

Draft Streetscape plans

Avenel. Euroa. Longwood. Strathbogie. Violet Town.

Background

In Strathbogie Shire Council's 2020/21 Budget \$650,000 in funding was approved to renew and improve streetscapes in Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Strathbogie, Nagambie and Violet Town. The aim of the streetscape plans is to improve the commercial vitality of our main streets by delivering infrastructure improvements that:

- Create a distinctive sense of place for local residents, visitors and businesses
- Provide a high quality, attractive public space where people want to visit and shop, and
- Improve the attractiveness, comfort, accessibility, connectivity and safety each of our main streets or main commercial areas.

Local contractor About Architecture was engaged to create draft plans in Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Strathbogie and Violet Town. The draft plans for Nagambie are being developed separately and therefore this engagement report does not include Nagambie feedback.

The Engagement Approach

We planned an engagement program and associated communications campaign that would ensure our residents were clear on how to have their say and feel confident in providing their feedback.

This plan took a four-stage approach, each building on insights from the previous phase and focusing on delivering what our communities value. It ensured community input into each stage of the planning, from initial brainstorming ideas, confirming the projects objectives and key themes, to feedback on draft designs. The final stage will be closing the loop with our community.

Our engagement approach was flexible and adapted as we moved through the stages and were impacted by coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions. It ensured quantitative and qualitative engagement techniques were used to gather community feedback.



Stage one

In the first stage we used the face-to-face community meetings we held in townships throughout the Shire to inform the Council Plan and Community Vision, to also gather feedback on streetscape ideas. We asked for our community's priorities on the renewal of their main street areas.

Council is acutely aware of creating engagement fatigue (we have sort feedback on more than 30 projects, plans and documents in the past 12 months) and our goal is to use opportunities for multiple input wherever possible.

These suggestions were provided to About Architecture who used them to develop a consultation document, which set project objectives and key themes for each township.

Stage two

In stage two we tested the project objectives and key themes developed for each township with our community. We also used the mapping tool on www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au to seek further advice from the community on how to improve streetscapes.

The feedback from both these stages was provided to About Architecture to develop Draft Streetscape Plans in Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Strathbogie and Violet Town.

Stage three

During stage three we released draft streetscape plans for broad community feedback. One of the major challenges we encountered during this stage was moving our approach to predominately online engagement methods via www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

We know this is not all residents' preferred engagement method, so to ensure as broader input as possible we called for feedback via letters, emails, phone calls and face-to-face sessions whenever possible.

Static displays were also established in each of the towns, using shop front windows or notice boards to display the streetscape fact sheet and concept designs. Our goal was to reach people who did not have computer access.

Draft design documents were housed in cafes in Violet Town, Longwood and Strathbogie and the Avenel Pharmacy and coffee shop. We took advantage of the popular vaccination service in Avenel, knowing people had to wait 15 minutes post vaccination and taped the Avenel fact sheet and concept design to outside tables.

Our individual town factsheets included a Quick Reference (QR) code, which is the first time we have used this facility. When the phone is held over the QR code it took them directly to the individual town or village concept plans making it easy to respond to our engagement questions.

Communications campaign

Throughout the 12-month engagement period, which began in February 2021, we have used all available communications channels to spread the message about the project and educate the community on how to have its say.

An extensive social media campaign directed interested community members to www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au for more information and to share advice. During the life of the campaign more than 25 posts were created using images, maps and video content.

Our digital reach was boosted by a video of Mayor Cr Laura Binks reminding our communities to have their say.

We used the paid advertising in our regular column which appears weekly in the Euroa Gazette and fortnightly in the Nagambie Community Voice. These advertisements appeared several times during each active feedback stage.

Media releases were prepared for local media outlets directing people to contact us via Share Strathbogie or our Customer Service number with their ideas.

We engaged our staff, asking for their suggestions because 72 per cent live in Strathbogie Shire and 25 per cent live in neighbouring shires.

We used our monthly eNews publication to seek feedback on the draft plans and tapped into the Economic Development Team's email to more than 900 businesses across our Shire to reach the business community.

We kept local community leaders updated with letters and emails and many corresponded with us directly.

The stages, goals and tools to be used are summarised in the table below:

Stage	Goal	Tools and methods
One	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To inform the community about the streetscape renewal project and seek broad suggestions for improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Face-to-face Share Strathbogie sessions in five townships across Shire.All communications materials associated with Share Strathbogie.
Two	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To inform the community about the streetscape renewal project.To seek community input into the key areas for improvement works along with the themes and objectives for each township.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Social mediaPaid advertisingMedia releasesShare Strathbogie online engagementLetters/emails to key stakeholders seeking feedbackStakeholder meetingsPublic posters in townships
Three	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To provide the community with draft streetscape plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Media releaseeNews storyWebsite copy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To seek feedback from the community on the draft plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising Social Media Fact sheet Share Strathbogie online engagement Letters/emails to key stakeholders seeking feedback Draft plans Face-to-face feedback sessions Public posters in townships Draft plans in cafes Mayor social video
Four	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide the community with the final plans To provide the community with information on the project timelines and continue to keep them informed as works progress. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website content Social Media Media release Advertising Letters / emails to stakeholders Share Strathbogie online engagement Engagement report

Depth: Collaborate

Public participation goal: To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

Promise to the public: We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

Participation and reach

Stage	Share Strathbogie Contributions	Share Strathbogie Views
One	N/A	N/A
Two	240	1,651
Three	184	3,395
TOTAL	424	Over 5,000

Stage	Social Media Posts	Social Media Reach
One	15	11,193
Two	4	6,201
Three	8	8,776
TOTAL	27	Over 26,000

What our community told us

Three of the five townships told us they were supportive of the draft concept plans, achieving satisfaction ratings (weighted average out of a possible five) in Avenel, Euroa and Longwood of 3.79, 3.96 and 4.43 respectively. Feedback in Strathbogie and Violet Town was less supportive with overall satisfaction ratings of 2.79 and 3.00.

The table below provides a summary of the satisfaction ratings.

