Lord's Hut Reserve.

What is proposed

This Big Idea seeks to improve the visitor economy and the liveability of the township by:

+ Improving visitor services and information
+ Diversifying the offer for food and beverage, accommodation, activities and key destinations
+ Providing new facilities such as EV charging stations and upgrading existing parking signage
+ Improving the arrival experience with gateway and wayfinding signage including Towong Street boulevard
+ Strengthening the history of the township
+ Increasing the number and type of events and a tourism marketing campaign.

Objective 1: Create an arts and culture attraction at the Butter Factory

Action 01: Prepare a long-term plan to activate the Old Butter Factory for permanent and temporary exhibition spaces within the new enterprise zone, including:

+ Provision for entrepreneurial and makers spaces and artists in residence program
+ Strong integration with the High Country Rail Trail Hub.

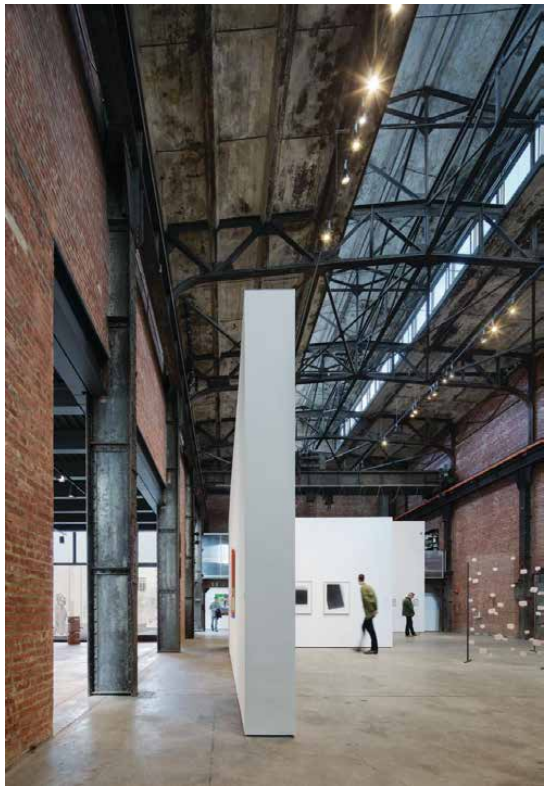


Figure 37. Cultural attraction at the Butter Factory, Sculpture Centre, NYC.

UPGRADE CARAVAN PARK
DESTINATION PLAYGROUND AND POP-UP CAFE
ASTRONOMER'S LOOKOUT OBERVATORY
GOLF COURSE
EV
SHOWGROUNDS
HOTEL
MOTOR INN
VICTORIA HOTEL
REMOVE BUS PARKING FROM AREA AROUND PARKING BLOCK
TOILET BLOCK REFURBISHMENTS & UPGRADES
LORDS HUT OPEN SPACE & LANDSCAPE IMPOROVEMENTS
Legend
FORESHORE TRAIL
TOWONG STREET BOULEVARD
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
INTEGRATE HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL WITH TOWN CENTRE
VEHICLE GATEWAY ENTRY
PEDESTRIAN/CYCLIST GATEWAY ENTRY
EV CHARGING STATION FOR VEHICLES & BICYCLES
INVESTIGATION AREA FOR HIGH-END SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION ON FORESHORE
INVESTIGATION AREA FOR HIGH-END SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION OUTSIDE TOWNSHIP
1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.2 Big Idea 01 Welcoming & visitor friendly destination

Objective 2: Increase short-term accommodation choice

Action 01: Provide accommodation targeted to a diverse market including:

+ High quality short-term accommodation with water views
+ Accommodation for cyclists offering services such as pick-up / drop-off and secure bicycle storage facilities.

Action 02: Investigate accommodation sites including the foreshore at the Golf Course and to the west and south of the township with views overlooking Lake Hume.

Objective 3: Develop short-long term uses for the Courthouse site

Action 01: Investigate the short-term use of the Courthouse buildings for new uses such as:

+ Café, coffee roasting house and micro-brewery
+ Exhibition space and history exhibition
+ Artist or makers spaces which may attract artists by offering subsidised rents / work space.

Figure 38. Diversify short-term accommodation. Farm Stays, Victoria.

Objective 4: Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign for Tallangatta as a tourist destination

Action 01: Develop a marketing campaign for Tallangatta as a tourist destination to attract visitors throughout the year. Broaden the visitor target market to include day trippers, grey nomads, cycling tourists and visitors stopping between Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney. Key initiatives include:

+ Seasonal calendar of events with diverse activities
+ Increasing community activities such as water-based, cycling, equestrian, park runs, music festival in The Triangles with food trucks, Saturday market in the park, book fair or forgotten trades fair
+ Investigating the opportunity to become a centre for cycling events
+ Celebrating the town's history with historic walks, permanent exhibition and beautification of the town centre.

Objective 5: Improve the arrival experience

Action 01: Create a sense of arrival at entry locations with gateway and wayfinding signage at decision points, public art and beautification. Gateway locations include:

+ Vehicular entry points at Towong Street East and West from the Murray Valley Highway
+ Bicycle entry points on the High Country Rail Trail at Womaatong Street.

Action 02: Create a continuous tree-lined boulevard along the length of Towong Street.

Action 03: Capitalise on the EV market and install EV charging stations for bicycles and vehicles at Lord's Hut Reserve and Tallangatta Showgrounds.

Action 04: Provide directional signage for long vehicle parking at the following locations:

+ St Michael's Church
+ Police Station:

Objective 6: Upgrade Lord's Hut Reserve

Action 01: Create a master plan for the upgrade of Lord's Hut Reserve, including:

+ Improved landscaping
+ Removal of bus parking from the area around the toilet block. Investigate options to relocate bus parking to the southern side of the Murray Valley Highway
+ EV charging station for bicycles and vehicles
+ Review of the area to determine capacity for long-vehicle parking
+ Refurbish toilet block to provide fully accessible toilets, shower facilities and water station for visitors / High Country Rail Trail users
+ Provide RV / long vehicle parking in Womaatong Street and Lord's Hut Reserve with signs directing people to parking areas
+ Consider the potential relocation of Lord's Hut as part of the development of the site.

Figure 39. EV charging station at Lord's Hut Reserve and Tallangatta Showgrounds.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Welcoming & visitor friendly destination

Theme 1.3: Regional Tourism Hub at Tallangatta

What we heard

Tallangatta's appeal as a tourist destination has expanded from the water-based recreation of Lake Hume – due to unreliable water levels – to include cycling, notably with the introduction of the High Country Rail Trail. Engagement 1 and 2 findings indicate strong support to strengthen Tallangatta's offer as a tourist destination, by broadening the visitor offer and catering for seasonal visitation across the year. The current Visitor Information Centre provides some information to service visitors, however, more could be done to cater for targeted audiences. This includes opportunities around the Rail Trail and cycling more broadly, Tallangatta's heritage and recreation, with the addition of a destination playground for day-trippers to attract audiences from the growing region of Albury-Wodonga.

Tallangatta is well-place as a hub for tourism serving the township and broader region due to its location, connectivity with surrounding regional towns, and as the last main service centre east of Albury-Wodonga. However, it requires investment in tourism services and visitor accommodation to realise this potential.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

In this instance, the Regional Tourism Hub at Tallangatta was singled out as a theme and initiative / project. In both categories, the theme received moderate support with low-moderate support for the initiative / project

While tourism was strongly supported across the Big Ideas, other initiatives / projects received more support, in particular projects associated with the Lake and foreshore.

What is proposed

This Big Idea capitalises on the High Country Rail Trail and regional touring routes to propose tourism opportunities at multiple scales, from the micro scale of the tourism hub in the town centre, to the macro scale as a service centre for the broader region. At a regional scale, this includes smaller townships such as Granya and Mount Granya State Park to the north-east, Mitta Mitta, Dartmouth and Eskdale to the south.

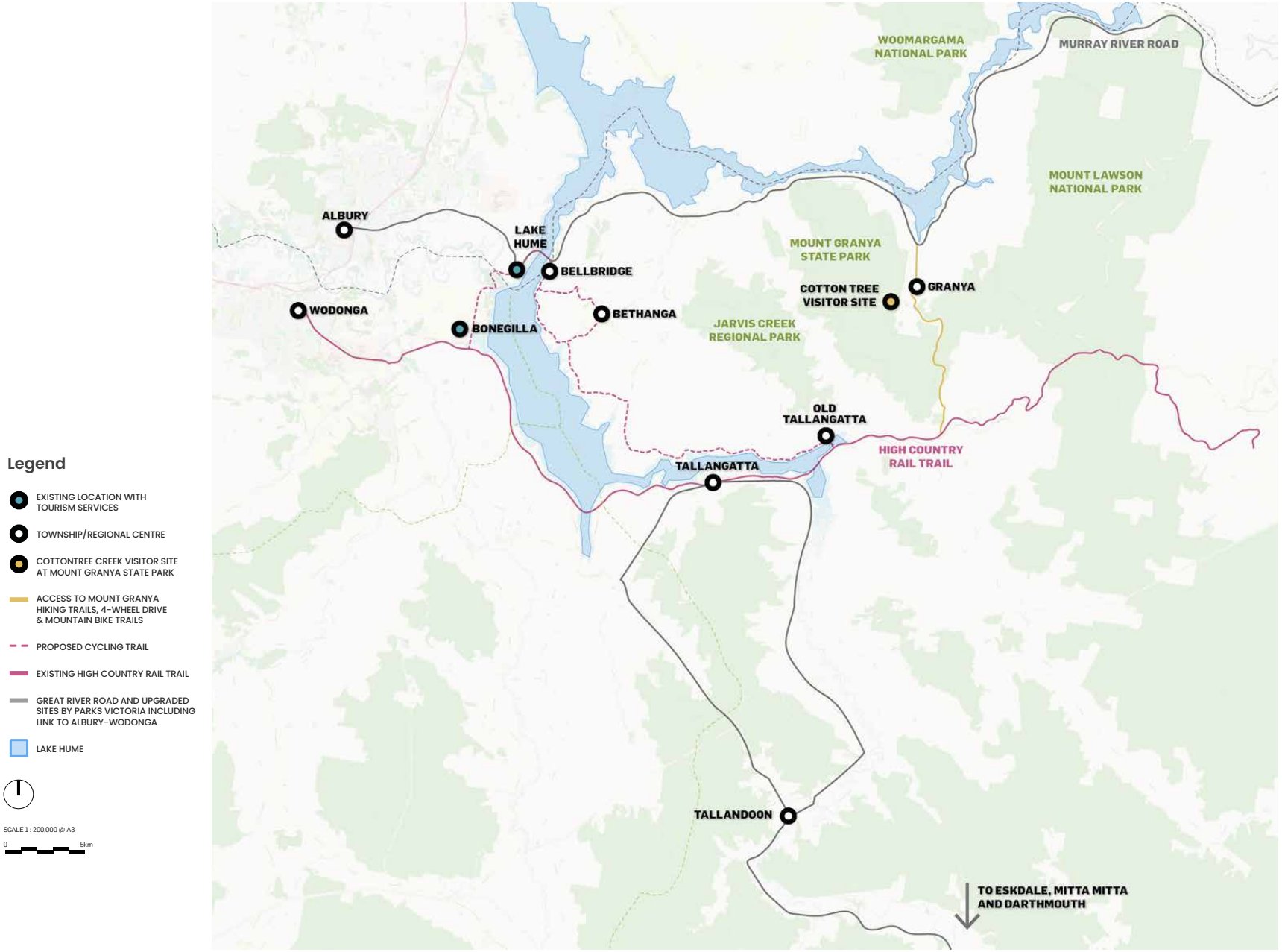
A recent study called Activating Lake Hume proposes a trail around Lake Hume connecting Tallangatta with Tallangatta East, Bellbridge, Lake Hume and Bonegilla. There is an opportunity to expand the proposed trail to include another loop at Bethanga, to extend the trail network and capitalise on the tourism potential of the small township.

Objective 1: Expand regional tourism opportunities with a tourism hub at Tallangatta

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to establish a tourism hub in Tallangatta to service the region.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide a staffed Visitor Information Centre (VIC) with tourism information and services for the region. The VIC is to be combined with a permanent exhibition of the history of Tallangatta. Consider the opportunity for the VIC to be delivered as part of a potential redevelopment of the Council Offices.

Figure 40. Capitalising on the High Country Rail.


WOOMARGAMA NATIONAL PARK
MURRAY RIVER ROAD
MOUNT LAWSON NATIONAL PARK
ALBURY
LAKE HUME
BELLBRIDGE
MOUNT GRANYA STATE PARK
COTTON TREE VISITOR SITE
GRANYA
WODONGA
BONEGILLA
BETHANGA
JARVIS CREEK REGIONAL PARK
OLD TALLANGATTA
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
TALLANGATTA
TALLANDOON
TO ESKDALE, MITTA MITTA AND DARTHMOUTH
Legend
EXISTING LOCATION WITH TOURISM SERVICES
TOWNSHIP/REGIONAL CENTRE
COTTONTREE CREEK VISITOR SITE AT MOUNT GRANYA STATE PARK
ACCESS TO MOUNT GRANYA HIKING TRAILS, 4-WHEEL DRIVE & MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
PROPOSED CYCLING TRAIL
EXISTING HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
GREAT RIVER ROAD AND UPGRADED SITES BY PARKS VICTORIA INCLUDING LINK TO ALBURY-WODONGA
LAKE HUME
SCALE 1 : 200,000 @ A3
0
5km

3.2 Big Idea 01 Welcoming & visitor friendly destination

Theme 1.4: Connect to Surrounding Trails and Lookouts

What we heard

Plans to extend the High Country Rail Trail along the existing rail corridor through the HVP site to Corryong will capitalise on the success of the Rail Trail and fulfill the Rail Trail's potential as one of the most spectacular in Victoria. With increasing interest in on-road and off-road cycling, there is potential to strengthen Tallangatta's role as a tourism hub by creating / connecting a network of trails and touring routes while also encouraging healthier modes of transport for locals, including elderly participation for people on mobility scooters.

Tallangatta is the last main service town before Corryong on the High Country Rail Trail. A continuous foreshore trail connected to the Rail Trail would provide a scenic route, encourage more visitors into the town centre and encourage cycling as a means of transport. Engagement 2 findings support integration of the High Country Rail Trail with the Lake Hume foreshore. Careful consideration needs to be given to the integration of the Rail Trail and foreshore, to ensure that visitors are encouraged into the town centre for the township's businesses to benefit from tourism.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Continuous foreshore trail connects Rail Trail and town centre
+ 1 - High Country Rail Trail Hub at Womaatong Street linked to Towong Street
+ 2 - General road improvements.

What is proposed

A continuous foreshore trail is proposed with multiple connections between the foreshore and High Country Rail Trail to improve access to the foreshore / Rail Trail and integration with the town centre.

The aim of this Big Idea is to support tourism and active transport by improving regional connectivity for cyclists and to bring cyclists into the heart of Tallangatta.

Objective 1: Create a continuous foreshore trail that connects to the Rail Trail and town centre

Action 01: Provide a shared path and wayfinding signage along the foreshore, which:

+ Connects to the High Country Rail Trail
+ Connects to historic walks and destinations
+ Connects to the town centre
+ Includes wayfinding signage at decision points and interpretive signage.

Figure 41. Tallangatta High Country Rail Trail signage.

OLD TALLANGATTA
OLD TALLANGATTA LOOKOUT
MITTA MITTA RIVER
FORESHORE TRAIL
GOLF CLUB
SHOWGROUNDS
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
MITTA VALLEY LOOKOUT
TALLANGATTA LOOKOUT
TALLANGATTA RIFLE RANGE
Legend
PROPOSED LAKE HUME LOOP
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
FORESHORE TRAIL
KEY DESTINATION
SCALE 1 : 25,000 @ A3
0
750m

3.2 Big Idea 01 Welcoming & visitor friendly destination

Objective 2: Create a High Country Rail Trail Hub at Womaatong Street

Action 01: Improve facilities at the entry of the Rail Trail at Womaatong Street with upgraded facilities including:

+ Trail information and wayfinding signage
+ Shaded seating / shelters
+ Toilets and water drinking fountain
+ Pump / repair station and secure storage / cycle hoops
+ Electric bicycle charging station
+ Cafe.

Action 02: Improve the connection between the Rail Trail and town centre through the provision of:

+ Continuous tree planting
+ Dedicated cycle path and footpath on Banool Road and Womaatong Street (north-south).

Objective 3: Upgrade and maintain existing roads

Action 01: Advocate for road upgrades and an increase in the number of overtaking lanes on the Murray Valley Highway.

Figure 42. Tallangatta Rail Trail cycling hub.

Figure 43. Sandy Creek Bridge, High Country Rail Trail.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Sustainable housing to support future growth

Theme 2.1: Short-Medium Term Housing Development Sites

What we heard

Engagement 1 findings indicate a lack of new housing to attract residents and workers, rentals and housing choice to reflect the needs of an ageing population and changing market expectations. A lack of housing supply was identified in the 2012 Masterplan Tallangatta Tomorrow and reiterated in a recent 2019 Land Use Assessment, highlighting the barriers to delivering more housing including a shortage of available land, and the cost of services and infrastructure provision.

Engagement 2 findings reveal strong support to increase housing supply, with the theme 'Short-medium term housing development sites' one of the highest rated across the Big Ideas, with the JMP site the highest ranked initiative / project across the housing themes. While increasing housing supply is not supported by all residents in fear of a loss of character to the township, it was acknowledged that an increase does create opportunities and strengthens Tallangatta's role in the region.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - JMP Site development
+ 2 - Horse Paddocks site development
+ 3 - Infill housing in the town centre and small sites
+ 3 - Increase housing choice
+ 4 - Infill housing in the enterprise zone.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to support the long-term growth and sustainability of the township through short-long term measures that ensure a steady pipeline of housing delivered with the necessary infrastructure upgrades. This includes housing development that retains and complements the character and local heritage value of the township.

Short-medium term opportunities to support the town's schools, sporting clubs and businesses include:

+ Identifying infill sites within the township not constrained by a lack of services infrastructure
+ Increasing housing choice with more diverse product including medium density housing in proximity to the town centre
+ Development of the JMP site for a new subdivision development.

Objective 1: Develop the JMP site to provide more housing

Action 01: Work with relevant authorities to facilitate the appropriate development of the JMP site for residential use.

Action 02: Ensure residential development offers outlook and amenity to Lake Hume, direct access to the foreshore, open space and family-friendly spaces.

Action 03: Extend critical infrastructure (water, sewerage, power, roads and drainage) that would be required to service development.

Figure 44. Future homes, State Government of Victoria.

Legend
PROPOSED INFILL SITES IN GENERAL RESIDENTIAL ZONE
PROPOSED INFILL IN MIXED USE & ENTERPRISE PRECINCT WITH MEDIUM DENSITY/TOWNHOUSES
DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY
FUTURE RESIDENTIAL WITHIN EXISTING TOWNSHIP (JMP SITE)
1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
WASTEWATER TRANSFER STATION
NOTIONAL TREATMENT SEWERAGE BUFFER

3.3 Big Idea 02 Sustainable housing to support future growth

Figure 45. Semi-sural residential housing development.

Figure 46. Co-living residential development, Copenhagen.

Figure 47. Semi-rural residential development, Golden Mede Housing Waddeson.

Objective 2: Investigate the development of the Horse Paddocks site

Action 01: Work with relevant authorities to facilitate the appropriate development of the Horse Paddocks site for residential use.

Action 02: Investigate opportunity to acquire the horse paddocks site from GMW to facilitate residential development.

Action 03: Ensure any development of the site offers outlook and amenity with access to existing critical infrastructure.

Action 04: Explore the potential for the development to include medium density / townhouses or smaller lots and retirement living, given the site's proximity to the town centre and health services.

Objective 3: Provide housing on infill sites in the town centre and mixed-use zones

Action 01: Work with relevant authorities to facilitate the appropriate development of the following underutilised sites for residential use:

+ Mixed-Use Zone
+ St Michael's School
+ Yamba Street.

Action 03: Ensure any development of the site offers outlook and amenity with access to existing critical infrastructure.

Action 04: Explore the potential for development to include medium density / townhouses, given the site's proximity to the town centre and streetscape upgrades and potential cut-through links.

Figure 48. Shop-top housing, Oklahoma City.

Objective 4: Increase housing choice

Action 01: Facilitate the development of more diverse housing typologies to increase housing choice in order to:

+ Cater and encourage a more diverse demographic to live in Tallangatta
+ Better support an ageing population to age in-place
+ Increase key sector worker and seasonal worker accommodation
+ Investigate medium density residential development with open space and family friendly spaces.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities to increase the number of rental properties in Tallangatta with medium density housing.

Objective 5: Consider incorporating housing in the enterprise zone

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to provide medium density / townhouses within the new Enterprise Precinct to increase housing diversity.

Action 02: Ensure any future housing in the Enterprise Precinct is within the township boundary and has access to existing critical infrastructure.

Action 03: Ensure any sensitive interfaces are addressed with future enterprise uses that protect the amenity of residential dwellings and support businesses to function and operate efficiently.

Figure 49. Co Living Forest Garden, Korea.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Sustainable housing to support future growth

Theme 2.2: Long Term Housing Opportunity

What we heard

Tallangatta's location on Lake Hume, provision of shops and services and proximity to Albury-Wodonga make it very attractive to new residents and workers looking for a tree change or a relaxed lifestyle. With increasing residential growth in Albury-Wodonga, Tallangatta's point of difference includes access to more affordable larger residential lots, and a rural living lifestyle on a small acreage, all within proximity to good schools, shops and services.

Engagement 2 findings indicate that this theme was the sixth highest ranked across the Big Ideas with 'Short-medium term housing development sites' the second highest ranked theme, indicating that overall, increasing housing supply is important to the long-term sustainability of the township.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Land for general residential lots
+ 1 - Land for rural living lots
+ 2 - Upgrade buildings / sites for bushfire preparedness.

What is proposed

The focus of long term housing provision is to plan for future sustainable growth in a timely manner. This includes undertaking a Bushfire Risk Assessment to guide decision-making on future housing locations and the timely provision of critical infrastructure (water, sewerage, energy, internet and telecommunications).

Long term opportunities include:

+ Identifying vacant land parcels suitable for future residential growth
+ Investigating vacant lots in proximity to the township suited to a differentiated rural living product
+ Upgrading existing dwellings and building new dwellings for bushfire preparedness.

Objective 1: Increase land zoned for general residential lots

Action 01: Investigate rezoning the Eastern Development Site to general residential with the relevant authorities.

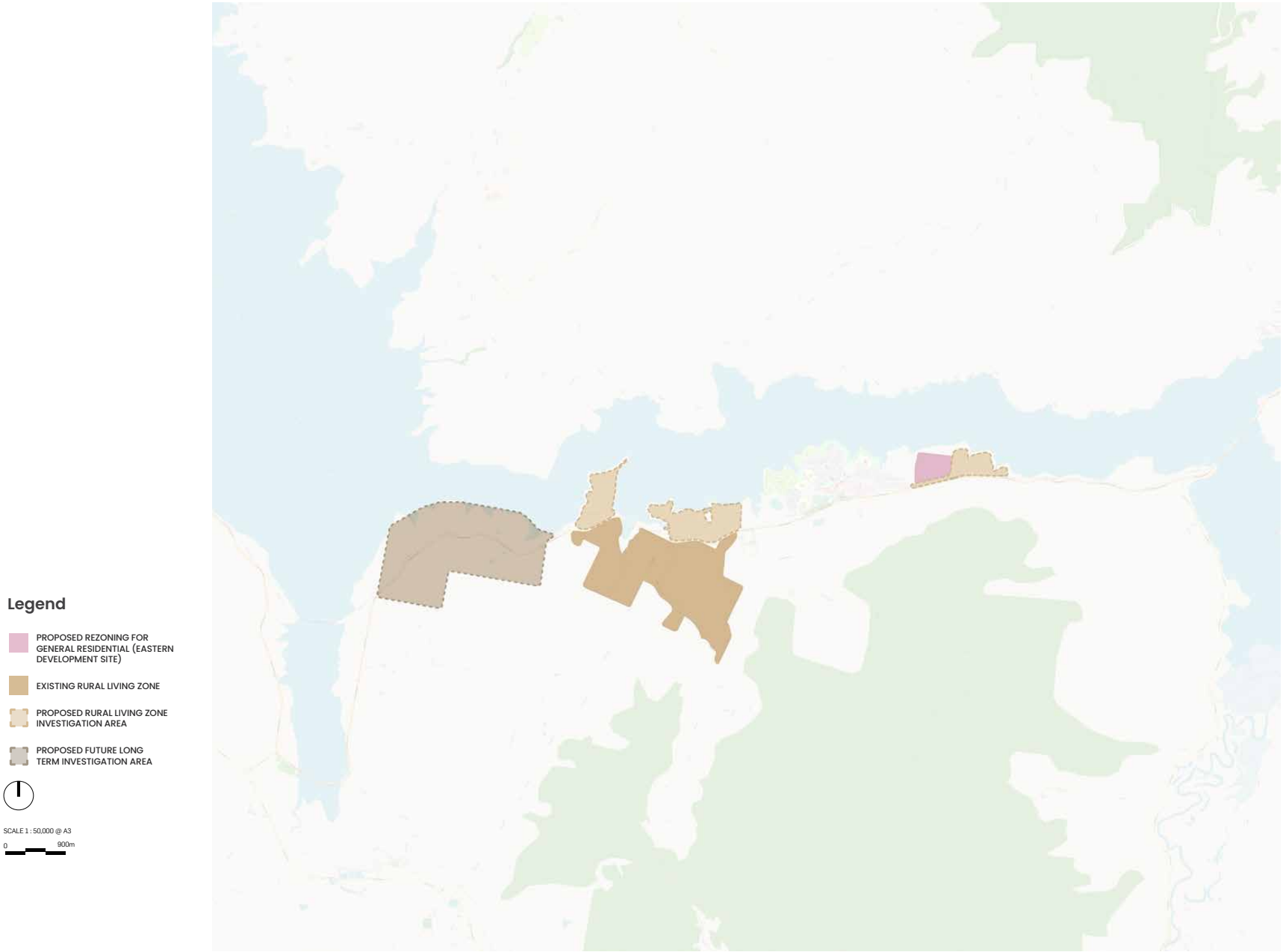
Action 02: Ensure residential development offers outlook and amenity to Lake Hume and direct access to the foreshore and High Country Rail Trail.

Action 03: Consider offering larger lots to diversify the residential product.

Action 04: Extend critical infrastructure (water, sewerage, power, roads and drainage) that would be required to service development.

Note: The site includes a designated waterway / drainage corridor, sloping site, Significant Landscape Overlay and areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity.

Figure 50. Smaller scale residential development with shared facilities. Co Living, Danish Summer House.


Legend
PROPOSED REZONING FOR GENERAL RESIDENTIAL (EASTERN DEVELOPMENT SITE)
EXISTING RURAL LIVING ZONE
PROPOSED RURAL LIVING ZONE INVESTIGATION AREA
PROPOSED FUTURE LONG TERM INVESTIGATION AREA
SCALE 1 : 50,000 @ A3
0
900m

3.3 Big Idea 02 Sustainable housing to support future growth

Objective 2: Increase land for rural living lots

Action 01: Explore the potential with relevant authorities to rezone land east and west of the township to Rural Living Zone to maximise proximity to the township and Lake Hume.

Action 02: Ensure the potential future Rural Living Zone includes provisions that encourage a different / unique residential product to more conventional housing that is typically delivered through the General Residential Zone.

Action 03: Extend critical infrastructure (water, sewerage, power, roads and drainage) that would be required to service development.

Action 04: Explore the potential with relevant authorities of future long-term investigation area to the west of the township currently zoned Rural Activity Zone.

Action 04: Ensure any future rezoning is subject to Bushfire Risk Assessment and consultation with the CFA.

Figure 51. Rural housing, PAD studio.

Figure 52. Rural housing, Tasmania.

Objective 3: Upgrade existing buildings and sites for bushfire preparedness

Action 01: Upgrade existing buildings, manage vegetation and ensure new buildings comply with requirements and guidelines to mitigate the impact of bushfires.

Figure 53. Designing for bushfire risk, House at Flat Rock.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Thriving retail core & enterprise precinct

Theme 3.1: Improve Retail Core

What we heard

Engagement findings indicate that the town centre is a core focus area for improvement aimed at supporting the local economy and improving amenity. During Engagement 1, we heard that two of the highest ranked suggestions to improve Tallangatta are the 'development of the main street with more diverse shops, and commercial / office space', and 'retain and complement the character and local heritage value of the township', while 'improve presentation and experience of the town with safe and accessible places for community to gather' was in the second grouping of preferred improvements. Engagement 2 findings reinforced support for improvements to the retail core, with this theme one of the highest ranked, and 'Parking improvements' one of the highest ranked initiatives / projects.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Parking improvements
+ 2 - Broaden the retail offer and address vacant shops
+ 3 - Upgrade town parks (Memorial Park and The Triangles)
+ 4 - Potential Council Office Redevelopment and new Visitor Information Centre
+ 5 - Retail core revitalisation (street frontages / awnings / signage / lighting)
+ 5 - Improve safety of Akuna Avenue and Alleyway, links to Towong Street.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to continue the improvements to the town centre through a combination of:

+ Attracting more diverse businesses to the town centre
+ Introducing short-term leases for vacant shops
+ Encouraging businesses to trade over weekends and to strengthen the night-time economy
+ Strengthening the heritage character of the buildings, parks and streetscapes
+ Improving streetscapes with pedestrian links and crossings, traffic movements and parking.

Objective 1: Parking improvements

Action 01: Improve parking signs including for long / RV vehicles in the Tallangatta town centre.

Action 02: Introduce short-stay parking in Towong Street to limit town centre workers filling up spaces for long periods of time.

Action 03: Encourage town centre workers to 'park and walk' with walk time information.

Figure 54. Increase parking in the town centre.

Legend
IMPROVE TOWN CENTRE STREETSCAPE
IMPROVE FORMAL BOULEVARD TO STRENGTHEN CENTRAL TOWN AXIS
STREETSCAPE UPGRADES (BANOOL RD, WOMAATONG ST, AKUNA AVE, TOWONG ST)
1-WAY ALLEYWAY
CONTINUOUS MOBILITY FRIENDLY FOOTPATHS & CROSSINGS
TOWN PARK UPGRADES (MEMORIAL PARK & TRIANGLES)
RETAIL CORE REVITALISATION
FUTURE ENTERPRISE PRECINCT & MIXED USE AREA
FUTURE EMPLOYMENT LAND USE TO BE INVESTIGATED
LONG-TERM POTENTIAL COUNCIL OFFICE REDEVELOPMENT (VIC, NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & OFFICE ACCOMMODATION
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL HUB
1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.4 Big Idea 03 Thriving retail core & enterprise precinct

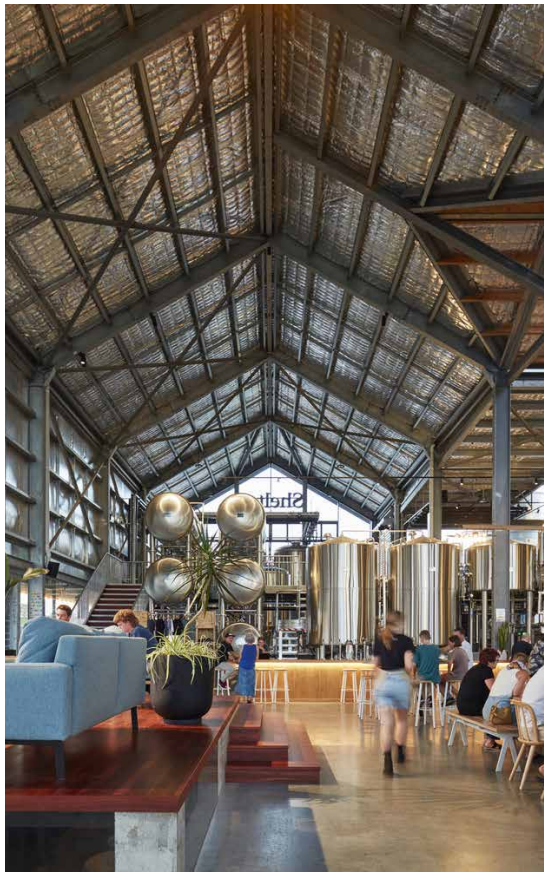


Figure 55. Diverse uses, Shelter Brewery, Brusselton.

Figure 56. Streetscape improvements, Yackandandah.

Figure 57. Outdoor movie nights, Clarke Park.

Objective 2: Broaden the retail offer and address vacant shops

Action 01: Improve the appearance of the town centre core by refurbishing the street frontage of retail / commercial buildings to accentuate the 1950's architecture (refer Town Centre Guidelines) including improvements to awnings, signage and lighting.

Action 02: Encourage and support businesses to extend trading hours particularly on Saturday and Sundays.

Action 03: Improve the street environment at Banool Road, Womaatong Street, Akuna Avenue, Towong Street through the provision of new:

+ Plants and trees
+ Seating and outdoor dining
+ Bicycle infrastructure
+ Artwork and lighting
+ Drinking water stations
+ Mobile phone chargers.

Action 04: Together with landowners, develop a program to activate vacant shops with short-term leases.

Action 05: Diversify the retail offer and services with health services, gym, outdoor and cycling related businesses.

Action 06: Support businesses that create a night-time economy such as micro-brewery / wine bar.

Figure 58. Informal gathering spaces, Memphis' River Garden.

Figure 59. Tallangatta Visitor Information Centre and public toilets.

Objective 3: Upgrade Memorial Park and The Triangles town parks

Action 01: Improve Memorial Park as the formal town garden for ceremonies and events with:

+ Power and water infrastructure
+ Informal meeting spaces including Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper strategies.

Action 02: Improve The Triangles Park with informal spaces and events with:

+ Power and water infrastructure
+ Upgraded playground with interactive and nature based play, protection from roads with native screening garden and shade cloth
+ Upgraded toilets in The Triangles to make them fully accessible and for special needs
+ Informal meeting spaces including Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper strategies.

Action 03: Introduce a boulevard of trees to link Memorial Park and The Triangles together to strengthen the central axis of the town plan.

