

DRAFT

OUR TOWN TOWARDS 2030

Towong Placemaking and Township Co-Design Project

BETHANGA

Draft Place Plan Presentation

October 2023



Clarke
Hopkins
Clarke

towongshire 



ClarkeHopkinsClarke acknowledges 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.

ClarkeHopkinsClarke also acknowledges 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 groups we are aware of: Jaitmatang, Yaithmathang, Duduroa dhargal, Waveroo, Way-wurru, Wiradjuri and Ngarigo people as the traditional custodians of the land.

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.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION



**OUR
TOWN**

BETHANGA PLACE PLAN

The Draft Bethanga Place Plan (the draft 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. A series of proposals have been summarised in four Big Ideas to inform short to long term priorities for investment and growth in the township.

The plans are part of **Our Town Towards 2030**, a Placemaking and Co-design Project (the project) initiated by Towong Shire Council 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.



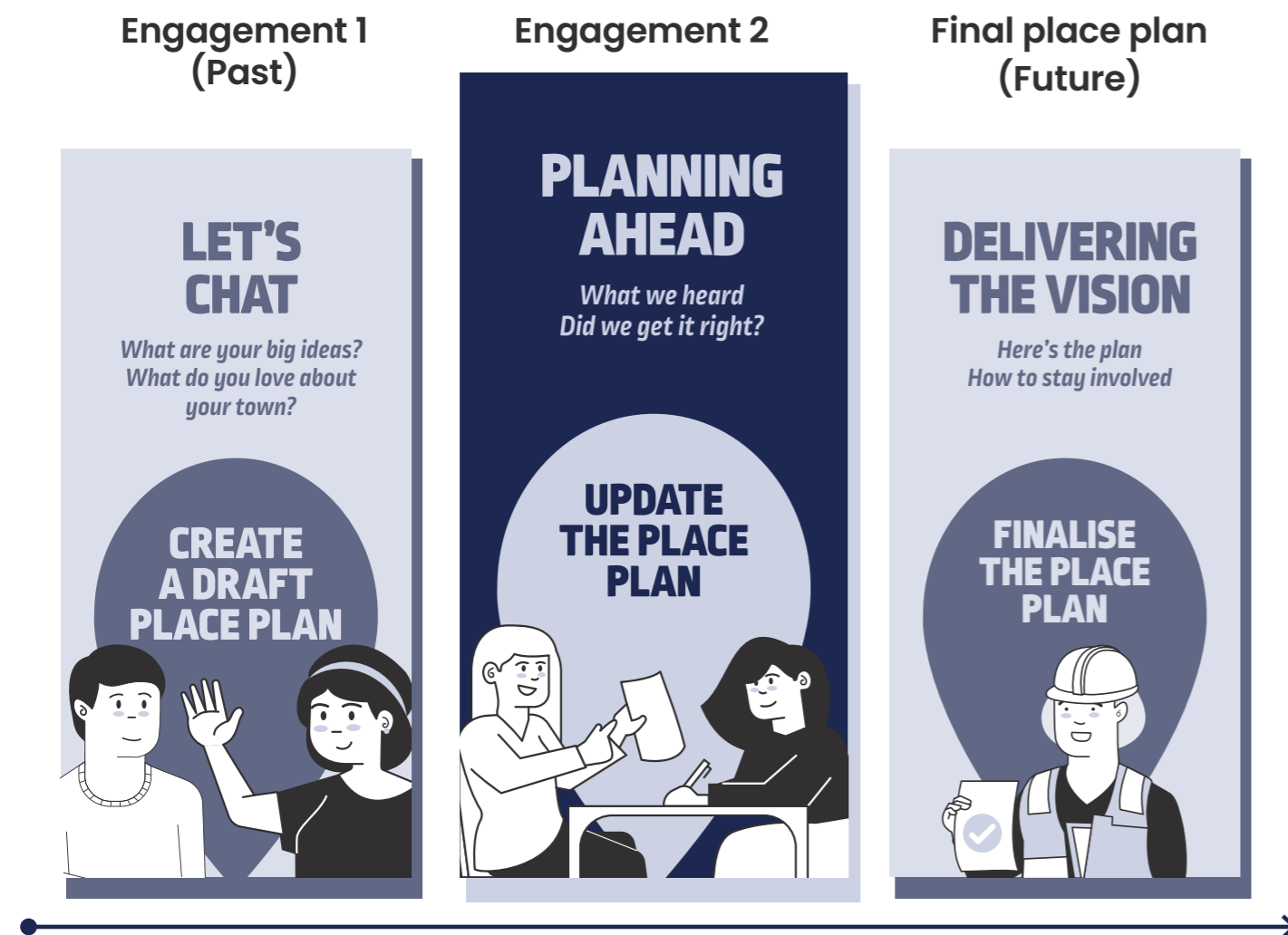
THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This draft plan has been developed using a place-based approach and is the collation of ideas and proposals identified during Engagement 01: Let's Chat.

In addition to providing a summary of the conversations and the big ideas you shared with us, this document outlines the content for the second round of engagement called Planning Ahead.

Engagement 02: Planning Ahead is your opportunity to provide feedback on the engagement 01 findings and our opportunity to collectively develop and prioritise these ideas with your participation.

PRESENTATION STRUCTURE



This document is structured in three parts commencing with a project introduction and overview of Engagement 01: Let's Chat.

The second part is a vision exercise planned for the Engagement 02 workshop. Information on how to get involved in Engagement 02 will be provided on Council's website.

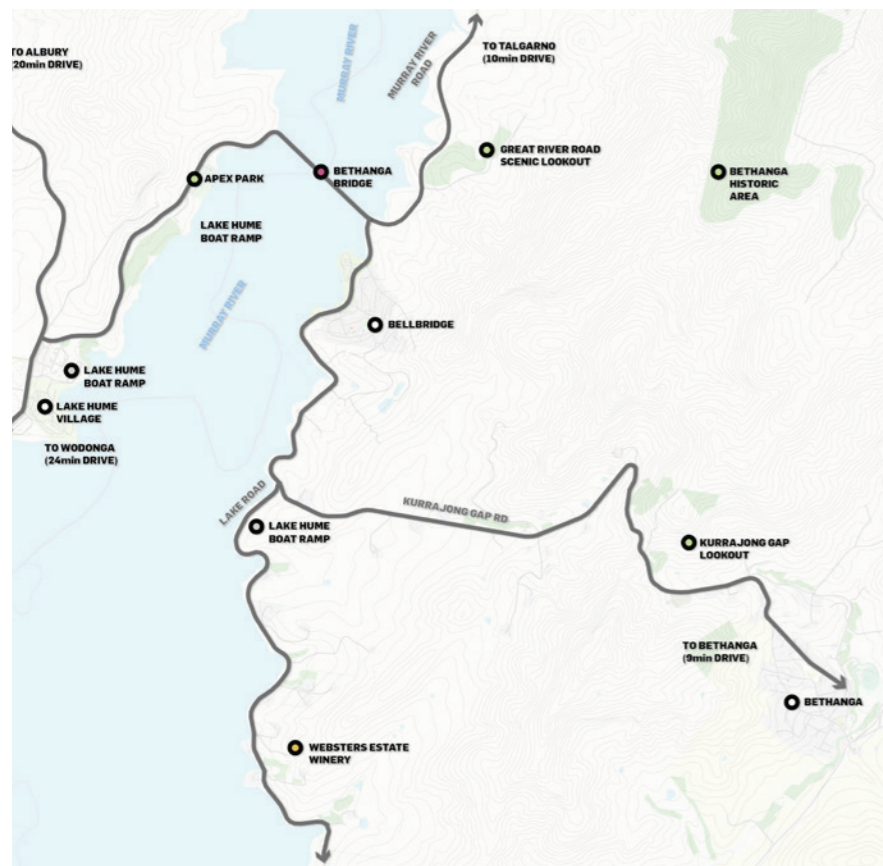
The bulk of the document, part 3 Big Ideas is a summary of the ideas and proposals from our analysis of 'what we heard'.







CONTEXT MAPS



Regional Context

- + 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 Bellbridge and the heritage listed Bethanga Bridge built between 1927-30 when the Hume Weir was completed.
- + 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.



Township Context

- + 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.
- + 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, Bellbridge 8km north-west and Old Tallangatta 50km to the south-east.



Town Centre Context

- + 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.

BETHANGA PROJECTS

This map summarises both completed/in progress projects and key features of Bethanga.

KEY

- Key feature
- Completed / in progress project
- Bethanga Creek

- 1 Bethanga Recreation Reserve
- 2 Bethanga Primary School
- 3 CFA Sheds and Creek Frontage
- 4 Fire Station
- 5 General Store
- 6 Bethanga Hall (Soldiers Memorial Hall)
- 7 Bethanga Hotel
- 8 Police Station
- 9 Holy Trinity Anglican Church
- 10 Bethanga Tennis Courts
- 11 Bethanga Historic Area
- 12 Kurrajong Gap Lookout
- 13 Playground
- 14 St Francis Catholic Church
- 15 Bethanga Rechabite Hall
- 16 The Hair Nook Salon
- 17 Tennis Courts
- 18 Cricket Batting Cage
- 19 Lake Hume







BETHANGA HOTEL



ENGAGEMENT 01: LET'S CHAT

The project is comprised of three stages of engagement. 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.

Four questions were asked, with more detailed conversations held with individuals or small groups.

- + 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?



WHO WE SPOKE TO & HOW

Engagement 01: Let's Chat included a number of methods including 'Town-hall' style meetings and events, focus groups and 1:1 meetings, online meetings and online and hardcopy surveys.