Township	Contributions (email and online)	Satisfaction (Draft Plans)	Satisfaction (Alignment to feedback)	Satisfaction (Project overall)
Avenel	19	3.79 (75.8%)	3.71	3.75
Euroa	43	3.96 (79.2%)	3.75	3.69
Longwood	14	4.43 (88.6%)	4.2	4.49
Strathbogie	45	2.79 (55.8%)	2.49	2.66
Violet Town	21	3.00 (60%)	2.91	3.52

AVENEL

Avenel residents provided support for progressing the renewal of their streetscape and the draft concept plans. They also provided suggestions, which can be easily incorporated in the final plans. We heard:

- Limited (if any) support for overhead structures or signage
- Include a (dog friendly) water fountain in the design
- The community supported more seating, and asked for a style that enhances the township's heritage theme
- There was support for future stages outlined in the draft plan to upgrade the area of the rail line, near Harvest Home especially for walking and parking
- Support for town entry signage upgrades

Recommendations:

- Proceed with Stage 1
- Include changes to seating style and water fountain
- Remove overhead signage.

EUROA

Euroa residents provided strong support for progressing the renewal of their streetscape and the concept plans. We heard:

- Comments included 'perfect', 'love it', 'more of it'
- There is a mixed reaction to the type of plants to be used – overall the message is to keep them low to ensure visibility
- There is interest in sculptures and articles of interest to children
- Streetscapes should be for the ambiance of pedestrians not cars
- However, the issue of any car parking reduction in future stages was a key concern.



Recommendation:

- Proceed with Stage 1
- Develop species plan in conjunction with the Garden Club, Arboretum and Chamber of Commerce to ensure input into the choice of low-level street plantings.
- When considering future streetscape stages, it will be necessary to engage the community in relation to any changes to car parking.

LONGWOOD

Longwood residents provided strong support for progressing the renewal of their streetscape and chose Option A of the concept plans presented. We heard:

- The community was keen for us to 'get on with the job'
- Concept Option A was chosen by the community for the commencement of the renewal
- They wanted repurposed or recycled materials throughout the streetscape
- Option B requires more thought in relation to memorial area
- Drainage remains a problem in Longwood, noting it is outside the scope of these works

Recommendation:

- Proceed with Option A

STRATHBOGIE

Strathbogrie residents indicated a lack of support for the concept designs and the streetscape upgrade project. They did not think that the upgrade proposal aligned with community input provided during the first two stages. We heard:


- Overwhelmingly the message was not to remove the deciduous trees in the medium strip
- We were told to leave things as they are and get on with other projects
- There was some appetite for low level plantings in the median strip
- Questions were asked re the watering system reliability
- Designs should include a greater focus on the memorial to the WW1 soldiers in the median strip

Recommendations:

- Do not proceed with current draft designs
- Do not remove the trees currently in the medium strip
- Consider community support to progress streetscape upgrades
- Consider forming a working group to further the project if it is to progress

VIOLET TOWN

While Violet Town residents showed support for upgrade works, they did not support the draft design or believe it aligned with community input. We heard:

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- Support to upgrade the median strip with plantings and sculpture that reflects the art and music culture of the town
 - No support for widening the median strip
 - Consideration must be given to large machinery from the farming community travelling through town's main street, meaning no widening of median strip
 - Support for safety upgrades and slowing traffic
 - Enhanced pedestrian safety/ connectivity (in the form of pedestrian crossings) continues to be at the forefront of discussions. Discussions regarding the possibility of formalised pedestrian access across Lily Street (corner store) and across Cowslip Street
 - Investigation into the intersection of Daphne and Cowslip Streets as larger vehicles negotiate a right-hand turn into Cowslip Street from Daphne Street.

Recommendations:

- Do not proceed with current draft design
- Consider minor works to current median strip – new plantings and incorporation of sculpture
- Establish a working group to develop further draft designs for broad community consultation

Findings

Feedback from Stage one and two engagement activities can be found at www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au. Alternatively links are provided below.

- Stage one [feedback](#)
- Stage two comments for [Avenel](#), [Euroa](#), [Longwood](#), [Strathbogie](#) and [Violet Town](#).

Avenel Feedback

	Method	Feedback
1	Online	Keep the upgrade 'soft'. Avenel is not Melbourne CBD, so hard bold upgrades won't work that well. The improvements to come from upgrade near Train Station will be awesome. Love that the area is designed as a multiuse area. People can buy a takeaway 'whatever' and can sit and enjoy close to where they bought it from. If area become popular over time, traffic engineers will need to rethink the area in front of Avenel newsagency/milkbar as many motorists perform U-Turns near there and it may become dangerous. Would also like to see some design ideas on other side of bank street - area abutting railway line. It will look unbalanced to have one side looking fab, and the other still drab. Also ensure bike racks are part of design - many locals & visitors ride push bikes. Plus a drinking water fountain would be good in the design (with dog water bowl at base) - so those who need a quick drink can get one. And if money available, something to be a central highlight near Harvest Home - like a structure / art or water fountain that people can sit around and enjoy.
2	Online	The installation of overhead signage on Queen and Bank street - this is problematic both aesthetically and practically - overhead signage is something more appropriate in a city not a country village - thoughtful landscaping and use of existing architecture is a more effective way of drawing people through the town. Verge extension at the end of Queen Street improving pedestrian movement - good as long as it does not impact on the already limited parking in the area (especially for long vehicles and trailers) or congest the road (note document states that it will not) Landscaping around the pedestrian railway crossing - great as long as there is a maintenance / care plan as part of the ongoing budget Installing new bench seats, bollards and bins in the Queen Street area - great - use a local furniture maker