Objective 4: Potential Council Office Redevelopment

Action 01: Utilise the redevelopment of the Council Offices as an opportunity to create a Visitor Information Centre (VIC) and redevelop the adjacent Courthouse site.

Objective 5: Improve Akuna Avenue, Alleyway and create new pedestrian links

Action 01: Incorporate future cut-throughs in future development from the main street to Akuna Ave parking

Action 02: Improve pedestrian amenity in existing cut-through (western retail block)

Action 03: Work with the bus company to relocate bus parking from Akuna Avenue.

Action 04: Provide pedestrian crossings at key locations.

Action 05: Restrict car parking at the vehicular entry to the football oval during events.

Action 06: Ensure large vehicles servicing retail / commercial use Akuna Avenue and Alleyway.

Action 07: Promote all day parking for town centre workers to free up car spaces in Towong Street.

Action 08: Investigate introducing a 1-way lane in the western retail block alleyway (entered from the west) with parking bays and designated bin areas.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Thriving retail core & enterprise precinct

Theme 3.2: Enterprise Precinct and Employment Land

What we heard

The 1950's urban plan for Tallangatta is an example of mid-century planning with distinct zoning of uses including the location of employment land and recreation reserves to the south of the town centre core, town parks, civic and commercial buildings.

Employment land is located adjacent to residential buildings resulting in sensitive interface issues, with housing increasingly encroaching into the predominantly light industrial uses. The employment land zoned industrial use is quite constrained by surrounding commercial and residential uses and the Murray Valley Highway, and does not allow for future expansion.

Engagement 2 findings indicate that the theme 'Enterprise Precinct and Employment Land' has moderate support from community, with the 'Relocation of industrial land', the highest ranked initiative / project in the theme. The relocation of industrial land increases flexibility within the town centre to plan for any expansion to retail / commercial and residential uses.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Relocate industrial land
+ 2 - Create new enterprise zone.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to continue the improvements to the town centre through a combination of:

+ Relocating industrial land outside of the township
+ Creating an Enterprise Precinct with light industrial warehouses and makers spaces.

Objective 1: Relocate industrial land

Action 01: Investigate with the relevant authorities the potential to relocate existing industrial land outside the township to the south side of the Murray Valley Highway to increase land supply for future employment use.

Figure 60. Enterprise Precinct, Morris Moor Precinct.

Objective 2: Create new enterprise zone

Action 01: Investigate the relocation of uses on currently zoned Industrial, Mixed Use and Public Use land within the township further afield, to free up land within the town centre for an Enterprise Precinct.

Action 02: Create a new Enterprise Precinct that provides a vibrant mix of uses including but not limited to:

+ Adaptive reuse of light industrial warehouses
+ Distillery, winery or cellar door
+ Construction companies
+ Bakery, cheesemaking or other food businesses
+ Entrepreneurial makers spaces / co-working spaces.

Figure 61. Casual alfresco dining spaces, Prague Food Market.

3.5 Big Idea 04 Resilient, green & clean energy town

Theme 4.1: Ensure Long-Term Resilience

What we heard

Engagement findings indicate that improving critical infrastructure, waste and water collection and recycling, renewable energy generation and community battery solutions are priorities for the community.

The 2nd highest rated suggestion to improve the township during Engagement 1 was the 'upgrade of critical infrastructure (energy, internet and telecommunications). While the four top priorities suggested as ways to make Tallangatta more environmentally sustainable and resilient are: renewable energies, waste minimisation / recycling, water reuse / recycling and bushfire preparedness. Engagement 2 reinforced these findings, with changes to priorities reflected in the ordering of the objectives, with 'Renewable energy, water / green waste reuse and recycling' one of the highest rated initiatives / projects across the Big Ideas.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Renewable energy, water / green waste reuse and recycling
+ 2 - Micro-grid and community battery for essential infrastructure
+ 3 - Critical infrastructure (water and sewage) upgrades
+ 4 - Plan for natural and man made hazards and emergency services / infrastructure.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to adopt an integrated approach to strengthening resilience through:

+ Ensuring timely and reliable delivery of critical infrastructure
+ Investigating green waste and water reuse / recycling and renewable energy generation
+ Short-long term planning for natural hazards and disasters
+ Addressing a decrease in volunteers for community services.

Objective 1: Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling

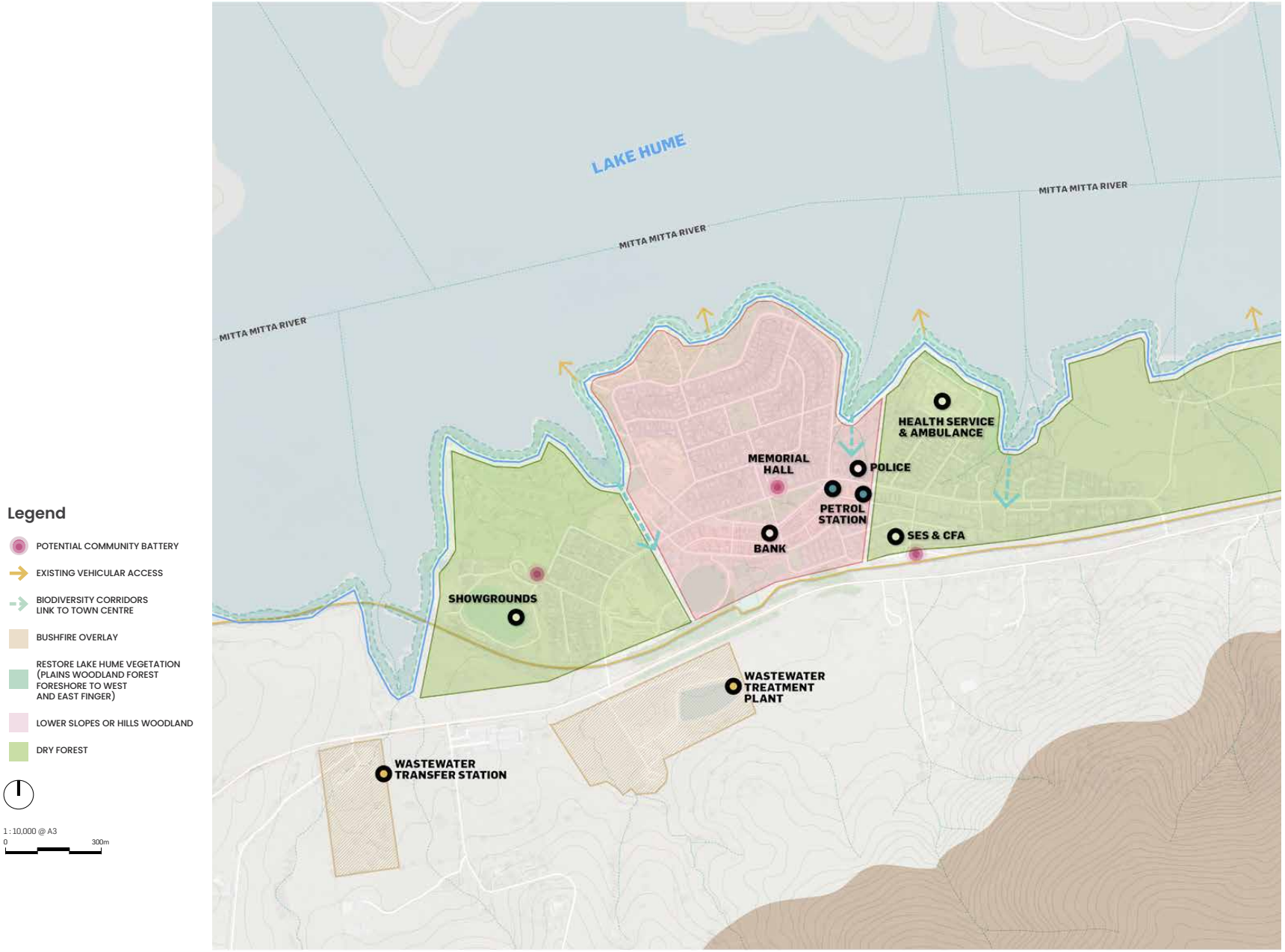
Action 01: Investigate options for carbon neutral power generation (water, solar, wind).

Action 02: Improve recycling and green waste collection and management, through initiatives such as:

+ Making mulch available
+ Removing plastic liners out of the recycling bins in public places
+ Soft plastics collection.

Action 03: Identify barriers and investigate options to reduce water use, increase reuse for buildings and community facilities including on-site water storage.

Figure 62. Green waste collection.


LAKE HUME
MITTA MITTA RIVER
MITTA MITTA RIVER
MITTA MITTA RIVER
HEALTH SERVICE & AMBULANCE
MEMORIAL HALL
POLICE
PETROL STATION
BANK
SES & CFA
SHOWGROUNDS
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
WASTEWATER TRANSFER STATION
Legend
POTENTIAL COMMUNITY BATTERY
EXISTING VEHICULAR ACCESS
BIODIVERSITY CORRIDORS LINK TO TOWN CENTRE
BUSHFIRE OVERLAY
RESTORE LAKE HUME VEGETATION (PLAINS WOODLAND FOREST FORESHORE TO WEST AND EAST FINGER)
LOWER SLOPES OR HILLS WOODLAND
DRY FOREST
1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.5 Big Idea 04 Resilient, green & clean energy town

Figure 63. Yackandandah town battery.

Figure 64. Yackandandah town battery.

Figure 65. Micro grid.

Objective 2: Investigate the opportunity for a micro-grid and community battery for essential infrastructure

Action 01: Investigate options to install community batteries and a microgrid for essential infrastructure to ensure continuous energy supply to critical infrastructure during emergencies.

Based on a similar example currently being implemented in Corryong, essential infrastructure is comprised of: SES, CFA, Police Station, Health and Ambulance Service, Petrol Stations, Banks and Evacuation Centres.

NOTE: The Showgrounds and Memorial Hall have been included as they played a key role during the 2019-20 bushfires.

Figure 66. Yarra Energy Foundation battery installation.

Objective 3: Plan for critical infrastructure upgrades

Action 01: Advocate for NEW to provide timely upgrades to existing water and sewerage infrastructure to ensure sufficient capacity for future residential and industrial growth for short-long term growth scenarios.

Objective 4: Undertake and implement disaster and resilience planning to guide the future development of the township

Action 01: Implement the recommendations of the Bushfire Risk Assessment to guide the future growth of the township.

Action 02: Incorporate disaster and resilience planning to reduce the impact of man-made and natural hazards and disasters.

Action 03: Ensure that hazard resilience is incorporated into the future planning for buildings, infrastructure and vegetation including an increase in capacity for stormwater drainage and run-off, infrastructure that can cope with floods and storms, and vegetation that can reduce the risk of fire and wind damage.

Action 04: Plan for future upgrade and potential needs of existing emergency services and infrastructure as the population increases including consultation with emergency services organisations for projects such as adventure tourism which can impact existing commitments.

Action 05: Support emergency services organisations to stem the loss of volunteers including developing a succession strategy to recruit younger volunteers and exploring potential options such as a web-based community app.

Action 06: Consult the State Emergency Services to determine how Council can provide assistance in response to hazards on Shire land.

3.5 Big Idea 04 Resilient, green & clean energy town

Theme 4.2: Increase Nature Areas and Urban Ecology

What we heard

Engagement findings indicate the township's natural beauty and environmental attractions most noticeably Lake Hume, are what people love about the township. Protection – and where required rehabilitation – of the environment, are identified as key priorities to maintain the aesthetic and recreational amenity for residents and to support the visitor economy.

These views were reinforced during Engagement 2 with 'Restore the Lake Hume foreshore and wetlands' one of the higher rated initiatives / projects, aligning with strong support for the Lake Hume foreshore improvements in Big Idea 01.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Restore the Lake Hume foreshore and wetlands
+ 2 - Improve urban ecology in open / public spaces and streets.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to adopt an integrated approach to strengthening resilience through:

+ Increased greening of the township
+ Improving the foreshore riparian zone.

Objective 1: Restore the Lake Hume foreshore and wetlands

Action 01: Reduce bank erosion and restore riparian zones.

Action 02: Reduce the impact of agricultural land management.

Action 03: Review current access to Lake Hume foreshore to determine preferred locations for vehicular and boat access and parking.

Action 04: Support GMW to manage the foreshore through measures such as a Friend's group subject to discussion with GMW.

Figure 67. Creek restoration.

Figure 68. Interpretive signage, Winton wetlands.

Objective 2: Improve urban ecology in open space, public spaces and streets

Action 01: Allocate nature areas and biodiversity corridors.

Action 02: Protect existing trees and increase biodiversity and planting of native vegetation.

Action 03: Maintain and protect habitats of threatened species.

Action 04: Address pests and invasive species through existing programs.

Action 05: Create a weed control crew to remove noxious weeds in parks and bushland.

Action 06: Educate residents on noxious weeds.

Action 07: Continue to support research into biological control including the potential impact of changing weather and climate patterns to tried and tested methods.

Figure 69. Tallangatta wetlands, JMP Tallagatta Estate.

3.6 Big Idea 05 Strengthen Tallangatta's strong & diverse community

Theme 5.1: New and Upgraded Community Assets

What we heard

Tallangatta's community has benefited from the delivery of key community infrastructure and services including the Integrated Community Centre and upgrades to the Rowen Park Recreation Reserve. Engagement 1 findings indicate that while the township is considered to be well-serviced with sports, health and education facilities and services, demographic changes including an ageing population, an increase in the number of people from diverse backgrounds and a growing number of families and school-age children require an increase in existing and additional services to cater for increasing demand.

Engagement 2 findings reinforce the need to complete existing plans such as the upgrades to the Memorial Hall and Rowen Park Recreation Reserve. Additional improvements to the swimming pool have been included to encourage year-round use, with an upgrade to the Bowls Club identified during Engagement 2.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Memorial Hall upgrade
+ 2 - New purpose built Tallangatta Neighbourhood House
+ 2 - Rowen Park Recreation Reserve Stage 2.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to:

+ Expand sport facilities with Stage 2 works for the Rowen Park Recreation Reserve
+ Strengthen community with a fit-for-purpose Neighbourhood House and targeted programs to support engagement with diverse communities
+ Better equip the Memorial Hall with planned upgrades for emergency preparedness

Objective 1: Undertake upgrades to the Memorial Hall

Action 01: Complete Memorial Hall upgrades for bushfire preparedness including:

+ ACC shower
+ Safe area for children
+ Generator.

Figure 70. Tallangatta Memorial Hall.

DESTINATION PLAYGROUND & POP-UP CAFE
CARAVAN PARK
BOLGA COURT AGED CARE
HEALTH SERVICE NURSING HOME
TALLANGATTA PRIMARY SCHOOL
ST MICHAEL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
GOLF CLUB
INTEGRATED COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTRE
SHOWGROUNDS
TALLANGATTA SECONDARY COLLEGE
Legend
ROWEN PARK RECREATION RESERVE MASTERPLAN STAGE 2
INVESTIGATION AREA FOR ROWEN PARK RECREATION RESERVE 2ND OVAL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TALLANGATTA SECONDARY COLLEGE
UPGRADED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
PUBLIC BUS SERVICE & STOP
PUBLIC SHUTTLE SERVICE & STOP
1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.6 Big Idea 05 Strengthen Tallangatta's strong & diverse community

Figure 71. Shared kitchen facilities, Co Living, Community Kitchen.

Figure 72. Flexible working spaces.

Figure 73. Outdoor play spaces, Adelaide Zoo.

Objective 2: Provide a new purpose built Tallangatta Neighbourhood House

Action 01: Investigate the options to create a community centre catering for a diverse demographic providing a 'home away from home' including:

+ New purpose-built or refurbishment of the existing premises
+ Separate entry / access and front of house
+ Spaces for the younger generation including playgroup, mental health support and safe places for those feeling unsafe
+ Multi-purpose, adaptable / reconfigurable space for diverse activities
+ Commercial kitchen for food preparation / workshops for events
+ Sheltered outdoor space with play, garden and seated area
+ Small study space with computer facilities
+ Investigate the inclusion of additional services similar to Yackandandah (op shop), Beechworth (bookshop) and Corryong (bakery and garage).

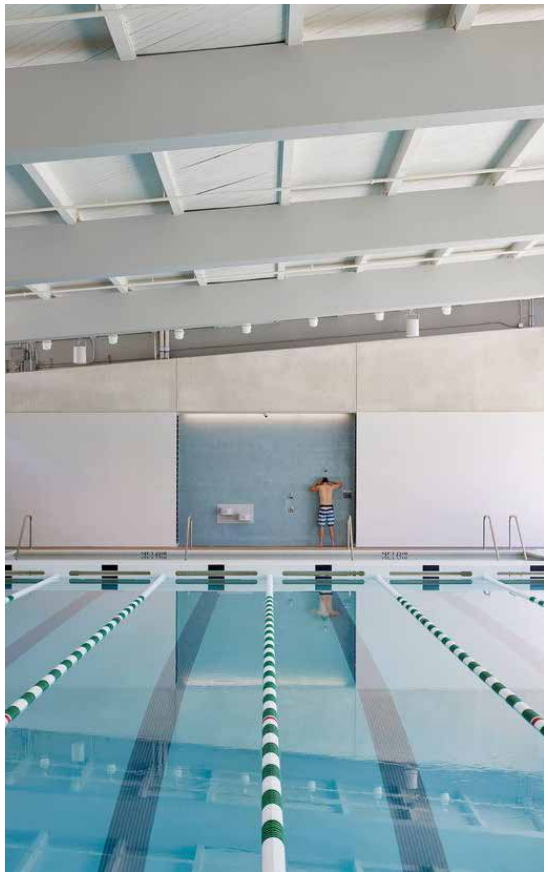


Figure 74. Covered swimming pool, Garfield Centre, San Francisco.

Objective 3: Undertake Stage 2 of Rowen Park Recreation Reserve upgrades

Action 01: Update the Rowen Park Recreation Reserve Master Plan to include the following scope of works:

+ Provide lighting for night events
+ New 2nd oval in partnership with Tallangatta Secondary College
+ Improve overland drainage to existing oval
+ Improve playground areas and netball shelters
+ Restrict car parking at the vehicular entry on Akuna Avenue to the football oval during events
+ Improve and expand car parking at the cricket nets
+ Upgrade hockey court for future use including improving access
+ Investigate opportunities to provide volleyball and rugby facilities
+ Upgrade swimming pool including children's area, roof cover and solar heating to encourage year-round use. Consider potential relocation of the swimming pool to the foreshore.

Objective 4: Bowls Club upgrade

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to upgrade the Tallangatta Bowls Club facility.

Figure 75. Upgrade lighting at Rowen Park Recreation Reserve, Farran Oval.

3.6 Big Idea 05 Strengthen Tallangatta's strong & diverse community

Theme 5.2: Expand Community Facilities, Services and Events

What we heard

There is growing demand for community services in health, childcare, kindergarten and public transport with a need to develop more targeted programs for a younger demographic. Engagement 1 findings indicate that demand for childcare and kindergarten services from Albury-Wodonga residents has placed pressure on the Tallangatta service. In addition, there has been an increase in demand for the provision of high-quality, state of the art health facilities and staff, including acute medical facilities for an ageing population.

Projects currently underway to expand the Health Service include the Indigo 4Ms tool, an aged care program focused on medications, mobility and mental health and a master plan to expand and improve the Health Service.

The expansion of the Health Service, childcare and kindergarten create an opportunity to increase employment pathways, attract families and encourage ageing residents to remain in the township.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Health Service Upgrade
+ 2 - Expand childcare and kindergarten services and facility
+ 2 - Provide public bus services
+ 2 - Create an events calendar and activities for a younger audience.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to:

+ Increase and expand existing health, childcare and kindergarten services
+ Address the lack of transport services with public transport and a local shuttle.
+ Develop programs for a younger audience
+ Provide a women's refuge for domestic violence.

Objective 1: Support the Health Service Upgrade

Action 01: Improve health services and facilities to cater for the needs of the community by:

+ Providing services for a diverse demographic with a focus on an ageing population
+ Identifying health services that could be located within the town centre
+ Investigate the opportunity to provide health services to the wider area.

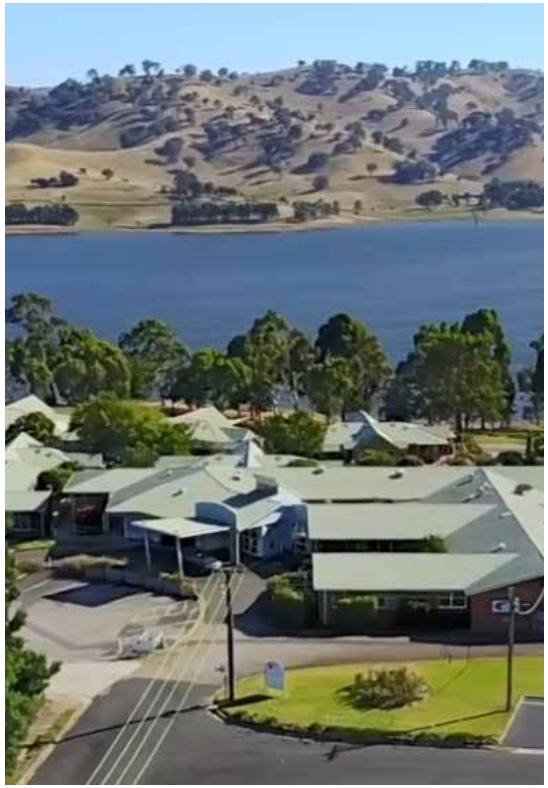


Figure 76. Tallangatta Health Service.

Objective 2: Expand childcare and kindergarten services

Action 01: Expand the childcare and kindergarten services and facility to meet growing demand.

Action 02: Provide more family friendly spaces for activities suited to the infants of the town including access to care, community groups and spaces that are safe and inclusive.

Action 03: Consider the need to increase parking access.

Objective 3: Provide a public bus service

Action 01: Advocate for increasing the public bus service to and from Albury-Wodonga and for a new public bus service to Corryong and Mitta Mitta.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide a community shuttle to health services and other key locations in the township.

Objective 4: Create an events calendar and activities for a younger audience

Action 01: Develop programs targeted to younger members of the community including alternative sports and non-competitive pursuits.

Action 02: Expand the community events calendar to increase activities for the local community including running and cycling events, markets, Australia Day and watersports.

Action 03: Introduce programs to increase awareness of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.

Objective 5: Provide a women's refuge

Action 01: Investigate options to provide a women's refuge for people experiencing domestic violence.

Figure 77. Kindergarten, Xian County Sunshine.

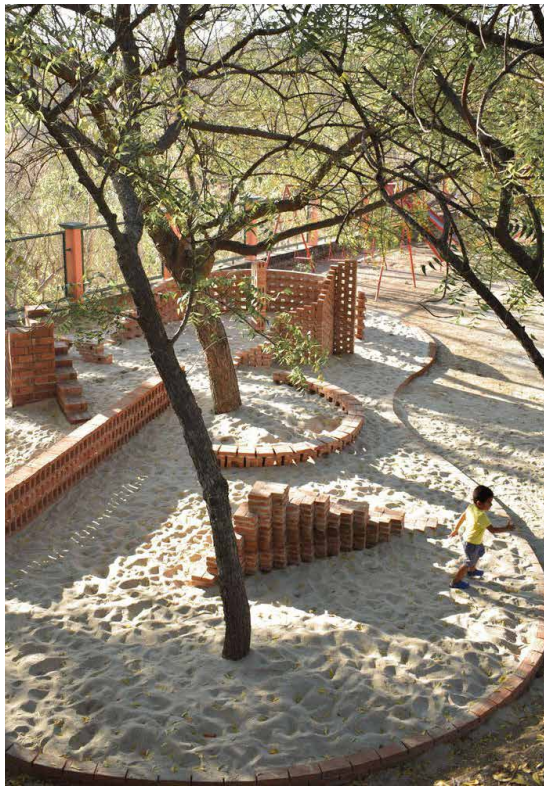


Figure 78. Play space, Jardin Agua Zarca.

3.7 Big Idea 06 Inviting & walkable streets for all ages & abilities

Theme 6.1: Improve Streets and Public Spaces

What we heard

Two of the highest ranked opportunities in the Engagement 1 survey were the provision of accessible walking / cycling trails and routes, and increasing access to Lake Hume. Comments from engagement also highlight the lack of continuous footpaths, including paths that are not accessible for mobility scooters, prams and wheelchairs. In addition, feedback indicates poor maintenance of street pavements, gutters, footpaths and trees.

Engagement 2 findings reinforced the need to improve footpaths particularly to cater for an ageing population, prams and mobility aids. A clear priority to emerge during Engagement 2 was the support to increase tree canopy cover in the township, with the initiative one of the highest ranked across the Big Ideas.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Increase tree canopy cover
+ 2 - Improve footpaths, drainage, signage and public spaces
+ 2 - Improve footpaths, crossings, pick-up / drop-off Schools and Health Service.

What is proposed

Tallangatta is a walkable town, with many services and features accessible within walking distance. The aim of this Big Idea is to provide a network of age friendly and safe shaded footpaths and cycle paths that encourage people of all abilities to walk or increase their mobility. Key opportunities include:

+ Increase tree canopy cover
+ Continuous foreshore trail connected to the Rail Trail, town centre and biodiversity corridors
+ Improved footpaths connecting the Health Service to town centre and foreshore
+ Improvements to the pick-up / drop-off area at both Primary Schools
+ Improvements to paths to the secondary school
+ Safety improvements to Akuna Avenue with pedestrian crossings.

Objective 1: Increase tree canopy cover

Action 01: Develop a plan to increase tree canopy cover throughout the township to improve streets and cool the urban environment.

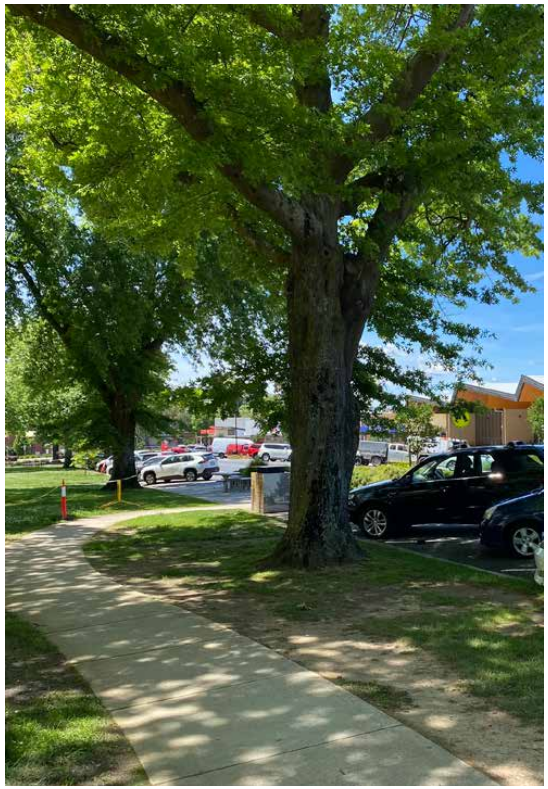


Figure 79. Tree canopy, The Triangles Park.

Legend
CONTINUOUS FORESHORE TRAIL CONNECTED TO TOWN CENTRE
HEALTH SERVICE INTEGRATION
CAR PARK LIGHTING & SIGNAGE UPGRADES AT BOLGA COURT
GREEN & WELCOMING STREETS
CONTINUOUS MOBILITY FRIENDLY FOOTPATHS & CROSSINGS
POP-UP CYCLING LANES
PRIMARY SCHOOL PICK-UP/DROP-OFF
COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE
OPEN SPACE
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL HUB
NEW LINK/IMPROVED ACCESS TO RAIL TRAIL
1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.7 Big Idea 06 Inviting & walkable streets for all ages & abilities

Figure 80. Public space improvements with footpath network, Civic Park Warragul.

Objective 2: Improve footpaths, pedestrian crossings, drainage and signage

Action 01: Provide fully accessible and continuous walking paths for diverse needs.

Action 02: Provide wayfinding signage at key decision points for pedestrian and cyclists.

Action 03: Provide crossings at key locations to integrate the schools and open spaces with the town centre and High Country Rail Trail.

Action 04: Improve stormwater drainage at street curb and gutters.

Action 05: Implement water-sensitive urban design to improve water quality with swales to filter stormwater before it enters the water supply.

Action 06: Reduce hard surfaces and increase permeable paving / surfaces to decrease water run-off.

Action 07: Provide a new pedestrian crossing at Tallangatta Lookout Road on the Murray Valley Highway.

Objective 3: Integrate schools and the Health Service with the footpath network

Action 01: Improve footpaths links between schools with the town centre and recreational facilities.

Action 02: Create a shared bus drop-off / pick-up zone in Queen Elizabeth Drive.

Action 03: Investigate options to improve the children pick-up /drop-off zone in Wonga Grove.

Action 04: Create a walkway from the bus zone to the Primary School entry.

Figure 81. Connect the footpath network to trails.

Figure 82. Fully accessible footpaths and trails.

3.7 Big Idea 06 Inviting & walkable streets for all ages & abilities

Theme 6.2: Pop-Up Cycle Paths

What we heard

While two of the highest ranked opportunities in the Engagement 1 survey include provision of accessible walking / cycling trails and routes, Engagement 2 findings indicate the priority is on improving footpaths rather than cycling routes.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

In this instance, cycling paths was singled out as a theme and initiative / project. 'Pop-up cycle paths' was one of the lower priorities as a theme, however rated a bit more highly as an initiative / project indicating some support for the project.

+ 1 - Provide connected and safe cycle paths and crossings.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to provide a network of connected cycle paths that encourage people to participate in active transport and provide an alternative to car use. Key opportunities include:

+ Providing safe cycle paths for school age children
+ Connecting the cycle network to the High Country Rail Trail and continuous foreshore trail.

Objective 1: Provide connected and safe cycle paths and crossings

Action 01: Introduce pop-up cycling lanes between the High Country Rail Trail, schools, town centre and foreshore.

Figure 83. Pop-up shared paths, Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Figure 84. Off-road cycle paths for the High Country Rail Trail.

3.8 Big Idea 07 Celebrate Tallangatta's proud & unique heritage

Theme 7.1: Strengthen Historic Town

What we heard

Tallangatta has been recognised by the National Trust as the second notable town in Victoria.

Tallangatta is architecturally significant as a remarkably intact collection of civic and residential buildings constructed in the 1950s to a modern plan, mixed with more than 100 late Victorian structures relocated from the old town.

- Trust Advocate

Buildings recognised for their significance were built between 1955-56 and include: Post Office, Shire Offices, Catholic Church, Anglican Church, Presbyterian Church, 35 shops, Tallangatta Hotel, Memorial Hall, Court House and Hospital.

Engagement 1 findings indicate that the community identifies with the history of the township including the original European settlement now called Tallangatta East, and the current modernist town. However, Engagement 2 findings suggest that history is less of a priority with the theme and initiatives / projects some of the lowest ranked across the Big Ideas.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

+ 1 - Explore Aboriginal cultural heritage
+ 2 - Permanent exhibition (Notable Town status / modernist history)
+ 3 - Heritage upgrades and create historic walks.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to celebrate the unique heritage of the township including the story of relocation with a series of proposals which include:

+ An exhibition developed in partnership with the local schools and an architecture and planning school
+ Town centre guidelines that accentuate the modernist qualities of the central area and recognised buildings
+ Exploration of First Nations cultural heritage to broaden our understanding of place.

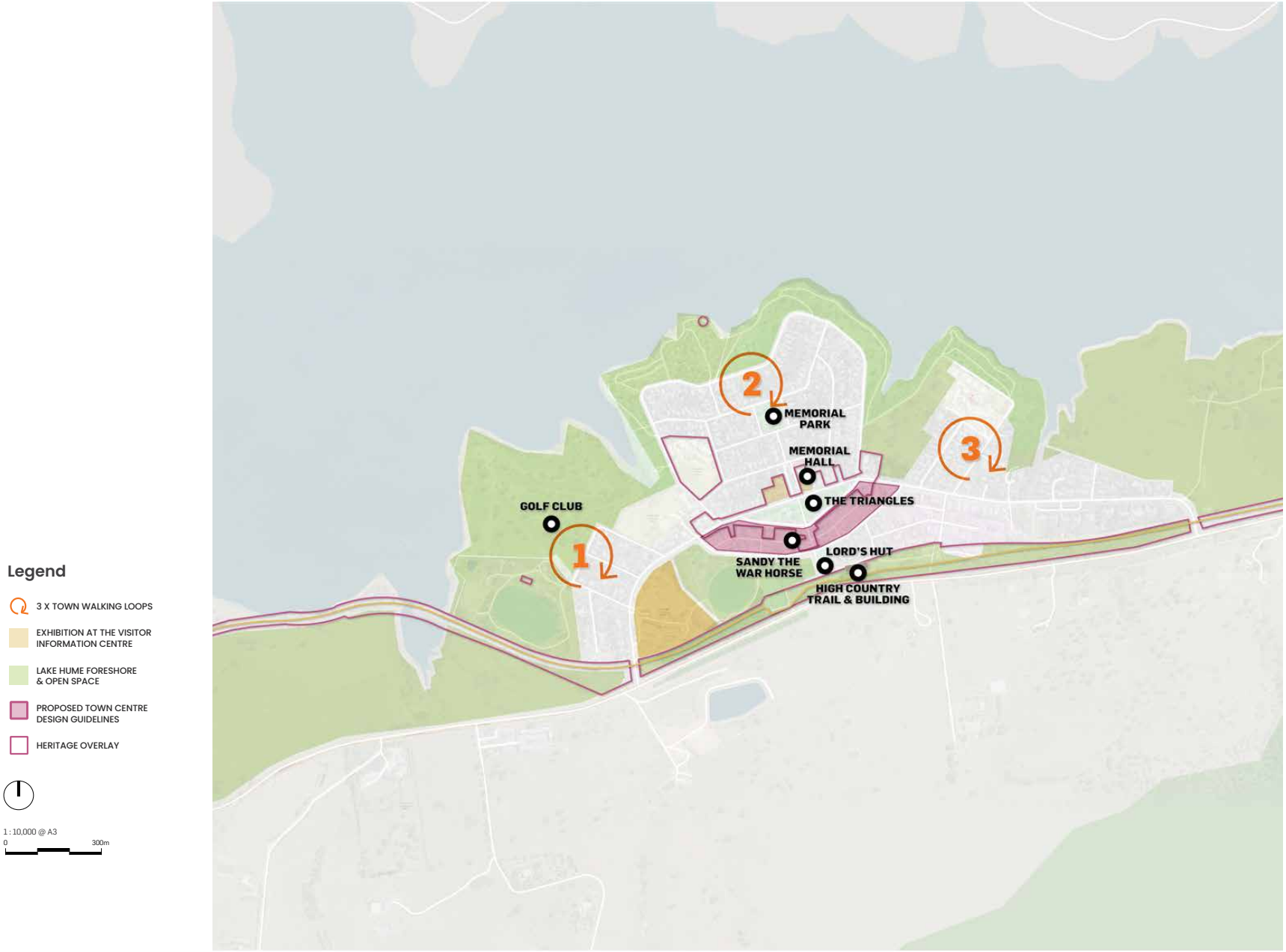
Objective 1: Explore Aboriginal cultural heritage

Action 01: Identify any sites of significant First Nations cultural heritage in / surrounding Tallangatta with traditional custodians.