Community Events

- + Bethanga Town Hall Meeting

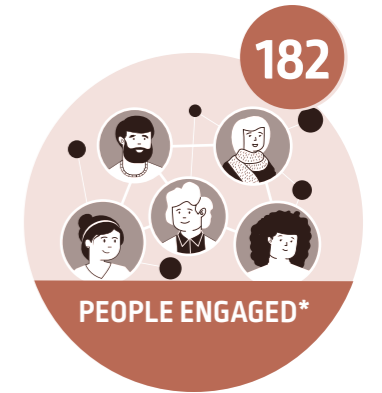
Government Departments & Agencies

- + Towong Shire Senior Leadership Team
- + Towong Shire Councillors
- + DEECA Planning, Bushfire & Emergency Recovery Coordination
- + DEECA Forest Fire Regions
- + DTP Transport Strategy & Integrated Transport, Regional Transport
- + Parks Victoria
- + Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- + Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
- + Goulburn Murray Water (GMW)
- + North East Water (NEW)
- + North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
- + Tourism North East (TNE)

Focus Groups & One-to-One sessions

- + Berringa Peninsula Community Network (BPCN)
- + Hume Boat Club
- + Bellbridge Playgroup & Bethanga Primary Parents Group
- + Bethanga Hotel
- + General Store
- + Websters Estate Winery
- + Bellbridge Lake Hume Rotary Club
- + Bethanga Primary School

FEEDBACK



PROMOTION & REACH



BETHANGA SCHOOL STUDENTS

Bethanga Primary School students participated in the engagement process. The following is a selection of responses across the Years Foundation-6 highlighting how Bethanga could be a better place in their future.

Our Town Towards 2030 Bethanga Ideas

What would you like to see in Bethanga in the future?

There is one thing that I definitely want to see... A Supermarket. Driving half an hour to get to the supermarket and then an hour to get back is just so long! Also, I would love to get small boxes for the houses, because we never know when we have mail so we have to go down to the post office/parcel store to go check if there are any letters. I would love to see any dirt roads be turned into proper roads. Maybe we could have a park near the lookout or have one somewhere else. I know there is one at the quarry side and in the hills. We also need to change the town motto to something more exciting!

Please use the space provided to let us know your ideas - draw, write, collage, whatever takes your fancy.

Please complete and return to your school by Monday 3rd April 2022.

OUR TOWN TOWARDS 2030

Our Town Towards 2030 Bethanga Ideas

What would you like to see in Bethanga in the future?

Please use the space provided to let us know your ideas - draw, write, collage, whatever takes your fancy.

Please complete and return to your school by Monday 3rd April 2022.

OUR TOWN TOWARDS 2030

Our Town Towards 2030 Bethanga Ideas

What would you like to see in Bethanga in the future?

Clean Creek next to pub and rec

More Council run activities

Walking and Bike tracks

Change motto for town

Small library

Please use the space provided to let us know your ideas - draw, write, collage, whatever takes your fancy.

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OUR TOWN TOWARDS 2030

Our Town Towards 2030 Bethanga Ideas

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OUR TOWN TOWARDS 2030

Our Town Towards 2030 Bethanga Ideas

What would you like to see in Bethanga in the future?

My motto: 'I have a vision, I dream big!'

CLEAN UP Creek

Fun Zone

Daycare

More... road stairs

Shoping Place

Super market

CARNIVAL

A town LIBRARY

Hospital

Fun Zone

Daycare

More... road stairs

Shoping Place

Super market

CARNIVAL

A town LIBRARY

Hospital

Please use the space provided to let us know your ideas - draw, write, collage, whatever takes your fancy.

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OUR TOWN TOWARDS 2030

Our Town Towards 2030 Bethanga Ideas

What would you like to see in Bethanga in the future?

POST OFFICE

Fun Zone

Daycare

More... road stairs

Shoping Place

Super market

CARNIVAL

A town LIBRARY

Hospital

Please use the space provided to let us know your ideas - draw, write, collage, whatever takes your fancy.

Please complete and return to your school by Monday 3rd April 2022.

OUR TOWN TOWARDS 2030

Our Town Towards 2030 Bethanga Ideas

What would you like to see in Bethanga in the future?

I really hope you can use my ideas and make them come to life! Hope you enjoy reading this and see it through!

Please use the space provided to let us know your ideas - draw, write, collage, whatever takes your fancy.

Please complete and return to your school by Monday 3rd April 2022.

OUR TOWN TOWARDS 2030

Our Town Towards 2030 Bethanga Ideas

What would you like to see in Bethanga in the future?

Please use the space provided to let us know your ideas - draw, write, collage, whatever takes your fancy.

Please complete and return to your school by Monday 3rd April 2022.

OUR TOWN TOWARDS 2030



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 buit for locals to display their works!

Survey respondent

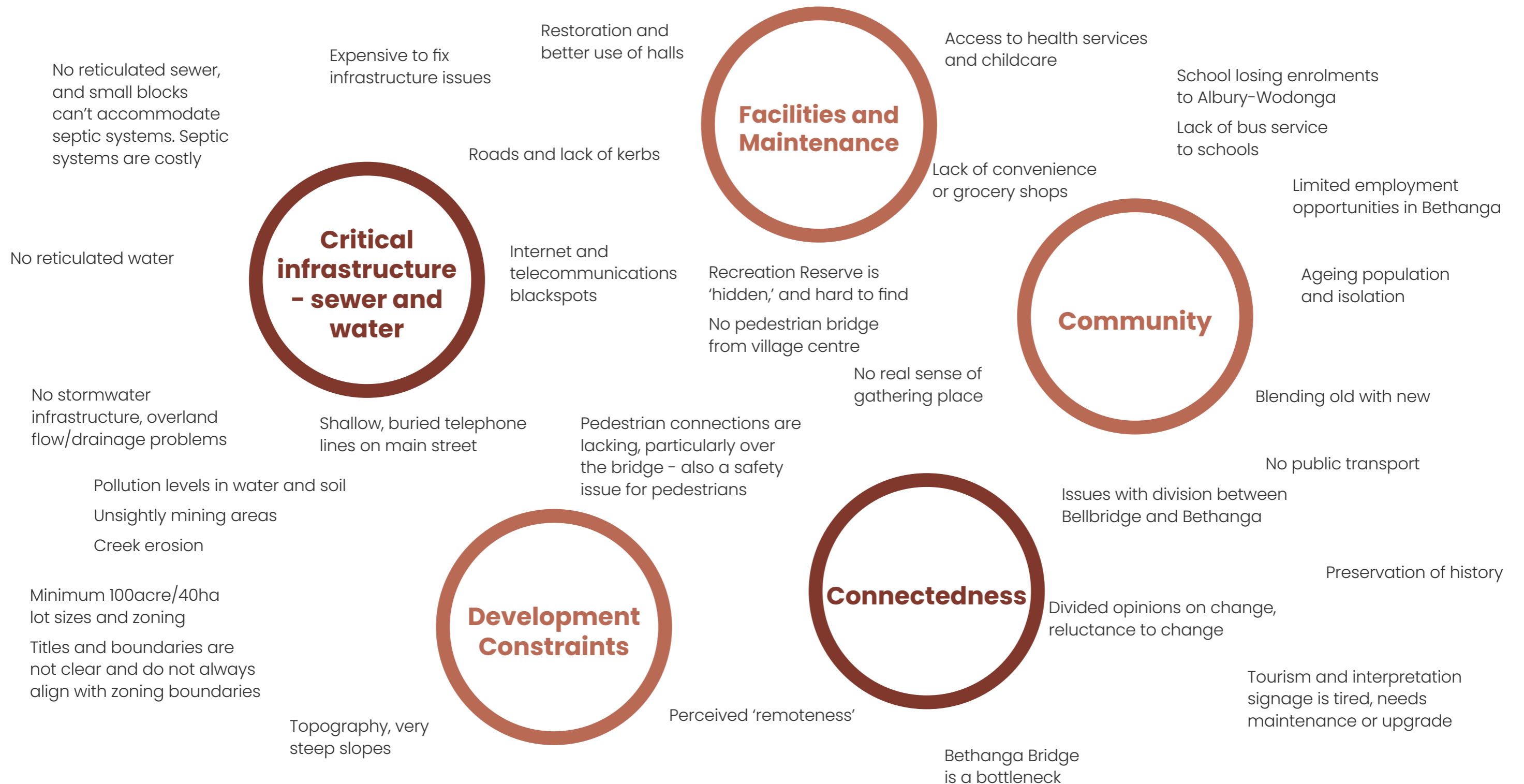
BETHANGA STRENGTHS & ASSETS

An analysis of your responses to the questions 'What makes your town special?' and 'What do you love and value?' have been summarised in the following strengths and assets.