3	Online	<p>I think the new features in the Queen Street shopping area are all good, although I don't understand the benefits of 'overhead' signage and query whether they will look ok. With regard to the Railway Yard area, I think there needs to be a lot more work done about the options for this area. Is it possible to have three options designed for community input? There's no doubt that it needs fixing. It needs to be made safe for pedestrians crossing the railway line and entering Bank St and there needs to be adequate parking and there needs to be a space that is useable and attractive for the community and provides flow-on benefits to Bank Street businesses. I think there needs to be more consideration about providing shading for users of this space. Seating for pedestrians is nice but what about encouraging greater public use? It shouldn't just be a better thoroughfare, but also a community space.</p> <p>Regarding the entries into Avenel. The gateway signages are quite nice, but the minimal "A" is too obtuse. It is not a direct form of communication. I think there needs to be considerably more thought and consultation about the Jones Street entry to Avenel. One option to consider it to not direct drivers into Avenel via Jones Street but to utilise Ash Road better and to push them into Livingstone Street which is the direct route into the town's centre. Drivers who know they wish to visit Avenel could be encouraged to enter Avenel via Lambing Gully Road so that they get the benefits of passing by Avenel's historic old Royal Mail Hotel and Signal House and the Old Bridge and then turn left into Livingstone Street.</p> <p>Entry into Avenel via the Roadhouse and Service Station could be encouraged via Ash Street into Livingstone Street and not via Jones Street/Mitchell Street. This is possibly not an option that many residents have considered, and plans should be developed to present this an option to the community. Most importantly, the turn on the highway to go south needs to be improved. Currently the left turn from Jones Street and then quick right to cross the freeway is very dangerous.</p> <p>I generally like to pallet of materials that have been identified.</p>
4	Online	Please use local furniture builder for public seating. Look forward to seeing the landscaping at the rail crossing and enhancement of the town entries
5	Online	No look forward to continued funding to complete the suggested designs.
6	Online	Whilst not part of the main streetscape, a noise reduction wall of some description to reduce the increasing noise of the freeway for residents closer to the Hume would be welcomed. I'm not sure what forum to address or funding that would cover that so appreciate you forwarding to the correct group for review.
7	Online	<p>Given that some of your of your stated key characteristics are 'village feel/atmosphere, first impressions/historic charm, local landmarks etc, the Connectivity route plan which turns left at the Imperial Hotel 1852, (instead of, or as well as turning right), leaves out three of the most significant and recognisable sites associated with Avenel: the bridge 1859, the former Royal Mail Hotel/Cobb and Co Coach House 1855, and Fowles winery, Avenel's contribution to the Shire's wine and grape growing district. The plan also incorrectly labels Stewart Park as Whroo historic area.</p> <p>This southern entrance at Lambing Gully Road is a far more attractive entrance to Avenel than the Roadhouse entrance at Jones street, and is far more in-keeping with your stated characteristics: village feel, historic charm etc, and takes visitors immediately past the significant historic sites outlined above.</p> <p>Overhead signs: definitely not in-keeping with a village feel.</p> <p>Street lighting example given labelled 'Contemporary': definitely not in-keeping with village feel.</p> <p>As Avenel is very hot and dry in Summer, perhaps consideration of a 'village feel appropriate' water feature eg fountain/horse trough, would give some psychological relief to the heat in the "roundabout/railway area. Thanking you for the opportunity to give feedback.</p>

8	Online	<p>Looking at the proposal of the Avenel Streetscape, I would like to see an allocated area along the street where locals that walk together can meet with shade and seating. This would build community capital and cohesion by supporting locals and visitors to gather in the heart of the town before a walk, or after for a coffee supporting the local businesses.</p> <p>Maybe access to fresh water for walkers bottles or to give a drink to their dogs before or after the walk. The area near the Daily Dose or even where the verge extension is to be built would be an area of suggestion.</p> <p>Lots of locals walk a loop through Queen Street and down Avenel-Longwood road and up Valentines way through the new estate and over into Scarlet Street and back via the tennis courts (to use the amenities) and back to Queen St. Signs showing local walks and distances would also be a great initiative to support people trying to improve health and simply enjoy their town while doing so.</p>
9	Online	<p>I personally think that a more urgent street scape is the Bank St/Saleyard. Rd intersection. It is a dust bowl in summer and a quagmire in winter. Parking is haphazard and causes a traffic risk. Many visitors go to the iconic Harvest Home and this mess does not present Avenel in a good light.</p>
10	Online	<p>Two bench seats? Which third party came up with this idea and how much did they charge? I'm changing careers into ripping off ratepayers.</p>
11	Online	<p>You haven't included things that were in the Avenel Verbatim Comments. What do the new bench seats look like? I hope they are not like the existing park benches. Why are you putting in more bench seats? There is already one outside the Post Office and one diagonally opposite, near the public phone booth. Outside WB Gadd the owner has put a garden seat and a padded "dance hall" style pew. Will the new bench seat be in keeping with the 19th century building and have the character to complement the antique shop it will be in front of?</p> <p>What were you thinking when you proposed Overhead Signage? I can think of nothing more detracting to a street scape than an overhead sign. It will be an eyesore and a blot on the landscape.</p> <p>When are you going to repair the brick paving in front of WB Gadd and the Post Office? Whoever designed it must have been living in the 1950's. The design of the brick paving did not take into account the daily use by people in mobility scooters or the postman riding his motor bike along it to deliver mail.</p>
12	Online	<p>Yes provision for public art, please designate some spaces for vibrant and engaging murals, sculptures and or interactive spaces like pocket parks in Euroa so community and visitors can engage better with townships and increase visitation.</p>
13	Online	<p>It appears that the new streetscape crossing will take one of the car parks from Queen Street, the parking situation at the chemist/ post office area is already in dire straits. We need more parking spots and the bus stop near the bowling green is an obvious under-utilised parking area.</p>
14	Online	<p>How about we actually upgrade it not just plant couple trees and whack up couple signs once again overlook Avenel has had bugger all money spent on it compared to Euroa or Nagambie start pumping it in to Avenel as well</p>
15	Online	<p>No overhead signage required</p>