Action 02: Develop an Aboriginal place name strategy with traditional custodians to incorporate First Nation's culture and heritage through acknowledgment, place names, truth-telling and stories.

Action 03: Consult First nations people on the opportunities for new / upgraded open / public spaces along the Tallangatta foreshore and waterways.

Figure 85. Indigenous planting in public spaces, Bingara Country Club.


2
MEMORIAL PARK
MEMORIAL HALL
3
GOLF CLUB
THE TRIANGLES
1
LORD'S HUT
SANDY THE WAR HORSE
HIGH COUNTRY TRAIL & BUILDING
Legend
3 X TOWN WALKING LOOPS
EXHIBITION AT THE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE
LAKE HUME FORESHORE & OPEN SPACE
PROPOSED TOWN CENTRE DESIGN GUIDELINES
HERITAGE OVERLAY
1 : 10,000 @ A3
0
300m

3.8 Big Idea 07 Celebrate Tallangatta's proud & unique heritage

Figure 86. Layout of present day Tallangatta with careful mid-century planning and zoning of uses.

Objective 2: Create a permanent exhibition of Tallangatta's history

Action 01: Develop a permanent exhibition in joint partnership with the local school and an architecture and planning school on the history of the township including:

+ Information on the Notable Town heritage status as the Town That Moved
+ Modernist architecture and town planning
+ Reason to relocate the township
+ Establishment of the original town
+ High Country Rail Trail and Station Building
+ First Nations culture and history.

Objective 3: Create historic town walks

Action 01: Develop a historic walk of significant places and buildings with interpretive signage and a walking map of key landmarks to increase visibility of the town's history for Tallangatta and Tallangatta East.

Action 02: Create a 3-loop town walk, a loop for each 'finger' of the original Tallangatta Township Plan with interpretive signage about the history and changes over time, including the expansion of Lake Hume.

Objective 4: Create Town Centre Design Guidelines

Action 01: Undertake Town Centre Guidelines to celebrate the heritage value of 1950's planning and architecture and to strengthen place identity and the local vernacular.

The Guidelines are to provide guidance on:

+ Beautification of the retail core to maximise amenity for the community and the visitor economy
+ Provide age-friendly public spaces and streets and bumping spaces
+ Ensure consistent planting, increase native vegetation and tree canopy cover to create more shade and reduce heatwave conditions.

Action 02: Provide grants to support businesses / landowners to upgrade building facades and improve access into shops.

Action 03: Develop a maintenance plan to ensure upkeep and presentation of the retail core.

Figure 87. Tallangatta retail core.

4.0
Implementation Plan
OUR TOWN

4.1 Making it happen

Overview of making it happen

The Tallangatta Place Plan establishes a vision and framework for achieving the vision.

This part of the place plan sets out how the objectives may be achieved. Each objective is examined in terms of its:

- **Priority** (low-medium-high) – the priority ranking is informed by outcomes from community engagement and input from authorities
- **Timing** – a realistic ordering of which objectives can be feasibly achieved in the short, medium, or longer term
- **Partners** – authorities who have elected to work on the objectives listed.

Some objectives may require further work and studies, including changes to planning instruments in the future, in the form of Structure Plans, reference documents or other planning studies which should be undertaken separately to these place plans where necessary.

It is recommended that the place plan is reviewed regularly, and that regular catch-ups between Council and community are undertaken to monitor and check the progress of the place plan implementation.

Government authorities' workshop

On the 7 March 2024, the Draft Place Plans were presented as part of Engagement 2 to a group of state and local government authorities who have varying levels of involvement in the towns / region. This workshop was a follow-up to focus groups and 1:1 workshops undertaken during Engagement 1 to identify priority areas and opportunities for each authority.

The workshop was attended by representatives from a range of authorities as outlined in Table 1. Representatives from local and state government planning departments, emergency services and water management authorities were present, however it is acknowledged that there may be other relevant authorities that were not in attendance. These authorities should be engaged at a later date in the delivery of objectives as needed.

The aim of the workshop was to present the Draft Place Plans and objectives, raise any potential issues or priorities that authorities may have with relation to the Draft Place Plans, and identify partnerships to deliver the objectives in the future.

The following implementation tables set out where government authorities elected to work as partners to deliver particular elements or objectives of the place plan.

Future work should be undertaken to identify additional partners and begin to create connections between agencies to deliver the place plan.

Organisations represented
Towong Shire Council
Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) – Hume RPS
Country Fire Authority (CFA)
Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) Upper Murray
Victoria SES Tallangatta
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Department Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Ambulance Victoria
Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW)

Big Idea 01: Welcoming & visitor friendly destination

THEME 1.1: Upgrade Lake Hume Foreshore

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Dam the Narrows to create a permanent water source and frontage.	Low	Long-term	
Objective 2	Upgrade the Golf Course and Tallangatta Showgrounds.	High	Medium-term	GMW
Objective 3	Improve the foreshore activities, facilities and Lakelands Caravan Park.	High	Medium-term	GMW

THEME 1.2: Improve Accommodation and Town Centre Destinations

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Create an arts and culture attraction at the Butter Factory.	High	Long-term	
Objective 2	Increase short-term accommodation choice.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Develop short-long term uses for the Courthouse site.	Low	Medium-term	
Objective 4	Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign for Tallangatta as a tourist destination.	Low	**Short-term**	
Objective 5	Improve the arrival experience.	Low	**Short-term**	
Objective 6	Upgrade Lord's Hut Reserve.	Low	Medium-term	

THEME 1.3: Regional Tourism Hub at Tallangatta

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Expand regional tourism opportunities with a tourism hub at Tallangatta.	Medium	Medium-term	

THEME 1.4: Connect to Surrounding Trails and Lookouts

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Create a continuous foreshore trail that connects to the Rail Trail and town centre.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Create a High Country Rail Trail Hub at Womaatong Street.	Medium	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 3	Upgrade and maintain existing roads.	Medium	Long-term	DTP – Transport

Big Idea 02: Sustainable housing to support future growth

THEME 2.1: Short-Medium Term Housing Development Sites				
OBJECTIVES		**PRIORITY**	**TIMING**	**PARTNERS**
Objective 1	Develop the JMP site to provide more housing.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Investigate the development of the Horse Paddocks site.	Medium	Long-term	
Objective 3	Provide housing on infill sites in the town centre and mixed-use zones.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 4	Increase housing choice.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 5	Consider incorporating housing in the enterprise zone.	Low	Medium-term	CFA, DTP – Planning
THEME 2.2: Long-Term Housing Opportunity				
OBJECTIVES		**PRIORITY**	**TIMING**	**PARTNERS**
Objective 1	Increase land zoned for general residential lots.	Medium	Medium-term	CFA, DTP – Planning
Objective 2	Increase land for rural living lots.	Medium	Long-term	CFA, DTP – Planning
Objective 3	Upgrade existing buildings and sites for bushfire preparedness.	Low	Long-term	CFA

Big Idea 03: Thriving retail core & enterprise precinct

THEME 3.1: Improve Retail Core				
OBJECTIVES		**PRIORITY**	**TIMING**	**PARTNERS**
Objective 1	Parking improvements.	High	**Short-term**	
Objective 2	Broaden the retail offer and address vacant shops.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 3	Upgrade Memorial Park and The Triangles town parks.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 4	Potential Council Office Redevelopment.	Low	Long-term	
Objective 5	Improve Akuna Avenue, Alleyway and create new pedestrian links.	Low	Medium-term	
THEME 3.2: Enterprise Precinct and Employment Land				
OBJECTIVES		**PRIORITY**	**TIMING**	**PARTNERS**
Objective 1	Relocate industrial land.	Medium	Long-term	CFA, DTP – Planning
Objective 2	Create new enterprise zone.	Low	Long-term	CFA, DTP – Planning

Big Idea 04: Resilient, green & clean energy town

THEME 4.1: Ensure Long-Term Resilience

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling.	High	**Short-term**	
Objective 2	Investigate the opportunity for a micro-grid and community battery for essential infrastructure.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Plan for critical infrastructure upgrades.	Low	Long-term	CFA
Objective 4	Undertake and implement disaster and resilience planning to guide the future development of the township.	Low	Long-term	

THEME 4.2: Increase Nature Areas and Urban Ecology

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Restore the Lake Hume foreshore and wetlands .	High	Medium-term	GMW
Objective 2	Improve urban ecology in open / public spaces and streets.	Low	Medium-term	

Big Idea 05: Strengthen Tallangatta's strong & diverse community

THEME 5.1: New and Upgraded Community Assets

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Undertake upgrades to the Memorial Hall.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 2	Provide a new purpose built Tallangatta Neighbourhood House.	Low	Long-term	DFFH
Objective 3	Undertake Stage 2 of Rowen Park Recreation Reserve upgrades.	Low	Medium-term	
Objective 4	Bowls Club upgrade.	Low	Medium-term	

THEME 5.2: Expand Community Facilities, Services and Events

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Support the Health Service Upgrade.	High	**Short-term**	Ambulance Victoria
Objective 2	Expand childcare and kindergarten services.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Provide a public bus service.	Medium	Long-term	
Objective 4	Create an events calendar and activities for a younger audience.	Medium	**Short-term**	
Objective 5	Provide a women's refuge.	Low	Medium-term	

Big Idea 06: Inviting & walkable streets for all ages & abilities

THEME 6.1: Improve Streets and Public Spaces				
OBJECTIVES		**PRIORITY**	**TIMING**	**PARTNERS**
Objective 1	Increase tree canopy cover.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Improve footpaths, pedestrian crossings, drainage and signage.	Low	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 3	Integrate schools and the Health Service with the footpath network.	Low	**Short-term**	
THEME 6.2: Pop-Up Cycle Paths				
OBJECTIVES		**PRIORITY**	**TIMING**	**PARTNERS**
Objective 1	Provide connected and safe cycle paths and crossings.	Low	Medium-term	

Big Idea 07: Celebrate Tallangatta's proud & unique heritage

THEME 7.1: Strengthen Historic Town

OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Explore Aboriginal cultural heritage.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Create a permanent exhibition of Tallangatta's history.	Low	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Create historic town walks.	Low	**Short-term**	
Objective 4	Create Town Centre Design Guidelines.	Low	**Short-term**	

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yonder.
Streetscape Plan
Cudgewa
May 2024 | Revision E
Prepared for
towong shire

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We acknowledge and respect Traditional Owners as the traditional custodians of our shared lands, waters and seas. We recognise their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection with Country. We honour Elders past, present and emerging, whose knowledge and wisdom will ensure the continuation of culture, and the values which uphold them.

yonder.

1.0 Background

1.1 Introduction

Project summary

Yonder have been engaged by Towong Shire Council (TSC) to work with the community to prepare a Streetscape Plan for the town of Cudgewa which aims to capture the communities' aspirations for their town, as well as other existing projects into a consolidated, graphic and easily understood document or 'road-map'. The Streetscape Plan will be a high level strategic document to guide future funding applications and on-ground works.

The Streetscape Plan seeks to achieve a design solution which improves safety, functionality, aesthetics, connectivity, pedestrian amenity and traffic movement within the town of Cudgewa.

Key to this is thorough background research coupled with site analysis and the uniquely targeted engagement process. This will ensure the outcomes of the Streetscape Plan reflect community aspirations, wants and needs and help create a livable, vibrant environment for town's future.

Objectives

The following objectives also formed part of the Brief:

- Incorporate key priorities of the Cudgewa Community Recovery Plan.
- Consider a succession species for the Avenue of Honour to replace senesecing Elm trees and those damaged in the 2019/20 fires.
- Reinforce Cudgewa as a key destination along the High Country Rail Trail and connect with the Art / Mural Trail project.
- Consider a unified streetscape treatment to better connect key destinations and improve access within the town.
- Celebrate the town's rich history.
- Identify a signage strategy for way-finding and interpretation around the town.

Process

Stage 1 Inception	Background review
	Site visit
	Community input: informal chat with three community members at the Cudgewa Playground
Stage 2 Preliminary ideas for streetscape opportunities	Preliminary ideas of streetscape opportunities
	Community input at Art Mural Rail trail committee meeting
Stage 3 Draft Streetscape Plan	Draft streetscape plan
	Community input: drop-in session
Stage 4 Draft Streetscape Plan	Final draft streetscape plan
	Community input: letter-box drop, informal feedback period
Stage 5 Final Streetscape Plan	Final streetscape plan

1.2 Context

Location

Cudgewa is a vibrant community with a population of 310, located in the north-east of Towong Shire, 14 km from Corryong. It is approximately 85 kilometres south-east of Albury-Wodonga along the Murray Valley Highway and 410 km from Melbourne.

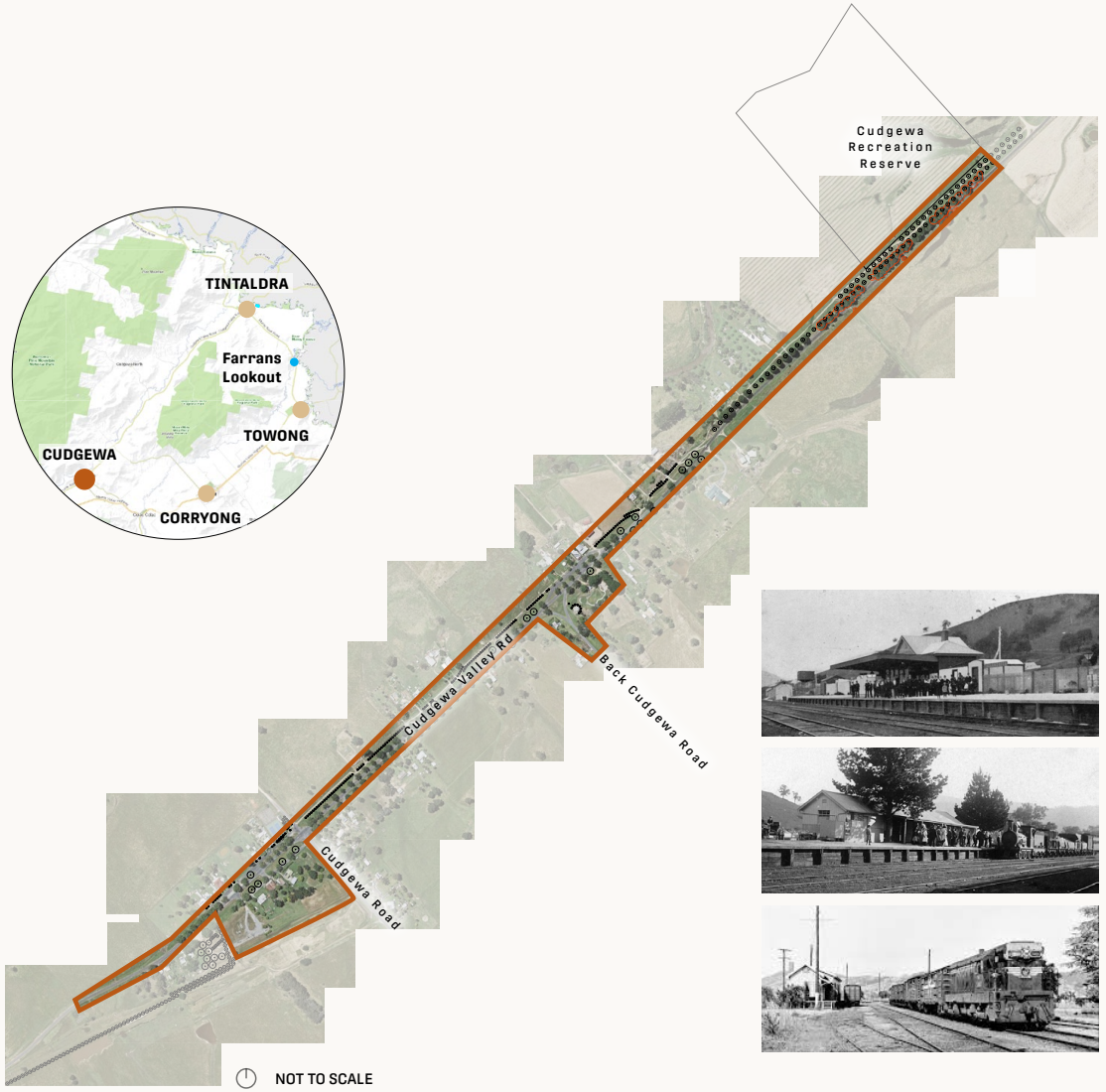
Study area

The study area extends along Main Street (Cudgewa Valley Road) from the old Railway Precinct to Cudgewa Recreation Reserve. It also includes the road reserves, parks, and public building settings within this area.

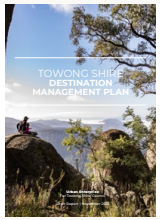
The project is also concerned with the macro landscape scale and how Cudgewa connects with other towns and landscape features.

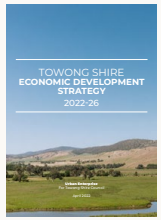
History

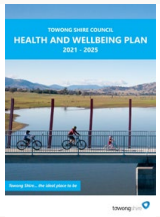
Farmers took up land in the area in 1866 and the Cudgewa Creek Public School was opened in 1877. It was the last railway station on the branch line from the main North-East line, connecting Cudgewa to Wodonga. Political competition with rival town Corryong ultimately saw Cudgewa attain the railway line in an era when this new form of transport was the key ingredient to prosperity. The railway station was completed and officially opened in May 1921 and closed in 1981. In 1919 the first section of the line was used to carry materials for the construction of the Lake Hume weir. Cudgewa was also the railhead for materials bound for the Snowy Mountains Scheme during its construction, which extended the life of the railways. Ultimately the line was closed and lay dormant for decades before slowly becoming a new tourism asset in the form of a rail trail.

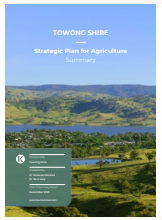


1.3 Policy and strategy









Council plans and strategies

A desktop review of the various strategies, plans and policies identified the following relevant to this project:

Draft Recreation Strategy for Towong Shire 20222-2033

The Strategy identified that to improve opportunities for walking and cycling in Towong Shire, there needs to be a network of cycling and walking trails / paths that are:

- Well designed and safe (even surfaces, wide enough pathways, well lit, clear lines of site, separation from vehicles, well maintained).
- Connected to key locations people want to visit.
- Well signed.

The Strategy also identified:

- Higher levels of participation in equine activities and subsequent equine infrastructure in Towong Shire compared with many other Shires, e.g. Tintaldra and Corryong Recreation Reserves.
- Gaps in the trail network and opportunities to better connect towns with one another (e.g. Bethanga and Bellbridge; and Corryong and Towong).
- Poor way-finding signage to many of the recreation reserves in the Shire.
- Lack of infrastructure that could help to further activate sites, e.g. paths, seats, shade, picnic tables, water bubblers and play equipment.

Towong Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

The Plan identifies a number of actions to a safe and healthy community:

- Review and deliver the strategic parks and playgrounds upgrade program.
- Complete streetscape upgrade in Cudgewa.
- Map and publish walking and cycling trails that connect townships, link destinations and create circular routes.

Towong Shire Destination Management Plan

The Plan identifies a number of tourism themes for Towong Shire, namely:

- Theme 1 accommodation: Cudgewa valley for wellness retreat.
- Theme 3 nature and water: Multi-day canoe trail from Towong to Bellbridge.
- Theme 4 ride: High country rail trail improvement and extension: Shelley to Corryong.
- Theme 6: branding marketing and awareness - Shire-wide: Build on the brand framework project currently being delivered by Tourism North East to deliver a consistent branding approach aligned to market understanding of the Shire.

The Plan also recommends that a signage strategy to be developed focusing on a cohesive brand approach, clear connection to place, improved hierarchy of signage, and removal of outdated and obsolete signage.

Towong Shire Settlement Strategy - 2010

The Strategy recommends that all residential development is retained within the existing extent of the town with the retention of existing Low Density Residential Zone in its current form.

Towong Shire Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026

This Strategy identifies a number of themes for economic development, notably economy growth through visitation.

The Strategy also talks about improving livability outcomes for residents as an economic development objective.

Other strategies

A desktop review of the following strategies, plans and policies were also reviewed.

- The Council Plan
- UM2030 Plan
- Municipal recovery plan
- Community emergency management plans
- Tree management plan
- Town entry signage plan (in development) and Standard signage strategy
- Strategic Plan for Agriculture

1.4 Strengths, issues and opportunities - photo study

The following photo study demonstrates site assessment and analysis of Cudgewa and its context.

Strengths

A rich military history: the Avenue of Honour and memorials

Community driven town improvements: the new tennis courts, public toilets, community hall and playground have been developed in the past three years.

Town identity: Hotel Cudgewa is an iconic landmark in the town.

Town identity and stories: The Avenue of Honour is a defining element of the streetscape.

Issues and opportunities

Signage and branding is out of date and confusing. Refresh to align with other Towong Shire and Upper Murray towns.

The existing walking trail lacks shade. Plant small trees which are suitable under overhead power-lines.

Parking is undefined in front of the hall and playground. Upgrade parking area.

The old railway precinct is under-utilised public land with little physically remaining from its history. Activate the space as a trail head through the extension of the HCRT.

1.5 Existing plans and projects

Cudgewa was significantly impacted by the Black Summer Bushfires in 2019/20 which included the loss of houses and buildings on Cudgewa Valley Road, and the loss of their playground. Through the Bushfire Recovery process, the community have come together to form the Cudgewa Community Recovery Committee and produced a Community Recovery Plan with several key priorities.

Other projects such as the High Country Rail Trail Art Mural project are also captured.

1 **High Country Rail Trail - Art Mural Project**
Currently in the design stage, this project will be constructed in the future.

2 **High Country Rail Trail - Cudgewa to Corryong**
Currently in the design stage, this project will be constructed in the future.

3 **Upgrade to Cudgewa Tennis Courts and public toilets - Cudgewa Community Recovery project**
Recently completed, this project includes new surfacing of the tennis courts and replacement of the toilet block adjacent.

4 **Upgrade to Cudgewa playground - Cudgewa Community Recovery project**
Currently in construction, this project includes upgraded tank and pump track. The new play equipment, bike track and furniture have been completed. Provide mural to water tank.

5 **Avenue of Honour - Cudgewa Community Recovery project**
Reflecting Town Planning Application for staged Removal of Vegetation in Heritage Overlay Main Street (Cudgewa Valley Rd) Cudgewa December 2022.

6 **Walking track upgrade - Cudgewa Community Recovery project**
Recently completed re-surfacing of the existing track and future relocation to support replacement tree planting.

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2.0 Preliminary ideas

2.1 Preliminary ideas for streetscape opportunities

Preliminary ideas for streetscape opportunities plans were developed as part of the first stage of this project. High level plans were developed which identified ongoing projects and previously identified opportunities as well as future opportunities, and were based on the following four principles/themes.

NOT TO SCALE

Green infrastructure

Implement a street tree strategy, which acknowledges history, community aspirations and also provide succession planting appropriate for a changing climate.

Future opportunities identified:

- Small shade trees along walking track under overhead power lines.
- Signature entry trees to improve the sense of arrival to town.
- Feature trees along both sides of HCRT.

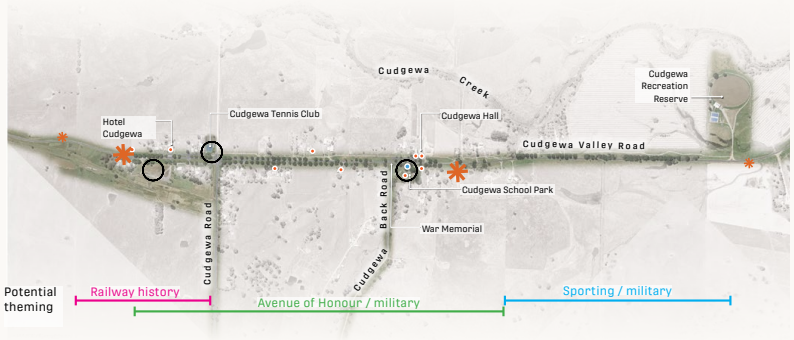
NOT TO SCALE

Circulation and amenity

Prioritise the pedestrian by improving tracks, and paths as well as providing seating, shade and lighting.

Future opportunities identified:

- Potential access to Cudgewa Creek.
- Two potential alignments for the HCRT to connect to Corryong.
- Realign and upgrade (potentially seal) walking track, for improved access and safety.
- Improve drainage lines and pedestrian crossings.
- Resting spots.
- Improve access for pedestrians and cyclists between townships.



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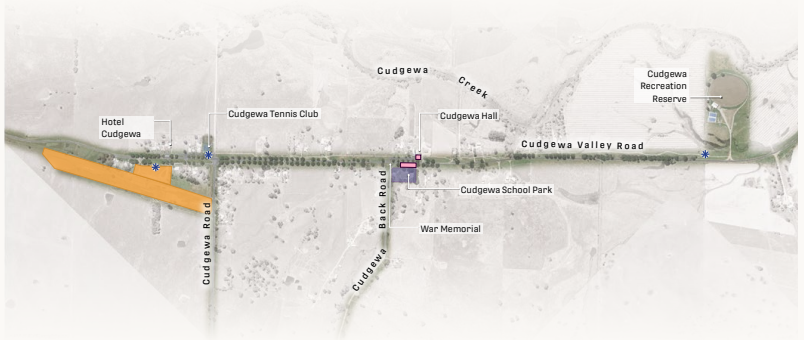

NOT TO SCALE

Story-telling and way-finding

Strengthen identity and legibility by introducing entry features, directional and interpretive signage, as well as a cohesive suite of street furniture.

Future opportunities identified:

- Reinforce the sense of arrival by providing new entry elements.
- Introduce markers for historic sites within the township. e.g. small plaque on buildings / sites.
- Introduce interpretive and way-finding signage with a consistent branding / theme.

Key destinations

Activate public spaces for community use and gathering.

Future opportunities identified:

- Cudgewa Station precinct - develop a historical station precinct as part of the High Country Rail Trail development and Art Mural project. Formalise designated parking area.
- Cudgewa School Park precinct - implement remaining proposals from Cudgewa School Park Master Plan. Formalise designated parking area. Provide mural art on CFA water tank.
- Improve access to toilet and presentation of surrounds.
- Provide interpretive signage, seat and shelter at the Cudgewa Station precinct, School Park precinct and adjacent to the Recreation Reserve entry.

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3.0 Engagement findings

3.1 Round 1: Preliminary Ideas for Streetscape Opportunities

Yonder met with a group of four interested community members on the 11th January 2023 (including members from the Community Recovery Committee) for an informal discussion. This discussion informed the Preliminary Ideas for Streetscape Opportunities plans.

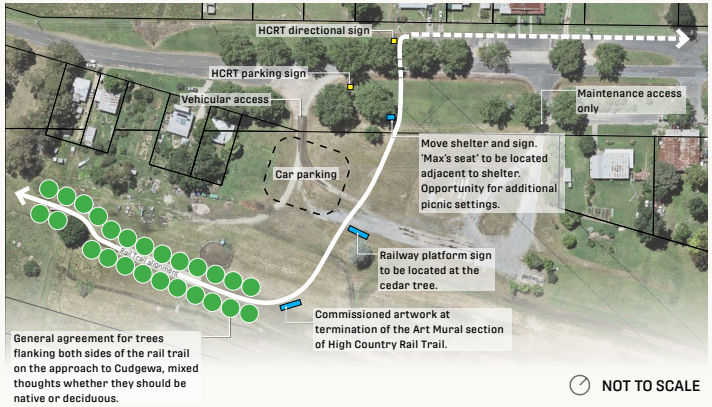
The following ideas were discussed:

Summary of community feedback

Circulation and amenity	– Supportive of upgrade of walking track including re-alignment between the pub and the Recreation Reserve with seating, lighting and shade. – Agreed that there is a need to control and improve drainage. – Mixed thoughts of development of HCRT alignment options. – Access to creek should be from Recreation Reserve only.
Story-telling and way-finding	– Signage upgrade required.
Key destinations	– Mixed thoughts about development of rail land. – Create improved parking in front of town hall and playground. – Complete the un-realised elements of the playground master plan. – Should be for residents, not just visitors.

Yonder attended the Art Mural Rail Trail committee meeting on 20th February 2023. With the Preliminary Ideas for Streetscape Opportunities plans in hand, we discussed integration of the HCRT Art Mural project with the streetscape design for Cudgewa.

Summary of feedback



3.2 Round 2: Draft Streetscape Plan

A community session was held on th April 2023 at 4pm at the Cudgewa Hotel. Two residents attended the session, and one written submission was received. Hard copies of the Draft Streetscape Plan were left at Cudgewa Hotel and with those who attended the session. Appreciation is extended to all community members for their feedback.

The feedback has informed the Final Draft Streetscape Plan.

Summary of feedback

	Issue/opportunity	Draft Streetscape Plan response
Street trees	– Concern that the planting of small street trees along the walking track will impede views, create additional maintenance and increase bushfire risk.	– Small street trees have been noted as: 'possible future small tree beneath overhead power-lines (dependent on bushfire risk assessment and community support)'. To liaise with individual property owners regarding additional tree planting near their properties.
	– Request that the existing planting in front of 82 Main Street be retained.	– Included.
	– Concern that there are too many deciduous trees proposed for the old railway precinct, which will create increased ongoing maintenance.	– Fewer deciduous trees are proposed. The trees flanking the rail trail have been changed from Maples to a fire retardant native species, such as Kurrajongs or similar.
Circulation	– Re-alignment of the walking track between the Old Cudgewa Road and Cudgewa Road is not necessary, given it has recently been upgraded.	– Alignment noted as possible future.
	– Consider upgrade of road drainage, with new kerbs and gutters across the town.	– Noted; will require a broader review of street drainage in the town.
Story-telling and way-finding	– Town entry feature at the approach to Cudgewa Road was suggested.	– Included.
	– The town entry feature on the eastern approach from Tintaldra be moved.	– Included.
Key destinations	– To protect the safety and security of residents, ensure any seating, signage and shelters are not located in front of residences.	– Included.
	– Create formal parking in the median in front of town hall and playground, including with kerbs and gutters.	– Included.

Streetscape Plan - Cudgewa 15
4.0 The Streetscape Plan
yonder.

4.1 Design objectives

The Streetscape Plan builds on recent improvements in the town and will help to further define and retain the community's identity and economic vitality through a vibrant, safe and attractive public realm.

Six design objectives have been formulated which underpins the Streetscape Plan. The principles are based on the outcomes of the site assessment, data review and community feedback from the initial 'Preliminary Ideas' stage.

One of Cudgewa's historic buildings.

The Avenue of Honour is an integral part of the streetscape character.

The existing walking track lacks shade and has areas of poor drainage.

The style of recent street furniture improvements to be continued.

The old railway precinct has a rich history, though little physically remains.

Poor drainage has impacted accessibility.

Objective 1: **Reinforce sense of place**

Celebrate Cudgewa's unique military, sporting and railway heritage, forgotten historic buildings, and community spirit. Create an iconic town gateway at each end of the Avenue of Honour.

Strengthen the town's identity and legibility through way-finding and interpretive signage. Rationalise the signage styles and review locations of existing interpretive signage panels.

Objective 2: **Green the streets**

Soften, cool and green the streets with street tree planting to create a more attractive and comfortable environment, providing shade, biodiversity and ameliorating heat island effect.

Implement an ongoing street tree planting program in the town, which provide succession planting appropriate for a changing climate.

Build on recent planting of Maples on Cudgewa Valley Road and continue this treatment to the Recreation Reserve. Provide a second row of trees to shade the re-aligned walking track where appropriate.

Objective 3: **Prioritise the pedestrian**

Create a safe and comfortable environment for the pedestrian. Rationalise and define car parking areas and provide designated locations for pedestrian to cross roads. Improve tracks and footpaths, as well as drainage.

Objective 4: **Unified design**

Implement a consistent treatment of paving, furniture and signage to improve the appearance and visually unify the town.

Upgrade existing and install new street furniture, and provide clear way-finding signage. Draw on Council's existing suite of street furniture as appropriate.

Use signage to navigate people to the old school site, playground, recreation reserve, public toilets, the pub and HCRT. Provide a stand for bicycle users at the old railway precinct.

Objective 5: **Activate public spaces**

Investigate opportunities for new or improved public spaces for community use and gathering.

Provide parking and resting opportunities as well as way-finding and interpretive signage at the Old Railway precinct to complement proposed works as part of the HCRT project. Improve access from tennis courts to the new public toilets. Improve access and parking at the Community Hall and playground to complement the recent improvement works for both facilities. Improve access and pedestrian experience along the walking track.

Objective 6: **Access for all**

Encourage and facilitate an equitable and accessible environment which responds to the needs of the different user groups. Incorporate all abilities parking and access for all measures.