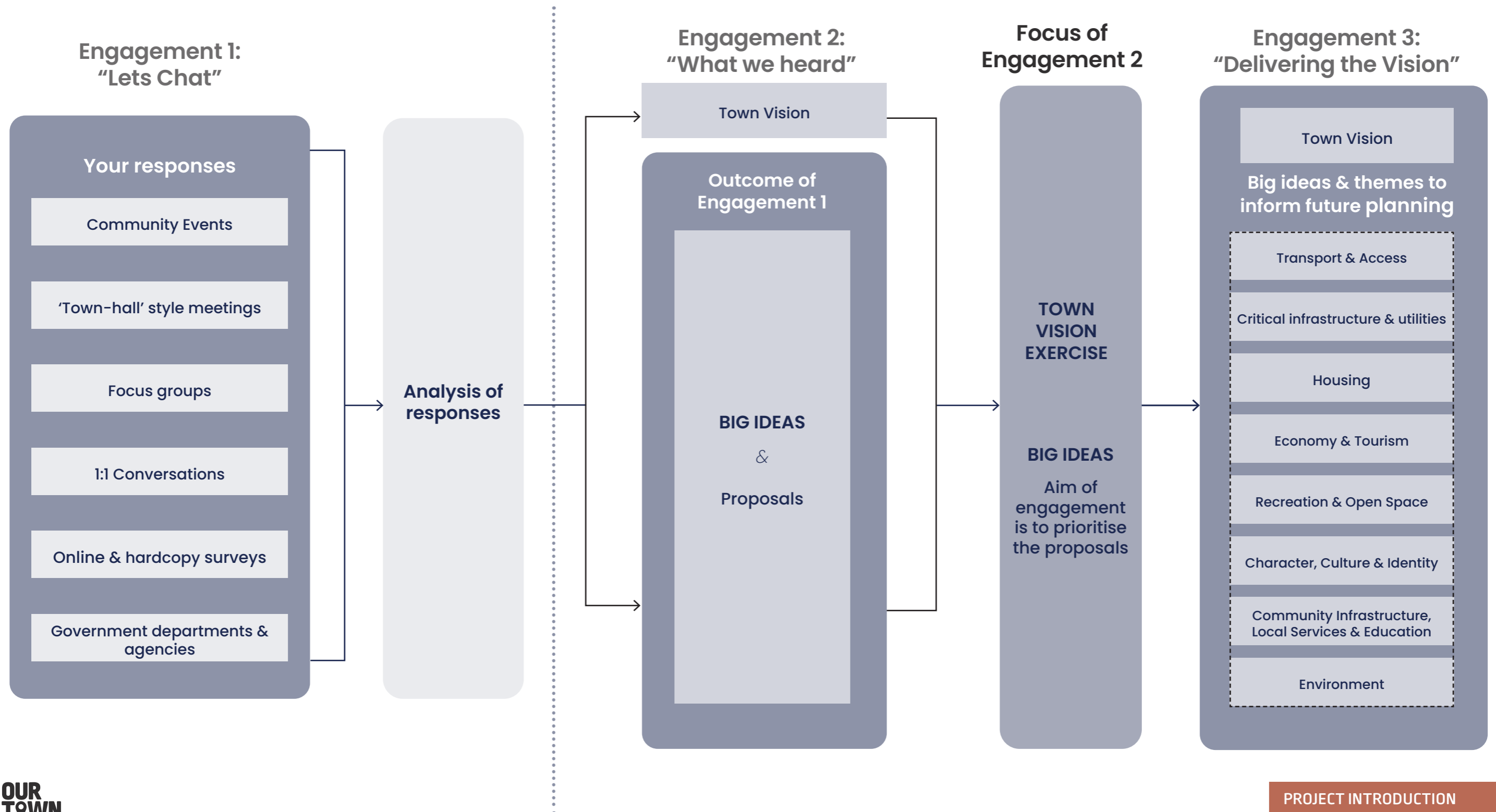
BETHANGA CHALLENGES

An analysis of your responses to the question 'What challenges does your town face?' have been summarised in the following challenges.



ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

Four big ideas emerged from an analysis of your responses. The following diagram illustrates the methodology developed for this project and how the insights are being used to create the vision, big ideas and draft proposals for the second stage of engagement.



OUR
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TOWARDS 2030



BIG IDEAS

BIG IDEAS

Four Big Ideas emerged from an analysis of your responses. These broadly capitalise on Bethanga's existing village character, potential to strengthen community and increase the visitor economy through heritage, arts and culture, integrating Bethanga Creek and Recreation Reserve with the village heart and environmental improvements to increase the township's sustainability and long-term resilience. The following pages summarise the proposals under four Big Ideas and provide the workshop topics for Engagement 02: Planning Ahead.



01

Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve

- + Village centre
 - Retail/commercial expansion
 - Streetscape improvements
 - Gateway arrival & intersections
 - Parking strategy
- + Bethanga Recreation Reserve
 - Facilities upgrade
 - Improve links with the village centre
 - New recreational facilities
- + Strengthen community infrastructure/services
 - Small library & community spaces
 - Investigate need to improve health & education services



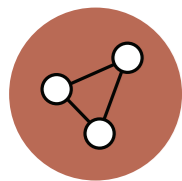
02

Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture

- + Celebrate heritage
 - Historical and information hub at Rechabite Hall
 - Permanent historic exhibition
 - Town walks
- + Arts & community hub
- + Increase use of Bethanga Hall
- + Destination businesses
- + Short-term accommodation
- + Events calendar & activities

NOTE

Wherever possible we have tried to use the words people said to describe the big ideas. In some cases, the big ideas might already have elements that are underway. We haven't excluded them if they've already started. Instead we have included them to honour their importance and to highlight their progress to community members who may not know they are underway.



03

Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable

- + Environmental improvements
 - Mine & Bethanga Creek rehabilitation
- + Expand the trail & road cycling network
- + Great Lake Road Drive
- + Road upgrades, maintenance & fuel
- + Public bus service & shuttle and EV Charging station
- + Tree canopy cover, drainage & Water Sensitive Urban Design's (WSUD)
- + Improve footpaths, crossings & wayfinding signage
- + Significant Aboriginal cultural heritage
- + Renewable energy, waste & water
- + Leverage cycling events



04

Grow the township while retaining the village character

- + Investigation areas
- + Township Zone housing
- + Increase housing choice
- + Plan for long-term resilience
- + Bushfire preparedness
- + Critical infrastructure

BIG IDEA 01

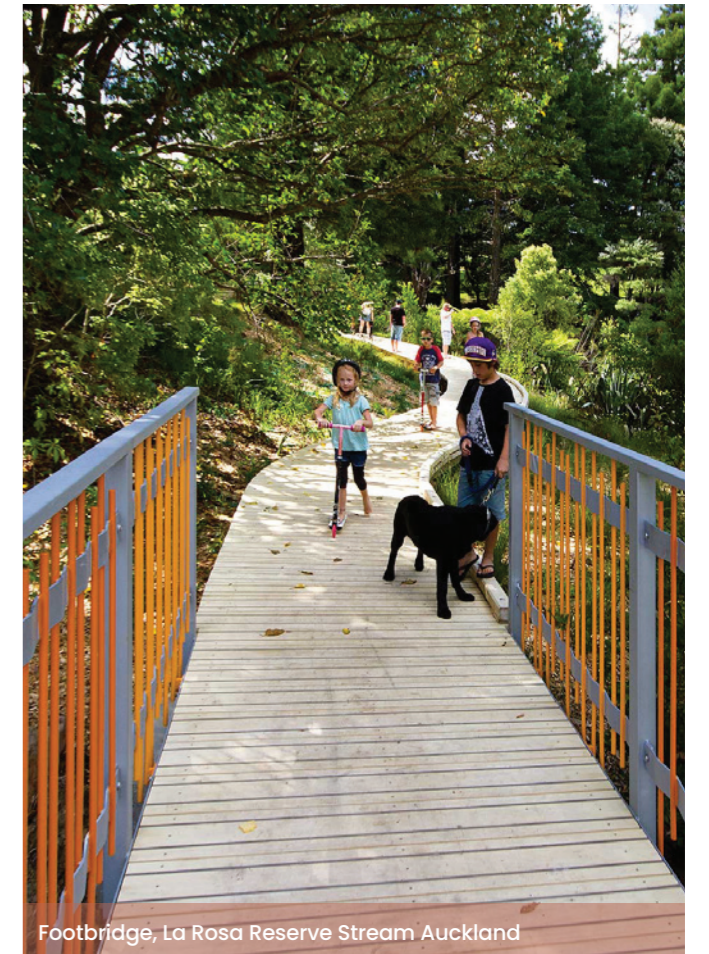
INTEGRATE THE VILLAGE HEART WITH BETHANGA CREEK & RECREATION RESERVE



Village Centre Community Gathering Space



Small Scale Retail/Grocer



Footbridge, La Rosa Reserve Stream Auckland



Trails, La Rosa Reserve Auckland



Library & Community Spaces, Dimboola

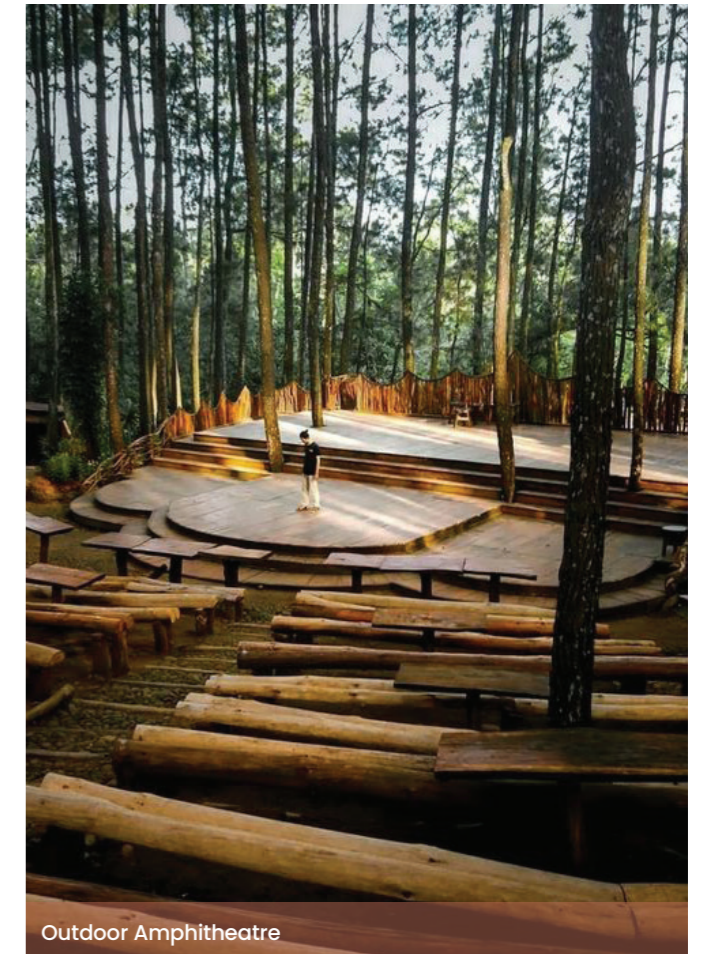
INTEGRATE THE VILLAGE HEART WITH BETHANGA CREEK & RECREATION RESERVE



Village Centre Streetscape, Bright



Outdoor Cinema



Outdoor Amphitheatre



Nature Playground, Adelaide Zoo



Upgraded Courts

INTEGRATE THE VILLAGE HEART WITH BETHANGA CREEK & RECREATION RESERVE










What we heard


'Making the Bethanga Creek a feature of the town', 'additional community services/facilities' and 'development of a village heart with retail/commercial space' were three of the highest rated suggestions on how to improve the township. Engagement findings indicate that the village centre lacks cohesion including direct access to the Recreation Reserve/Creek environs, community spaces/services, retail/commercial spaces and activities for different demographics with a focus on younger people. 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. In addition, improving/increasing use of existing assets including the Bethanga Recreation Reserve, Bethanga/Memorial Hall and the Rechabite Hall were identified.