16	Online	<p>The Historical old Stone bridge needs to be highlighted for all the right reasons, this area including vegetation is a huge part of Avenel, this was Avenel, Coaches, Hotels, Hughes Creek.</p> <p>Ewings road 'runs' across Queen Street, not from Livingston, Ewings starting point easterly is from Scarlett St.</p> <p>A footpath from Anderson Street intersection along Mitchell Street on the northern side to Jones Street, up toward the Kindergarten connecting onto Watson Street, also from Jones St Mitchell St corner a connecting footpath down to the Roadhouse, this would then connect to the Ash Street Footpath, this is a well used walking, cycling space for many.</p> <p>Happy to explain anything further if you do not understand my directions.</p> <p>Multiuse footpaths are useful for all groups, ages and abilities as well as 'unifying ' both sides of the creek.</p> <p>Also a Cycle Foot Bridge across Hughes Creek is still a very good idea, great for, again, unifying both sides of the creek parents and children can walk/cycle to and from school others, young and old can walk or cycle more easily around the town, better for all. I understand this project was submitted then knocked back by DEWLP, I think it needs revisiting, given the growth in this area and the one way in and out, not creek crossings except one in town and one out of town.</p> <p>One last thing: Please do not swathe Avenel in Native vegetation, there is a place for both Native and Deciduous each has benefits but Deciduous have shade in Summer Light in in winter and are not the fire hazards that Native vegetation mostly is, I speak from an experience in my life and have seen the effects of too many natives in urban areas, there is a benefit for both types of vegetation, we cannot turn Australia back to day zero, so embrace the diversity that we get to enjoy and live in don't turn us into a dry drab shedding place.</p> <p>Thank you for your work</p>
17	Online	<p>There is a problem with Queen Street traffic at the railway intersection. Motorists do U-turns on double lines failing to check oncoming traffic across the rail lines. Making a narrower portion for safe pedestrian crossing in front of Gadds I believe will increase this traffic problem. There is no doubt that I support pedestrian safety but this VicRoads area is a nightmare. In the future, consideration must be given to relocation of the post office to provide adequate access and safe parking. The current building is outdated and does not meet accessibility standards. While this is beyond the current Streetscape project basic principles of town planning need to be considered along with all the benefits of this project.</p> <p>One last thing, I do not like the wooden block seating. When embedded with planter boxes they look OK. On their own the do not appear to be very functional. Thank you for letting everyone have the opportunity to contribute feedback.</p>
18	Online	<p>I love the focus on native planting and the inclusion of green spaces and seating within the 'CBD'. It would be nice to see some considered thought given to bins- greater access to recycling bins would help cement the township's focus on sustainability. I note that they have been included in the overarching draft plan- a heritage version would be lovely. I would love to see more information about proposals for the overhead signage for wayfinding- so essential in a rapidly growing town like Avenel.</p>

19	Email	<p>I received the draft proposal documents for the beautification of the Bank Street entrance to Avenel.</p> <p>My initial reaction was certainly positive. My only concern was that the hitherto stated concept of the Queen Street Bank Street precinct being of a Colonial/Victorian feel, was not entirely supported by all aspects of the design.</p> <p>The design, in most areas, is sympathetic to the overall feel of the precinct, however the seating lets it down and does not fit the Colonial/ Victorian aspect. The proposed seating is too modern, in design and the stark bold block form, while pleasing to the eye, would be decidedly uncomfortable for a prolonged stay.</p> <p>The style of seating which is utilised elsewhere in our shire, has cast iron ends and timber slats between and is quite comfortable. (Photograph 3 attached) Another, and more aesthetically pleasing design, can be seen in the lead up to the Avenel train station. It is all metal with cast ends and made by Furphy's of Shepparton. The latter style would probably be a better option in that it is more comfortable and would require minimum maintenance. (Photograph 1 & 2 attached)</p>
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Euroa Feedback

	Method	Feedback
1	Online	I love the indigenous planting. Euroa Glazed Bricks – in terms of identity, it's something unique to Euroa. They could be used to create street furniture, wall murals, sculpture, entry points etc.
2	Online	No roundabout at Railway & Binney Sts intersection.
3	Online	I feel the design response is attempting to urbanise what is essentially a small and very attractive rural town. As a pedestrian and bike rider I find the town works well. Maybe ornamental pears wouldn't be my first choice for street trees, but please don't remove and replace. Yes, more underplanting and more trees, but beyond that, I'm happy. I feel the project is being driven by the tail. The Federal funding. I don't see the need to replace lighting, paving, signage. I don't care about car parking, there's heaps. I don't mind leaving my bike on the old bike stand. Please resist the desire to over design the commercial centre of Euroa. Love it as it is!
4	Online	<p>The planting around the existing trees looks nice, although it's a concern with planting all natives that it will look messy, streetscape should be structured and neat. Maybe native planting could be concentrated down along the creek/sevens park? And not so much within the main street.</p> <p>The planting of low level shrubs in the medium strips is unnecessary, it creates a messy visual block which is inappropriate due to the amount of cars and pedestrians alike using these spaces. It also encourages wildlife into the middle of a road which is not ideal. I would like to see the resurfacing of unsafe footpaths and additional seating replacing the standard benches which are there now.</p> <p>When will the other stages be completed? Because if this is all we get for now, is there any way to spread the funding further across the larger [especially problem] areas? Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback it's an exciting project but there is still work to be done by designers to get it right!</p>
5	Online	I can't prioritise as all projects need to start from underground up. That is running the power doing the drainage, installing the kerb, installing the lighting, planters then the plants etc. no point doing the garden to then have to dig up the surface for underground services etc.