4.2 Streetscape overview plan

Plan 1: Old Railway precinct to Cudgewa Road

Plan 2: Cudgewa Road to Back Cudgewa Road

Plan 3: Old school precinct

Plan 4: Old school precinct to Carkeek Lane east

Plan 5: Carkeek Lane east to Cudgewa Recreation Reserve

Legend

- Rail trail tree - Kurrajong (e.g. *Brachychiton populneus*)
- Street tree - Elm (e.g. *Ulmus parvifolia*)
- Street tree - Maple (*Acer freemanii* 'Jeffersred')
- Street tree - Oak (e.g. *Quercus rubra*)
- Possible future small tree beneath overhead power-lines (dependent on bushfire risk assessment and community support) (e.g. *Lagerstroemia indica*)
- Deciduous open space tree
- Avenue of Honour sign

NOT TO SCALE

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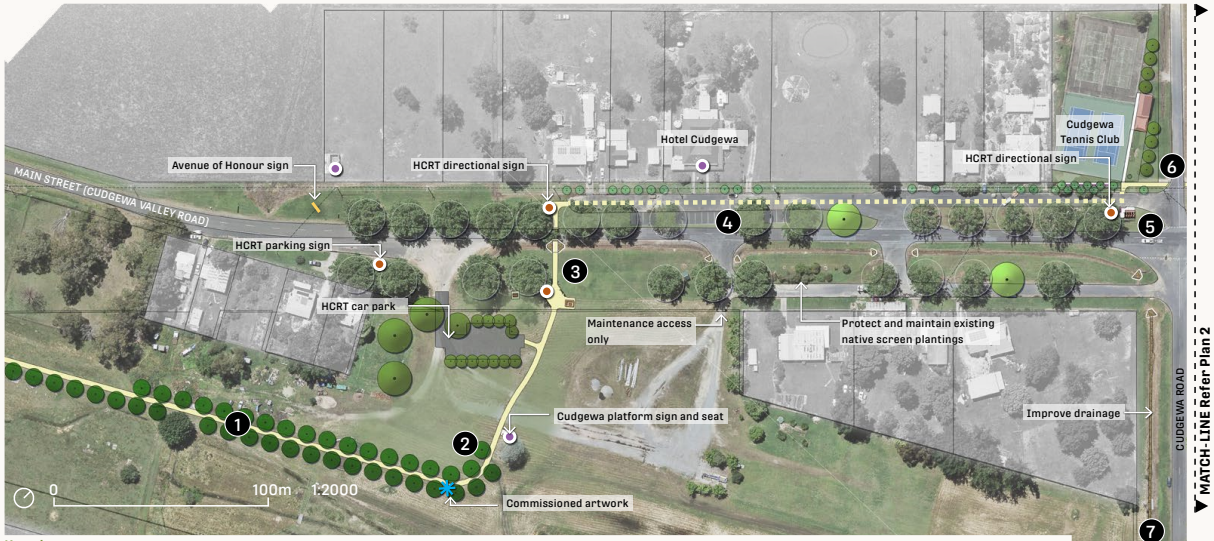
4.3 Plan 1: Old Railway precinct to Cudgewa Road



Key plan

LEGEND

Street trees and landscape

- Existing tree retained
- Rail Trail tree - fire retardant native species
- Street tree - Elm (subject to site conditions)
- Possible future small tree beneath overhead power-lines (dependent on bushfire risk assessment and community support)
- Deciduous open space tree
- Grass

Access and movement

- High Country Rail Trail
- High Country Rail Trail (on road)
- Footpath / walking track
- Pedestrian bridge
- Seat
- Rock beaching at culverts

Identity and way-finding

- Avenue of Honour sign
- Artwork
- Historic marker
- Interpretive/way-finding signage

Design objective

Highlight the old railway precinct as a key destination in town for residents, High Country Rail trail users and visitors, provide pedestrian connections, outdoor seating opportunities and designated parking.

Recommendations

Old Railway Precinct

1. The HCRT follows the alignment of the original rail-line and is flanked by fire retardant natives trees (such as Kurrajongs) signifying the approach to Cudgewa.
2. The HCRT turns toward the town, passing a new commissioned artwork telling stories of the railway station, and the old cedar tree with its 'Cudgewa' platform sign and seat.
3. A new car park provides parking for users of the HCRT as well as visitors to the town and the Cudgewa Hotel. The existing sign and shelter is proposed to be re-located in new location or replaced. Picnic tables, a bespoke seat (Max's seat), bike racks and interpretive signage is also proposed.

Hotel Cudgewa frontage

4. Designated nose -in parking is proposed in the median, and parallel parking in front of the Hotel. The HCRT is on road with signage to indicate this. Possible small trees on the verge provide shade for HCRT users.

Public toilet and surrounds

5. A widened concrete pavement surrounding the toilet block provides easier access for all into the building. A bike rack and seat cater for HCRT users.

Cudgewa Tennis Club and public toilet

6. Existing tiered seating to be refurbished as required. The area south of the club rooms is proposed to be improved with new deck and shade sails.

Drainage improvements

7. Improve drainage along Main Street and Cudgewa Road by means of cleaning and rock beaching to drainage lines.

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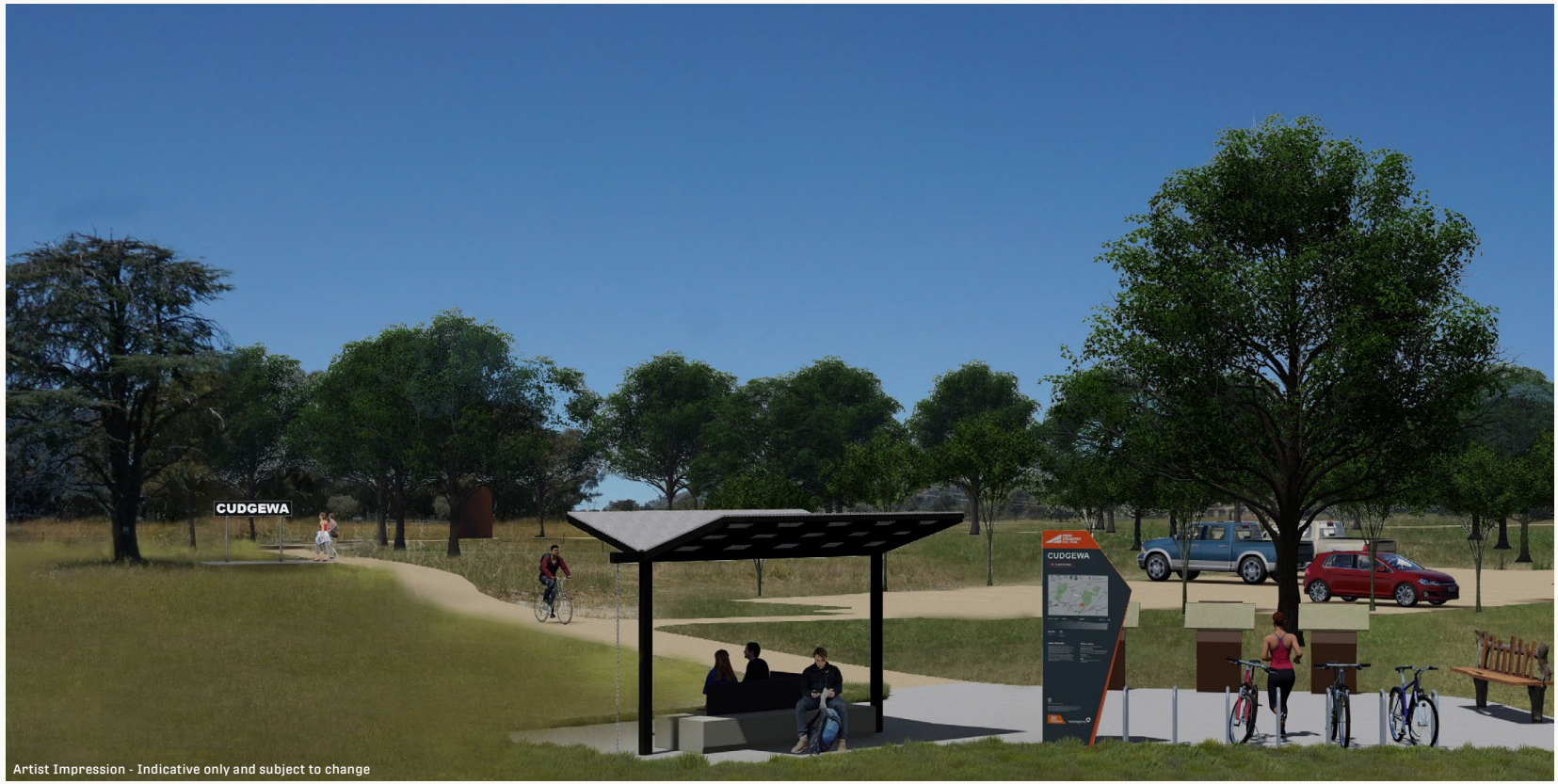
Old Railway precinct: artist impression



4.4 Plan 2: Cudgewa Road to Back Cudgewa Road

Key plan

Design objective

Activate the streetscape experience between the Cudgewa Hotel and Community Hall / playground by improving the existing path, and providing interpretive signage and seating.

LEGEND

Street trees and landscape

- Existing tree retained
- Street tree - Elm (subject to site conditions)
- Possible future small tree beneath overhead power-lines (dependent on bushfire risk assessment and community support)

Access and movement

- High Country Rail Trail
- Pedestrian bridge
- Seat
- Rock beaching at culverts

Identity and way-finding

- Historic marker
- Interpretive/way-finding signage

Recommendations

HCRT and walking track

1. The alignment of the HCRT follows the existing walking track. There is a long term opportunity to relocate the HCRT/walking track closer to the Avenue of Honour providing better shade and amenity. On the other side of the path, small trees could be planted to provide shade in the afternoon (subject to bushfire risk assessment and community support). Two seats are proposed along the Avenue of Honour, with a third seat proposed as part of the future possible long term path re-alignment concept.

Drainage improvements

2. Re-shaping and placement of rock beaching to drainage lines is proposed to address drainage.

0 250m

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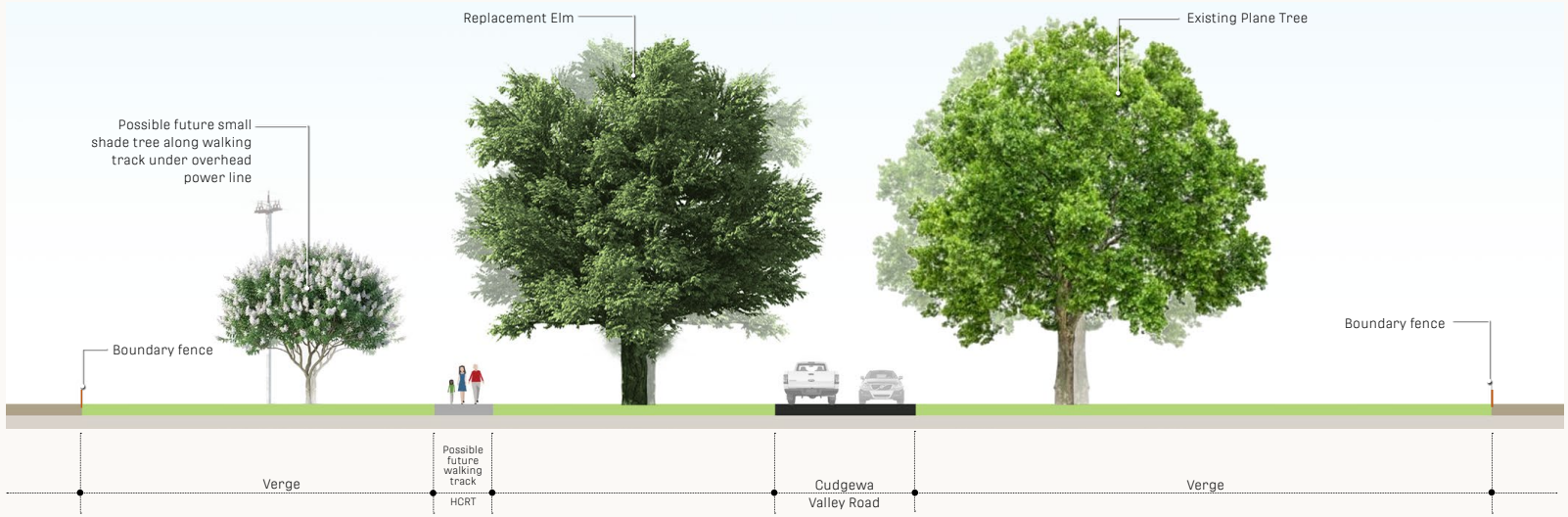
Typical section: Cudgewa Road to Back Cudgewa Road



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4.5 Plan 3: Community Hall and old school site precinct

Key plan

Design objective

Activate Cudgewa Hall and the Old school site playground as a cohesive precinct with designated parking, clear pedestrian and shared paths, as well as interpretive and way-finding signage.

LEGEND

Street trees and landscape

- Existing tree retained
- Street tree - Elm (subject to site conditions)
- Possible future small tree beneath overhead power-lines (dependent on bushfire risk assessment and community support)
- Deciduous open space tree
- Grass

Access and movement

- High Country Rail Trail
- High Country Rail Trail (on road)
- Footpath / walking track
- Pedestrian bridge
- Seat
- Rock beaching at culverts

Identity and way-finding

- Historic marker
- Interpretive/way-finding signage
- CFA water tank mural
- Avenue of Honour sign

Recommendations

Community Hall and old school site playground

1. Designated parallel parking, widened pavement and seat is proposed in front of the Community Hall. 90 degree angle parking with new kerbs and gutters is proposed in the median. The HCRT is on road at this location, while a new footpath provides a pedestrian connection to the existing walking track.
2. Improve parking at the playground. The Avenue of Honour historic sign could be relocated to a more visible location.
3. Unrealised elements of the playground master plan to be delivered. The HCRT connection to Corryong is proposed to be located outside the playground fence.

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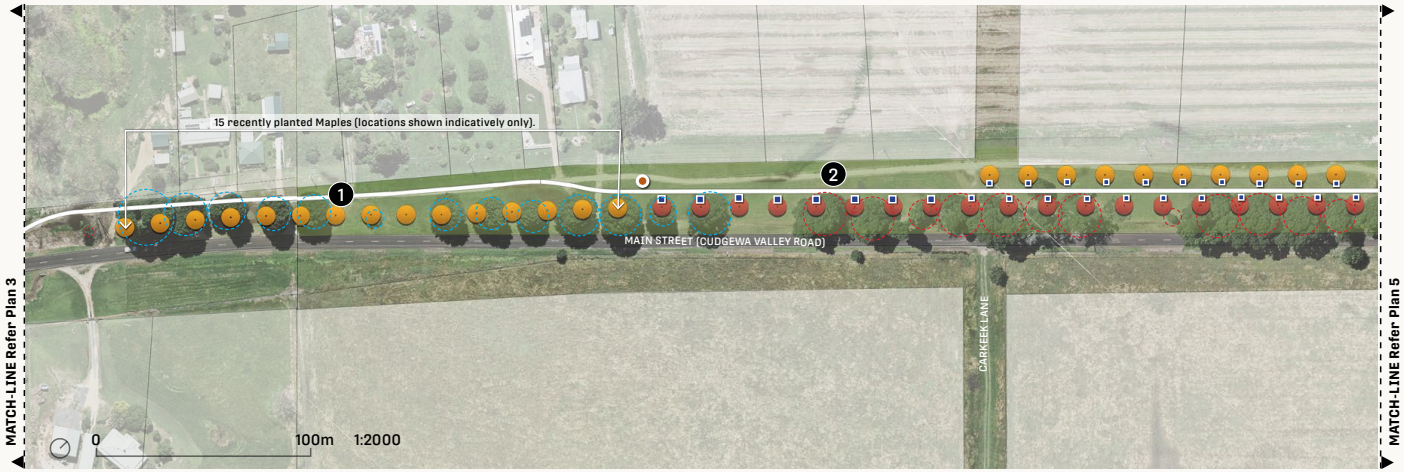
4.6 Plan 4: Old school site precinct to east of Carkeek Lane



Key plan

Design objective

Improve the connection between the Community Hall precinct and the Cudgewa Recreation Reserve with new tree planting, shelter, seating, commemorative plaques and interpretive signage. Interpretive signage could be themed around military and sporting history, as well as the impact of the Black Summer fires on the town.

LEGEND

Street trees and landscape

- Existing tree recently removed
- Existing tree removed - Stage 2
- Existing tree retained - future Stage 3 removal
- Existing tree retained
- Street tree - Oak
- Street tree - Maple
- Grass

Access and movement

- Footpath / walking track
- Seat
- Rock beaching at culverts

Identity and way-finding

- Interpretive/way-finding signage
- Commemorative plaque (optional)

Recommendations

1. Fifteen Maples have been recently planted following the removal of the existing Elms.
2. Oaks are proposed following the second stage removal of the existing Elms. The walking track will be re-aligned closer to the proposed Oaks for improved shade. The Oaks also mark the start of the Commemorative Walk; a series of commemorative plaques could be installed at each tree. Interpretive signage is proposed to announce and provide information about the Commemorative Walk.

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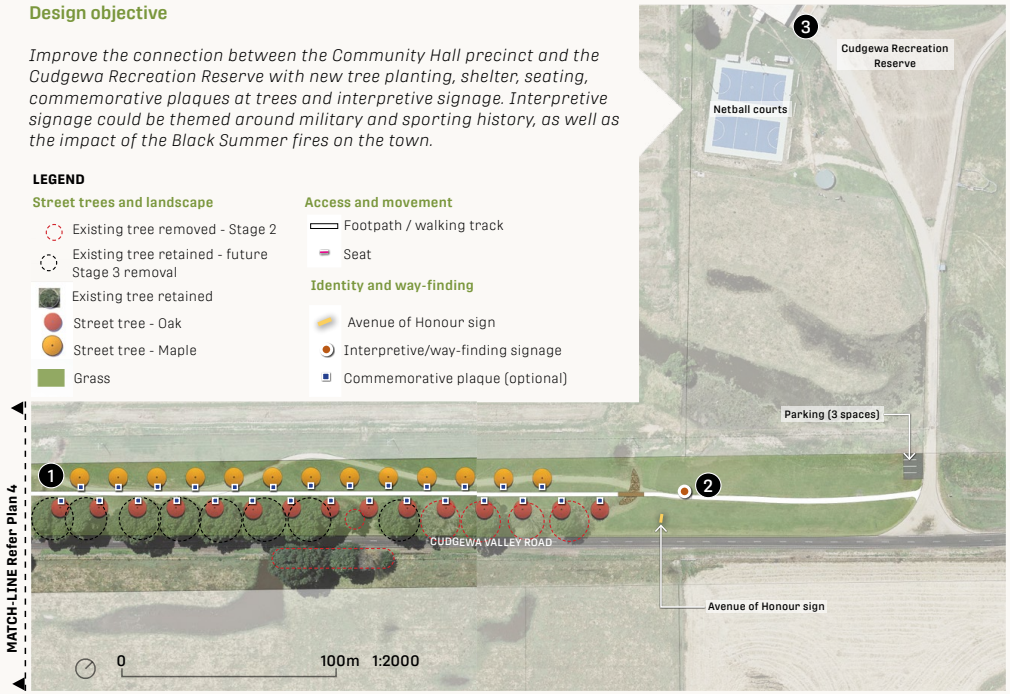
4.7 Plan 5: Carkeek Lane east to Cudgewa Recreation Reserve

Key plan

Design objective

Improve the connection between the Community Hall precinct and the Cudgewa Recreation Reserve with new tree planting, shelter, seating, commemorative plaques at trees and interpretive signage. Interpretive signage could be themed around military and sporting history, as well as the impact of the Black Summer fires on the town.



Artist impression

Recommendations

1. The existing Elms will be replaced with two rows of trees; Oaks closer to the road and Maples between the walking track and property boundary. The walking track will be re-aligned closer to the proposed trees for improved shade. The Commemorative Walk continues west of the proposed pedestrian bridge with an option for commemorative plaques to be installed at each tree.
2. A shelter with seating is proposed. Interpretive signage is also proposed to announce and provide information about the Commemorative Walk. Location subject to feasibility of car parking construction.
3. Future public access to the Cudgewa Creek is proposed from the Recreation Reserve.

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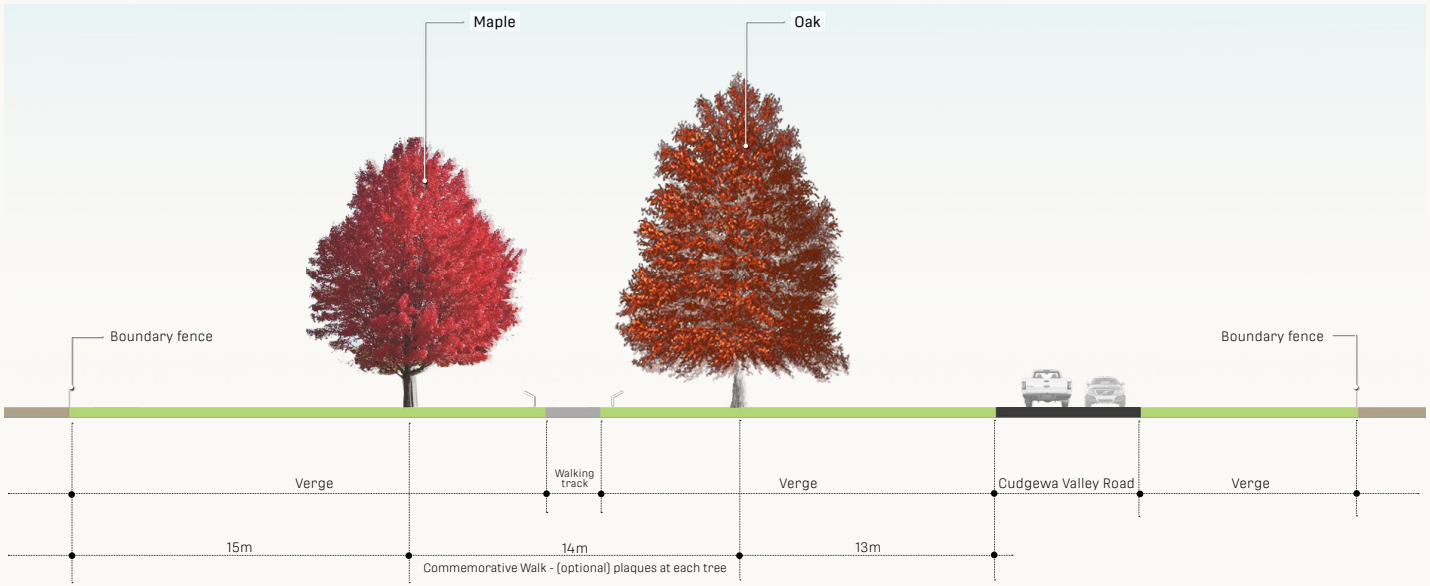
Typical section: Carkeek Lane east to the Cudgewa Recreation Reserve



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TOWONG TURF CLUB
RACING SINCE 1871
Next race meeting:
11 March 2023
READ OUR HISTORY UNDER THE GRANDSTAND
Towong Racecourse
Public Entrance & Carpark
Jockeys & Floats 1km on right
Streetscape Plan
Towong
May 2024 | Revision F
Prepared for
towongshire

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We acknowledge and respect Traditional Owners as the traditional custodians of our shared lands, waters and seas. We recognise their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection with Country. We honour Elders past, present and emerging, whose knowledge and wisdom will ensure the continuation of culture, and the values which uphold them.

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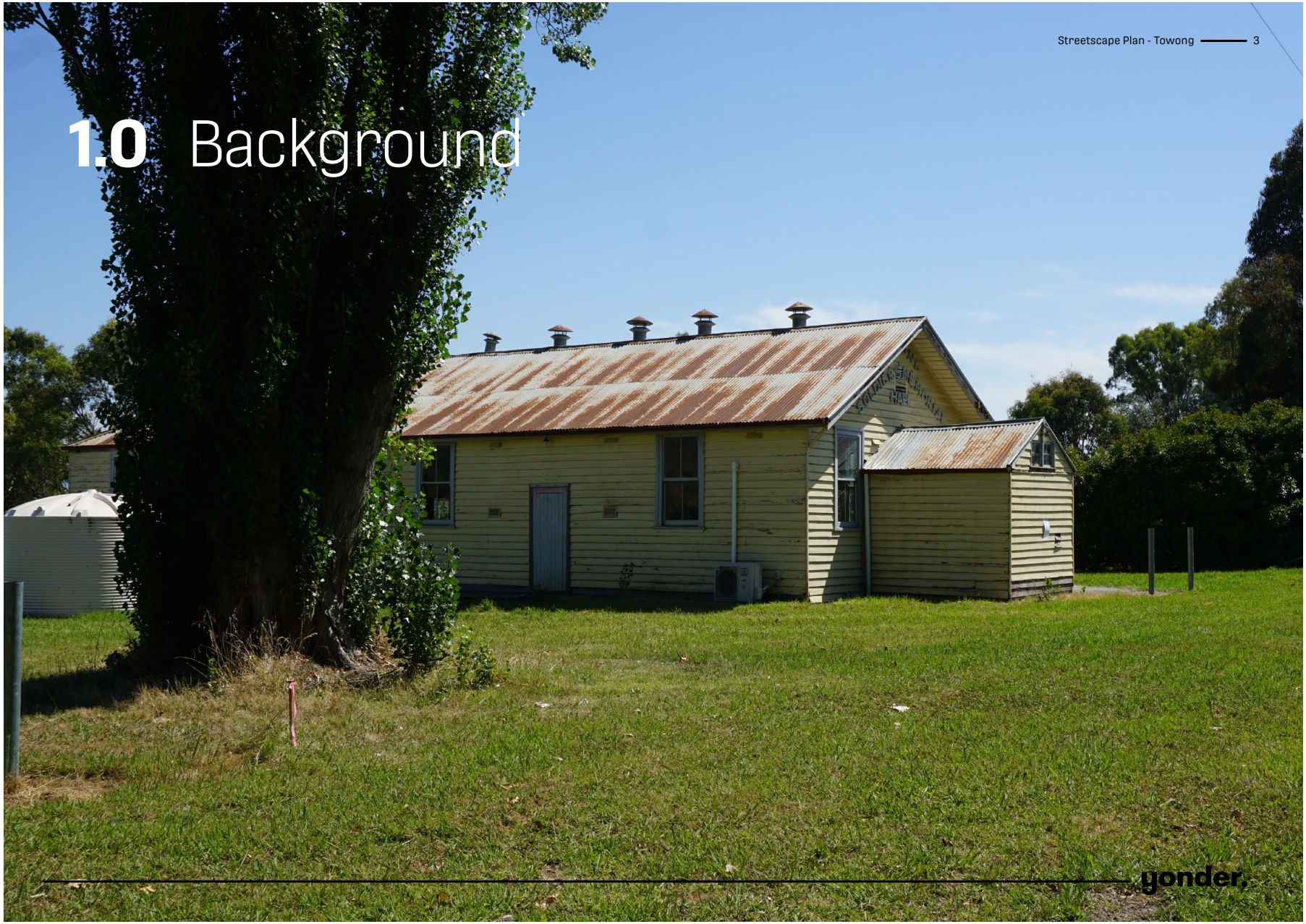
Streetscape Plan - Towong 3
1.0 Background
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1.1 Introduction

Project summary

Yonder were engaged by Towong Shire Council (TSC) to work with the community to prepare a Streetscape Plan for the town of Towong which captures the community's aspirations for their town, as well as other existing projects into a consolidated, graphic and easily understood document or 'road-map'. The Streetscape Plan is a high level strategic document to guide future funding applications and on-ground works.

The Streetscape Plan seeks to achieve a design solution which improves safety, functionality, aesthetics, connectivity, pedestrian amenity and traffic movement within the town of Towong.

Key to this was thorough background research coupled with site analysis and the uniquely targeted engagement process, which ensured the outcomes of the Streetscape Plan reflect community aspirations, wants and needs and help create a livable, vibrant environment for town's future.

Objectives

The following objectives also formed part of the Brief:

- incorporate key priorities of the Towong Community Recovery Plan including activation of open spaces and improved walking tracks;
- consider a unified streetscape treatment to better connect key destinations and improve access within the town;
- celebrate the town as a gateway to the Great River Road touring route, as well as natural and cultural heritage; and
- identify a signage strategy for way-finding and interpretation around the town.

Process

Stage 1 Inception	Background review
	Site visit
Stage 2 Preliminary ideas for streetscape opportunities	Preliminary Ideas of Streetscape Opportunities
	Community input at 'walk and talk' session with interested community members
Stage 3 Draft Streetscape Plan	Draft Streetscape Plan
	Community input: key stakeholders and community groups
Stage 4 Final Draft Streetscape Plan	Final Draft Streetscape Plan
	Community input: on-line feedback
Stage 5 Final Streetscape Plan	Final Streetscape Plan

1.2 Context

Location

Towong is a small town overlooking the Murray River approximately 11km from Corryong. It is home to the historic Towong Turf Club with other town assets including a hall and a walking track from the Turf Club to the Murray River. It is also a key stopping point for tourists enjoying the Great River Road touring route with a river crossing into NSW. The town has a population of 132 and a median age of 58.

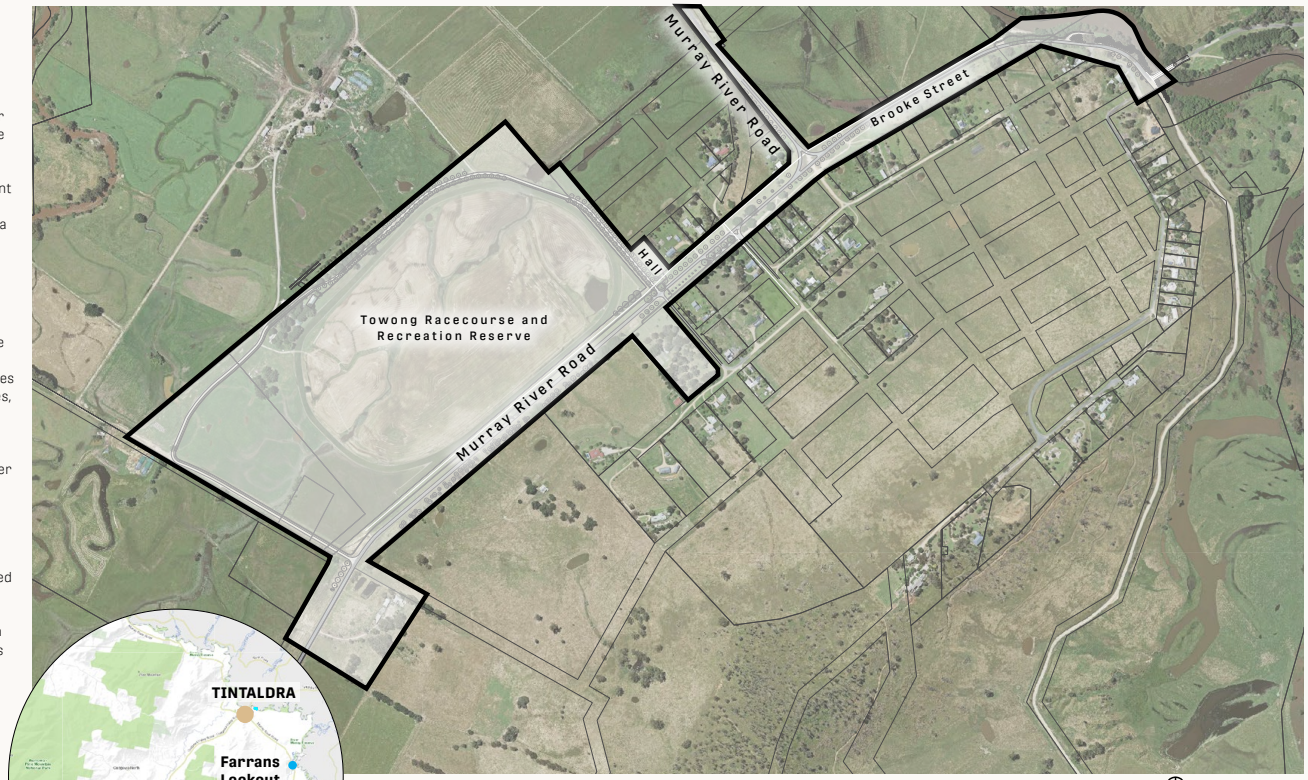
Study area

The study area extends from the Towong Racecourse and Recreation Reserve on Murray River Road including the approach from Tintaldra. It also includes Brooke Street, the new Towong Bridge, road reserves, parks, and public buildings within this area.

The project is also concerned with the macro landscape scale and how Towong connects with other towns and landscape features.

History

The Towong Turf Club has been hosting thoroughbred horse racing since 1871. The racecourse features a gracious historic grandstand which dominates the course and is the oldest free-standing grandstand in Victoria. The town has a number of historic buildings including the Soldiers Memorial Hall.



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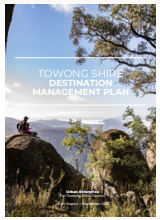
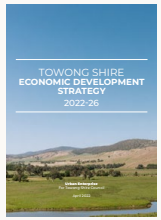
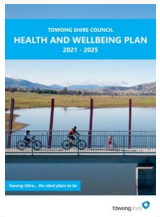
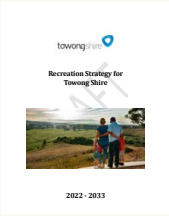
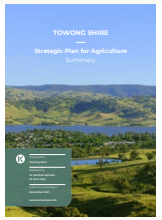
1.3 Policy and strategy











Council plans and strategies

A desktop review of the various strategies, plans and policies identified the following relevant to this project:

Draft Recreation Strategy for Towong Shire 2022-2033

The Strategy identified that to improve opportunities for walking and cycling in Towong Shire, there needs to be a network of cycling and walking trails / paths that are:

- Well designed and safe (even surfaces, wide enough pathways, well lit, clear lines of site, separation from vehicles, well maintained).
- Connected to key locations people want to visit.
- Well signed.

The Strategy also identified:

- Higher levels of participation in equine activities and subsequent equine infrastructure in Towong Shire compared with many other Shires, e.g. Tintaldra and Corryong Recreation Reserves.
- Gaps in the trail network and opportunities to better connect towns with one another (e.g. Corryong and Tintaldra).
- Poor way-finding signage to many of the recreation reserves in the Shire.
- Lack of infrastructure that could help to further activate sites, e.g. paths, seats, shade, picnic tables, water bubblers and play equipment.

Towong Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

The Plan identifies a number of actions to a safe and healthy community:

- Review and deliver the strategic parks and playgrounds upgrade program.
- Complete streetscape upgrade in Towong.
- Map and publish walking and cycling trails that connect townships, link destinations and create circular routes.