What is proposed


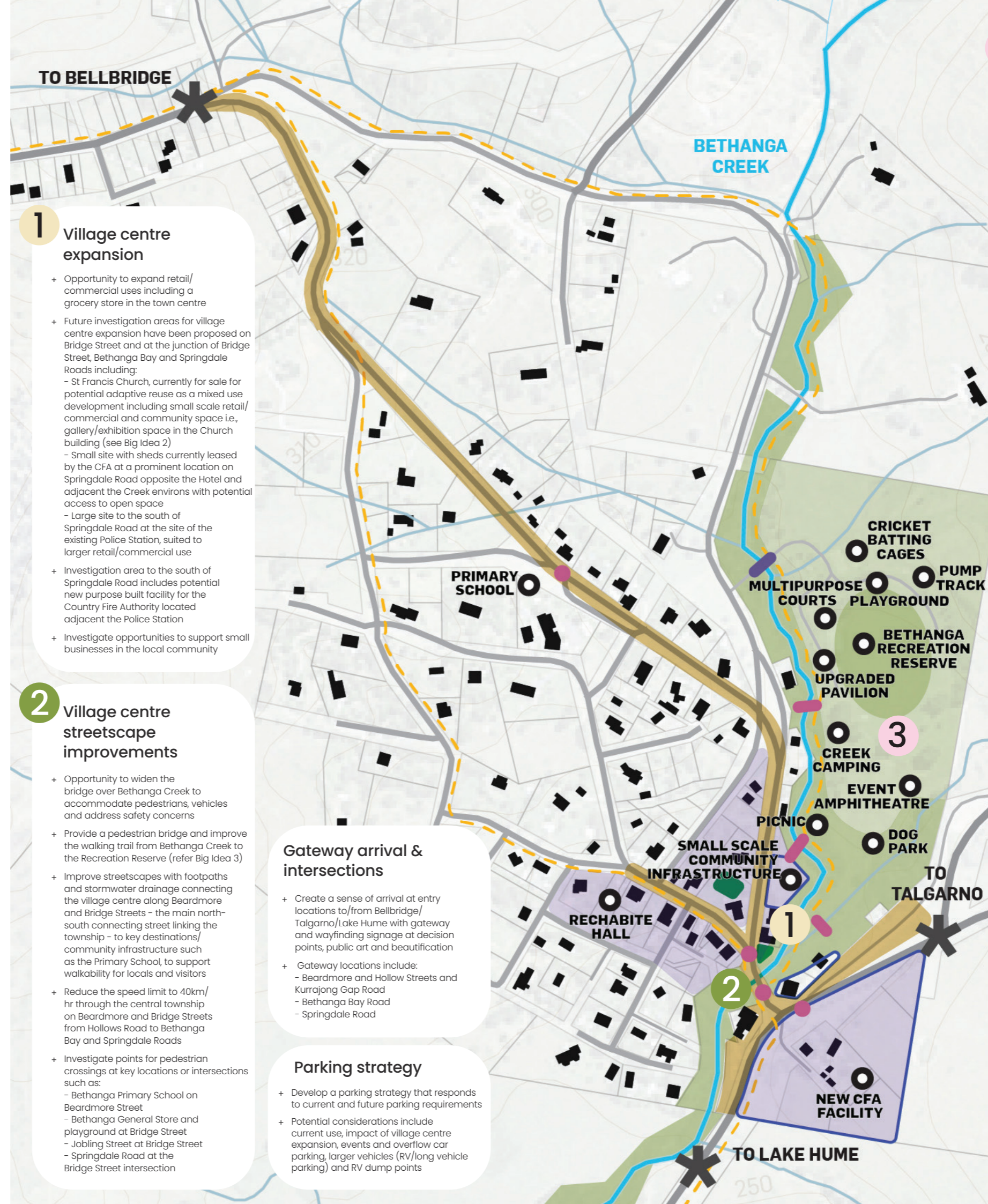
This Big Idea focuses on strengthening the village heart by:

- + Investigating locations for community services/facilities and retail/commercial spaces
- + Streetscape improvements including bridges, footpaths, pedestrian safety and signage
- + Integrating the Bethanga Creek and Recreation Reserve
- + Providing infrastructure/facilities for activities to cater for a diverse demographic
- + Improvements to/increasing use of existing assets.

 INVESTIGATION AREAS FOR COMMUNITY & COMMERCIAL USE SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION	 BETHANGA RECREATION RESERVE
 UPGRADED PUBLIC SPACES	 GATEWAY SIGNAGE
 VILLAGE CENTRE	 TOWN WALK
 STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS	 NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
 PUBLIC PARK & RECREATION ZONE	 UPGRADED VEHICULAR BRIDGE WITH SHARED PATH
	 PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

OUR TOWN 

1:5,000 @ A3

1 Village centre expansion

- + Opportunity to expand retail/commercial uses including a grocery store 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, currently for sale 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 (see Big Idea 2)
 - 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 open space
 - Large site to the south of Springdale Road at the site of the existing Police Station, suited to larger retail/commercial use
- + Investigation area to the south of Springdale Road includes potential new purpose built facility for the Country Fire Authority located adjacent the Police Station
- + Investigate opportunities to support small businesses in the local community

2 Village centre streetscape improvements

- + Opportunity to widen the bridge over Bethanga Creek to accommodate pedestrians, vehicles and address safety concerns
- + Provide a pedestrian bridge and improve the walking trail from Bethanga Creek to the Recreation Reserve (refer Big Idea 3)
- + Improve streetscapes with footpaths and stormwater drainage connecting the village centre along Beardmore and Bridge Streets - the main north-south connecting street linking the township - to key destinations/community infrastructure such as the Primary School, to support walkability for locals and visitors
- + 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
- + Investigate points for pedestrian crossings at key locations 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

Gateway arrival & intersections

- + Create a sense of arrival at entry locations to/from Bellbridge/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

Parking strategy

- + Develop a parking strategy that responds to current and future parking requirements
- + Potential considerations include current use, impact of village centre expansion, events and overflow car parking, larger vehicles (RV/long vehicle parking) and RV dump points

3 Bethanga Recreation Reserve

- + Opportunity to upgrade existing facilities/infrastructure at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve
- + Engagement findings indicate the following opportunities for the Recreation Reserve:
 - Sporting opportunities including lower league sports teams and sport development for cricket, soccer, tennis, gym, horse riding and netball
 - Relocation of tennis courts from Bellbridge to Bethanga
 - Community hub with allied health, multipurpose space and co working space (also an option to locate in village centre)
 - Opportunity to incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles with an aim to achieve self-sufficiency for water and energy efficiency
- + Opportunity to improve access and links between the township and the Recreation Reserve with shared bridges, upgraded vehicular access and improved walking/nature trails and access to the Creek (refer Big Idea 3)
- + Opportunity to introduce new recreational facilities/infrastructure such as:
 - Outdoor fitness stations
 - Nature playground
 - Dog park
 - Pump track and BMX trails
 - Open event amphitheatre for local and visiting performances/festivals

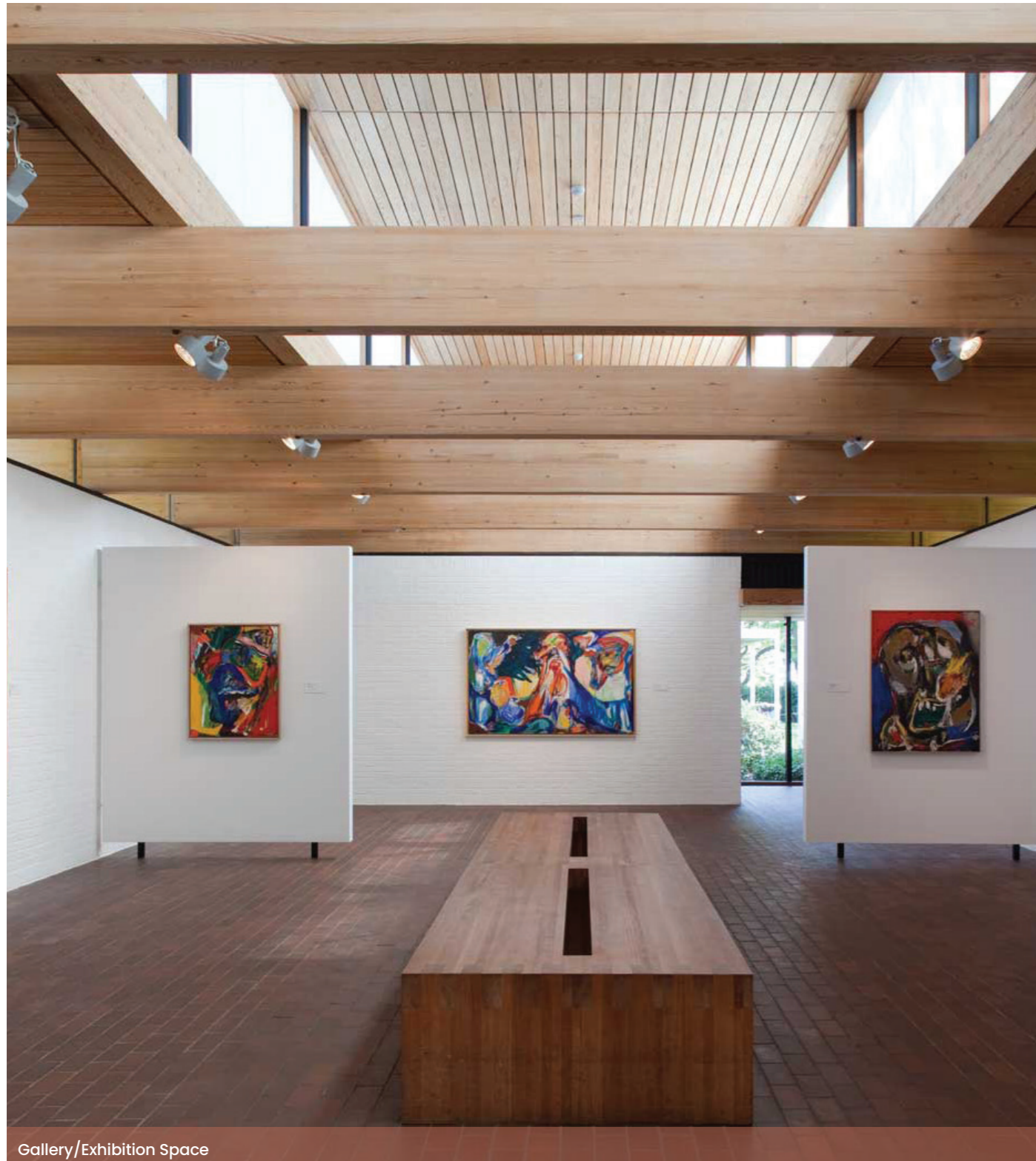
Strengthen community infrastructure & services