6	Online	In the Brock/Binney Streets roundabout there is/was a time capsule installed by the Euroa Reference group in the 1990s. If that area is to be 'refurbished', please take into account there is a time capsule on the Binney Street side of the flagpole. An engraved tile was placed above the location of the time capsule - which could now be covered by mulch, leaves and dirt? Any 'low level planting' requires maintenance and the current 'garden areas in the current streetscape' have suckers growing in them - so is it a good idea to expect maintenance to keep the areas attractive?
7	Online	Gum trees should not be planted in Binney Street, on intersections or in residential areas. Car parking spaces should not be lost in the upgrade and parallel parking should not be considered, too many parking spaces lost. Kirkland Ave parking and gutters need to be upgraded.
8	Online	The objective must be to beautify our main street but not at the expense of reducing the number of available car parking spaces, nor making it difficult to see pedestrians who may be about to use the crossing because it is shrouded in bushes and trees. The pedestrian crossing needs to be clear, light, and open, as many drivers here in town are elderly. We must not make using their car any harder for them. Plus any upgrade should take into account and be in sync with the design of the proposed railway precinct development and underpass plans. Otherwise this will be ratepayers money wasted and an opportunity missed.
9	Online	I'm excited by the ideas and designs presented and feel that the street will be more welcoming, unified, unique, sophisticated and sustainable. I don't feel that anything has been missed.
10	Online	Concerned the plan includes reducing car parking. What plans are in place to increase parking?
11	Online	Child friendly activities and images of interest. I have really enjoyed the pop-up play installations.
12	Online	North/South signs would have been better on all your graphic designs. Large trees are not needed in Binney Street.
13	Online	First of all I commend the Shire for instigating this project to review and refresh the streetscapes around the Shire. However I do have concerns for the proposals for Binney Street streetscape. The Garden Club's planting at either end of Binney Street appears to have been overlooked by the draft plan and not shown adequately or justly as a "before". It is very low maintenance, requires little water and looks good all year and especially in the summer when native plants are not necessarily at their best. The proposed planting looks attractive in the picture but would not be as easy to maintain as claimed. The tall eucalypt, in the centre of the roundabout, appears to be a lemon scented, looks good but I question its suitability beside the exotic trees already in the street. (There are wonderful lemon scented around the Memorial Oval but during summer shed leaves and bark which look right at the oval but would not in Binney Street) Binney Street is the shopping centre of an old Victorian town, not a village and has a number of significant buildings (eg post office, court house, NAB Bank building, large shire office, federation houses, a Catholic Church, with a large Anglican Church at the end of Binney Street) plus many old style shops. This built structure should be seriously considered in any proposal to change and modify the plantings and seating in this street. I would question the idea of superimposing plantings which are far more suitable for creek planting and for those streets that are close to the creek. Perhaps need to consider this a rural shire and farmers have a lot of grasses on their properties and may not see the need for a display of wheat grass when coming into town. Yes there could be more greenery and shade in Binney Street, but I would be dismayed if the current plantings were removed. They would be better complemented with additional planting of a variety of both Australian (eg westringas and lomandras) and exotic plants.

		<p>What is needed desperately in Binney Street and in the Seven Creeks Park are attractive timber looking structures to house rubbish bins. There are still smokers in the street so ashtrays are suggested.</p> <p>To describe the seats as Non-Descript ie nondescript is misleading. Those seats have backs and arms and are very popular with the many people who sit in them regularly and perhaps especially oldies. I am also concerned about replacing the quite recent signage and heritage columns. It seems very wasteful. They are attractive and being columns do not take up much space. Whilst it is commendable to say the Shire will work closely with the Friends of the Sevens and the Arboretum, the goals and expertise of these organisations is ecological landscape regeneration not townscape planting. The Arb has a vital seed bank and grows and distributes plants indigenous to this region. They are rarely "designer" Australian plants as the ones suggested in the plan. The wattles recommended by the draft (a. implexa and a. acinacea) are local and are continually being planted along the creek with many other local species (banksias, bursaries, callistemons, grasses, lomandras, daises) to develop an understory to promote biodiversity and in a far more conducive place than Binney Street. Regarding the recommended trees which I presume are for other streets, I was surprised callistemons were not cited. Very useful and hardy and especially good for narrow streets or such as Slee Street to complement the red gums opposite.</p>
14	Online	I would like to see the movement of traffic changed to one way. Too many motorists cross the double white lines to park. In the long term I would like Binney St to be more pedestrian friendly with a mall like atmosphere.
15	Online	Unreliable water supply in Euroa. Can waterways be safely maintained with limited water availability particularly in the light of increased population? Atkins Street needs a footpath. Many walkers and some elderly mobility vehicles make use of this street which leads to the popular caravan park.
16	Online	The addition of a proper pedestrian crossing will be a huge bonus and whilst I support the 'greening' of the street extreme care must be taken in the select of plants around the crossing zones to ensure drivers have a view of pedestrians approaching the crossings. The trap that is often fallen into is streetscapers plant for today and do not think about how the plants will impact sightlines as the plants mature.
17	Online	Appropriate tree guards. Mayor has photos they are all around the world , effective last generations and look fabulous, also an opportunity to add dimensions of greenery NOT just at ground level . Large creative purpose made planters that will sufficiently carry the nutrients to establish creeping greenery, create shade between shop fronts.
18	Online	Remember to include a sign to the Library! Love the whole idea - anything to soften and cool our street and make it a place to enjoy being in.
19	Online	I would like to see Council install electric bike charging stations and fixed bike pumps at three places - outside Burtons, outside the op shop and outside the chemist. We are already seeing increased e-bike traffic and this will only increase with the increase in tourism which is following the shift to the regions during COVID.
20	Online	Would love to see trees planted down the centre of Binney Street - the appropriate species would throw shade and create a powerful aesthetic. I have some fabulous shots of urban streets in Melbourne where this works beautifully.
21	Online	Overall the streetscape plan is good and I support almost all of it (hard to pick just 3 priority actions - they are all good). Would it be possible to use recycled materials a bit more (e.g. recycled plastic bollards rather than steel)? Ensure any new (or replacement) street lighting is LED (long life, low energy consumption) with durable finishes.

		How does the Binney Street streetscape extrapolate out to rest of township area (i.e. can these ideas/actions be implemented in a consistent way across the whole township area)? Binney Street is a busy but low speed area so probably not a big issue but is road safety still preserved? Different pavement colours and finishes can be very useful in delineating car traffic, bike lanes, pedestrian areas etc - not just aesthetics.
22	Online	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I don't see any disability parking, if it is located in the new upgraded rear car park it is too far away from the shops. 2. The reduced parking in Binney St makes it far more difficult for the elderly and disabled to access shopping. The parallel parking doesn't give disabled people wide enough spaces to open doors. We already have very limited disabled parking. 3. The streetscape planting looks like it reduces vision at roundabouts and for those entering or exiting parking spaces.
23	Online	Give us a break from planting trees and then cutting them down, give them a chance to show some maturity and ambience please And if this is the total of the survey it is pretty pathetic (I am assuming that when I hit the submit button it all over).
24	Online	<p>This is an ideal time to look at traffic management in Binney street. I suggest adding: Change traffic flow from two-way to one-way in the Binney Street block from Post Office to Railway street would allow for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safer traffic/ pedestrian interface in Binney street. 2. Easier parking for vehicles to either left or right side of street where spaces are available. 3. Eliminate motorists making illegal turns into parking bays across double lines. 4. Eliminate vehicles doing "laps" up and down Binney Street. 5. Vehicles needing to return down Binney street can turn either left or right out of Binney into Railway and proceed back to Brock Street via McGuinness or Kirkland avenue. 6. Traffic flow to be from East to West - towards Railway Avenue. 7. With the vegetation realignment, the cost of change to parking bays on Northern side of Binney Street would be incorporated into the overall project cost as detailed in their proposal. 8. Traffic flow would improve as vehicles would not be delayed by vehicles waiting for parked vehicles to vacate.
25	Online	Accessibility. No mention of how this will work for those in wheelchairs, scooters or walking frames
26	Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Binney street streetscape appearance is driven by the shopfront facades, Funding (small grants) should be provided to businesses to upgrade their shopfront signage and bring them all up to a respectful standard. • Gumtrees unfortunately have no place in a tight and congested streetscape - they grow too big, are a health and safety risk from dropped foliage and invasive roots which breakup footpaths and roadways, and branches will quickly contact and damage shopfronts. The Shire already struggles to maintain the gardens in town to an acceptable standard. Serious consideration needs to be given as to the most appropriate trees/foliage to be introduced. Model it on an existing streetscape which has "got it right." • Any streetscape updates MUST NOT sacrifice a single car parking spot - there are too few already. • How about including two small projects into the streetscape upgrades which will have a huge impact on the visitor appeal to Euroa - painting Burtons Bridge and the Castle Creek bridge - there are prominently architectural features in our town which almost every visitor utilises - clean them up and give them the pride of place they deserve.