Towong Shire Destination Management Plan

The Plan identifies a number of tourism themes for Towong Shire, namely:

- Theme 1 accommodation: Cudgewa valley for wellness retreat.
- Theme 3 nature and water: Multi-day canoe trail from Towong to Bellbridge.
- Theme 4 ride: High country rail trail improvement and extension: Shelley to Corryong.
- Theme 6: branding marketing and awareness - Shire-wide: Build on the brand framework project currently being delivered by Tourism North East to deliver a consistent branding approach aligned to market understanding of the Shire.

The Plan also recommends that a signage strategy to be developed focusing on a cohesive brand approach, clear connection to place, improved hierarchy of signage, and removal of outdated and obsolete signage.

Towong Shire Settlement Strategy - 2010

The Strategy recommends that all residential development is retained within the existing extent of the town with the retention of existing Low Density Residential Zone in its current form.

Towong Shire Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026

This Strategy identifies a number of themes for economic development, notably economic growth through visitation.

The Strategy also talks about improving livability outcomes for residents as an economic development objective.

Other strategies

A desktop review of the following strategies, plans and policies were also reviewed.

- The Council Plan
- UM2030 Plan
- Municipal recovery plan
- Community emergency management plans
- Tree management plan
- Town entry signage plan (in development) and Standard signage strategy
- Strategic Plan for Agriculture

1.4 Strengths, issues and opportunities - photo study

The following photo study demonstrates site assessment and analysis of Towong and its context.

Strengths

Community led improvements: The Towong Walking Track provides pedestrian access to the river.

A community space: the Towong Racecourse and Recreation Reserve is a key community gathering space.

A rich history: The grandstand is an iconic landmark identifying the town.

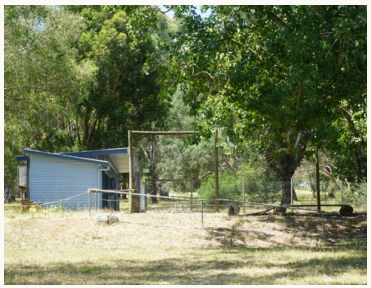
Proximity and access to the Murray River: the new Towong Bridge provides improved vehicular and pedestrian access.

Issues and opportunities

Staged removal of woody weeds and restricted vehicle access would improve the river environment.

Amenities building are proposed as part of the Towong Racecourse improvements; better way-finding and access is required from the road.

Proposed landscape improvements to the Soldiers Memorial Hall could extend into the road reserve and recreation reserve entry.

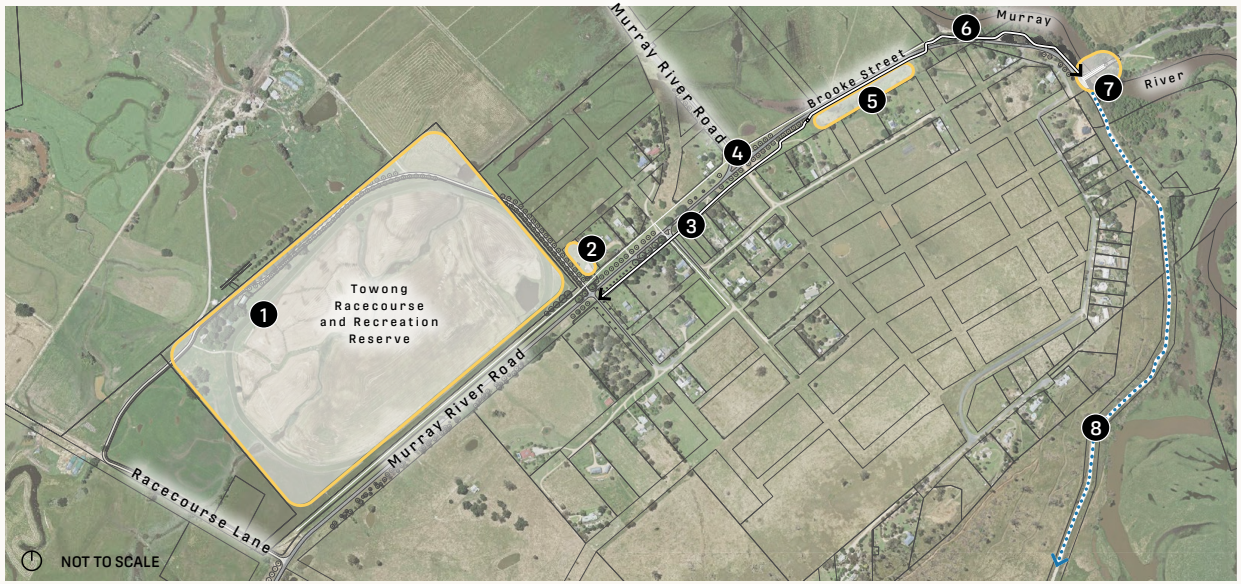


The old school site and tennis courts provides an opportunity for a future community space.

1.5 Existing plans and projects

Towong was devastated by the Black Summer Bushfires in 2019/20 with 4 primary residences destroyed, another 4 damaged, 68 properties impacted and 14 sheds either destroyed or damaged. The iconic Towong Racecourse and Hall were undamaged, however the historic Towong Hill Station homestead was completely destroyed leaving an ongoing sense of grief and loss for the community. Through the Bushfire Recovery process, the community have come together to form the Towong Community Recovery Committee and produced a Community Recovery Plan with several key priorities.

Other projects such as the Great River Road Stage 2 and Towong bridge replacement are also captured.



1 Towong Racecourse and Recreation Reserve improvements project
A new amenities building and septic system is proposed. Not yet constructed. Partnership between Towong Turf Club, Recreation Reserve and Council to explore funding and delivery options.

2 Soldiers Memorial Hall - Towong Community Recovery Project
The renovation of the Hall includes essential works to ensure the sustainability of the building, increase venue hire, reduce maintenance needs and increase accessibility. Also includes a deck and awning to the rear of the Hall and an outdoor community space. Currently under construction.

3 Great River Road Project Stage 2 - Towong Community Recovery project
The Towong Walking Track connects the community from the centre of the township to the river front. Currently under construction.

4 Towong Junction
The Towong Community Recovery Committee have requested that the 90 degree bend at Murray River Road and Brooke Street intersection is re-aligned and the speed limit from Murray Valley Highway to the village is reduced. Initial design has been undertaken by Council. Not yet funded - possible future black spot funding application.

5 Towong Billabong and sculpture
A community-driven project, the sculpture of brolgas is proposed in the billabong adjacent to the Towong Walking Track.

6 River recovery - Towong Community Recovery project
Clearing and rehabilitation of the Towong Wetland Reserve/local swimming beach area. In progress.

7 Towong Bridge replacement
This project has recently been completed.

8 Towong Hill Road walking trail
Including Strzelecki road side monument Not yet funded.

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2.0 Preliminary ideas

2.1 Preliminary ideas for streetscape opportunities

Preliminary ideas for streetscape opportunities plans were developed as part of the second stage of this project. High level plans were developed which identified ongoing projects and previously identified opportunities as well as future opportunities, and were based on the following four principles/themes.

Green infrastructure

Implement a street tree strategy, which acknowledges history, community aspirations and also provide succession planting appropriate for a changing climate.

Future opportunities identified:

- Boulevard street tree planting - Racecourse Lane.
- Street tree planting - Murray River Road.
- Shade trees to Towong Walking Track.
- Replacement of deciduous trees at river front.

Circulation and amenity

Prioritise the pedestrian by improving tracks, paths and providing seating, shade and lighting.

Future opportunities identified:

- Continue expansion of the walking track to the Hall and new bridge.
- Provide resting spots.
- Create a shared path between landscape features and towns.

Story-telling and way-finding

Strengthen identity and legibility by introducing entry features, directional and interpretive signage, as well as a cohesive suite of street furniture.

Future opportunities identified:

- Reinforce the sense of arrival by providing new entry element.
- Promote the 'Racecourse to the Murray Walk' (www.walkingmaps.com.au/walk/5660).
- Introduce a suite of interpretive signage, as well as town map and markers for points of interest within the township.
- Investigate possible statue of racehorse 'Trafalgar'.

Key destinations

Activate public spaces for community use and gathering.

Future opportunities identified:

- Investigate traffic safety issues at Murray River Road intersection. Remove plantings which impede sight lines and beautify the traffic island.
- Improve the river front at Towong River Reserve by separating vehicles and pedestrians (bollards). Provide picnic area, furniture and shade. Install 'no camping' signs.
- Upgrade noticeboard, provide book exchange and seating to AusPost mailbox area.
- Towong Tennis Courts / school site as a potential alternative site for a public toilet. Other ideas include community garden, outdoor exercise equipment, pump track, basketball court and playspace for bigger kids.

3.0 Engagement findings

3.1 Round 1: Preliminary Ideas for Streetscape Opportunities

Yonder met with a group of three interested community members on the 4 May 2023 (including members from the Community Recovery Committee) for an informal discussion and site walk. With the Preliminary Ideas for Streetscape Opportunities plans in hand, we sought to gain feedback about the preliminary ideas, and discuss other on-going projects, issues and opportunities.

The following ideas were discussed:

Summary of community feedback

Green infrastructure	– Small shade trees are not required along Towong Walking Track. – Keep the intersection of Murray River Road and Brooke Street clear of street trees. – Consider selective vegetation removal to expose the original trees on the south side of Murray River Road opposite the recreation reserve. – Reinstate Towong's avenue of honour along Murray River Road and Brooke Street - consult with elders in the town. – The south west corner of the racecourse is poorly drained - street trees should be selected to suit. – Consider avenue tree planting along Racecourse Lane to the entry of the racecourse. – Keep open views to the racecourse on the north side of Murray River Road. – Remove Poplar tree at the Soldiers Memorial Hall.
Circulation and amenity	– Provide a walking track around the Recreation Reserve. – Provide a new path connection from the beach area to Towong Bridge. – Consider a reduction in speed limit to 60km/hr within the town centre. – Liaise with VicRoads to review and rationalise road signage and reduce visual clutter.
Story-telling and way-finding	– Agree with a sculptural landmark entry feature - grandstand as a suggestion. – Provide an additional entry element at the approach from Towong Bridge.
Key destinations	– Capture the proposed changes to Soldiers Memorial Hall surrounds including covered deck, pergola, possible future playground, fencing and parking. Little appetite for a public toilet in the grounds of the Hall. – Capture proposed changes to racecourse including new amenities building and septic system. Improve access and way-finding to racecourse for public use of new amenities buildings. Provide a dump point at the racecourse to service campers. – Little appetite for a boat ramp or fish cleaning facilities. Capture proposed improvements to the riverfront including bollards, picnic tables and revegetation. – New mailboxes are not required, however a book exchange was suggested at this location. – The old school site/tennis courts are DWELP controlled. It was suggested that a community garden and other active uses of the site could be developed in the future.

Community noticeboard requires replacement.

A walking path around the racecourse has been suggested.

Vehicle access at the riverfront needs to be controlled.

A pedestrian link between the beach area and the new bridge is required.

4.0 The Streetscape Plan

yonder.

4.1 Design objectives

The Streetscape Plan builds on recent improvements in the town and will help to further define and retain the community's identity and economic vitality through a vibrant, safe and attractive public realm.

Six design objectives have been formulated which underpins the Draft Streetscape Plan. The principles are based on the outcomes of the site assessment, data review and community feedback from the initial 'Preliminary Ideas' stage.

Objective 1: **Reinforce sense of place**

Celebrate Towong's heritage, equine history, community spirit and unique natural environment. Create an iconic town gateway at the western and southern approaches to Murray River Road and at the end of Towong Bridge .

Strengthen the town's identity and legibility through way-finding and interpretive signage. Rationalise the signage styles and review locations of existing interpretive signage panels.

Objective 2: **Green the streets**

Soften, cool and green the streets with street tree and garden bed planting to create a more attractive and comfortable environment, providing shade, biodiversity and ameliorating heat island effect.

Implement an ongoing street tree planting program in the town, which provide succession planting appropriate for a changing climate.

Build on recent street tree planting and continue along Murray River Road and Brooke Street.

Objective 3: **Prioritise the pedestrian**

Create a safe and comfortable environment for the pedestrian. Rationalise and define car parking areas at the Soldiers Memorial Hall and river front precinct.

Provide a designated location for pedestrians to cross road at the Soldiers Memorial Hall. Improve tracks and footpaths.

Objective 4: **Unified design**

Implement a consistent treatment of paving, furniture and signage to improve the appearance and visually unify the town.

Upgrade existing and install new street furniture, and provide clear way-finding signage. Draw on Council's existing suite of street furniture as appropriate.

Objective 5: **Activate public spaces**

Investigate opportunities for new or improved public spaces for community use and gathering.

Introduce additional social infrastructure to the Soldiers Memorial Hall surrounds, such as a new playground, shelter with BBQ and deck.

Enhance visitor experience of the river front precinct with formalised parking and picnic settings.

Consider the development of a community garden, outdoor exercise equipment and pump track at the old school site/tennis courts.

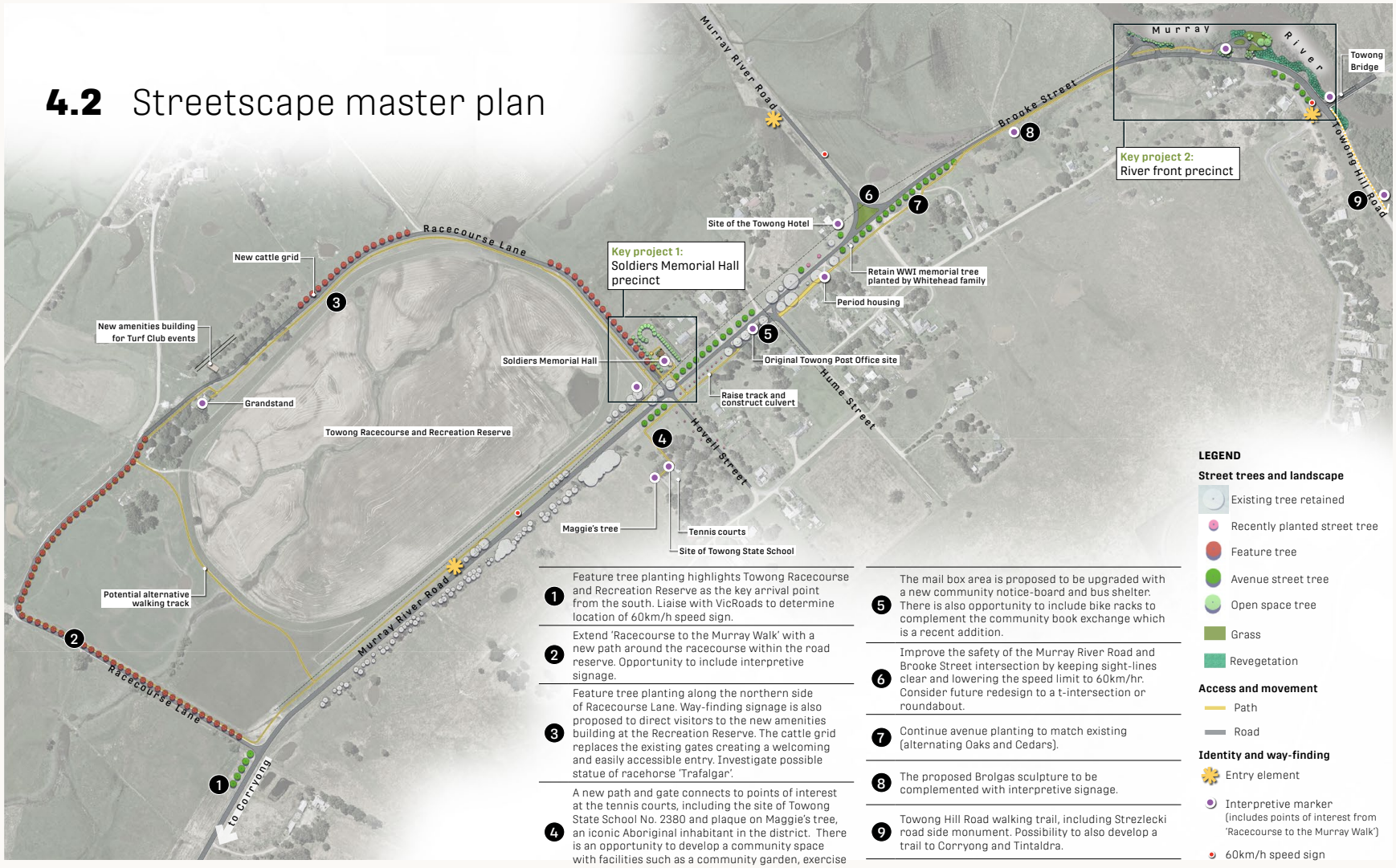
Objective 6: **Improve access**

Improve way-finding and access to the proposed amenities building at the Towong Racecourse and Recreation Reserve.

Provide new path connections and parking at the Soldiers Memorial Hall, to complement the current Hall improvement works.

Connect Towong Bridge to the river front precinct with a new path and steps.

4.2 Streetscape master plan



1. Feature tree planting highlights Towong Racecourse and Recreation Reserve as the key arrival point from the south. Liaise with VicRoads to determine location of 60km/h speed sign.
2. Extend 'Racecourse to the Murray Walk' with a new path around the racecourse within the road reserve. Opportunity to include interpretive signage.
3. Feature tree planting along the northern side of Racecourse Lane. Way-finding signage is also proposed to direct visitors to the new amenities building at the Recreation Reserve. The cattle grid replaces the existing gates creating a welcoming and easily accessible entry. Investigate possible statue of racehorse 'Trafalgar'.
4. A new path and gate connects to points of interest at the tennis courts, including the site of Towong State School No. 2380 and plaque on Maggie's tree, an iconic Aboriginal inhabitant in the district. There is an opportunity to develop a community space with facilities such as a community garden, exercise equipment and pump track.
5. The mail box area is proposed to be upgraded with a new community notice-board and bus shelter. There is also opportunity to include bike racks to complement the community book exchange which is a recent addition.
6. Improve the safety of the Murray River Road and Brooke Street intersection by keeping sight-lines clear and lowering the speed limit to 60km/hr. Consider future redesign to a t-intersection or roundabout.
7. Continue avenue planting to match existing (alternating Oaks and Cedars).
8. The proposed Brolgas sculpture to be complemented with interpretive signage.
9. Towong Hill Road walking trail, including Strezlecki road side monument. Possibility to also develop a trail to Corryong and Tintaldra.

LEGEND

Street trees and landscape
- Existing tree retained
- Recently planted street tree
- Feature tree
- Avenue street tree
- Open space tree
- Grass
- Revegetation

Access and movement
- Path
- Road

Identity and way-finding
- Entry element
- Interpretive marker (includes points of interest from 'Racecourse to the Murray Walk')
- 60km/h speed sign

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4.3 Key project 1: Soldiers Memorial Hall precinct

Design objective

Support the refurbished Soldiers Memorial Hall as a key community gathering place. Provide pedestrian connections, parking, new community infrastructure such as sheltered picnic area and new playground.

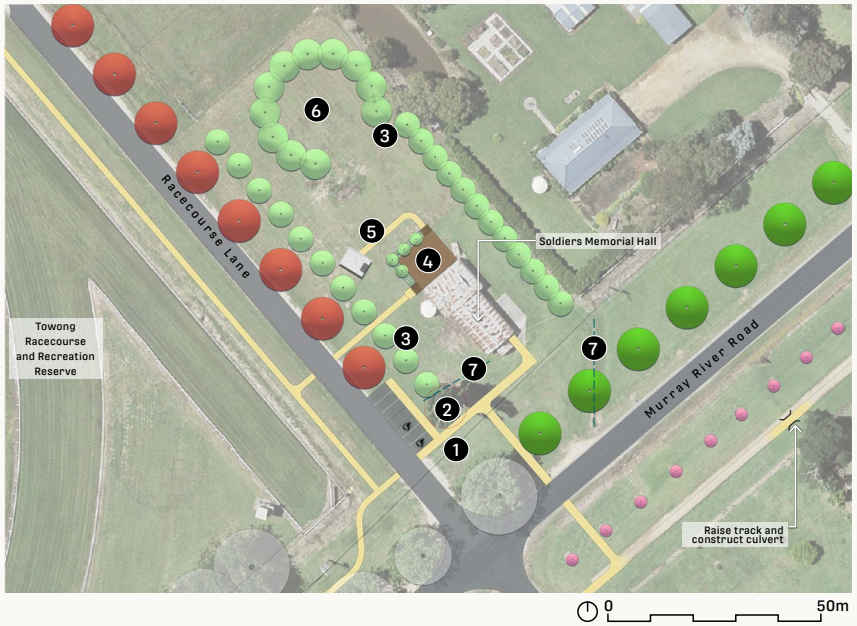
Recommendations

Pedestrian access and parking

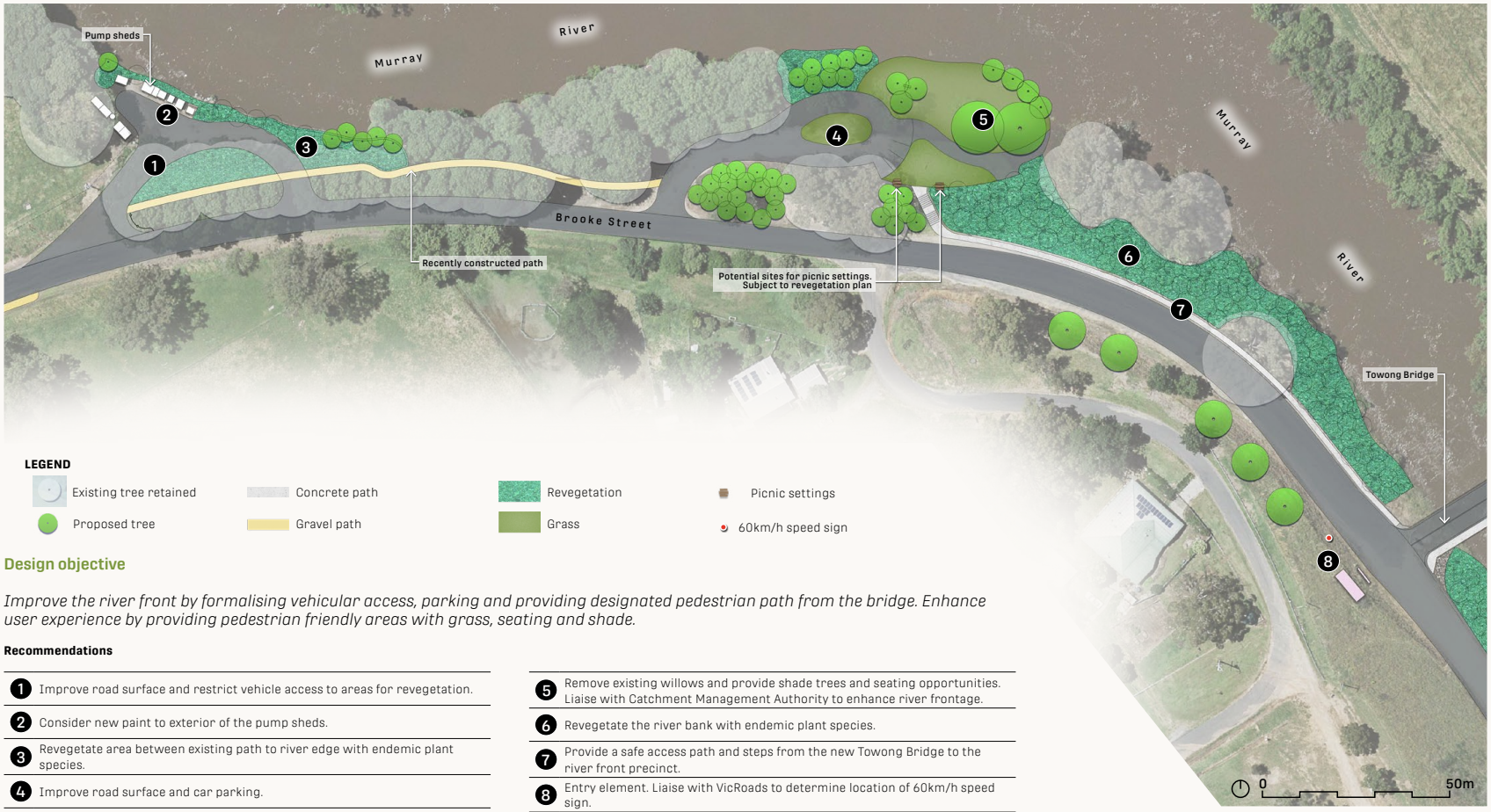
1. Improve pedestrian access by providing new path access to the Soldiers Memorial Hall from Murray River Road and Racecourse Lane. Designated parking is proposed near the path with disabled car spaces as required.
2. Remove existing poplar tree.

Community infrastructure

3. Provide new trees in the open space for improved shade around the new community outdoor space.
4. New garden bed and small trees to proposed deck area north of the refurbished Soldiers Memorial Hall.
5. New path connecting proposed BBQ area from the proposed deck area.
6. Future potential playground for hall users with play equipment in organic softfall surrounded by shade trees.
7. The open drainage swales south are proposed to be converted to underground drainage subject to outfall requirements.



4.4 Key project 2: River front precinct



LEGEND

- Existing tree retained
- Proposed tree
- Concrete path
- Gravel path
- Revegetation
- Grass
- Picnic settings
- 60km/h speed sign

Design objective

Improve the river front by formalising vehicular access, parking and providing designated pedestrian path from the bridge. Enhance user experience by providing pedestrian friendly areas with grass, seating and shade.

Recommendations

1. Improve road surface and restrict vehicle access to areas for revegetation.
2. Consider new paint to exterior of the pump sheds.
3. Revegetate area between existing path to river edge with endemic plant species.
4. Improve road surface and car parking.
5. Remove existing willows and provide shade trees and seating opportunities. Liaise with Catchment Management Authority to enhance river frontage.
6. Revegetate the river bank with endemic plant species.
7. Provide a safe access path and steps from the new Towong Bridge to the river front precinct.
8. Entry element. Liaise with VicRoads to determine location of 60km/h speed sign.

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4.5 Entry element concept

Artist impression of possible entry element (concept only)

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Streetscape Plan
Tintaldra
May 2024 | Revision F
Prepared for
towongshire

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We acknowledge and respect Traditional Owners as the traditional custodians of our shared lands, waters and seas. We recognise their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection with Country. We honour Elders past, present and emerging, whose knowledge and wisdom will ensure the continuation of culture, and the values which uphold them.

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1.0 Background

1.1 Introduction

Project summary

Yonder have been engaged by Towong Shire Council (TSC) to work with the community to prepare a Streetscape Plan for the town of Tintaldra which aims to capture the community's aspirations for their town, as well as other existing projects into a consolidated, graphic and easily understood document or 'road-map'. The Streetscape Plan will be a high level strategic document to guide future funding applications and on-ground works.

The Streetscape Plan seeks to achieve a design solution which improves safety, functionality, aesthetics, connectivity, pedestrian amenity and traffic movement within the town of Tintaldra.

Key to this is thorough background research coupled with site analysis and the uniquely targeted engagement process. This will ensure the outcomes of the Streetscape Plan reflect community aspirations, wants and needs and help create a livable, vibrant environment for town's future.

Objectives

The following objectives also formed part of the Brief:

- incorporate key priorities of the Tintaldra Community Recovery Plan including activation of open spaces and improved walking tracks;
- consider a unified streetscape treatment to better connect key destinations and improve access within the town;
- celebrate the town as a gateway to the Great River Road touring route, as well as natural and cultural heritage; and
- identify a signage strategy for way-finding and interpretation around the town.

Process

Stage 1 Inception	Background review
	Site visit
Stage 2 Preliminary ideas for streetscape opportunities	Preliminary Ideas of Streetscape Opportunities
	Community input at 'walk and talk' session with interested community members
Stage 3 Draft Streetscape Plan	Draft Streetscape Plan
	Community input: drop-in session
Stage 4 Final Draft Streetscape Plan	Final Draft Streetscape Plan
	Community input: Informal feedback period
Stage 5 Final Streetscape Plan	Final Streetscape Plan

1.2 Context

Location

Tintaldra is located on the banks of the Murray River and was settled in 1837. It is said to be the first pioneer settlement in the Upper Murray. Located halfway between Corryong and Walwa on the Murray River Road, Tintaldra is a key stopping point for tourists enjoying the Great River Road touring route. The main assets of the town include a recreation reserve, caravan park, store and pub. It is also a key crossing point for traffic across the border of NSW and Victoria.

Study area

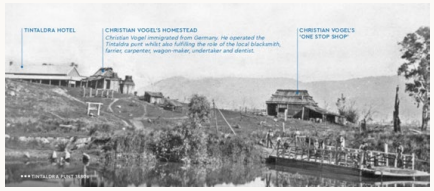
The study area extends along Murray River Road from Tintaldra Recreation Reserve to the intersection with Main Street, including the approaches from Corryong and Cudgewa. It also includes Main Street, Back Tintaldra Road and the road reserves, parks, and public building settings within this area.

The project is also concerned with the macro landscape scale and how Tintaldra connects with other towns and landscape features.

History

Tintaldra was an important border crossing with the former colony of New South Wales, and the punt service across the River was the only one operating on this section of the upper Murray River during the late 1800's. There was also a customs house in the town during the 19th century and it had the only supply store in the district at that time.

The Tintaldra store was erected in 1864 and nearby cattle stations were amongst the first white settlements on the Upper Murray. Tintaldra Hotel was established soon after in 1870.



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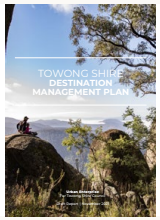
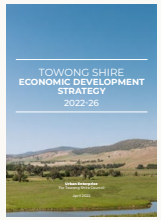
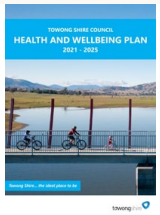
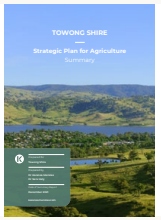
1.3 Policy and strategy









Council plans and strategies

A desktop review of the various strategies, plans and policies identified the following relevant to this project:

Draft Recreation Strategy for Towong Shire 2022-2033

The Strategy identified that to improve opportunities for walking and cycling in Towong Shire, there needs to be a network of cycling and walking trails / paths that are:

- Well designed and safe (even surfaces, wide enough pathways, well lit, clear lines of site, separation from vehicles, well maintained).
- Connected to key locations people want to visit.
- Well signed.

The Strategy also identified:

- Higher levels of participation in equine activities and subsequent equine infrastructure in Towong Shire compared with many other Shires, e.g. Tintaldra and Corryong Recreation Reserves.
- Gaps in the trail network and opportunities to better connect towns with one another (e.g. Bethanga and Bellbridge; and Corryong and Towong).
- Poor way-finding signage to many of the recreation reserves in the Shire.
- Lack of infrastructure that could help to further activate sites, e.g. paths, seats, shade, picnic tables, water bubblers and play equipment.

Towong Shire Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

The Plan identifies a number of actions to a safe and healthy community:

- Review and deliver the strategic parks and playgrounds upgrade program.
- Complete streetscape upgrade in Tintaldra.
- Map and publish walking and cycling trails that connect townships, link destinations and create circular routes.

Towong Shire Destination Management Plan

The Plan identifies a number of tourism themes for Towong Shire, namely:

- Theme 1 accommodation: Cudgewa valley for wellness retreat.
- Theme 3 nature and water: Multi-day canoe trail from Towong to Bellbridge.
- Theme 4 ride: High country rail trail improvement and extension: Shelley to Corryong.
- Theme 6: branding marketing and awareness - Shire-wide: Build on the brand framework project currently being delivered by Tourism North East to deliver a consistent branding approach aligned to market understanding of the Shire.

The Plan also recommends that a signage strategy to be developed focusing on a cohesive brand approach, clear connection to place, improved hierarchy of signage, and removal of outdated and obsolete signage.

Towong Shire Settlement Strategy - 2010

The Strategy recommends that all residential development is retained within the existing extent of the town with the retention of existing Low Density Residential Zone in its current form.

Towong Shire Economic Development Strategy 2022-2026

This Strategy identifies a number of themes for economic development, notably economy growth through visitation.

The Strategy also talks about improving livability outcomes for residents as an economic development objective.

Other strategies

A desktop review of the following strategies, plans and policies were also reviewed.

- The Council Plan
- UM2030 Plan
- Municipal recovery plan
- Community emergency management plans
- Tree management plan
- Town entry signage plan (in development) and Standard signage strategy
- Strategic Plan for Agriculture

1.4 Strengths, issues and opportunities - photo study

The following photo study demonstrates site assessment and analysis of Tintaldra and its context.

Strengths

A rich history: A number of original buildings remain in the town.

Community driven town improvements: The Avenue of Honour is a recent development and provides another point of interest for the town.

Proximity and access to the Murray River: the Murray Cod sculpture has become a landmark.

Story-telling is a part of the streetscape: interpretive signage panels complement the recent works.

Issues and opportunities

Staged removal of woody weeds, poplars and new furniture would improve the river environment.

Some interpretive signage is old and could be replaced in more easily accessible locations.

Public toilets are located in the Hall and can be difficult to find and access.

Dense native shrubs on Main Street detracts the entry experience and hinder views.

1.5 Existing plans and projects

Tintaldra was significantly impacted by the Black Summer Bushfires in 2019/20 which subsequently caused the removal of a tree avenue on the Murray River Road adjacent to the town. Through the Bushfire Recovery process, the community have come together to form the Tintaldra Community Recovery Committee and produced a Community Recovery Plan with several key priorities.

Other projects such as the Great River Road Stage 2 and planned intersection works are also captured.

1 **Tintaldra Recreation Reserve - Tintaldra Community Recovery project**
Currently in the planning stages, this renovation and re-activation, includes new septic tank, showers and toilets in the renovated main building, and a focus on creating an equine centre and making it a welcoming and accessible space.

2 **Great River Road Project Stage 2**
Includes a walking track from Tintaldra Township to the Tintaldra Recreation Reserve. Currently under construction.

3 **Upgrade to Tintaldra Hall- Tintaldra Community Recovery project**
Currently in construction, this project includes upgrade to the building entry, toilets and a new outdoor area on the north side of the building.

4 **Y to T intersection**
Currently in the design stage, this project will be constructed in the future.