- + Opportunity to increase inclusivity with safe spaces for community connection, engagement/participation with younger people
- + Ideas proposed include:
 - Community vegetable garden
 - Local bi-monthly music festival
 - Community hub with small library, meeting and multi-purpose spaces for health services, co-working and for the arts community
 - Potential to create a small gallery space within the existing St Francis Church. Site can also accommodate small scale retail/commercial buildings
- + Potential upgrade to Bethanga Hall
 - Fully accessible toilets to cater for increase in visitors and events i.e. showers/change facilities, drinking water fountain
 - Upgrade garden area to include outdoor events such as open air cinema
- + Determine need for any health and medical services; early learning services; at-home care or preventative community health services that are required
- + Review current education services to determine future growth/planning
- + Review current mail services and identify improvements

TO BETHANGA & DISTRICT GOLF CLUB

BIG IDEA 02

CELEBRATE BETHANGA'S HISTORY, ARTS & CULTURE



Gallery/Exhibition Space



Local Maker's Market



Farm To Plate, Portland Maine



Landscape Competition & Installation, THE WOODSTOCK Atelier Yok-Yok

CELEBRATE BETHANGA'S HISTORY, ARTS & CULTURE



Accommodation, Paradinha Hotel Retreat, Portugal



Music Events Featuring Local Talent



Art in the Afternoon, Bethanga Hall



Wallace Bethanga Chlorination Works, circa 1897



Historic Trail With Informative Signage

CELEBRATE BETHANGA'S HISTORY, ARTS & CULTURE












What we heard

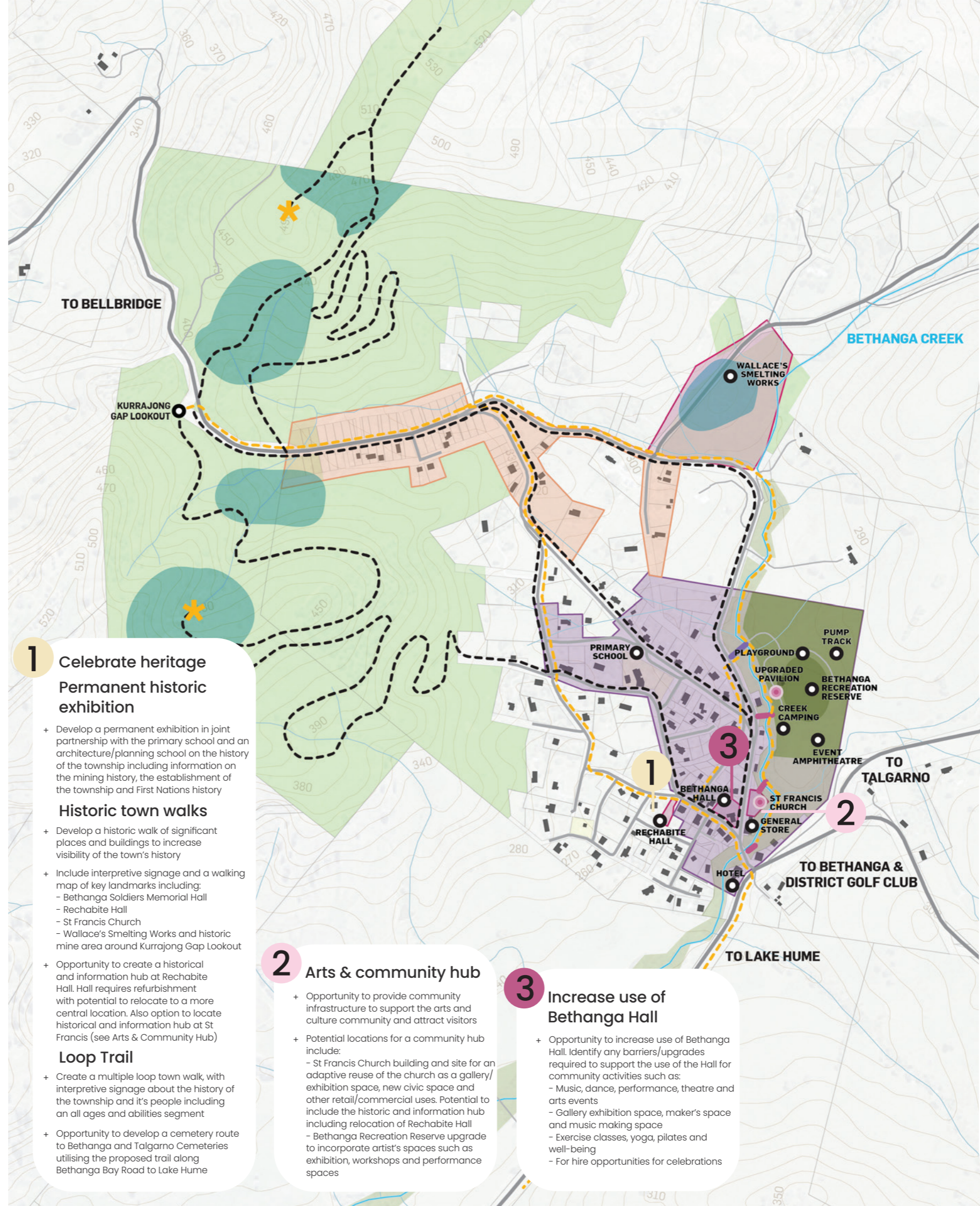
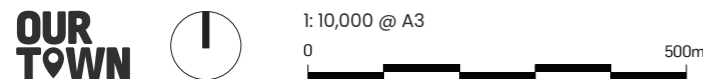
'Additional community services and facilities' and 'improving and expanding tourism were the third and fifth highest rated opportunities to improve the township. Engagement findings indicate a strong interest in the arts, culture, events and food/hospitality to build upon existing activities/events such as the Primary School Art Show and local arts community. History was another strong theme that emerged focused on the mining heritage of the township. While there are good remnants of the old mines such as drag and shaft lines, there is a sense that more can be done to make a feature of the mining heritage including replacing the existing signage and increasing use of existing buildings as information hubs. Celebrating history, art and culture, provides opportunities for people to participate in community as well as a direction for the visitor economy. While Bethanga Hall provides one of the two community buildings available for art classes/events/exhibitions, and Bethanga Store creates space 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.

What is proposed

This Big Idea capitalises on the potential to:

- + Develop an arts and culture hub
- + Increase visibility of the town's history
- + Improve amenity and broaden the visitor offer
- + Increase use of existing assets.

- | | |
|--|--|
|  MINING AREA |  UPGRADED COMMUNITY ASSET |
|  HERITAGE OVERLAY |  LOOKOUT |
|  PUBLIC PARK & RECREATION ZONE |  TOWN WALK |
|  UPPER TOWNSHIP WALLACE BETHANGA SMELTER |  HISTORIC WALK |
|  LOWER BETHANGA HARRIS & HOLLOWES SMELTER |  NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE |
| |  UPGRADED VEHICULAR BRIDGE WITH SHARED PATH |



1 Celebrate heritage Permanent historic exhibition

- + Develop a permanent exhibition in joint partnership with the primary school and an architecture/planning school on the history of the township including information on the mining history, the establishment of the township and First Nations history

Historic town walks

- + 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 including:
 - Bethanga Soldiers Memorial Hall
 - Rechabite Hall
 - St Francis Church
 - Wallace's Smelting Works and historic mine area around Kurrajong Gap Lookout

Loop Trail

- + Opportunity to create a historical and information hub at Rechabite Hall. Hall requires refurbishment with potential to relocate to a more central location. Also option to locate historical and information hub at St Francis (see Arts & Community Hub)
- + 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
- + Opportunity to develop a cemetery route to Bethanga and Talgarno Cemeteries utilising the proposed trail along Bethanga Bay Road to Lake Hume

2 Arts & community hub

- + Opportunity to provide community infrastructure to support the arts and culture community and attract visitors
- + Potential locations for a community hub include:
 - St Francis Church building and site for an adaptive reuse of the church as a gallery/exhibition space, new civic space and other retail/commercial uses. Potential to include the historic and information hub including relocation of Rechabite Hall
 - Bethanga Recreation Reserve upgrade to incorporate artist's spaces such as exhibition, workshops and performance spaces

3 Increase use of Bethanga Hall

- + Opportunity to increase use of Bethanga Hall. Identify any barriers/upgrades required to support the use of the Hall for community activities such as:
 - Music, dance, performance, theatre and arts events
 - Gallery exhibition space, maker's space and music making space
 - Exercise classes, yoga, pilates and well-being
 - For hire opportunities for celebrations

Destination businesses

Explore the following opportunities:

- + Food & hospitality such as bakery, food market to sell locally grown produce, 'farm to plate' local produce and events and olive picking
- + Agritourism farmgate and learning/workshops
- + Flower tourism - 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 with learning/employment pathways
- + Equestrian business opportunities such as horse boarding services, riding lessons and retail
- + Targeted outdoor recreation businesses - kayaking, fishing, 4-wheel driving, trail running, cycle and motorcycle touring (gravel & 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

Short-term accommodation

- + Broaden short-stay accommodation options including accommodation catering for the premium end of the market, tiny homes/cabins in landscape settings, eco-resort/lodge and farm stay
- + Potential to offer services suited to target audience such as arts based activities and events, cyclist pick-up/drop-off and secure bicycle storage facilities, nature based audience such as hikers or grey nomads
- + Opportunity to review current camping facilities at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve and any upgrades required to support on-going use or alternate camping/caravan sites
- + Opportunity to combine accommodation with other destination business such as winery

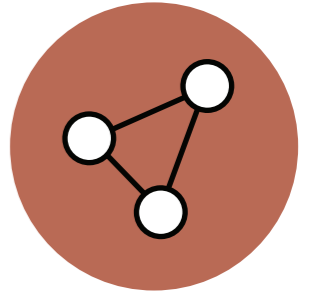
Events calendar & marketing campaign

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 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

