



Strathbogie Shire Community Panel

**Community Vision and
Council Plan Report**

August 2021

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Introduction

We are a broad group of people selected from across the Shire, with different viewpoints and backgrounds (including primary producers, retirees and people with young families).

We have come together to create a vision of the Shire of Strathbogie for the future.

Our vision outlines community aspirations to guide Council in focusing on priorities for the next four years with a view towards 2040.

By coming together, this diverse group has been able to work together to share ideas, experience and aspirations to produce this vision to be used by Council.

The Community Vision and Themes

The panel identified a vision statement and the key themes that reflected the task 'what do we envision for the future of the Shire of Strathbogie in 2040?'.

This included the identification of a Community Vision Statement as well as the themes that would be used to achieve this Vision.

Community Vision Statement

“The Strathbogie Shire is a region of natural beauty with vibrant communities who are respectful, optimistic and inclusive.

We have a strong sense of belonging and of our collective history. We care deeply for Country and First Nations people.

We are bold. We embrace opportunities. We welcome you.”

Theme 1: Engaged Community

(Note: Theme 1 and 2 are so intertwined and we want to make the distinctions that 1 is about the makeup of our community and 2 is the enabling infrastructure for connectivity and spaces.)

Description

Engaged, willing and vibrant community

Creativity: Fostering and supporting creative responses in the community

Health and wellbeing: Encouraging health and wellbeing activities including a wide range of sports and recreation.

Culture and inclusion: Collaborating and engaging individuals/groups. Spaces for social inclusion and new friendships where people can connect on common interests and share knowledge across generations and cultures.

A community engagement approach with Council

Actions

Council processes

1. Enable the local action groups more effectively by Council with greater funding opportunities and less superfluous admin burden. Cut down on needs for admin by Council (strategic plans etc).
2. Stronger community engagement with new projects and infrastructure rollout.
3. Councillors talk about how they are working with the community to realise the vision at the start of each Council meeting, every Council gathering. Keep bringing the vision to the fore.
4. Partnerships - partnerships strategy - clear goals, clear approach, principles, assessment criteria and focus areas. Key deliverables / performance indicators. Incorporate Action Groups and Chamber of Commerce

Others

1. Strathbogie Shire community website and forum having more information about services, connections, events etc. More interactive engagement websites/forums between community, businesses and council.
2. Build relationships and partnerships with Taungurung people to increase understanding within the community on First Nations land and water practices and culture.
3. Revamp the Euroa Show to be for the whole council and have an annual vision competition that gets young people involved.
4. Developing a community gathering space with emphasis on engaging with the natural environment and building intergenerational relationships/connections.

Theme 2: Connected people and places

(Note: Theme 1 and 2 are so intertwined and we want to make the distinctions that 1 is about the makeup of our community and 2 is the enabling infrastructure for connectivity and spaces.)

Description

Access: Our community has access to important services including shops, health and medicine, jobs, green spaces, and family services that meet the needs of the community.

Access: More diverse transport beyond cars are enabled and encouraged through walking and cycling tracks.

Live: Focus on activities that build economic, financial, social security that enable everyone to thrive.

Actions

1. Expanding accessibility of transport through advocacy for public transport, new community service models (eg Community bus program -Avenel)
2. Provide a safe (maintained and quality) and secure built and natural environment (roads, footpaths, street lights)
3. Council spending prioritisation framework
4. Diversifying revenue streams beyond rates for infrastructure upgrades
5. Lobbying for state government about public transport infrastructure
6. Explore means-test rates schedules and payments (adapt payments based on household income)

Theme 3: Living in our Healthy Environment

Description

Restore, protect, enhance and promote our rich, healthy and diverse natural environment with emphasis on native Flora and Fauna for present and future generations to celebrate.

In all below actions council acknowledges the contribution of the Taungurung people in a tangible and respectable way as part of the development of the MoU.

Actions

1. Identify the key threats and challenges to our environment and develop strategies to ensure future developments minimise harmful impacts on our natural environment
2. Understand, enhance and protect our environment to reverse biodiversity decline including consulting and educating all rate payers and business owners in sustainability practices using best practice examples i.e. renewable energy, regenerative agriculture
3. Strategic town planning to manage the built and natural environment including responsible developer strategies
4. Develop our own Open Space Policy to set strategic direction for the future planning for vision and design and management of open space

Theme 4: Holistic Growth/Productivity and Development

Description

Effective housing and commercial planning to enable the best-balanced outcomes for community and the environment.

Targeted economic development that supports enhancements to the region. We recognise the strengths of our region and capitalise on it. We are the gateway to the North East and focus on value adding industries and agriculture.

Infrastructure is deployed and managed in a cost-effective way that meets the growing and changing needs of the community.

Actions

1. Growth zones identified and managed with specific policies including frameworks to ensure infrastructure is fit for purpose but sustainable and using renewable resources where practical. Ensure developers demonstrate the community benefit gained from their proposals.
2. Lobby State and Federal government for changes to planning policies - including recognising Mangalore Airport as a transport hub, limit viable agricultural land subdivision, reviewing sizes of residential allotments(ensuring new land is not jam packed), more reliable power supply focussing on renewable energy and telecommunications infrastructure to support the economic development strategy
3. Economic development strategy that attracts (defines) the industries that will set us up now and to 2040 with a focus on value adding primary and food related industries
4. Create incentives for longer opening hours within the hospitality and retail industries
5. Council facilitate collaboration and partnerships to drive outcomes from the strategy

Conclusion

Our hope is that the Shire delivers the vision we have developed for the wise management of our human and natural resources.

We took many viewpoints from the community into consideration and summarised them in this Vision.

Our work was informed by presentations by Council officers on the challenges and constraints faced by them in achieving this Vision.

We appreciate the trust the shire placed in us.