5 **Tintaldra to Farrans Lookout walking trail - Tintaldra Community Recovery project**
Not yet funded.

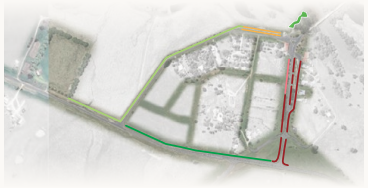
6 **Avenue of Honour - Tintaldra Community Recovery project**
Recently completed and includes a shade shelter, walking track and Avenue of Honour tree avenue.

yonder.

2.0 Preliminary ideas

2.1 Preliminary ideas for streetscape opportunities

Preliminary ideas for streetscape opportunities plans were developed as part of the second stage of this project. High level plans were developed which identified ongoing projects and previously identified opportunities as well as future opportunities, and were based on the following four principles/themes.



Green infrastructure

Implement a street tree strategy, which acknowledges history, community aspirations and also provide succession planting appropriate for a changing climate.

Future opportunities identified:

- Boulevard street tree planting - Main Street.
- Street tree planting - Murray River Road.
- Replacement of deciduous trees at river front.

Circulation and amenity

Prioritise the pedestrian by improving tracks, paths and providing seating, shade and lighting.

Future opportunities identified:

- Continue expansion of the walking track to loop around the town.
- Create a shared path between landscape features and towns.

Story-telling and way-finding

Strengthen identity and legibility by introducing entry features, directional and interpretive signage, as well as a cohesive suite of street furniture.

Future opportunities identified:

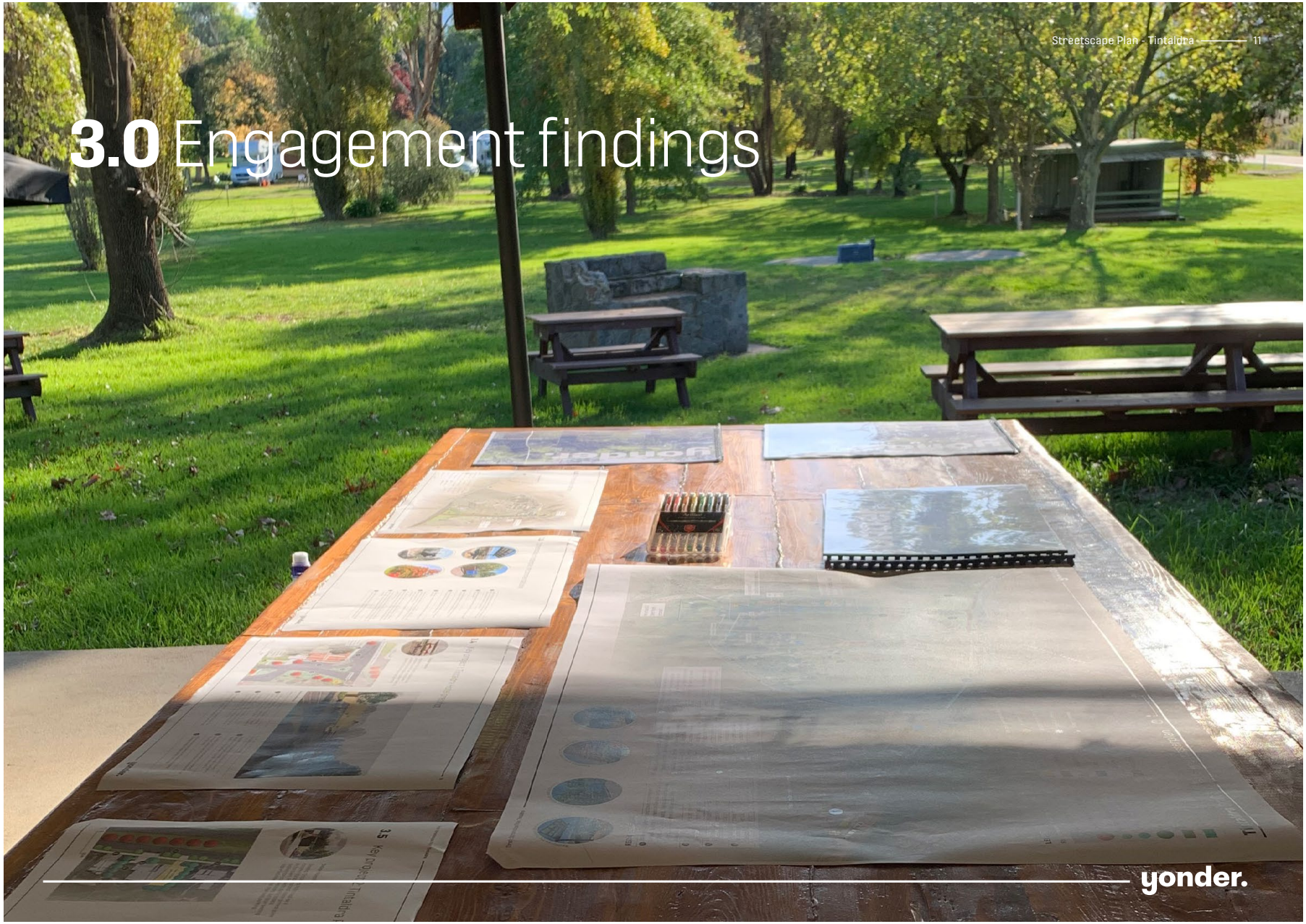
- Reinforce the sense of arrival by providing new entry elements.
- Introduce markers for historic sites within the township. e.g. small plaque on building.
- Introduce interpretive and way-finding signage with a consistent branding / theme.

Key destinations

Activate public spaces for community use and gathering.

Future opportunities identified:

- Improve the river front by separating vehicles and pedestrians. Create safer access to the water. Provide picnic areas with grass, furniture and shade. Improve connection to Avenue of Honour.
- Improve access and disabled parking at the frontage to Tintaldra Hotel.
- Improve visitor arrival experience at Main Street slip road. Highlight public toilet location.


Streetscape Plan - Tintaldra 11
3.0 Engagement findings
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3.1 Round 1: Preliminary Ideas for Streetscape Opportunities

Yonder met with a group of eight interested community members on the 28th February 2023 (including members from the Community Recovery Committee) for an informal discussion and site walk. With the Preliminary Ideas for Streetscape Opportunities plans in hand, we sought to gain feedback about the preliminary ideas, and discuss other on-going projects, issues and opportunities.

The following ideas were discussed:

Summary of community feedback

Green infrastructure	– Tree planting to the north side of Murray River Road between Main Street and Back Tintaldra Road. – Remove unhealthy eucalyptus tree/s, bottle brushes and other shrubs on Main Street.
Circulation and amenity	– Review path connections and pram ramps to ensure DDA access in front of Hall. – Provide organised parking and DDA compliant parking adjacent to the Hall. – Screen the CFA building. – Repair asphalt road surface on the south east approach to the bridge. – Incorporate a walking track around the town. – Upgrade footpath surrounding the Hotel as it is uneven, has trip hazards and is unsightly. – Improve pedestrian connections across the road from the Hotel to the Avenue of Honour, from the Hotel to the caravan park and between the shop and hall. – Improve drainage on road reserve between Hotel and caravan park - consider pipe to replace swale. – Grade and maintain internal road reserves.
Story-telling and way-finding	– Agree with a sculptural landmark entry feature - suggested theme of river crossing history or stock route history. – Way-finding signage required at Recreation Reserve and at intersection of Back Tintaldra Road and Murray River Road.
Key destinations	– New public toilet between Hall and CFA shed. Set back from the road and ensure on Hall property boundary. – New event space and hall entry currently in construction on the north side of the hall building. Consider connections and tree planting to surround. – Review and incorporate plans for riverfront and Avenue of Honour shelter - additional landscaping etc. – Concerns with functionality of new boat ramp. – Provide signage and parking for the public to access playground at the Recreation Reserve. New toilets at the Recreation Reserve will be locked, available for reserve users only.

Damaged asphalt road surface on the south east approach to the bridge

New event space and hall entry in construction

Condition of the footpath surrounding the Tintaldra Hotel

The open drain between the Tintaldra Hotel and caravan park can be dangerous for pedestrians, particularly at night

3.2 Round 2: Draft Streetscape Plan

A community session was held on the 20 April 2023 at 4pm at the Tintaldra Hotel. About 8 residents attended the session, and no written submissions were received. Hard copies of the Draft Streetscape Plan were left at Tintaldra Hotel and with those who attended the session. Appreciation is extended to all community members for their feedback.

The feedback has informed the Final Draft Streetscape Plan.

Summary of feedback

	Issue/opportunity	Draft Streetscape Plan response
Street trees	– Show the recently planted maples on Back Tintaldra Road.	– Included.
	– Consider grazing of the new road reserve created by the Y to T intersection works.	– Included.
	– Maintain sight lines by tapering the street trees at the intersection of Main Street and Murray River Road.	– Included as an option.
	– Oaks should not be species/varieties which hold their leaves in winter.	– Early-defoliant Pin Oak or Red Oak have been recommended.
Circulation	– Concerns around traffic speed and safety on Murray River Road. It was noted that the crest at Cudgewa Valley Road impedes views of on-coming traffic. It was also noted that traffic often travels faster than the speed limits particularly through the 80km/hr zone on Murray River Road. It was suggested that a 60km/hr zone be extended to the Recreation Reserve, or the 80km/hr signage be more prominent.	– Recommend reductions to speed limits.
	– Insufficient room for a path on the east side of the service road in front of the Post Office.	– Path has been re-aligned to central median.
Key destinations - Tintaldra Hotel precinct	– Maintain access to the water tank, shed and paddock gate by removing two proposed street trees in front of the Tintaldra Hotel.	– Included.
Key destinations - Riverfront	– The boat ramp in its current location is too steep.	– The Plan recommends that a survey and design is carried out prior to ensure the best result with improved safety.
	– Fire truck access is required at the river front.	– Turning circles allow for truck access.
Key destinations - Hall	– Maintain vehicular access for the resident to the north of the Hall.	– Proposed row of trees have been removed.
	– Remove the proposed street tree in front of the Hall.	– Included.
	– To reduce visual impact locate the proposed toilet building so that it is behind the Hall vestibule.	– Included.

4.0 The Streetscape Plan

4.1 Design objectives

The Streetscape Plan builds on recent improvements in the town and will help to further define and retain the community's identity and economic vitality through a vibrant, safe and attractive public realm.

Six design objectives have been formulated which underpins the Draft Streetscape Plan. The principles are based on the outcomes of the site assessment, data review and community feedback from the initial 'Preliminary Ideas' stage.

Objective 1: **Reinforce sense of place**

Celebrate Tintaldra's heritage, rural community spirit and unique natural environment. Create an iconic town gateway at the intersection of Murray River Road and Main Street to 'book-end' the existing Murray Cod sculpture in the river.

Strengthen the town's identity and legibility through way-finding and interpretive signage. Rationalise the signage styles and review locations of existing interpretive signage panels.

Objective 2: **Green the streets**

Soften, cool and green the streets with street tree and garden bed planting to create a more attractive and comfortable environment, providing shade, biodiversity and ameliorating heat island effect.

Implement an ongoing street tree planting program in the town, which provide succession planting appropriate for a changing climate.

Build on recent street tree planting between the Avenue of Honour and the Tintaldra Recreation Reserve, and continue along Murray River Road and Main Street. Reinforce existing Pin-oak trees as the key boulevard species.

Objective 3: **Prioritise the pedestrian**

Create a safe and comfortable environment for the pedestrian. Rationalise and define car parking areas and provide designated locations pedestrian to cross roads. Improve tracks and footpaths.

Objective 4: **Unified design**

Implement a consistent treatment of paving, furniture and signage to improve the appearance and visually unify the town.

Upgrade existing and install new street furniture, and provide clear way-finding signage. Draw on Council's existing suite of street furniture as appropriate.

Use signage to navigate people towards the river, the recreation reserve, public toilets, the pub and shared paths.

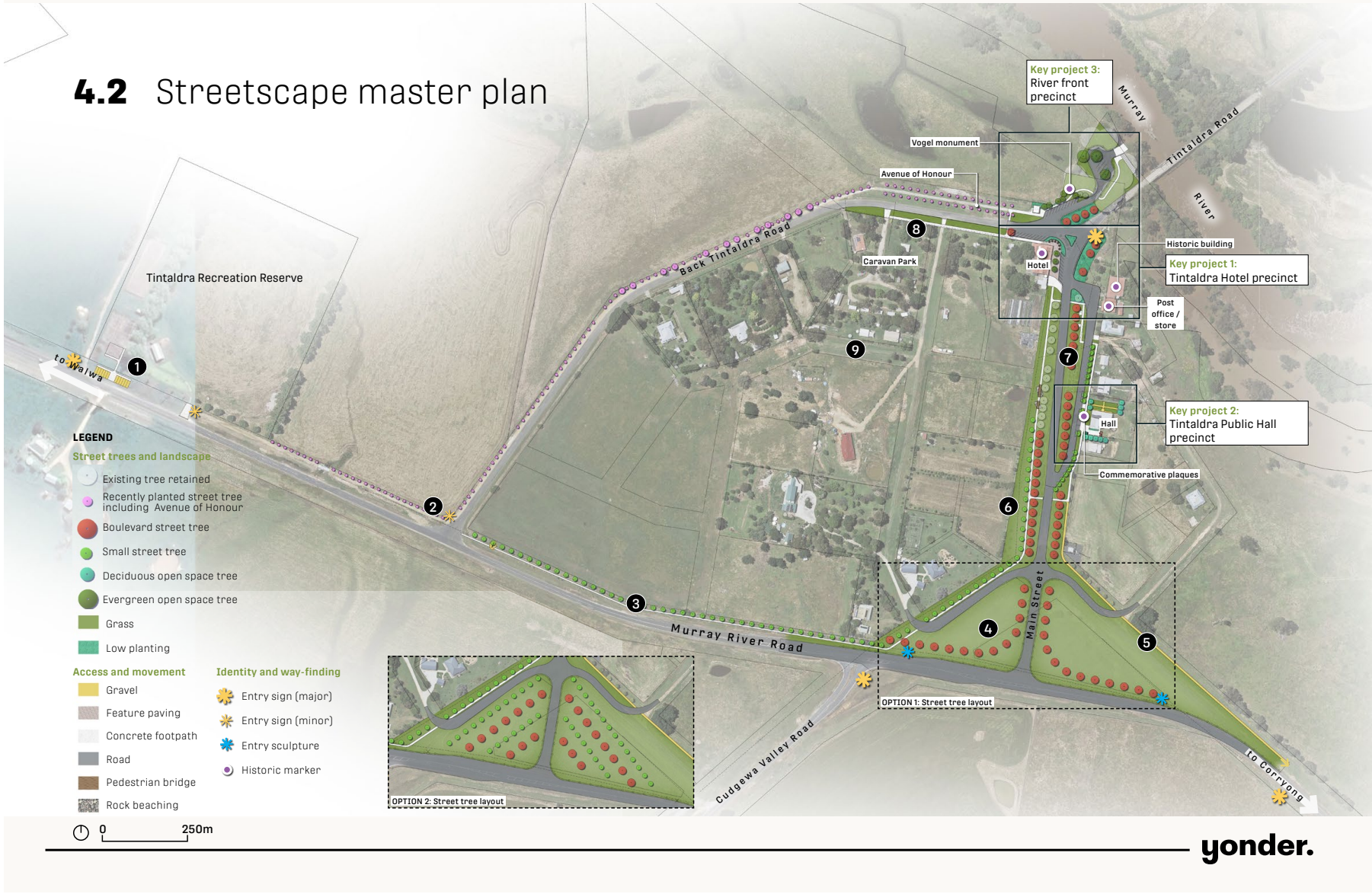
Objective 5: **Activate public spaces**

Investigate opportunities for new or improved public spaces for community use and gathering.

Provide new public toilets and improved access and parking at the Community Hall, to complement the current Hall improvement works. Improve access and pedestrian experience at the riverfront. Provide parking and way-finding signage at the Recreation Reserve playground.

Objective 6: **Access for all**

Encourage and facilitate an equitable and accessible environment which responds to the needs of the different user groups.


4.2 Streetscape master plan
Key project 3: River front precinct
Murray
Tintaldra Road
River
Vogel monument
Avenue of Honour
Back Tintaldra Road
Caravan Park
Hotel
Historic building
Key project 1: Tintaldra Hotel precinct
Post office / store
Tintaldra Recreation Reserve
to Walwa
Hall
Key project 2: Tintaldra Public Hall precinct
Commemorative plaques
Murray River Road
Main Street
OPTION 1: Street tree layout
OPTION 2: Street tree layout
Cudgewa Valley Road
to Corryong
LEGEND
Street trees and landscape
Existing tree retained
Recently planted street tree including Avenue of Honour
Boulevard street tree
Small street tree
Deciduous open space tree
Evergreen open space tree
Grass
Low planting
Access and movement
Gravel
Feature paving
Concrete footpath
Road
Pedestrian bridge
Rock beaching
Identity and way-finding
Entry sign (major)
Entry sign (minor)
Entry sculpture
Historic marker
0
250m
yonder.

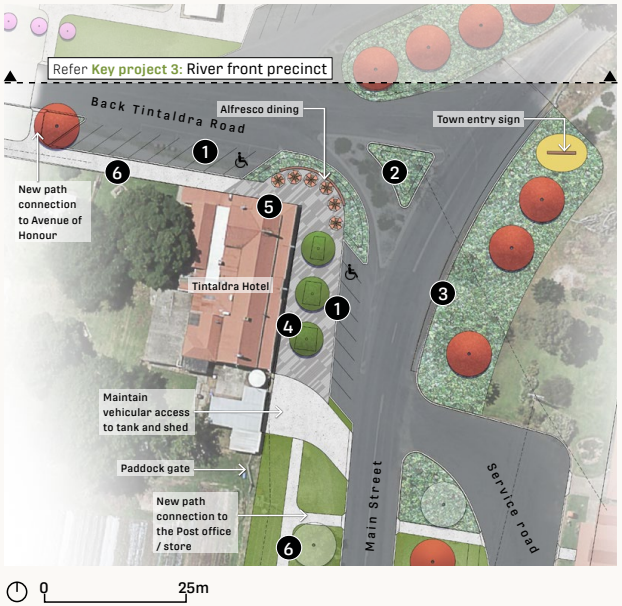
4.3 Streetscape master plan recommendations

1. Boulevard tree planting and town entry signage highlights Tintaldra Recreation Reserve as the key arrival point from the west. Designated car parking and a new path provides public access to the playground.
2. Way-finding signage is proposed to direct motorist to the town centre from Back Tintaldra Road.
3. A new concrete path loops around the town. Small street trees are proposed under overhead power-lines to provide shade and visual interest.
4. Oak boulevard trees frame the new T intersection, book-ended by a pair of sculptural entry elements, visible from the approaching roads. Two options for the street tree layout have been proposed. For Option 1, provide rural fencing for controlled grazing of the open grass area.
5. Shared path / walking track to Farrans Lookout. Possibility to also develop a trail to Cudgewa.
6. Existing native shrubs and trees to be removed to open up sight-lines and reduce maintenance. A boulevard of Oaks will continue along Main Street reinforcing the existing group of Oaks. Culverts / small pedestrian bridges are proposed where the new path crosses drainage lines.
7. The visual amenity and maintenance of the central median will be improved by replacing garden planting with grass. A new concrete path connects the Tintaldra Hotel to the Hall. The addition of shelters over the existing picnic tables will allow for year round use.
8. The open drainage swale from the Hotel to the caravan park is proposed to be converted to underground drainage. A new concrete path provides safe access for pedestrians walking between the hotel, the Avenue of Honour and caravan park.
9. Designated road reserves adjoining properties with vehicle access should be regularly maintained to ensure continued access at all times of the year.

4.4 Key project 1: Tintaldra Hotel precinct

Design objective

Highlight the Tintaldra Hotel as a key landmark in the town and provide pedestrian connections, outdoor seating opportunities and improved parking.



Recommendations

Parking and traffic interventions

1. Designated angle parking is proposed on both sides of the hotel, with disabled car spaces as required. Planted outstands define the parking areas , green the spaces and prioritise the pedestrian.
2. The central traffic island has been reduced in size to accommodate a new planted kerb outstand at the corner of the building. Planting in the central island to be under 500mm height to maintain clear sight-lines.
3. The road surface be repaired and the batter behind to be planted out with low feature planting and boulevard trees.

Pedestrian spaces and paving

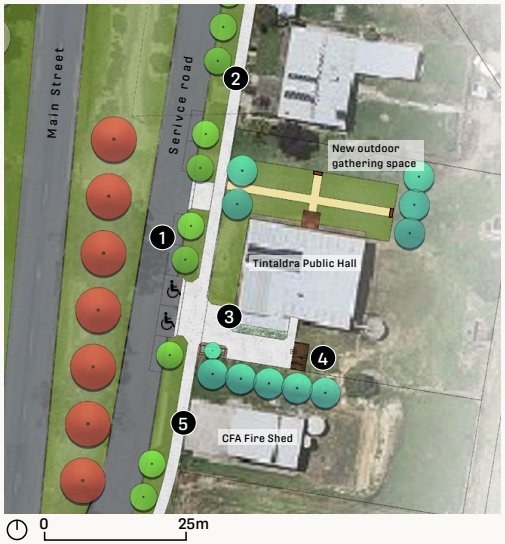
4. Remove existing asphalt surrounding the hotel and replace with feature paving which is even, free from trip hazards and sympathetic to the heritage building.
5. An outdoor dining area is proposed, with a widened pavement and low wall (400mm high) providing enclosure from the road.
6. Standard concrete paving for footpaths along Back Tintaldra Road and Main Street is proposed.

yonder.

4.5 Key project 2: Tintaldra Public Hall precinct

Design objective

Develop Tintaldra Public Hall as a community space and visitor arrival point in the town. Provide public toilets, pedestrian connections, outdoor seating opportunities and improved parking.



Artist Impression - Indicative only and subject to change

Recommendations

Parking and traffic interventions

1. Designated parallel parking is proposed in front of the Hall, with 2 no. disabled car spaces.

Pedestrian spaces and paving

2. A standard concrete footpath is proposed along the east side of the service road. Redundant pram ramps and the gravel path located in the median to be removed.

3. A wider pavement is proposed to connect the new public toilet building, the Hall annexe and disabled parking. A raised planter with a small shade tree and seat provides a space to rest.

New facilities

4. New public toilets are proposed, comprising 1 x disabled and 2 x ambulant cubicles. The building to be located within the Hall property title and be set back from the street. The design and colour to complement the heritage setting and architecture of the hall building.

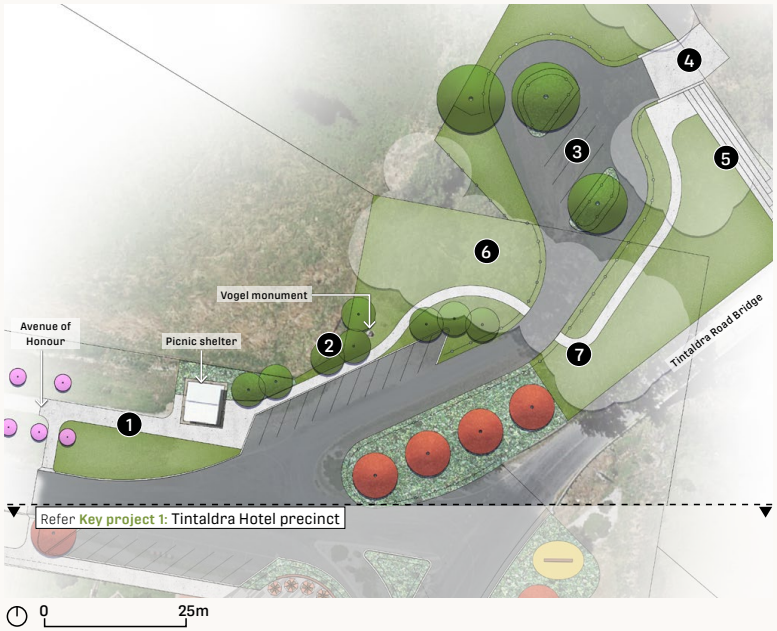
5. Investigate opportunities for a new facade treatment to the CFA shed.

yonder.

4.6 Key project 3: River frontage precinct

Design objective

Improve the river front by separating vehicles and pedestrians, creating safer access to the water, and providing picnic areas with grass, furniture and shade.



Recommendations

1. A concrete path connects the Hotel and the Avenue of Honour and surrounds the shelter.
2. Designated angle parking is proposed adjacent to the picnic shelter with new evergreen tree planting. A raised kerb is proposed to prevent parking immediately adjacent to the shelter.
3. 4 x boat trailer parking spaces are centrally located within a new defined access road. Vehicle restriction barriers (e.g. bollards) are proposed to control vehicular access.
4. Improve the safety and reduce steepness of the current boat ramp through detail design.
5. Improving access to water to be investigated (e.g. wide terraced steps).
6. Unsafe, dead and diseased Poplar trees to be successively removed and replaced with either an endemic tree species or large deciduous shade trees.
7. Provide path between the Hotel and the river. Relocate and update signage.

Reference image: boat parking with bollards

Reference image: Vehicle and pedestrian separation

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Appendix XX

Planning Permit Activity until 31 May 2024

Customer queries
Include no. of datascape queries during the period: 908 Year

Active Permits
Currently there are 23 active permits across the municipality.

I. **Permit status**	II. **Total**
Notice and Referral	6
Requested Further information	5
Referral	4
New	3
Referral & RFI	3
Notice	2
Total	**23**
Proposed Land Use	**Total**
Residence/Accommodation	11
Agriculture	4
Food & Drink Premises	3
Other Land Uses	2
Vacant	1
Place of Assembly	1
Leisure & recreation	1
Total	**23**
Current Application Types	**Total**
Bushfire Recovery Dwelling	8
Dwelling	8
Subdivision	3
Camping site	1
Boundary Realignment	1
Liquor Licence	1
Place of Assembly	1
Total	**23**

Approved permits 2023/2024 Financial Year to Date

Location of developments

Area	Total developments
Tallangatta	11
Corryong	10
Talgarno	9
Bethanga	7
Cudgewa	6
Thowgla Valley	5
Dartmouth	4
Eskdale	4
Nariel Valley	3
Bellbridge	3
Other	7
Total developments	**69**

1. *Berringama, Tintaldra, Towong, Jarvis Creek, Huon, Walwa, Guys Forest*

Type of development

Type of development	Total
Dwelling	14
Shed	11
Subdivision	7
Alterations & Additions - Dwelling	4
Dwelling - Bushfire Recovery	5
Native Vegetation Removal	3
Alterations & Additions – Industry	2
Amending Section 173 Agreement	2
Liquor Licence	2
Carport	2
Other[2]	17
Total developments	**69**

2. Development Plan, Dwelling & Shed, Construction of Commercial Building, Warehouse, Alterations & Additions - Abattoir, Dwelling - Bushfire Recovery, Native Vegetation Removal, Bellbridge Boat House , Alterations & Additions, Liquor License, Signage, Alterations to Access Transport 2 Zone

Statutory timelines – 12 month average and monthly average

May 2024

Shortest Stat. Days	10
Median Stat. Days	21
Longest Stat. Days	67
Applications with over 60 Stat. Days	1
Longest Stat. Days	67

Financial Year to Date 2023/24

Shortest Stat. Days	1
Median Stat. Days	23
Longest Stat. Days	378
Applications with over 60 Stat. Days	8

Last Financial Year 2022/023

Shortest Stat. Days	4
Median Stat. Days	78
Longest Stat. Days	378
Applications with over 60 Stat. Days	30

Statutory Timelines As Percentage

Description	May 2024	Financial YTD 2023/2024	Financial Year 2022/2023
Applications Under Statutory days	88.9%	87.10%	57.69%
Applications Over Statutory days	11.11%	12.90%	41.34%

Datascape Customer Enquiries

May 2024

Locality/Town	**Count**
Tallangatta	13
Corryong	12
Bethanga	10
Talgarno	8
Cudgewa	8
Granya	6
Other[1]	29
Total	**86**

1. Locations with <5 requests: Bellbridge, Tallangatta Valley, Eskdale, External, Tallangatta South, Dartmouth, Mitta Mitta, Huon, Georges Creek, Towong, Bullioh, Tintaldra, Koetong, Old Tallangatta, Tallangatta East, Mount Alfred, Nariel Valley

SR Type	**Count**	**Median Response Time (Days)**
Enquiry - General	57	< 1
Application - New/Amendment	11	< 1
Application - Existing	6	2

Application - Further Information	6	6
Planning Referral	3	11
Compliance - General	2	< 1
Pre-application Consultation	1	7
Total	**86**	<1

towongshire

2023/2024 Financial Year to Date Locality/Town	Count
Corryong	138
Bethanga	117
Talgarno	100
Tallangatta	94
Cudgewa	45
Tallangatta Valley	37
Walwa	34
Dartmouth	32
Eskdale	30
Towong	28
Bellbridge	28
Granya	21
Nariel Valley	20
External	20
Tallangatta South	18
Mitta Mitta	17
Office	15
Thowgla Valley	12
Huon	11
Georges Creek	11
Koetong	10
Other[2]	70
Total	908

2. Locations with <10 requests: Bullioh, Tintaldra, Pine Mountain, Jarvis Creek, Tallangatta East, Lucyvale, Shelley, Tallandoon, Berringama, Colac Colac, Towong Upper, Guys Forest, Mount Alfred

SR Type	Count	Median Response
Enquiry - General	609	0
Application - New/Amendment	104	2
Applications – Further Information	61	1
Application – Existing	52	1
Planning Referral	46	4.5
Compliance - General	18	0
Pre-application Consultation	12	1
Compliance – Native Vegetation	5	70
Enquiry – Liquor Licences	1	80*
Total	**908**	**0**

*Extensive delays experienced due to a lack of response from State Government.