BIG IDEA 03

GREEN, RESILIENT & ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE



Historic Mine Restoration & Walking Trails, Igalada Spain



Bethanga Creek Restoration, La Rosa Reserve Auckland



Stormwater Treatment, Water Reuse Project Sydney Park



Connection Between Creek, Trail & Town, Marysville



Lake Hume Challenge, Hume Dam Wall

GREEN, RESILIENT & ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

What we heard

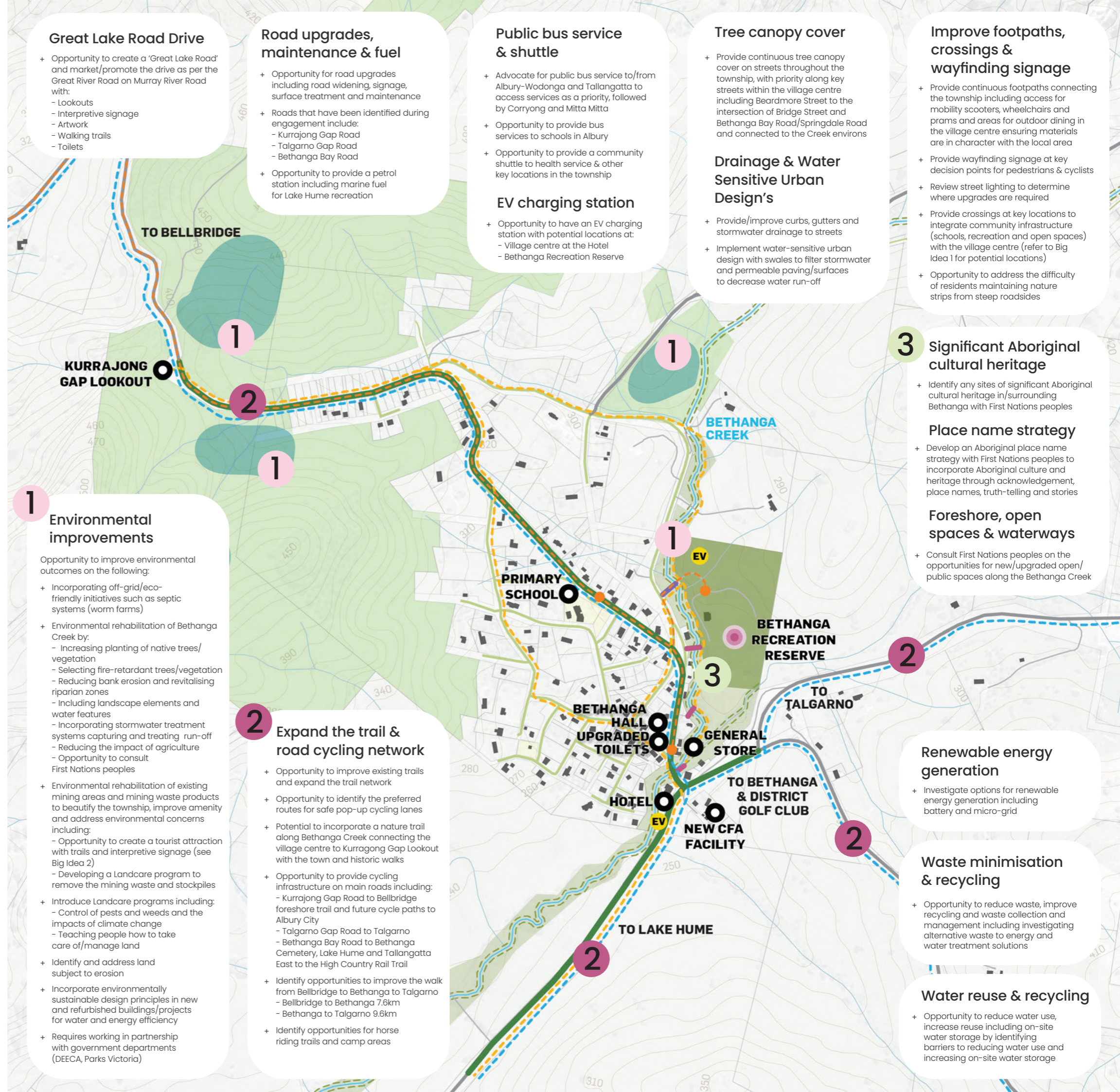
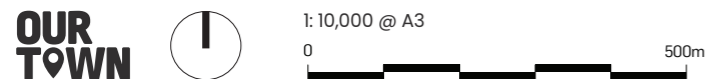
Engagement findings indicate a theme emerging around nature/environment, trails, cycling, touring routes and transport with 'accessible public transport and walking and cycling trails/routes' the seventh highest rated suggestion of how to improve the township. While the focus of this Big Idea is about the environment and sustainability, there is overlap between this theme and tourism captured in ideas such as the potential for mining heritage and waste to become a visitor attraction as well as an environmental opportunity. Mining waste or mounds are visible upon arrival into the township detracting from efforts to beautify the streetscape and can potentially pose a health hazard. Engagement findings also indicate an interest to think beyond 2030 and a warming climate through initiatives such as greening and rehabilitation/beautification of the Creek. The highest rated opportunities for environmental sustainability and resilience in order from first to fourth were renewable energies, bushfire preparedness, waste minimisation/recycling and water reuse/recycling.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on long-term resilience by:

- + Increasing active transport/supporting tourism with trails/cycle routes and public transport
- + Improving recreation infrastructure/facilities
- + Environmental improvements for mine and creek rehabilitation including First Nations engagement
- + Sustainability initiatives such as tree canopy cover and water/waste recycling and reuse.

- 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
- CYCLE PATH
- TOWN WALK
- EV CHARGING STATION
- NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT SHUTTLE ROUTE/STOPS



Great Lake Road Drive

- + 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

Road upgrades, maintenance & fuel

- + Opportunity for road upgrades including road widening, signage, surface treatment and maintenance
- + Roads that have been identified during engagement include:
 - Kurrajong Gap Road
 - Talgarno Gap Road
 - Bethanga Bay Road
- + Opportunity to provide a petrol station including marine fuel for Lake Hume recreation

Public bus service & shuttle

- + Advocate for public bus service to/from Albury-Wodonga and Tallangatta to access services as a priority, followed by Corryong and Mitta Mitta
- + Opportunity to provide bus services to schools in Albury
- + Opportunity to provide a community shuttle to health service & other key locations in the township

EV charging station

- + Opportunity to have an EV charging station with potential locations at:
 - Village centre at the Hotel
 - Bethanga Recreation Reserve

Tree canopy cover

- + Provide continuous tree canopy cover on streets throughout the township, with priority along key streets within the village centre including Beardmore Street to the intersection of Bridge Street and Bethanga Bay Road/Springdale Road and connected to the Creek environs

Drainage & Water Sensitive Urban Design's

- + Provide/improve curbs, gutters and stormwater drainage to streets
- + Implement water-sensitive urban design with swales to filter stormwater and permeable paving/surfaces to decrease water run-off

Improve footpaths, crossings & wayfinding signage

- + Provide continuous footpaths connecting the township including access for mobility scooters, wheelchairs and prams and areas for outdoor dining in the village centre ensuring materials are in character with the local area
- + Provide wayfinding signage at key decision points for pedestrians & cyclists
- + Review street lighting to determine where upgrades are required
- + Provide crossings at key locations to integrate community infrastructure (schools, recreation and open spaces) with the village centre (refer to Big Idea 1 for potential locations)
- + Opportunity to address the difficulty of residents maintaining nature strips from steep roadsides

1 Environmental improvements

- Opportunity to improve environmental outcomes on the following:
- + Incorporating off-grid/eco-friendly initiatives such as septic systems (worm farms)
 - + Environmental rehabilitation of Bethanga Creek by:
 - Increasing planting of native trees/vegetation
 - Selecting fire-retardant trees/vegetation
 - Reducing bank erosion and revitalising riparian zones
 - Including landscape elements and water features
 - Incorporating stormwater treatment systems capturing and treating run-off
 - Reducing the impact of agriculture
 - Opportunity to consult First Nations peoples
 - + Environmental rehabilitation of existing mining areas and mining waste products to beautify the township, improve amenity and address environmental concerns including:
 - Opportunity to create a tourist attraction with trails and interpretive signage (see Big Idea 2)
 - Developing a Landcare program to remove the mining waste and stockpiles

2 Expand the trail & road cycling network

- + Opportunity to improve existing trails and expand the trail network
- + Opportunity to identify the preferred routes for safe pop-up cycling lanes
- + Potential to incorporate a nature trail along Bethanga Creek connecting the village centre to Kurrajong Gap Lookout with the town and historic walks
- + Opportunity to provide cycling infrastructure on main roads including:
 - 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
- + Identify and address land subject to erosion
- + Incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles in new and refurbished buildings/projects for water and energy efficiency
- + Requires working in partnership with government departments (DEECA, Parks Victoria)

3 Significant Aboriginal cultural heritage

- + Identify any sites of significant Aboriginal cultural heritage in/surrounding Bethanga with First Nations peoples
- + Develop an Aboriginal place name strategy with First Nations peoples to incorporate Aboriginal culture and heritage through acknowledgement, place names, truth-telling and stories
- + Consult First Nations peoples on the opportunities for new/upgraded open/public spaces along the Bethanga Creek

Place name strategy

- + Develop an Aboriginal place name strategy with First Nations peoples to incorporate Aboriginal culture and heritage through acknowledgement, place names, truth-telling and stories

Foreshore, open spaces & waterways

- + Consult First Nations peoples on the opportunities for new/upgraded open/public spaces along the Bethanga Creek

Renewable energy generation

- + Investigate options for renewable energy generation including battery and micro-grid

Waste minimisation & recycling

- + Opportunity to reduce waste, improve recycling and waste collection and management including investigating alternative waste to energy and water treatment solutions

Water reuse & recycling

- + Opportunity to reduce water use, increase reuse including on-site water storage by identifying barriers to reducing water use and increasing on-site water storage