27	Online	More trees. More garden beds. Wider footpaths for al fresco dining. Less parking. One way traffic = less road
28	Online	If doing pedestrian crossing area/s, then cars should be slowed to say no more than 40kmh as they travel too fast down Binney St now!
29	Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding more trees will exacerbate issues with pavement that has been lifted (by tree roots). • Adding trees/foliage to roundabout will decrease visibility and make it more dangerous. • Parking is already an issue during busy periods, removing car parks (Without allocating more appropriate parking elsewhere) seems impractical. • Adding lots of plants is a good idea in theory, however they require upkeep (weeding, mulching) and watering - is it reasonable to expect that the shire is going to absorb this additional workload consistently? • Updating fixtures and lighting is a good idea. • Updating walkways where possible is a good idea. • Replacing parts of road surface with pavers might look good in the short term but will require upkeep and maintenance to avoid surface becoming rough and slippery 3 - 5 - 10 years down the track. • Having vegetation close to the road surface down the main street may hinder visibility of person/s/children crossing the road
30	Online	There is already lack of parking and you're planning to take away further spaces. The issues around uneven footpaths are due to trees, further tree are only going increase the problem. The use of pavers and the effect the roots will have is only going to cause issues with the elderly and uneven surfaces. The high traffic areas will be uneven before the project is a year old.
31	Online	I think everything looks great. I think there should be something all the way along the double white lines, for example bollards, to prevent people illegally driving over the double white lines.
32	Online	The use of low level Native plants - ensure that any driver/pedestrian lines of sight are not obstructed
33	Online	Priority I'd like to see focused on is utilising and upgrading the laneways and connecting to additional parking
34	Online	Love it! I think streetscapes should be designed for the people / users and those walking down the street, not cars and carparks!
35	Online	More of it! Amazing. Celebrates where we live and shows Euroa has an exciting future! Nice one Council.
36	Online	<p>No, you've done well. Thank you.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please get rid of the faux Ye Olde English street lights & seats they are hideous. I'll come and help to do it. 2. Trees and more trees – essential shade - enhance the micro climate because the street is far too hot in summer, which equals no one wanting to venture out. 3. Planter boxes/ wicking beds with edible gardens. I own a shop and would love to look after one or two.
37	Online	The plan has completely missed Clifton and Tarcombe Streets and town entrances. It does not seem to have consideration for the emerging need for CPTED. The plan simply rehashes the same ideas that have been addressed in past projects with planting and minor infrastructure replacement for items that doesn't need replacing. There are no connectivity considerations. No one asked for more EV chargers in the consultation documents. The plan says the area is pedestrian friendly but that's not what the consultation says, it's - asking for better crossings etc.
38	Online	Perfect