01 BELLBRIGE STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY EMERGING OPTIONS

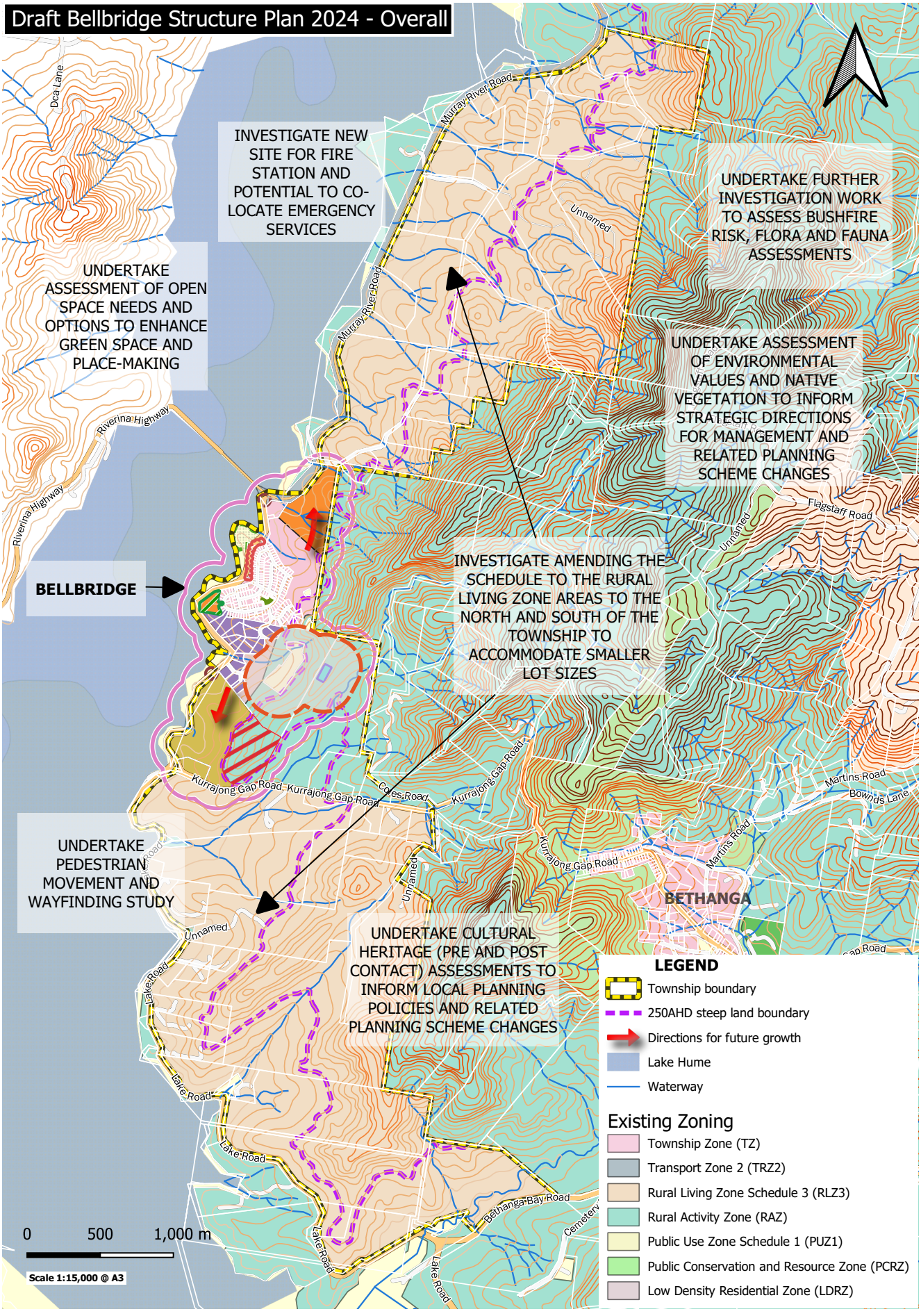
Non-Statutory Emerging Options							
Action #	Action	Timing/commenced	Duration	Council role	Priority	Partners	Stakeholder engagement
A1	Promote future redevelopment of Hume Boat Club site taking account of site context, constraints and opportunities	Year 1 (current)	12-24 months	Implement	High	Residents, Landowners, Hume Boat Club	Yes
A6	Investigate potential community service centre options for land opposite Lake Road near the town entrance	Year 1	12-24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowner, Residents, GMW	Yes
A9	Explore options for a more defined town entrance on Lake Road	Year 2-5	2-5 years	Implement	Medium	Landowner, Residents, Council's Engineering Department, DTP	Yes
A10	Undertake further investigation work to assess bushfire risk, flora and fauna assessments	Year 1	12 months	Implement	High	Residents, Landowners, DTP, DEECA, CFA	No
A12	Investigate options for a combined park and stormwater basin for new residential development near Lake Road	Year 1	Ongoing	Investigate/assess	Medium	Landowners and GMW	Yes

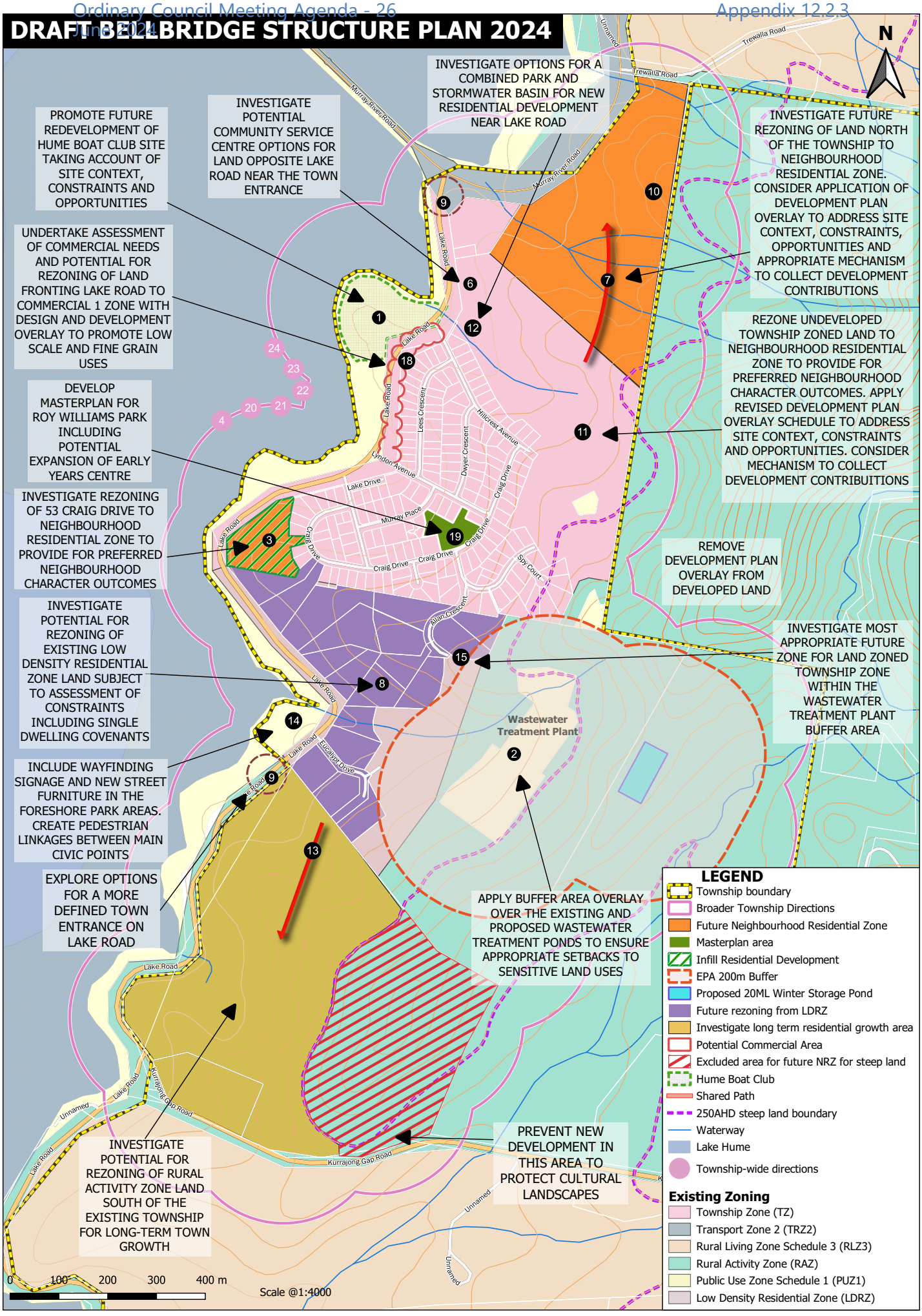
A14	Include wayfinding signage and new street furniture in the foreshore park areas. Create pedestrian linkages between main civic points	Year 1	12-24 months	Implement	High	Residents	Yes
A18	Undertake assessment of commercial needs and potential for rezoning of land fronting Lake Road to Commercial 1 Zone with Design and Development Overlay to promote low scale and fine grain uses	Year 1 -2	12-24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents, DTP and Council's Economic Development Department	Yes
A19	Develop masterplan for Roy Williams park including potential expansion of early years centre	Year 1 and 2	12-24 months	Implement	High	Landowners, Residents and Council's Economic Development Department	Yes
A20	Undertake pedestrian movement and wayfinding study	Year 2 and 3	12 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents and Council's Engineering Department	Yes
A21	Undertake assessment of open space needs and options to enhance green space and place-making	Year 2 and 3	12 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents and Council's Parks Department	Yes
A22	Undertake assessment of environmental values and native vegetation to inform strategic directions for management and related planning scheme changes	Year 1 and 2	24 months	Implement	Medium	Landowners, Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, RAP, Council's Parks Department	Yes
A23	Undertake cultural heritage (pre and post contact) assessment to inform local planning policies and related planning scheme changes	Year 2 and 3	12 – 24 months	Implement	High	DEECA, DTP, Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, RAP	Yes

A24	Investigate new site for fire station and potential to co-locate emergency services	Year 1-2	12 months	Investigate	Medium	CFA, DEECA, DTP	Yes

Statutory Emerging Options							
Action #	Action	Timing/commenced	Duration	Council role	Priority	Partners	Stakeholder engagement
A2	Apply Buffer Area Overlay over the existing and proposed wastewater treatment ponds to ensure appropriate setbacks to sensitive land uses	Year 1	12 months	Implement	High	Residents, Landowners, North East Water.	Yes
A3	Investigate rezoning of 53 Craig Drive to Neighbourhood Residential Zone to provide for preferred neighbourhood character outcomes.	Year 1-2	12 months	Investigate	High	Landowners, DTP, Residents	Yes
A4	Remove Development Plan Overlay from developed land.	Year 1	12 months	Implement	High	Landowners, DTP	Yes
A7	Investigate future rezoning of land north of the township to Neighbourhood Residential Zone to allow for future growth. Consider application of the Development Plan Overlay to address site context, constraints and opportunities and an appropriate mechanism to collect development contributions	Year 2-5	24-36 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents, DTP, CFA	Yes
A8	Investigate potential for rezoning of existing Low Density Residential Zone land subject to assessment of constraints including single dwelling covenants	Year 2 and 3	12 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, DTP, CFA, Residents	Yes

A11	Rezone undeveloped land zoned Township Zone to the Neighbourhood Residential Zone to provide for preferred neighbourhood character outcomes. Apply revised Development Plan Overlay Schedule to address site context, constraints and opportunities. Consider an appropriate mechanism to collect development contributions	Year 1 and 2	12-24 months	Implement	High	Landowners, DTP, CFA	Yes
A13	Investigate potential for rezoning of Rural Activity Zone land south of the existing township for long term growth	Year 10-15	24-36 months	Investigate	Medium	North East Water, Residents, Landowners	Yes
A15	Investigate most appropriate future zone for land zoned Township Zone within the wastewater treatment plan buffer area	Year 1-2	12-24 months	Investigate	Medium	North East Water, DTP, Landowners	Yes
A16	Investigate amending the Schedule to the Rural Living Zone areas to the north and south of the township to accommodate smaller lot sizes	Year 1 and 2	12-24 months	Investigate	High	Landowners, CFA, DTP, GMW	Yes


Draft Bellbridge Structure Plan 2024 - Overall
INVESTIGATE NEW SITE FOR FIRE STATION AND POTENTIAL TO CO-LOCATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
UNDERTAKE FURTHER INVESTIGATION WORK TO ASSESS BUSHFIRE RISK, FLORA AND FAUNA ASSESSMENTS
UNDERTAKE ASSESSMENT OF OPEN SPACE NEEDS AND OPTIONS TO ENHANCE GREEN SPACE AND PLACE-MAKING
UNDERTAKE ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND NATIVE VEGETATION TO INFORM STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND RELATED PLANNING SCHEME CHANGES
INVESTIGATE AMENDING THE SCHEDULE TO THE RURAL LIVING ZONE AREAS TO THE NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE TOWNSHIP TO ACCOMMODATE SMALLER LOT SIZES
UNDERTAKE PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT AND WAYFINDING STUDY
UNDERTAKE CULTURAL HERITAGE (PRE AND POST CONTACT) ASSESSMENTS TO INFORM LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES AND RELATED PLANNING SCHEME CHANGES
BELLBRIDGE
BETHANGA
Murray River Road
Riverina Highway
Kurrajong Gap Road
Coves Road
Martins Road
Bowins Lane
Flagstaff Road
Lake Road
Bethanga Bay Road
Dca Lane
Unnamed
LEGEND
Township boundary
250AHD steep land boundary
Directions for future growth
Lake Hume
Waterway
Existing Zoning
Township Zone (TZ)
Transport Zone 2 (TRZ2)
Rural Living Zone Schedule 3 (RLZ3)
Rural Activity Zone (RAZ)
Public Use Zone Schedule 1 (PUZ1)
Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)
Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ)
0
500
1,000 m
Scale 1:15,000 @ A3


DRAFT BELLBRIDGE STRUCTURE PLAN 2024
N
PROMOTE FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT OF HUME BOAT CLUB SITE TAKING ACCOUNT OF SITE CONTEXT, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES
INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTRE OPTIONS FOR LAND OPPOSITE LAKE ROAD NEAR THE TOWN ENTRANCE
INVESTIGATE OPTIONS FOR A COMBINED PARK AND STORMWATER BASIN FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT NEAR LAKE ROAD
INVESTIGATE FUTURE REZONING OF LAND NORTH OF THE TOWNSHIP TO NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTIAL ZONE. CONSIDER APPLICATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY TO ADDRESS SITE CONTEXT, CONSTRAINTS, OPPORTUNITIES AND APPROPRIATE MECHANISM TO COLLECT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS
UNDERTAKE ASSESSMENT OF COMMERCIAL NEEDS AND POTENTIAL FOR REZONING OF LAND FRONTING LAKE ROAD TO COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE WITH DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OVERLAY TO PROMOTE LOW SCALE AND FINE GRAIN USES
REZONE UNDEVELOPED TOWNSHIP ZONED LAND TO NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTIAL ZONE TO PROVIDE FOR PREFERRED NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER OUTCOMES. APPLY REVISED DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY SCHEDULE TO ADDRESS SITE CONTEXT, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES. CONSIDER MECHANISM TO COLLECT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUITIONS
DEVELOP MASTERPLAN FOR ROY WILLIAMS PARK INCLUDING POTENTIAL EXPANSION OF EARLY YEARS CENTRE
INVESTIGATE REZONING OF 53 CRAIG DRIVE TO NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTIAL ZONE TO PROVIDE FOR PREFERRED NEIGHBOURHOOD CHARACTER OUTCOMES
REMOVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY FROM DEVELOPED LAND
INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL FOR REZONING OF EXISTING LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONE LAND SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENT OF CONSTRAINTS INCLUDING SINGLE DWELLING COVENANTS
INVESTIGATE MOST APPROPRIATE FUTURE ZONE FOR LAND ZONED TOWNSHIP ZONE WITHIN THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT BUFFER AREA
INCLUDE WAYFINDING SIGNAGE AND NEW STREET FURNITURE IN THE FORESHORE PARK AREAS. CREATE PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES BETWEEN MAIN CIVIC POINTS
EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR A MORE DEFINED TOWN ENTRANCE ON LAKE ROAD
APPLY BUFFER AREA OVERLAY OVER THE EXISTING AND PROPOSED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PONDS TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE SETBACKS TO SENSITIVE LAND USES
INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL FOR REZONING OF RURAL ACTIVITY ZONE LAND SOUTH OF THE EXISTING TOWNSHIP FOR LONG-TERM TOWN GROWTH
PREVENT NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA TO PROTECT CULTURAL LANDSCAPES
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Murray River Road
Trewalla Road
Lake Road
Lake Drive
Lees Crescent
Hillcrest Avenue
Dwyer Crescent
Lyndon Avenue
Craig Drive
Murray Place
Spy Court
Allan Crescent
Eucalypt Drive
Kurrajong Gap Road
Unnamed
0 100 200 300 400 m
Scale @1:4000
LEGEND
Township boundary
Broader Township Directions
Future Neighbourhood Residential Zone
Masterplan area
Infill Residential Development
EPA 200m Buffer
Proposed 20ML Winter Storage Pond
Future rezoning from LDRZ
Investigate long term residential growth area
Potential Commercial Area
Excluded area for future NRZ for steep land
Hume Boat Club
Shared Path
250AHD steep land boundary
Waterway
Lake Hume
Township-wide directions
Existing Zoning
Township Zone (TZ)
Transport Zone 2 (TRZ2)
Rural Living Zone Schedule 3 (RLZ3)
Rural Activity Zone (RAZ)
Public Use Zone Schedule 1 (PUZ1)
Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ)

Bellbridge Structure Plan, Emerging Options + Managing Cultural Landscape Project - Response to Submissions (May / June 2024)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Tomkinson Response / Overview
Submission 1 29.04.24	**No**	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Unsure**	
	The proposed expansion essentially doubling existing town will kill the liveability of existing residents	There is no benefit to existing residents by expanding tourism especially short term accommodation. Residents do not want development or increased tourism	N/A	N/A	Existing culture feel and liveability of Bellbridge will be obliterated by proposed development	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Tomkinson Response	The draft Structure Plan provides for modest growth and change. The proposed changes are consistent with State Government Policy and are cognisant of the township's opportunities and constraints. The Structure Plan also seeks to support a variety of housing products to meet the needs of the community now and into the future.	It is acknowledged that tourism opportunities exist given the town's close proximity to Lake Hume and other recreational assets and opportunities.			Existing and preferred Township character values have been identified as important in the Structure Plan. Future planning controls will be considered for undeveloped residential land and land with further subdivision potential in order to protect the feel and character of Bellbridge.			The draft Structure Plan identifies the need for a Masterplan / Study of the existing Early Years Centre site to determine the highest and best use, including update and upgrade opportunities.	The draft Structure Plan seeks to build upon existing features and character attributes of Bellbridge with a view to celebrate, protect and provide appropriate and sustainable growth by updating the Towong Planning Scheme.

Submission 2 09.05.24	**No**	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**Unsure**	
	Current residents are being sacrificed for the potential of new dwellings.	Planning commercial centres etc on someones private property is outrageous	However, speed limits are not currently enforced, so there are more immediate issues	N/A	N/A	How can increasing the township be at all good for health and quality of the environment	N/A	N/A	
Tomkinson Response	The draft Structure Plan supports infill development opportunities where appropriate and seeks to make use of existing infrastructure. Modest change is proposed in respect to residential growth. New growth will be directed and supported by revised planning policy that seeks to ensure that character determines any future built form outcomes.	The Towong Planning Scheme provides direction for land use planning outcomes for Towong Shire. This is legislated by way of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 which applies to all land in Victoria. Consultation and engagement is critical to ensure any new plan prepared seeks to reflect community views and values.				The draft Structure Plan seeks to introduce a number of new policy directions to improve the health and liveability of the community, such as improved pathways and connections, native vegetation replanting and character statements.		The draft Structure Plan identifies the need for a Masterplan / Study of the existing Early Years Centre site to determine the highest and best use, including update and upgrade opportunities.	The draft Structure Plan seeks to protect and promote preferred character. It seeks to ensure that the unique attributes currently present in Bellbridge are retained and celebrated. Directions in the draft Structure Plan seek to ensure sustainable growth and development occurs and that such growth takes advantage of existing infrastructure and associated assets.

Submission 3 11.05.24	**No**	**No**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**No**	**Yes**	**Unsure**	
	Not enough information – the number son the plans have no corresponding key – not good enough.	Not enough information – is it a service station, shop, coffee shop or meditation centre?	There is a whole lake for people to use but most is closed off by private property – why concentrate everyone in once place at Bellbridge?	N/A	There is a clear lack of native vegetation protection and remediation – nothing in your plan to replant with native veg.	Where is the replanting?	N/A	N/A	
Tomkinson Response	The draft Structure Plan has been informed by the Issues + Opportunities Papers + Emerging Options Paper. These documents along with the draft Structure Plan have been provided by Council through both engagement process and discussed in both Community Sessions (February + April). These can be made available if needed to demonstrate the policy context and thinking.	In discussions with the community and following extensive review and consideration, the Structure Plan + Emerging Options Paper have identified a gap in Bellbridge around the provision of commercial services. The Structure Plan recommends additional strategic work to determine needs and opportunities and how it would support the existing local and sub – regional economy. The Structure Plan does however suggest 'pop up' / removable commercial assets adjacent to the waterfront (i.e. coffee, gelato etc) that can also act as a community heart / village hub. The Structure Plan has also identified opportunities in the existing township area for further investigation.	The Structure Plan seeks to identify and improve existing connections and conditions within the town, taking on board access to Lake Hume and surrounding recreational walking and cycling assets.		The Structure Plan supports the inclusion of policy into the planning scheme to protect existing native vegetation and environmental assets and promote native vegetation planting and remediation of existing environmental assets.	The Structure Plan sets out areas for recreation and open space. This is provided for on the draft Structure Plan and contained within the Emerging Options Papers and recommendations contained in the Statutory and Non-Statutory Items document.		The draft Structure Plan identifies the need for a Masterplan / Study of the existing Early Years Centre site to determine the highest and best use, including update and upgrade opportunities.	The draft Structure Plan seeks to identify and improve Environment and Sustainability practices by way of updating local policy that apples to Bellbridge.

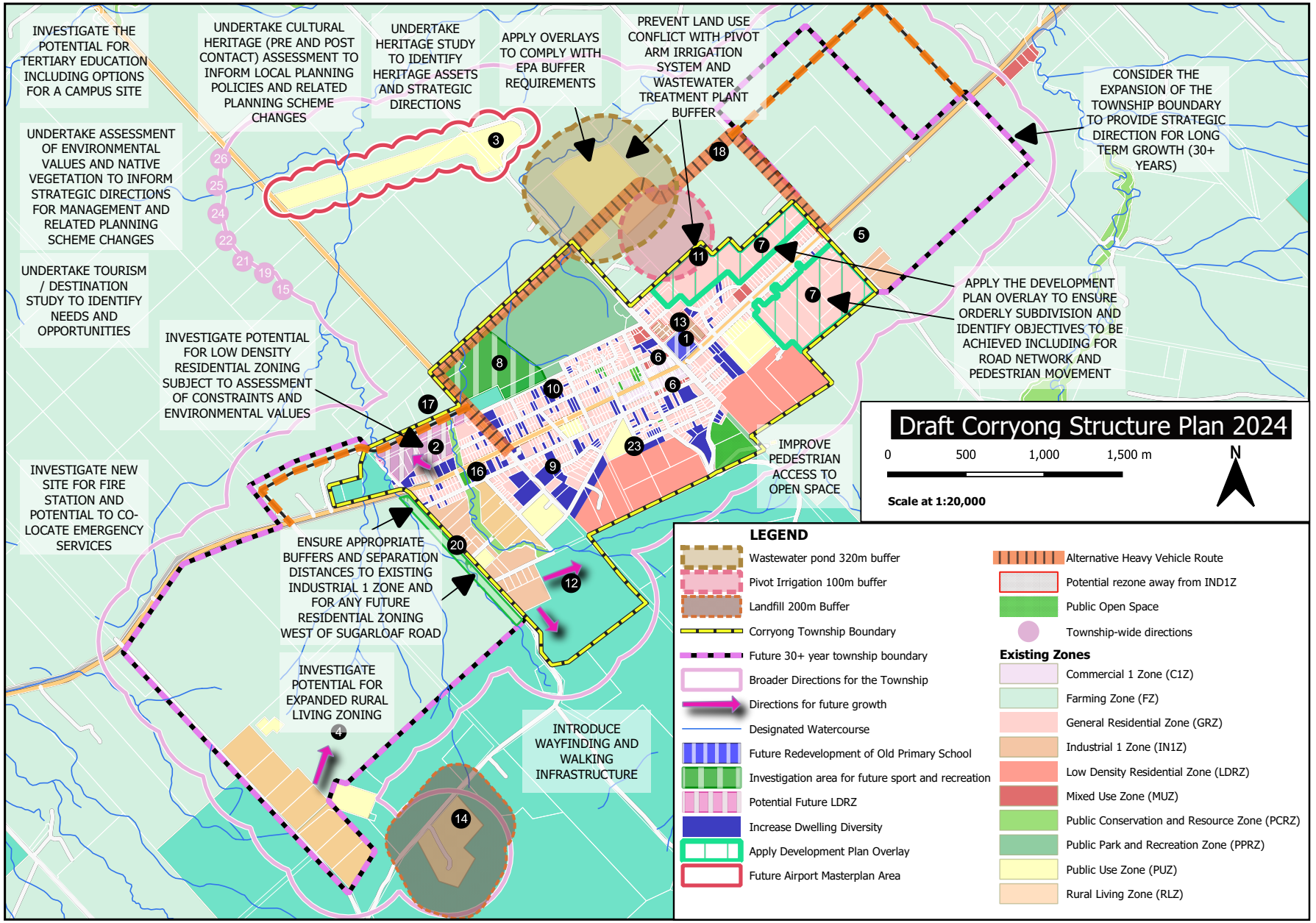
01 CORRYONG STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY EMERGING OPTIONS

Non-Statutory Emerging Options							
Action #	Action	Timing/commenced	Duration	Council role	Priority	Partners	Stakeholder engagement
A1	Promote the redevelopment and future civic use of the old primary school	Year 1 (current)	12-24 months	Implement	High	Residents, Landowner and Council's Economic Development Department	Yes
A3	Investigate future Airport Masterplan to include review of Airport Environs Overlay	Year 1 and 2	12 months	Investigate	Medium	DTP, DEECA, Forest Fire Management Victoria, and Council's Economic Development Department	Yes
A5	Investigate potential for expansion of Industrial 1 Zoning to attract higher order uses and support relocating industrial uses from the town centre area	Year 1 and 2	12-24	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents, existing businesses, DTP, CFA and Council's Economic Development Department	Yes
A8	Investigate future Sporting and Recreation Masterplan / Strategy and potential for Public Park and Recreation Zoning	Year 1 and 2	12 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents, Council's Parks Department	Yes
A9 A10	Promote infill development and housing diversity	Year 1	Ongoing	Implement	High	Landowners and DTP	Yes
A11	Prevent land use conflict with pivot arm	Year 1	Ongoing	Implement	High	Landowners and GMW	No

	irrigation system and wastewater treatment buffer area						
A12	Investigate potential for expansion of Industrial 1 Zoning and support relocating industrial uses from the town centre area	Year 1 and 2	12-24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents, existing businesses DTP, CFA, and Council's Economic Development Department	Yes
A13	Promote the relocation of industry from the town centre area	Year 1	Ongoing	Investigate	High	Landowners and Council's Economic Development Department	No
A15	Investigate new site for fire station and potential to co-locate emergency services	Year 1-2	12 months	Investigate	Medium	CFA, DEECA, DTP	Yes
A16	Support existing green spaces and consider potential additional green spaces and expanded shared path along creek	Year 1 and 2	12 – 24 months	Investigate	Low	Residents, Landowners, Council's Parks Department	Yes
A18	Support the upgrade and extension to the Stock Route for alternative heavy vehicle bypass	Year 1 (current)	12-24 months	Implement	High	Landowners, DTP, Council's Engineering Department	Yes
A19	Introduce wayfinding and walking infrastructure	Year 1 and 2	12 months	Implement	Medium	Residents	Yes
A21	Investigate the potential for tertiary education including options for a campus site	Year 1 and 2	24 months	Investigate	Medium	Victorian Department of Education, local schools, TAFE Victoria	Yes

A22	Undertake assessment of environmental values and native vegetation to inform strategic directions for management and related planning scheme changes	Year 1 and 2	24 months	Implement	Medium	Landowners, Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, RAP, Council's Parks Department	Yes
A23	Support Health Precinct and expansion opportunities to include allied health and aged care	Year 1 and 2	Ongoing	Implement	Medium	Health providers, Council's Community and Economic Development Departments	No
A24	Undertake tourism / destination study to identify needs and opportunities	Year 1	12 months	Investigate	Medium	Accommodation providers, Council's Economic Development Department, State Government	Yes
A25	Undertake cultural heritage (pre and post contact) assessment to inform local planning policies and related planning scheme changes	Year 2 and 3	12 – 24 months	Implement	High	DEECA, DTP, Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, RAP	Yes
A26	Undertake heritage study to identify heritage assets and strategic directions	Year 1 and 2	12 months	Implement	Medium	Landowners, Residents, DTP	Yes

Statutory Emerging Options							
Action #	Action	Timing/commenced	Duration	Council role	Priority	Partners	Stakeholder engagement
A2	Investigate potential for Low Density Residential Zoning subject to assessment of constraints and environmental values	Year 5-10	24 months	Investigate	High	Residents, Landowners, DTP, CFA	Yes
A4	Investigate potential for expanded Rural Living Zoning	Year 2-5	24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, DTP, CFA	Yes
A6	Consider rezoning to Commercial 1 Zone to reflect established uses	Year 2-5	24 months	Implement	Medium	Landowners, Residents, DTP and potential businesses	Yes
A7	Apply Development Plan Overlay to ensure orderly subdivision and identify objectives to be achieved including for road network and pedestrian movement	Year 1 and 2	24 months	Implement	High	Landowners, DTP	Yes
A11 A14	Apply overlays to comply with EPA buffer requirements	Year 1	24 months	Implement	High	Landowners, EPA, DTP and GMW	Yes
A12	Investigate potential for expanded Industrial 1 Zone and to support relocating industrial uses from the town centre area	Year 2-5	24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowner, Residents, DTP, CFA, and Council's Economic Development Department	Yes
A17	Consider the expansion of the Township Boundary to provide strategic direction for long term growth (30+ years)	Year 1	12-24 months	Investigate	High	Landowners, Residents, DTP	Yes
A20	Ensure appropriate buffers and separation distances to existing Industrial 1 Zone and for any future residential zoning west of Sugarloaf Road	Year 5-10	12 months	Investigate	Low	Residents, Landowners, DTP	Yes


INVESTIGATE THE POTENTIAL FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION INCLUDING OPTIONS FOR A CAMPUS SITE
UNDERTAKE CULTURAL HERITAGE (PRE AND POST CONTACT) ASSESSMENT TO INFORM LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES AND RELATED PLANNING SCHEME CHANGES
UNDERTAKE HERITAGE STUDY TO IDENTIFY HERITAGE ASSETS AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS
APPLY OVERLAYS TO COMPLY WITH EPA BUFFER REQUIREMENTS
PREVENT LAND USE CONFLICT WITH PIVOT ARM IRRIGATION SYSTEM AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT BUFFER
CONSIDER THE EXPANSION OF THE TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY TO PROVIDE STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR LONG TERM GROWTH (30+ YEARS)
UNDERTAKE ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND NATIVE VEGETATION TO INFORM STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND RELATED PLANNING SCHEME CHANGES
UNDERTAKE TOURISM / DESTINATION STUDY TO IDENTIFY NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES
APPLY THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY TO ENSURE ORDERLY SUBDIVISION AND IDENTIFY OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED INCLUDING FOR ROAD NETWORK AND PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT
INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL FOR LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL ZONING SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENT OF CONSTRAINTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES
IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE
INVESTIGATE NEW SITE FOR FIRE STATION AND POTENTIAL TO CO-LOCATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
ENSURE APPROPRIATE BUFFERS AND SEPARATION DISTANCES TO EXISTING INDUSTRIAL 1 ZONE AND FOR ANY FUTURE RESIDENTIAL ZONING WEST OF SUGARLOAF ROAD
INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDED RURAL LIVING ZONING
INTRODUCE WAYFINDING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE
Draft Corryong Structure Plan 2024
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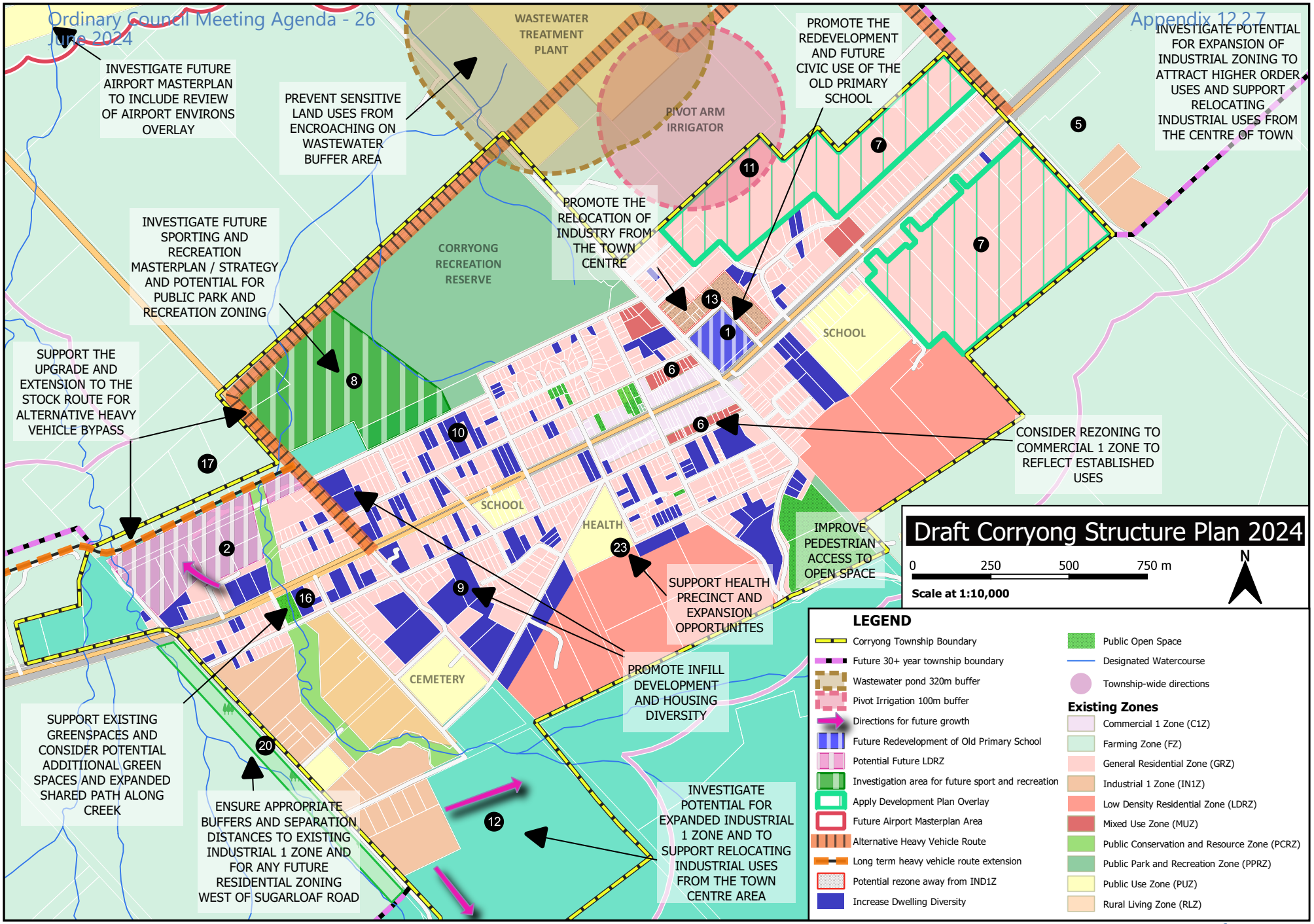
Scale at 1:20,000
LEGEND
Wastewater pond 320m buffer
Pivot Irrigation 100m buffer
Landfill 200m Buffer
Corryong Township Boundary
Future 30+ year township boundary
Broader Directions for the Township
Directions for future growth
Designated Watercourse
Future Redevelopment of Old Primary School
Investigation area for future sport and recreation
Potential Future LDRZ
Increase Dwelling Diversity
Apply Development Plan Overlay
Future Airport Masterplan Area
Alternative Heavy Vehicle Route
Potential rezone away from IND1Z
Public Open Space
Township-wide directions
Existing Zones
Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z)
Farming Zone (FZ)
General Residential Zone (GRZ)
Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z)
Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ)
Mixed Use Zone (MUZ)
Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)
Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
Public Use Zone (PUZ)
Rural Living Zone (RLZ)


WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
PIVOT ARM IRRIGATOR
CORRYONG RECREATION RESERVE
SCHOOL
SCHOOL
HEALTH
CEMETERY
INVESTIGATE FUTURE AIRPORT MASTERPLAN TO INCLUDE REVIEW OF AIRPORT ENVIRONS OVERLAY
PREVENT SENSITIVE LAND USES FROM ENCROACHING ON WASTEWATER BUFFER AREA
PROMOTE THE REDEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE CIVIC USE OF THE OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL
INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION OF INDUSTRIAL ZONING TO ATTRACT HIGHER ORDER USES AND SUPPORT RELOCATING INDUSTRIAL USES FROM THE CENTRE OF TOWN
PROMOTE THE RELOCATION OF INDUSTRY FROM THE TOWN CENTRE
INVESTIGATE FUTURE SPORTING AND RECREATION MASTERPLAN / STRATEGY AND POTENTIAL FOR PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION ZONING
SUPPORT THE UPGRADE AND EXTENSION TO THE STOCK ROUTE FOR ALTERNATIVE HEAVY VEHICLE BYPASS
CONSIDER REZONING TO COMMERCIAL 1 ZONE TO REFLECT ESTABLISHED USES
IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE
SUPPORT HEALTH PRECINCT AND EXPANSION OPPORTUNITES
PROMOTE INFILL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DIVERSITY
SUPPORT EXISTING GREENSPACES AND CONSIDER POTENTIAL ADDITIIONAL GREEN SPACES AND EXPANDED SHARED PATH ALONG CREEK
ENSURE APPROPRIATE BUFFERS AND SEPARATION DISTANCES TO EXISTING INDUSTRIAL 1 ZONE AND FOR ANY FUTURE RESIDENTIAL ZONING WEST OF SUGARLOAF ROAD
INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL FOR EXPANDED INDUSTRIAL 1 ZONE AND TO SUPPORT RELOCATING INDUSTRIAL USES FROM THE TOWN CENTRE AREA
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Draft Corryong Structure Plan 2024
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Scale at 1:10,000
LEGEND
Corryong Township Boundary
Future 30+ year township boundary
Wastewater pond 320m buffer
Pivot Irrigation 100m buffer
Directions for future growth
Future Redevelopment of Old Primary School
Potential Future LDRZ
Investigation area for future sport and recreation
Apply Development Plan Overlay
Future Airport Masterplan Area
Alternative Heavy Vehicle Route
Long term heavy vehicle route extension
Potential rezone away from IND1Z
Increase Dwelling Diversity
Public Open Space
Designated Watercourse
Township-wide directions
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Farming Zone (FZ)
General Residential Zone (GRZ)
Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z)
Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ)
Mixed Use Zone (MUZ)
Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ)
Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
Public Use Zone (PUZ)
Rural Living Zone (RLZ)

Corryong Structure Plan, Emerging Options + Managing Cultural Landscape Project - Response to Submissions (May / June 2024)

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Tomkinson Response / Overview
Submission 1 02.05.24	**No**	**No**	**Unsure**	**Unsure**	**Unsure**	**Unsure**	**No**	**Yes**	
	Land all the way from Thowgla Rd to Hamilton lane to 989 Murray Valley Hwy Ag Warehouse could be large house blocks should the land become available or re zoned. Land all on Sugarloag too open up for large blocks or retirement village	The old mill or Sugarloaf road for a large accommodation or a few business with accommodation to suit groups of 60 to 100. A lot of tourist grps want to stay but we just don't have any	A round about at Keills Street to book end town. We need footpaths. School kids who walk to the pool have to cross twice as there is not a foot path in sections looking fwd to consist loops for all users.	N/A	As people retire a shift will take place to how town looks. Shire needs to be adaptable and take risks too. We could be better.	If our population grows so too should our health options in our community. Open communication needs to take place	We are still missing opportunities. Tourism is seeking everything at our door step but they currently drive through.	N/A	
Tomkinson Response	The draft Structure Plan provides for modest growth and change. The proposed changes are consistent with State Government Policy and are cognisant of the township's opportunities and constraints. The Structure Plan seeks to take advantage of existing infill opportunities whilst providing options for long-term growth corridors, once the available supply has	The Structure Plan acknowledges the current gap in regard to tourism and destination infrastructure and has suggested that this be addressed by future strategic work. The Structure Plan provides strategic direction for industrial land.	The Structure Plan seeks to support improved vehicle and pedestrian connections in and around the town.	The Structure Plan has been informed with input for relevant Authorities and Agencies.	The Structure Plan acknowledges the need to protect the existing and preferred Township character and heritage values of Corryong. Further additional strategic work	The Structure Plan identifies the need for continual awareness of the health proprieties of the community and support of the of Corryong Health. Recommended strategic actions have been included in the Emerging Options	The Structure Plan identifies opportunities to improve recreation and open space. This is provided for on the draft Structure Plan and actions contained within the Emerging Options Papers.	The Structure Plan identifies the need to support reuse and redevelopment of the former Primary School, whilst also acknowledging the need to support child numbers at schools in	By listening and working with the Corryong community and the Agencies that support Corryong, the Structure Plan seeks to support and celebrate Corryong now and into the future. The Structure Plan seeks to take advantage of existing

	been absorbed. The Structure Plan also seeks to support a variety of housing products to meet the needs of the community now and into the future.				has been suggested and will be addressed in updated local planning policy.	Paper and the Structure Plan to reflect this goal and direction.	Further strategic work needs to be undertaken to identify tourism needs and opportunities to support sustainable growth and economic development.	Corryong. It is acknowledged that there are potential opportunities for the provision of Tafe and / or a university campus in Corryong.	infrastructure provision whilst also seeking to identify new / future growth areas. The Plan acknowledges the sub regional role that Corryong plays and the need for additional development to continue to support this level of growth. The Structure Plan also seeks to support and address declining school numbers and opportunities for aging in place. The Structure Plan supports the introduction of new Policy into the Planning Scheme to protect the intact nature of the main street of Corryong and the special views and vistas that contribute to township character and character values. Tourism is seen as a growth industry for Corryong and needs to be supported by adequate accommodation opportunities.