GREEN, RESILIENT & ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE

LEVERAGE CYCLING EVENTS

What we heard

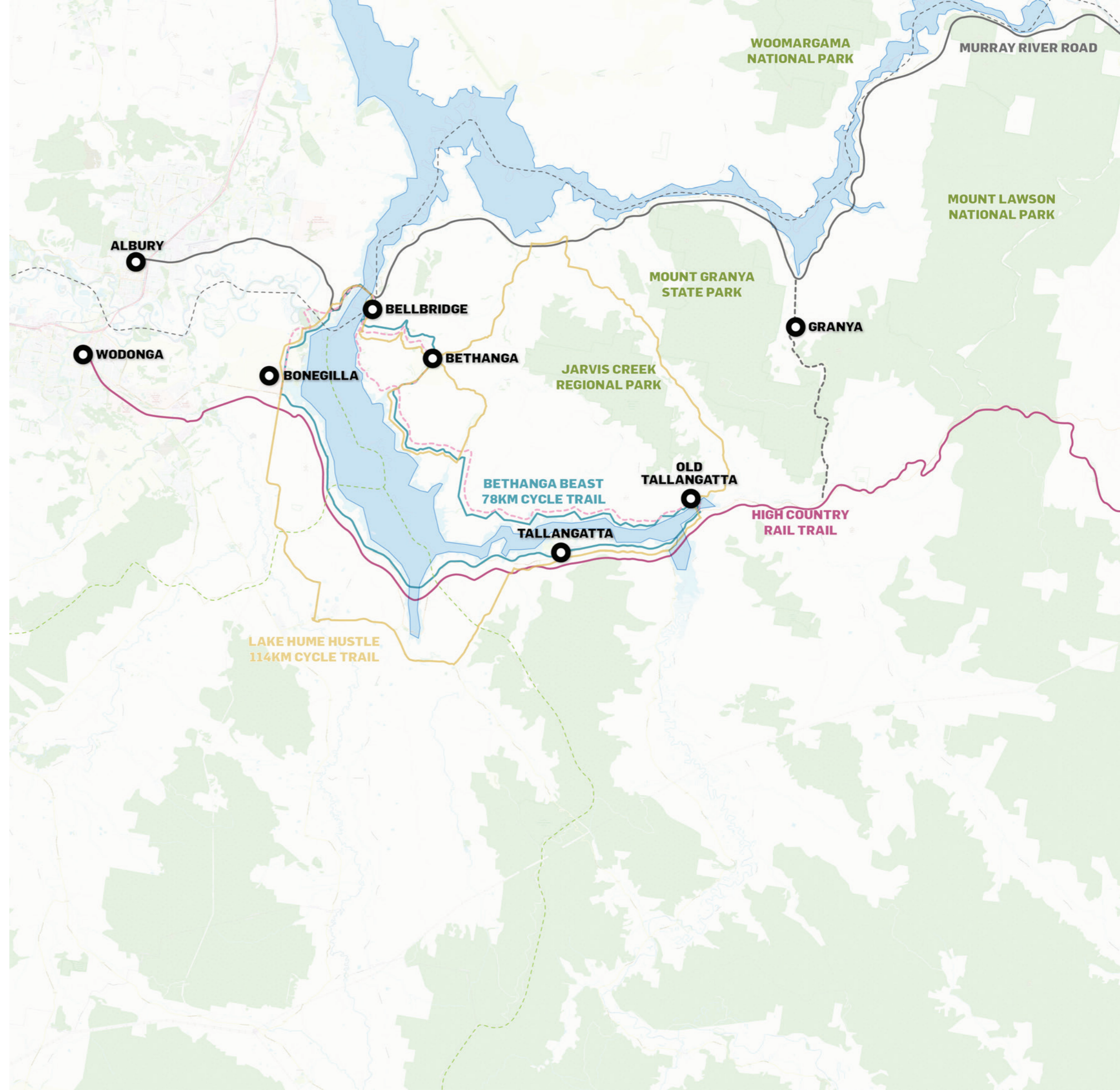
Cycling events such as the Lake Hume Cycle Challenge include routes through Bethanga and nearby Bellbridge. With Albury City plans to extend a trail to Bethanga Bridge and increasing interest in on-road and off-road cycling, there is potential to strengthen Bethanga as a destination for cycling by improving and expanding a network of trails and touring routes while encouraging healthier modes of transport for locals. A 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, support cycling events and provide cycling tours.

What is proposed

The aim of this Big Idea is to capitalise on cycling events, improve regional connectivity for cyclists, promote active transport and tourism by:

- + Improving and expanding the trail network within the township and to nearby destinations
- + Creating a road biking hub at Bethanga with infrastructure and facilities for cyclists.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | EXISTING LOCATION WITH TOURISM SERVICES | | PROPOSED CYCLING TRAIL |
| | TOWNSHIP/REGIONAL CENTRE | | EXISTING HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL |
| | COTTONTREE CREEK VISITOR SITE AT MOUNT GRANYA STATE PARK | | GREAT RIVER ROAD AND UPGRADED SITES BY PARKS VICTORIA INCLUDING LINK TO ALBURY-WODONGA |
| | ACCESS TO MOUNT GRANYA HIKING TRAILS, 4 WHEEL DRIVE & MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS | | LAKE HUME |
| | LAKE HUME HUSTLE TRAIL | | BETHANGA BEAST TRAIL |



BIG IDEA 04

GROW THE TOWNSHIP WHILE RETAINING THE VILLAGE CHARACTER



GROW THE TOWNSHIP WHILE RETAINING THE VILLAGE CHARACTER








What we heard

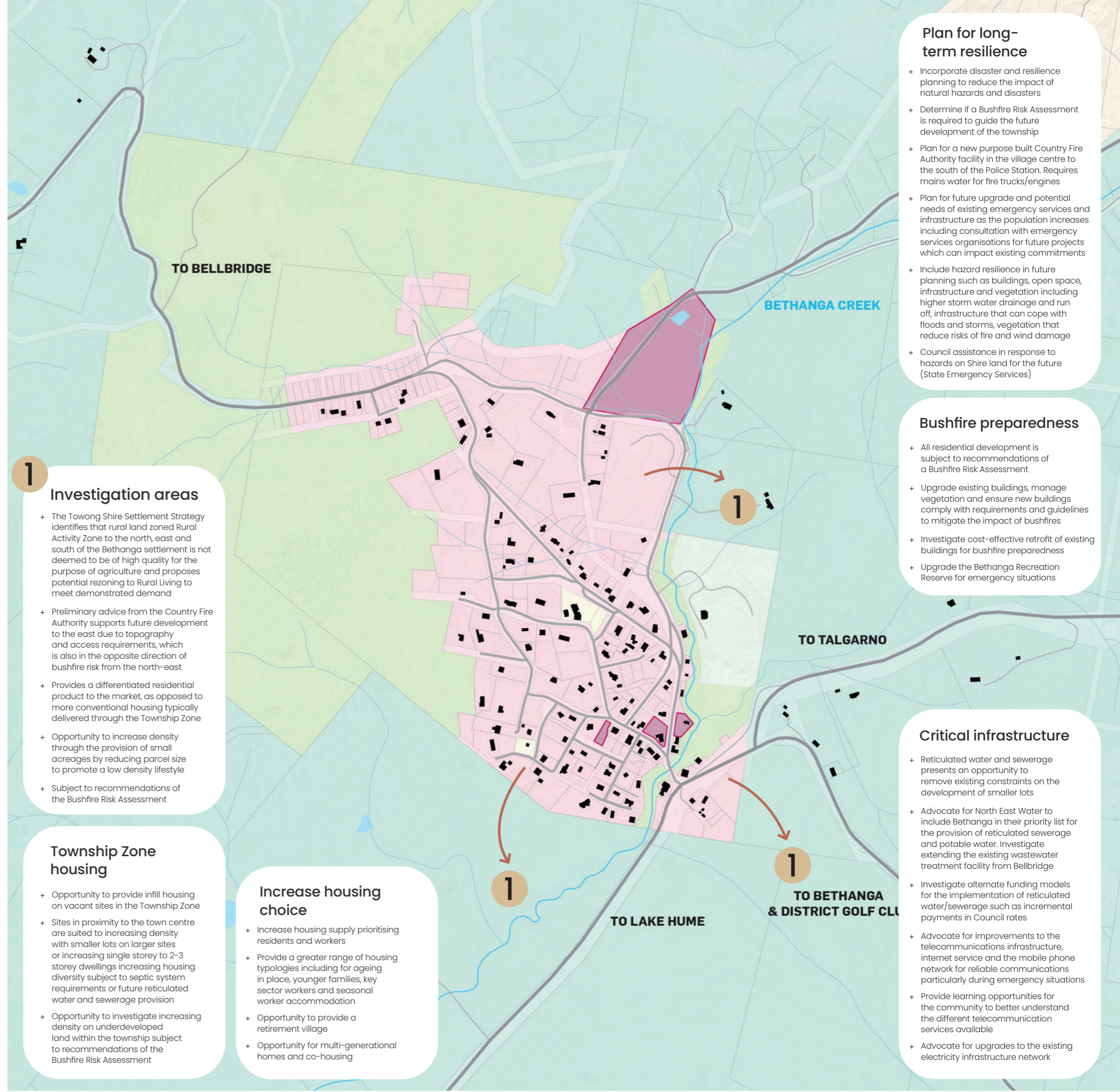
The township's location and proximity to Albury-Wodonga make it a potential commuter town/hub for remote workers, however residential development is currently constrained by a lack of reticulated water/sewerage, lot sizes, unclear title boundaries with unaligned zoning boundaries and planning requirements for development adjacent waterways. While many dwellings are self-sufficient with septic systems, tank water and solar power, engagement findings indicate interest in the provision of reticulated water/sewerage and improvements to telecommunications infrastructure/services to realise the economic, health and social opportunities from enabling the township's growth. Retaining/complementing the character and lifestyle of the township was the second highest rated opportunity after 'making the Creek a central feature', indicating that future development needs to be sensitive to the township's character and low density lifestyle with increases in density through small acreages rather than subdivision. Other findings indicate provision of housing for an ageing population and support for bushfire preparedness, one of the highest rated opportunities following renewable energies in how to improve environmental sustainability.