39	Email	<p>Friends of the Sevens Creek (FOS) fully endorse the proposal to make the Binney Street Precinct a more liveable friendly space. We urge Strathbogie Shire to consider a Long-Term Strategic Streetscape Plan, (maybe similar to FOS Master Plan) which is assessed and reviewed at a maximum of five year intervals to ensure consistency, continuity and relevance of how we are meeting the challenges of Climate Change as conditions shift for better or worse. We believe once the existing conditions are developed to appropriate standards the precinct will be safer and more inviting for pedestrian usage. Caravan Park should also have a Master Plan or be included within the overall plan. FOS happy to be involved in any further discussions Euroa Arboretum must be a resource in both stock and expertise.</p> <p>HISTORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Binney Street precinct had been planted by the Euroa Garden Club pre 1990. Doris Johnson (deceased) was a driver of this work and we think it important that that focus/theme be considered. • June 1991 renowned Arborist Phillip Kenyon (lecturer Burnley College of Horticulture) spoke to interested residents. This talk was followed by a short meeting which established a “Friends of the Trees” (FOT) to support the Townscape and Beautification Committee to assist Shire in the care and development of Euroa’s streetscape. • Students from the College conducted a street by street tree survey which formed the basis for the Friends’ inventory of trees. Hundreds of trees were planted over the next 10 years. There is documentation available that records the extensive of work completed by this group (FOT). • A Streetscape strategy was developed 2000 /2001 Urban Tree management Plan developed 2004. Since that time several streets have been planted with appropriate trees sourced from the Euroa Arboretum and other commercial outlets. • More recently the Shire have been directly responsible for a revegetation program. The most recent being community involvement, planning and community planting in Charman Avenue 2020. • Friends of the Sevens with the assistance of the Euroa community developed a Master Plan for the creek in 2014. Prior to COVID FOS were undertaking a review. We consider that we have achieved roughly 85% of the listed goals and projects The Rockies Bridge construction will commence in February 2022 and small areas will be prepared for further planting with major work to be completed once the bridge is commissioned for use. After that maintenance will be the major focus of our group. De-sanding of the creek from the “Steam Gauging” barrage 200m upstream of the bridge to the Weir in the Rotary Park is a “stand-alone” major project. Note: FOS have support for this work from Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. • FOS consider that the scope of this initial work be extended beyond Binney Street to include Kirkland Avenue and McGuinness Street. This would enable the positive resolution to better parking facilities feeding to Binney Street. • The temporary Streetscape completed last year has been a magnificent teaser for this project. <p>SUGGESTIONS</p> <p>We need to be bold. The listed considerations documented need to be carefully assessed implemented where possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAKE CAR PARKING DIFFICULT in Binney Street. Parking is an element which has significant direct impact upon the success of this project and needs to be resolved. Perhaps this could be achieved in stages with a possible end focus on no vehicles at all. • We think current parking arrangements in Binney Street dangerous.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe consider ONE WAY traffic in long term “off” Binney Street parking with welcoming and attractive access a must. Further develop car park near Euroa Hotel, further develop car park in Bakehouse Lane, possibly purchase and demolish Jimmy Cook’s old house). Further develop car park behind Library and connect link to existing access from Euroa Hotel. • Consider assistance for older community residents (ave. age in excess of 75?) from Car Parks to shops. • Possibility of a dedicated Bike lane. <p>BUSINESS OWNERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop owners in Binney Street. Shire to set standard of maintenance to all shop-fronts and put some pressure on landlords to make them more attractive. • Shire to provide incentives for shop owners/landlords to make shops more attractive • How do Shire and Community work better together to make the precinct more vibrant? • Can we develop a Pop-up or mobile “Wine Bar” and support Mogg Grog and Strathbogie Brewery • Could the Northern Republic “outside area” be used on days that are currently not open • What are the opportunities of staggering business hours for IGA, Café and others? • Many traveller/visitors stop at the Lions Park • Can we develop a walkway link to Binney Street from this location? • Can we develop a more attractive and enticing shady link to the Sevens Creek and the Apex Walking Track? • Link the Community garden to Binney Street? <p>EDUCATION</p> <p>With most grants there is a requirement to have an educational component. In documenting the history of streetscape in Euroa and displaying this with attractive signage we will encourage more people to be involved and to have a better understanding of the impact of Climate Change and that action is the responsibility of us all. We need to engage Taungurung Clans Aboriginal Corporation in the educational aspect as well as the focus of our Strategic Plan.</p> <p>STREETSCAPE FURNITURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration to have many more sites which have attractive comfortable seating. Maintain the standard set with recent seating. • Better and more attractive street lighting and high quality signage for example – history and interpretive
40	Email	Is the bright green pocket park going to remain in front of the post office? Each time I sit there, the feedback from tourists and other locals is very negative. Most people like the concept of such a park but are very unhappy that it has been placed right in front of one of our best historical buildings - and they aren't compatible. Many people love our town because of our historic buildings. They are featured on the sign / turn off in to the town but now it is impossible to have a really good look at this marvellous building and you certainly can't photograph it. Tourists are very important to the economy of our town, so I suggest we take these views on board. The views of the local residents are also important, and a lot of people would like to see the bright green park re-located to a different part of the town - not right outside our most prominent historical building.
41	Email	I love the popup garden and seating areas in Binney St. Are they going to become a permanent fixture. I have heard so many positive comments. Thanks

42	Email	<p>Thank you again for your communication and consideration so far in the feedback process of the streetscape redevelopment project. As you know we are thrilled by the opportunity to be involved and really try to get this right. We notice that the timeline from now is very tight, from the feedback being collated and draft designs being presented to Council for adoption. The opportunity here needs to be taken with the community and businesses input front and centre. The committee understands not everything can be included and not all ideas put into action within the budget or time frame but we would like a follow up meeting with the designers and Council before final drafts are presented to discuss the adopted changes and suggested final designs.</p> <p>In regards to Strathbogie, we believe the community has already had a say and expressed concerns around the suggested medium strip planting. We have collated members' feedback and below is our summary of draft designs for Euroa:</p> <p>The Chambers main positives to come out of the draft designs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber bench seating suggested, curved edges creating visual interest, which look great and blend in beautifully with planting. • Resurfacing footpath areas, which currently are a safety hazard. • Suggested interesting shade structures • proposed signage upgrades • Replacing bin surrounds and bike racks • Installation of bottle water refill stations. <p>The Chambers main points of concern with the current draft designs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of low level planting, including in the medium strips and the type of grassy planting suggested -it is seen as messy and a snake hazard. It blocks access in some areas from car parks to footpaths and makes it difficult to see obstacles over the amount of plants suggested. • The pop up space near gambles is very messy, visually distracting and obstructs views for both the pedestrian and motorist. New streetscape needs to be neat, interesting and overall and cohesive. • Surely some wider timber benches could be integrated into these spaces instead of small thin benches? Creating deeper, more usable space than just having plants. Creating adequate seating for people eating takeaways, coffees etc. • Removal of car parking. 11 carparks being removed might not sound like much, but that is 10% of all car parks in the main street. We cannot lose one car park, ideas need to be worked around to not cut out any more car spaces. Consider moving one or both existing walkways across so car parking is not impacted by creating another walkway. • Stage 1 is concentrated on a very small area. Is this the best area to start? and have we used the funding allocated in the most appropriate areas? When will funding be made available to continue the project or will we have piecemeal areas? If this is unknown we believe we need to concentrate our attention not on one small section of the street but one overall project that can be achieved within the budget. EG surface upgrades? address the signage? Create permanent areas of small amount of planting with timber bench seating under the trees. <p>We are very lucky with our beautiful, wide and thriving main streets in the shire. Euroa's main street already has so much to love about it with a lot of charm and heritage character. We hear this often from visitors which is one reason why the town is thriving and people keep returning. It is a</p>
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		friendly, inviting space with so much potential to add onto this charm. Local businesses hope to continue to contribute ongoing in a positive and productive manner.
43	Email	<p>I have been much appreciating the quality, tasteful, interesting changes to Binney St in recent times and anticipate new ones being formulated presently. And I have also liked seeing all the Christmas decorations in the street, both the old world and Aussie touches!</p> <p>My suggestion which I've mentioned years earlier, when public opinions were sought for our streetscape is looking as well at beautifying the buildings in the street somewhat!. The street level shop fronts and the first stories of these premises could be far lovelier.</p> <p>I wonder if we could get some commonality of colour and printing style of shop signs to complement one another more, everyone does his own thing and synergy is missing' some colours are so bright and the sign lettering so unnecessarily bold and 'out there'.</p> <p>I wonder if some similar complimentary paint colours could be agreed upon? The businesses owners would need some sort of financial help I imagine, but gradually over time there could be a goal to keep in sync with other businesses. That's where I think something really cohesive and eye catching could be achieved to add to other areas of beautification.</p> <p>I'd like to see permission for over huge, tasteless, bright aqua or yellow signs etc denied. People know where they can be found or will find them...Binney St isn't that long. I've not been more specific here: more presented a concept that could be considered for a future time? Good luck with receiving feedback and making Euroa's main street even more appealing in the future!</p>