Submission 2 19.05.24	**No**	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**Unsure**	
	You are assuming that the owners of private land will make that available to be subdivided. You also have my property at 3 Cronin Street as available, when it has a house on it. 5 Cronin Street is a storm water catchment, which is constantly overgrown and a fire hazard in Summer, which I continually report, for little action.								
Tomkinson Response	The Structure Plan supports infill development opportunities and seeks to make use of existing infrastructure. Modest change is proposed in respect to residential growth. New growth will be directed and supported by revised local planning policy that seeks to ensure that township character values are taken into account.	In discussions with the community and following extensive review and consideration, the Structure Plan + Emerging Options Paper have identified a gap in Corryong around the provision of commercial services and accommodation. The Structure Plan recommends additional strategic work to determine needs and opportunities and how it would support the existing local and sub – regional economy.	The Structure Plan seeks to improve existing connections and conditions within the town, taking on board access to surrounding recreational walking and cycling assets. Improved connections to surrounding communities, towns and regional areas have also been acknowledged as important to the sustainability and viability of Corryong now and into the future.	The Structure Plan has been informed with input for relevant Authorities and Agencies. We acknowledge that infrastructure provision is a series impediment for the sustainable growth of Corryong.	The Structure Plan acknowledges the need to protect the existing and preferred Township character and heritage values of Corryong. Further additional strategic work has been suggested and will be addressed in updated local planning policy.	The Structure Plan identifies the need for continual awareness of the health proprieties of the community and support of the of Corryong Health. Recommended strategic actions have been included in the Emerging Options Paper and the Structure Plan to reflect this goal and direction.	The Structure Plan identifies opportunities to improve recreation and open space. This is provided for on the draft Structure Plan and actions contained within the Emerging Options Papers. Further strategic work needs to be undertaken to identify tourism needs and opportunities to support sustainable growth and economic development.	The Structure Plan identifies the need to support reuse and redevelopment of the former Primary School, whilst also acknowledging the need to support child numbers at schools in Corryong. It is acknowledged that there are potential opportunities for the provision of Tafe and / or a university campus in Corryong.	By listening and working with the Corryong community and the Agencies that support Corryong, the Structure Plan seeks to support and celebrate Corryong now and into the future. The Structure Plan seeks to take advantage of existing infrastructure provision whilst also seeking to identify new / future growth areas. The Plan acknowledges the sub regional role that Corryong plays and the need for additional development to continue to support this level of growth.

									The Structure Plan also seeks to support and address declining school numbers and opportunities for aging in place. The Structure Plan supports the introduction of new Policy into the Planning Scheme to protect the intact nature of the main street of Corryong and the special views and vistas that contribute to township character and character values. Tourism is seen as a growth industry for Corryong and needs to be supported by adequate accommodation opportunities.
Submission 3 23.05.24	**No**	**No**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	**No**	**Yes**	
Tomkinson Response	The draft Structure Plan has been informed by the Issues + Opportunities Papers + Emerging Options Paper. These documents along with the draft Structure Plan have been provided by Council through both engagement process and discussed in both Community Sessions (February + April) and have	In discussions with the community and following extensive review and consideration, the Structure Plan + Emerging Options Paper have identified a gap in Corryong around the provision of commercial services and	The Structure Plan seeks to improve existing connections and conditions within the town, taking on board access to surrounding recreational walking and cycling assets. Improved	The Structure Plan has been informed with input for relevant Authorities and Agencies. We acknowledge that infrastructure	The Structure Plan supports the inclusion of policy into the planning scheme to protect, celebrate and celebrate Corryong's character and values. This will be achieved by	The Structure Plan identifies the need for continual awareness of the health proprieties of the community and support of the of Corryong Health. Recommended strategic actions have been	The Structure Plan identifies opportunities to improve recreation and open space. This is provided for on the draft Structure Plan and actions contained within the	The Structure Plan identifies the need to support reuse and redevelopment of the former Primary School, whilst also acknowledging the need to support child	By listening and working with the Corryong community and the Agencies that support Corryong, the Structure Plan seeks to support and celebrate Corryong now and into the future. The Structure Plan seeks

	informed proposed changes around residential development to support opportunities for aging in place, improved, sustainable and affordable housing stock.	accommodation. The Structure Plan recommends additional strategic work to determine needs and opportunities and how it would support the existing local and sub – regional economy.	connections to surrounding communities, towns and regional areas have also been acknowledged as important to the sustainability and viability of Corryong now and into the future.	provision is a series impediment for the sustainable growth of Corryong.	updating existing local planning policy and further strategic work.	included in the Emerging Options Paper and the Structure Plan to reflect this goal and direction.	Emerging Options Papers. Further strategic work needs to be undertaken to identify tourism needs and opportunities to support sustainable growth and economic development.	numbers at schools in Corryong. It is acknowledged that there are potential opportunities for the provision of Tafe and / or a university campus in Corryong.	to take advantage of existing infrastructure provision whilst also seeking to identify new / future growth areas. The Plan acknowledges the sub regional role that Corryong plays and the need for additional development to continue to support this level of growth. The Structure Plan also seeks to support and address declining school numbers and opportunities for aging in place. The Structure Plan supports the introduction of new Policy into the Planning Scheme to protect the intact nature of the main street of Corryong and the special views and vistas that contribute to township character and character values. Tourism is seen as a growth industry for Corryong and needs to be supported by adequate accommodation opportunities.

01 TALLANGATTA STATUTORY AND NON-STATUTORY EMERGING OPTIONS

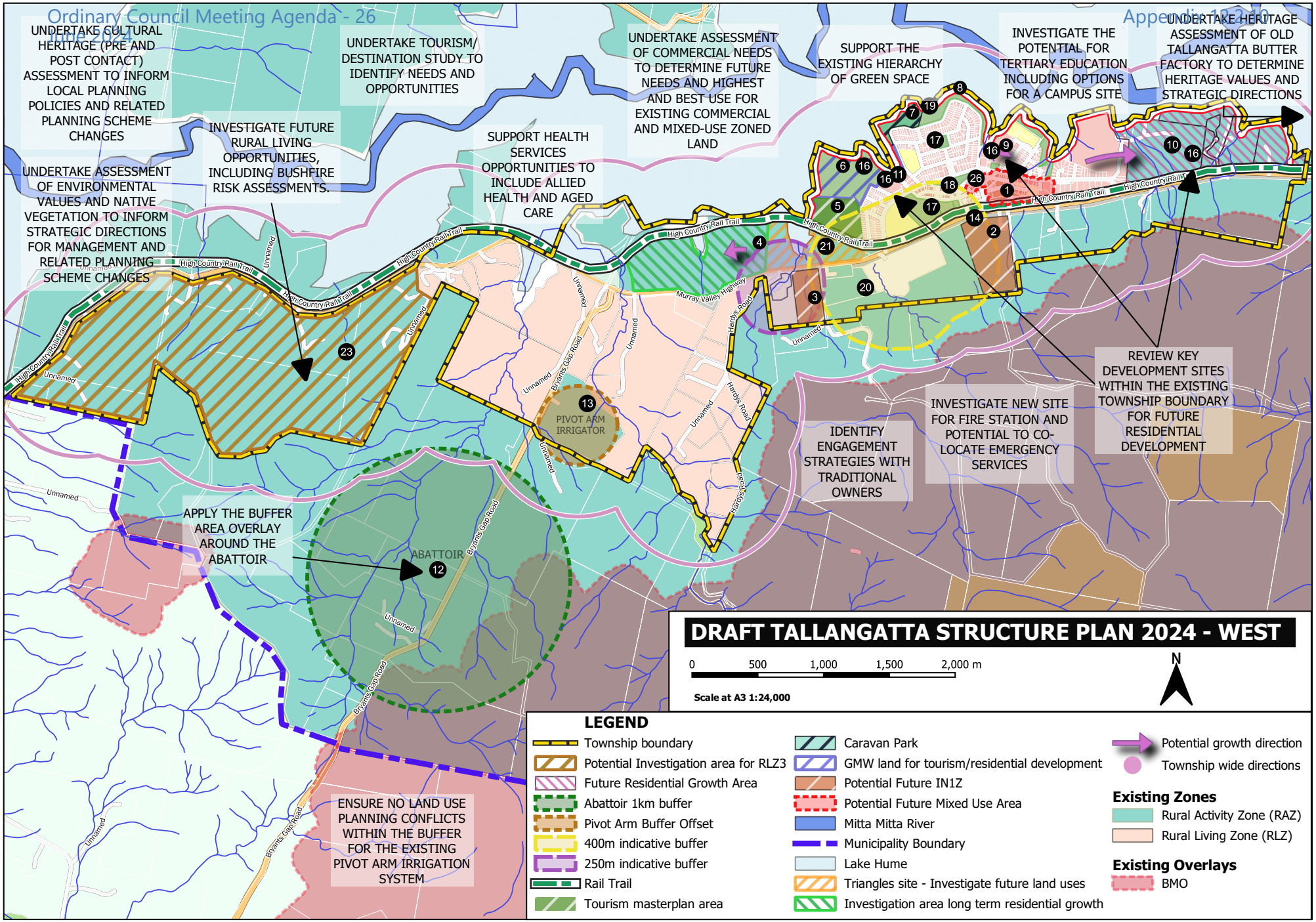
Non-Statutory Emerging Options							
Action #	Action	Timing/commenced	Duration	Council role	Priority	Partners	Stakeholder engagement
A5	Prepare a masterplan for the Tallangatta Showgrounds	Year 3-5	12 months	Implement	Medium	Residents, Landowner.	Yes
A6	Investigate options for the Tallangatta Golf Course	Year 5-10	12-24 Months	Investigate	Low	DTP, CFA, GMW, Landowners, Residents	Yes
A7	Retain the Tallangatta caravan park in its existing footprint	Year 1	Ongoing	Implement/maintain	Low	Landowners	No
A8	Consider options to extend the foreshore pedestrian network	Year 2-5	2-5 years	Implement	Medium	Landowners, Residents, Council's Engineering Department.	Yes
A9	Promote infill residential development and housing diversity associated with the neighbouring hospital	Year 1	Ongoing	Investigate	High	Residents, Landowners, DTP, DEECA, CFA	No
A11	Promote infill development opportunities on the vacant sections of the school site	Year 5-10	Ongoing	Investigate	Medium	Landowners.	No
A13	Ensure no land use planning conflicts within the buffer for the existing pivot arm irrigation system	Year 1	Ongoing	Implement	High	Landowners	No

A16	Review key development sites within the existing township boundary for future residential development	Year 1-15	Ongoing	Implement	High	Landowners, Residents, Council's Planning Department	No
A17	Support the existing hierarchy of green space	Year 1-10	Ongoing	Implement	Medium	Residents, Council's Parks Department	Yes
A18	Introduce wayfinding signage to promote tourism accessibility	Year 3-5	12 months	Implement	Medium	Residents, Council's Parks Department	Yes
A19	Expand opportunities for foreshore development on land zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone	Year 2-5	12-24 months	Investigate	Medium	Residents, GMW, DTP	Yes
A20	Consider the relocation of the Tallangatta Golf Course	Year 5-10	24 – 36 months	Investigate	Low	GMW, Residents, Landowners	Yes
A22	Undertake cultural heritage (pre and post contact) assessment to inform local planning policies and related planning scheme changes	Year 2 and 3	12 – 24 months	Implement	High	DEECA, DTP, Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, RAP	Yes
A24	Identify engagement strategies with Traditional Owners	Year 1	Ongoing	Investigate	High	Traditional Owners, Residents	Yes
A26	Undertake assessment of commercial needs to determine future needs and highest and best use for existing commercial and mixed-use zoned land	Year 1 and 2	12-24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents, DTP and Council's Economic Development Department	Yes

A27	Investigate the potential for tertiary education including options for a campus site	Year 1 and 2	24 months	Investigate	Medium	Victorian Department of Education, local schools, TAFE Victoria	Yes
A28	Undertake tourism / destination study to identify needs and opportunities	Year 1	12 months	Investigate	Medium	Accommodation provides, Council's Economic Development Department, State Government	Yes
A29	Support health services opportunities to include allied health and aged care	Year 1 and 2	Ongoing	Implement	Medium	Health providers, Council's Community and Economic Development Departments	No
A30	Investigate new site for fire station and potential to co-locate emergency services	Year 1-2	12 months	Investigate	Medium	CFA, DEECA, DTP	Yes
A31	Undertake heritage assessment of Tallangatta Butter Factory to determine heritage values and strategic directions	Year 2-3	12 months	Implement	Medium	Landowners, Residents, DTP	Yes
A32	Undertake assessment of environmental values and native vegetation to inform strategic directions for management and related planning scheme changes	Year 1 and 2	24 months	Implement	Medium	Landowners, Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, RAP, Council's Parks Department	Yes

Statutory Emerging Options							
Action #	Action	Timing/commenced	Duration	Council role	Priority	Partners	Stakeholder engagement
A1	Consider future rezoning of existing Industrial 1 Zone land to Mixed Use Zone to encourage redevelopment and relocation of existing industrial uses	Year 1-5	24 months	Investigate	High	Residents, Landowner, DTP, CFA, Council's Economic Development Department	Yes
A2 & A3	Investigate potential future rezoning of land surrounding the Waste Water Treatment Plant to Industrial 1 Zone to provide for new uses and support relocating industrial uses from the town centre area	Year 2-5	24 months	Investigate	High	Landowners, DTP, CFA and GWM	Yes
A4	Investigate the potential for rezoning of Rural Activity Zone land north of the Murray Valley Highway to provide for long-term residential growth (30+ years)	Year 2-5	24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents, DTP, CFA	Yes
A10	Investigate future rezoning of land east of the township to Neighbourhood Residential Zone to allow for sequential future growth. Consider application of the Development Plan Overlay to address site context, constraints and opportunities and an appropriate mechanism to collect development contributions	Year 5-10	24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, DTP, CFA, Residents.	Yes

A12	Apply the Buffer Area Overlay around the Abattoir	Year 2-5	24 months	Implement	High	Landowners, EPA, DTP	Yes
A14	Investigate traffic light intersection treatments for the future industrial precinct	Year 5-10	12 – 24 months	Investigate	Medium	DTP, Residents, Landowners	Yes
A21	Investigate options for potential future uses for the 'Triangles' site including an assessment of site constraints and environmental values	Year 5-10	12-24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, Residents, DTP, CFA	Yes
A23	Investigate rezoning options for additional Rural Living Zone areas west of Tallangatta	Year 1-2	12-24 months	Investigate	Medium	Landowners, CFA, DTP	Yes


UNDERTAKE CULTURAL HERITAGE (PRE AND POST CONTACT) ASSESSMENT TO INFORM LOCAL PLANNING POLICIES AND RELATED PLANNING SCHEME CHANGES
UNDERTAKE TOURISM/ DESTINATION STUDY TO IDENTIFY NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES
UNDERTAKE ASSESSMENT OF COMMERCIAL NEEDS TO DETERMINE FUTURE NEEDS AND HIGHEST AND BEST USE FOR EXISTING COMMERCIAL AND MIXED-USE ZONED LAND
SUPPORT THE EXISTING HIERARCHY OF GREEN SPACE
INVESTIGATE THE POTENTIAL FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION INCLUDING OPTIONS FOR A CAMPUS SITE
UNDERTAKE HERITAGE ASSESSMENT OF OLD TALLANGATTA BUTTER FACTORY TO DETERMINE HERITAGE VALUES AND STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS
INVESTIGATE FUTURE RURAL LIVING OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING BUSHFIRE RISK ASSESSMENTS.
SUPPORT HEALTH SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES TO INCLUDE ALLIED HEALTH AND AGED CARE
UNDERTAKE ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND NATIVE VEGETATION TO INFORM STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND RELATED PLANNING SCHEME CHANGES
REVIEW KEY DEVELOPMENT SITES WITHIN THE EXISTING TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY FOR FUTURE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT
INVESTIGATE NEW SITE FOR FIRE STATION AND POTENTIAL TO CO-LOCATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
IDENTIFY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES WITH TRADITIONAL OWNERS
APPLY THE BUFFER AREA OVERLAY AROUND THE ABATTOIR
ENSURE NO LAND USE PLANNING CONFLICTS WITHIN THE BUFFER FOR THE EXISTING PIVOT ARM IRRIGATION SYSTEM
PIVOT ARM IRRIGATOR
ABATTOIR
High Country Rail Trail
Murray Valley Highway
Hardys Road
Bryants Gap Road
Unnamed
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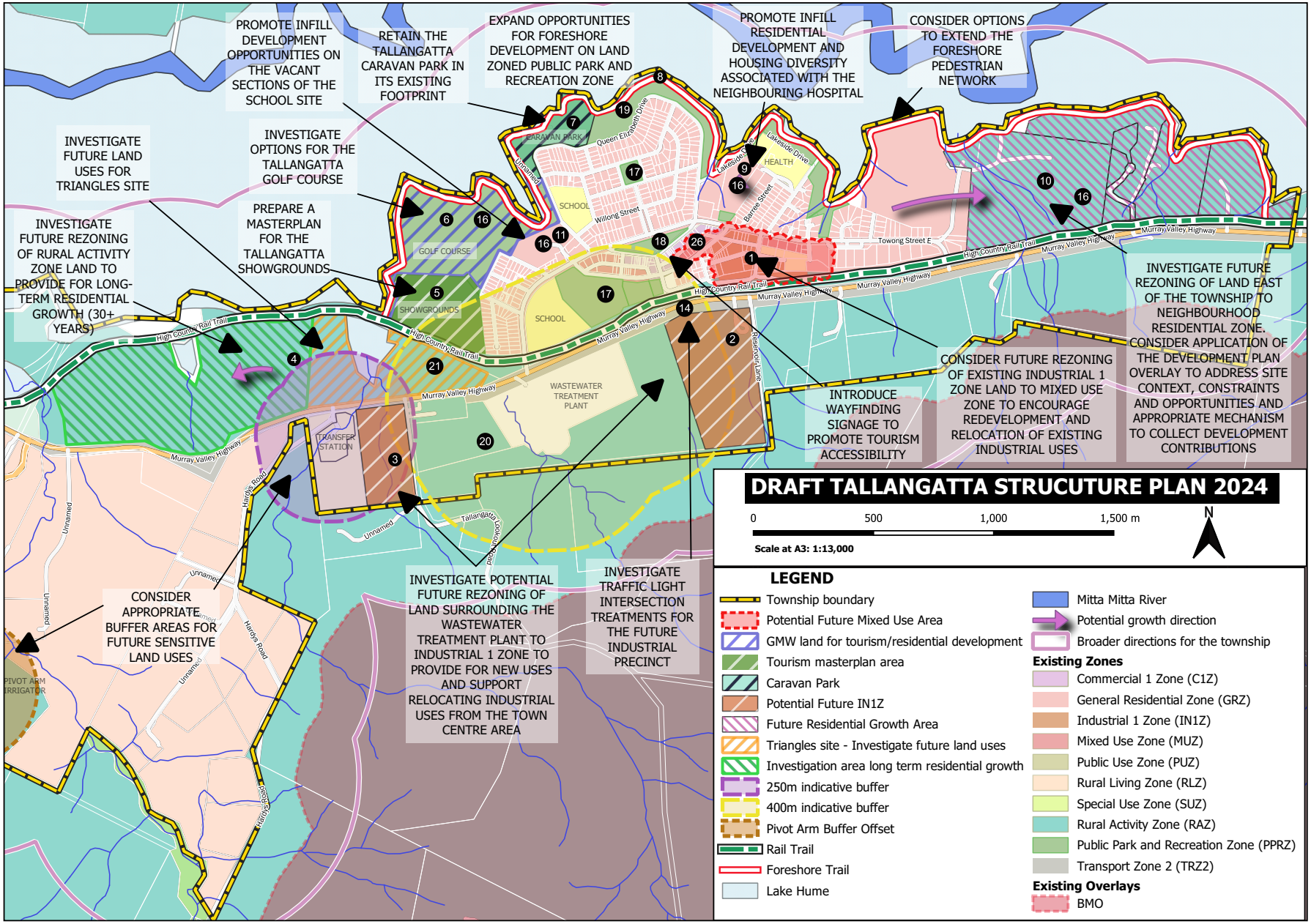
LEGEND
Township boundary
Potential Investigation area for RLZ3
Future Residential Growth Area
Abattoir 1km buffer
Pivot Arm Buffer Offset
400m indicative buffer
250m indicative buffer
Rail Trail
Tourism masterplan area
Caravan Park
GMW land for tourism/residential development
Potential Future IN1Z
Potential Future Mixed Use Area
Mitta Mitta River
Municipality Boundary
Lake Hume
Triangles site - Investigate future land uses
Investigation area long term residential growth
Potential growth direction
Township wide directions
Existing Zones
Rural Activity Zone (RAZ)
Rural Living Zone (RLZ)
Existing Overlays
BMO


PROMOTE INFILL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ON THE VACANT SECTIONS OF THE SCHOOL SITE
RETAIN THE TALLANGATTA CARAVAN PARK IN ITS EXISTING FOOTPRINT
EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORESHORE DEVELOPMENT ON LAND ZONED PUBLIC PARK AND RECREATION ZONE
PROMOTE INFILL RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING DIVERSITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NEIGHBOURING HOSPITAL
CONSIDER OPTIONS TO EXTEND THE FORESHORE PEDESTRIAN NETWORK
INVESTIGATE FUTURE LAND USES FOR TRIANGLES SITE
INVESTIGATE OPTIONS FOR THE TALLANGATTA GOLF COURSE
PREPARE A MASTERPLAN FOR THE TALLANGATTA SHOWGROUNDS
INVESTIGATE FUTURE REZONING OF RURAL ACTIVITY ZONE LAND TO PROVIDE FOR LONG-TERM RESIDENTIAL GROWTH (30+ YEARS)
INTRODUCE WAYFINDING SIGNAGE TO PROMOTE TOURISM ACCESSIBILITY
CONSIDER FUTURE REZONING OF EXISTING INDUSTRIAL 1 ZONE LAND TO MIXED USE ZONE TO ENCOURAGE REDEVELOPMENT AND RELOCATION OF EXISTING INDUSTRIAL USES
INVESTIGATE FUTURE REZONING OF LAND EAST OF THE TOWNSHIP TO NEIGHBOURHOOD RESIDENTIAL ZONE. CONSIDER APPLICATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY TO ADDRESS SITE CONTEXT, CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES AND APPROPRIATE MECHANISM TO COLLECT DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS
INVESTIGATE POTENTIAL FUTURE REZONING OF LAND SURROUNDING THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO INDUSTRIAL 1 ZONE TO PROVIDE FOR NEW USES AND SUPPORT RELOCATING INDUSTRIAL USES FROM THE TOWN CENTRE AREA
INVESTIGATE TRAFFIC LIGHT INTERSECTION TREATMENTS FOR THE FUTURE INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT
CONSIDER APPROPRIATE BUFFER AREAS FOR FUTURE SENSITIVE LAND USES
DRAFT TALLANGATTA STRUCUTURE PLAN 2024
0 500 1,000 1,500 m
N
Scale at A3: 1:13,000
LEGEND
Township boundary
Potential Future Mixed Use Area
GMW land for tourism/residential development
Tourism masterplan area
Caravan Park
Potential Future IN1Z
Future Residential Growth Area
Triangles site - Investigate future land uses
Investigation area long term residential growth
250m indicative buffer
400m indicative buffer
Pivot Arm Buffer Offset
Rail Trail
Foreshore Trail
Lake Hume
Mitta Mitta River
Potential growth direction
Broader directions for the township
Existing Zones
Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z)
General Residential Zone (GRZ)
Industrial 1 Zone (IN1Z)
Mixed Use Zone (MUZ)
Public Use Zone (PUZ)
Rural Living Zone (RLZ)
Special Use Zone (SUZ)
Rural Activity Zone (RAZ)
Public Park and Recreation Zone (PPRZ)
Transport Zone 2 (TRZ2)
Existing Overlays
BMO
CARAVAN PARK
GOLF COURSE
SHOWGROUNDS
SCHOOL
HEALTH
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT
TRANSFER STATION
Queen Elizabeth Drive
Willong Street
Lakeside Drive
Barnes Street
Towong Street E
Murray Valley Highway
High Country Rail Trail
Hansen Lane
Harolds Road
Tallangatta Cemetery Road
Unnamed
Unnamed Road
PIVOT ARM IRRIGATOR

Credit Card Policy

Responsible officer:	Director Corporate and Organisational Development
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set out Council's approach to the issue, usage and administration of credit cards, with a view to ensuring that credit cards usage is appropriate, authorised, in line with Council's Procurement Policy, and that mitigations are in place to reduce the risk of inappropriate or fraudulent use.

2. Scope

This policy is applicable to the issue of credit cards to Towong Shire Council employees. Credit cards are not issued to Councillors or contractors.

3. ~~Background~~Objective

Council deploys a range of payment methods for purchasing goods, services and works. The preferred method is to issue a purchase order to the supplier and to request an invoice for payment via Council's fortnightly supplier payment process, however there are selected circumstances where the use of a corporate credit card may be more appropriate, for example when the relevant supplier does not offer an invoice payment process.

4. ~~Approach~~Policy Details

4.1. Issue of credit cards

The Chief Executive Officer will be issued with a credit card. The Chief Executive Officer may authorise the issue of credit cards to other Council officers as deemed appropriate to meet operational requirements. ~~This will include at a minimum all Directors and the Finance Manager.~~ All new cardholders will be issued with a copy of the bank's terms and conditions.

The following operational circumstances will be considered to determine when it is appropriate for staff to hold a credit card:

- Work location is not at the Tallangatta office;
- Demonstrated need for purchasing from vendors where invoicing is not an option;
- Demonstrated need for purchasing to achieve better value for money.

It is the responsibility of the card holder to return their credit card to the Finance Manager for appropriate processing if they are no longer in that position or no longer require the credit card. If this is the Finance Manager, the credit card is to be returned to the Director Corporate and Organisational Development for appropriate processing.

4.2. Use of credit cards

Credit cards must only be used for official Council business which may include travel expenses, training and general purchases of goods and services. Payment of any non-official use that does not advance Council business is a breach of this policy, which may include fines, fuel, alcohol or other products and services that could be perceived as misuse of public funds. Purchases for catering or gifts must be in line with the Employee recognition Policy, or for Council business or work-related events.

Where Council makes regular purchases or non-trivial purchases with suppliers that offer an invoice payment process, that process should be adopted and the use of credit cards should be avoided.

~~All purchases must be conducted in line with the requirements of Council's *Procurement Policy* and within approved card expenditure limits.~~

Cards must not be used for private or non-official expenditure, cash advances or for the payment of fines.

Cards must only be used by the person whose name appears on it or with their express authority, which must be documented. Cardholders are responsible for all transactions on their card. ~~Card~~

holders must ensure that staff who receive their expressed authority only make purchases in accordance with the Council *Procurement Policy* (officer delegations, procurement threshold obligations ect) and in accordance with this policy.

Cardholders should ensure that they receive a tax invoice for each transaction and note the details and purpose on the invoice. If a tax invoice is not available other sufficient supporting documentation may include purchase receipt or statutory declaration.....

Cardholders must review and sign-off the monthly credit card statement for completeness and accuracy, by matching transactions with sufficient supporting documentation and receipt of goods and services.

Cardholders are in a position of trust in regards to the use of public funds. Improper use of that trust may result in disciplinary or criminal proceedings against the cardholder.

It is the cardholder's responsibility to ensure that any credit card issued on behalf of Council is kept securely and is guarded against unauthorised use. Any stolen or lost cards or suspected unauthorised transactions are to be reported immediately to the Assistant Accountant for credit card cancellation.

4.3. Review of credit card purchases

The Mayor will review and authorise the monthly credit card statement and supporting documentation for the Chief Executive Officer's credit card.

The Chief Executive Officer will review and authorise the credit card statement and supporting documentation for the Director Corporate and Organisational Development (if the Director is issued with a card) the monthly credit card statement and supporting documentation for each card issued to Directors.

The respective Directors' responsible Corporate and Organisational Development will review and authorise the credit card statements and supporting documentation for all other card holders.

A summary of the purchases made on the Chief Executive Officer's Credit Card will be provided to the Audit and Risk Committee at least every six months with Finance Manager approval.

Any instances of a non-compliance with this policy will be reported to the Chief Executive Officer. Where the matter of non-compliance relates to the Chief Executive Officer's use of the credit card, the matter will be reported to the Mayor.

4.4. Procurement

When making credit card purchases, staff will be required to comply with the procurement policy at all times, including delegated purchasing limits. In addition, staff must be mindful of the requirement to be accountable to your budget. Staff must also balance the need for finding value for money, against the intent to support local businesses.

If purchases can be made on account with a local supplier, provided that the cost of shopping locally is not prohibitive, this is preferred. Where there are significant savings to be had with the

opportunity to shop online, the accessibility created with credit card purchases should be taken advantage of.

5. ~~Deployment~~Responsibilities

Responsibility	Role/Position
Reviewing the CEO credit card reconciliation and purchases.	Mayor
Authorising the issue of credit card's to staff. Reviewing the purchases on credit cards for Directors.	Chief Executive Officer
Reviewing the credit card purchases for staff within their Directorate.	Directors and Finance Manager
Signing and abiding by the credit card policy	All Staff

~~The Director Corporate and Organisational Development is responsible for implementing this Policy.~~

~~Results~~

~~The deployment of this policy together with the results achieved will be reviewed at least annually.~~

6. Human Rights Charter Compatibility

This policy has been assessed as being compatible with the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 [Vic]*.

7. Relevant Legislation and Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other relevant Council policies and procedures, as well as relevant legislative requirements.

Related legislation includes:

- *Local Government Act 2020*

Other related guidelines or policies include:

- *Procurement Policy*
- *Fraud and Corrupt Conduct Policy and Procedure*

Authorised by: _____

Juliana Phelps
Chief Executive Officer