What is proposed

This Big Idea proposes increasing housing through:

- + Investigation areas for increasing housing density or rezoning land to Rural Living Zone
- + Housing choice for a changing demographic
- + Critical infrastructure upgrades to support growth.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|
|  | POTENTIAL INVESTIGATION AREAS SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION |  | PUBLIC CONSERVATION & RESOURCE ZONE |
|  | HERITAGE OVERLAY |  | FARMING ZONE |
|  | TOWNSHIP ZONE |  | PUBLIC USE ZONE |
|  | RURAL LIVING ZONE | | |



1 Investigation areas

- + 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 due to topography and access requirements, which is also in the opposite direction of bushfire risk from the north-east
- + Provides a differentiated residential product to the market, as opposed to more conventional housing typically delivered through the Township Zone
- + Opportunity to increase density through the provision of small acreages by reducing parcel size to promote a low density lifestyle
- + Subject to recommendations of the Bushfire Risk Assessment

Township Zone housing

- + Opportunity to provide infill housing on vacant sites in the Township Zone
- + Sites in proximity to the town centre are suited to increasing density with smaller lots on larger sites or increasing single storey to 2-3 storey dwellings increasing housing diversity subject to septic system requirements or future reticulated water and sewerage provision
- + Opportunity to investigate increasing density on underdeveloped land within the township subject to recommendations of the Bushfire Risk Assessment

Increase housing choice

- + Increase housing supply prioritising residents and workers
- + Provide a greater range of housing typologies including for ageing in place, younger families, key sector workers and seasonal worker accommodation
- + Opportunity to provide a retirement village
- + Opportunity for multi-generational homes and co-housing

Plan for long-term resilience

- + Incorporate disaster and resilience planning to reduce the impact of natural hazards and disasters
- + Determine if a Bushfire Risk Assessment is required to guide the future development of the township
- + Plan for a new purpose built Country Fire Authority facility in the village centre to the south of the Police Station. Requires mains water for fire trucks/engines
- + 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
- + Include hazard resilience in future planning such as buildings, open space, 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
- + Council assistance in response to hazards on Shire land for the future (State Emergency Services)

Bushfire preparedness

- + All residential development is subject to recommendations of a Bushfire Risk Assessment
- + Upgrade existing buildings, manage vegetation and ensure new buildings comply with requirements and guidelines to mitigate the impact of bushfires
- + Investigate cost-effective retrofit of existing buildings for bushfire preparedness
- + Upgrade the Bethanga Recreation Reserve for emergency situations

Critical infrastructure

- + Reticulated water and sewerage presents an opportunity to remove existing constraints on the development of smaller lots
- + Advocate for North East Water to include Bethanga in their priority list for the provision of reticulated sewerage and potable water. Investigate extending the existing wastewater treatment facility from Bellbridge
- + Investigate alternate funding models for the implementation of reticulated water/sewerage such as incremental payments in Council rates
- + Advocate for improvements to the telecommunications infrastructure, internet service and the mobile phone network for reliable communications particularly during emergency situations
- + Provide learning opportunities for the community to better understand the different telecommunication services available
- + Advocate for upgrades to the existing electricity infrastructure network

BIG IDEAS SUMMARY



01

Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve

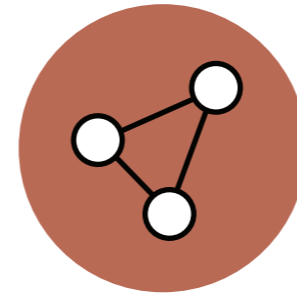
- + Village centre
- + Bethanga Recreation Reserve
- + Strengthen community infrastructure/services



02

Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture

- + Celebrate heritage
- + Arts & community hub
- + Increase use of Bethanga Hall
- + Destination businesses
- + Short-term accommodation
- + Events calendar & activities



03

Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable

- + Environmental improvements
- + Expand the trail & road cycling network
- + Great Lake Road Drive
- + Road upgrades, maintenance & fuel
- + Public bus service & shuttle and EV Charging station
- + Tree canopy cover, drainage & Water Sensitive Urban Design's (WSUD)
- + Improve footpaths, crossings & wayfinding signage
- + Significant Aboriginal cultural heritage
- + Renewable energy, waste & water
- + Leverage cycling events



04

Grow the township while retaining the village character

- + Investigation areas
- + Township Zone housing
- + Increase housing choice
- + Plan for long-term resilience
- + Bushfire preparedness
- + Critical infrastructure

A man wearing a light-colored hat, glasses, and a checkered jacket is sitting on a large, ribbed pumpkin. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The setting appears to be an outdoor market stall with shelves in the background displaying various items, including plants and produce. A sign on the right side of the stall reads "TALLANGAT BEST EXHIBIT".

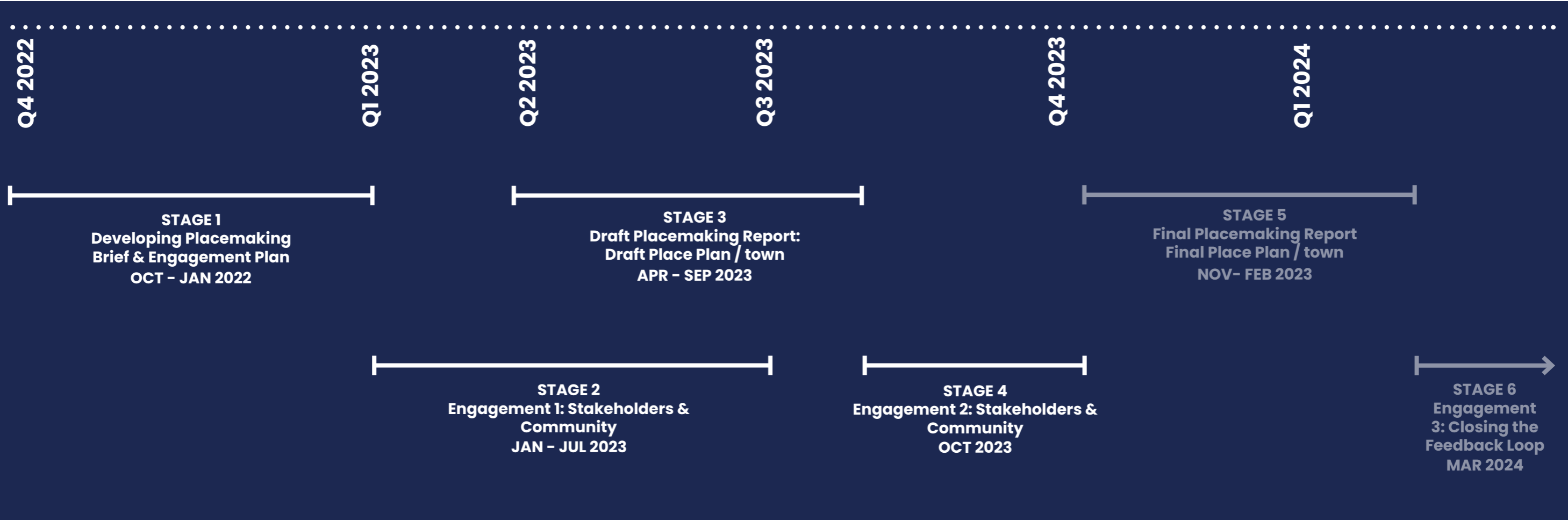
ENGAGEMENT 2 CLOSE

NEXT STEPS

- + 2-week comment period opens to the public
- + Review and refine the Draft Bethanga Place Plan based on feedback and discussions
- + Draft Final Bethanga Place Plan to Council for review and endorsement



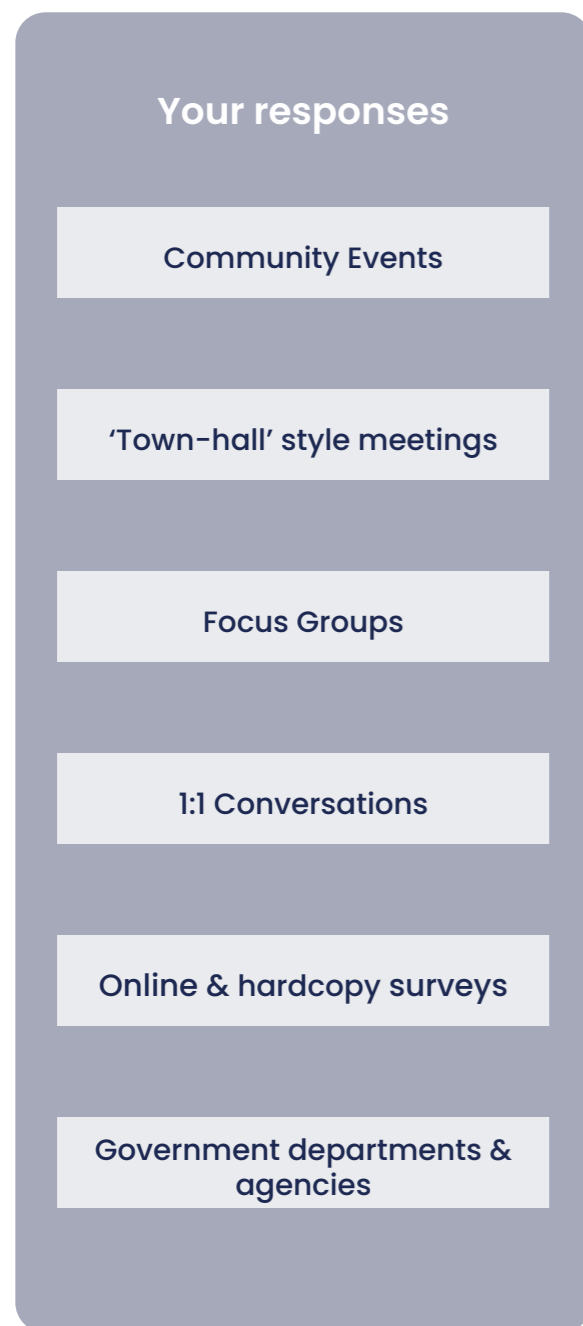
PROJECT TIMELINE



ENGAGEMENT METHODOLOGY

Four Big Ideas emerged from an analysis of your responses. The following diagram illustrates the methodology developed for this project and how the insights are being used to create the vision, proposals and actions for Engagement 2. The final proposals for the Final Place Plan will correlate to eight themes to provide the implementation framework for future planning.

Engagement 1: "Lets Chat"



Engagement 2: Planning Ahead



Engagement 3: Delivering the Vision