Longwood feedback

	Method	Feedback
1	Online	Option B in my opinion is best, It would really pay homage to our servicemen, just maybe an enclosed bin to be added. Option C is a great idea, but I honestly think that spot needs to be left for something more awesome down the road.
2	Online	Given the serious lack of drainage in Longwood- I feel option B is the best for stage one as it can be completed without the risk of damage occurring in the future when drainage is installed. I would like to see the use of recycled materials as much as possible.
3	Online	Not really - but do not think it is necessary to ask someone's age. Should be an option to say 'prefer not to say' as is usually the case with questions that are of a personal nature. Cannot see the correlation between asking for input on a streetscape and the compulsory nature of having to provide an age. Would love to see something that highlights the need to use repurposed/recycled materials throughout all streetscape projects.

4	Online	<p>There are aspects that I like and dislike in all 3 suggestions.</p> <p>In option A, I really like the idea of tidying up the area around the Longwood sign and making that look more attractive, however I believe that the railway pedestrian crossing is unnecessary. It would be costly and I believe it would be underutilized. At this stage in the town's development, I don't think it is necessary.</p> <p>In option B, I love the idea of putting a bridge to the memorial and a walking track to get there. However, I am concerned about the plan for the area directly across from the pub. It isn't shown clearly in the image. There is wording that suggested there may be a change to the road outline. I personally think this is unnecessary. I also have concerns about where the footpath and garden beds might run in that area. The space between the road and the railway is used for parking for pub-goers. They walk across the road to the pub. If there is a garden bed running alongside a path, it will only get ruined by foot traffic. I suggest either having no garden bed in that section, or having only small garden spaces, with mostly clear area for foot traffic.</p> <p>In option C, I like the idea of a general spruce up, but I don't think it would have a great impact on the town and its visitors. There are things listed that I think would be an unnecessary spend of money, (eg. curbing).</p> <p>My favourite of the options is the bridge to the memorial, but personally, I think it would have a greater impact to do some aspects of each plan, though I recognise the funding restrictions.</p>
5	Online	A lot of cost for little benefit
6	Online	Let's just get on and do it. All great ideas. Hopefully we can get all the stages up and running. Great job
7	Online	<p>Yes, you have the cart before the horse, go back a few stages and firstly get the town sewerred , secondly get the town a storm water system. I spent four months last year working in the town seven days a week and the stink from open drains and old septic systems leeching into them and stagnant water is not a good look or smell. There is Federal and State funding for these projects.</p> <p>You talk about traffic calming. Put a round-a-bout at the corner of Down and Hill streets. It's a dangerous complicated corner/intersection - one side a stop sign one side a giveaway sign. Please go back and start with the basics, because a lot of what you are proposing with be wrecked when you finally decide to go back to basics. PS I support the streetscape after the above items have been done.</p>
8	Online	A playground
9	Online	Any path across the railway would be good as everyone walks in the middle of the road.
10	Online	Please ensure the drainage is upgraded with the proposal
11	Online	I understand that this is a streetscape project but feel strongly that the "cart is before the horse" in terms of the big vision and long term improvement of the township. The best investment would be installation of a sewerage system and proper drainage. Longwood is on flat ground and septic are an ongoing concern as is storm water. I fully support the proposal for town beautification but practical solutions to real problems should be a priority. Our rates are such that basic amenities should be provided.
12	Online	Would be great to have all three.
13	Online	A roundabout at the Hill St / Down St intersection would be great to slow down through traffic
14	Online	Immediately cost prohibitive I'm sure, but gravel paths don't really last that long, concrete/asphalt footpaths would surely be more cost effective in the long term? No?

Strathbogie Feedback

	Method	Feedback
1	Online	<p>The bitumen around the median strips is lifting badly due to the number of heavy vehicles now using Main Street as an access road. For many years there has been a request to make access from the Hall to the store More usable by creating a wheel chair access point Mid way through the southern median strip.</p> <p>Vehicles accessing main street from Armstrong avenue quite frequently turn sharply into the incorrect side of the road. This is a real issue and shires duty of care may be in peril.</p> <p>Older people have requested level parking on the western side of Main Street and currently use the CFA access point as a passenger disembarkation point.</p> <p>By replacing the current six year old maple trees planted in the street centre shire is ignoring community input who secured and planted those trees only a few years ago.</p> <p>Should native trees and plantings be inserted than the shire takes responsibility for falling branches, traffic harmed wildlife and wildfire wicking via combustible plantings.</p> <p>The Main Street is considered to be from the fuel depot to Spring creek road. Perhaps funding could be spread evenly for all users rather than concentrating works into one small area?</p> <p>We should also acknowledge that Strathbogie was "settled" primarily by descendants of Scottish origin and prior to that the Taungerang People lived here for many years following even earlier settlement (refer rock painting of "Euroa Man").</p> <p>There is a lot of mixed history and the vast majority of locals and visitors look forward to visiting when the deciduous trees colour as townships such as Bright will attest to.</p> <p>I humbly suggest that the road surface and edges along the length of Main Street should be attended to as not only a priority but as a matter of urgency! Should shire offices wish to visit and view these issues I am more than happy to assist.</p>
2	Online	An understanding of the community and what it wants
3	Online	<p>I am a little late in responding, but I have to say it seems ludicrous to replace the beautiful european trees and roses down the median strip. I have not met a fellow local resident who is in agreeance with your plan. Strathbogie is surrounded by gum trees, plenty of habitat etc. Gum trees are also a fire hazard which are not needed in the main street, not to mention what the leaf litter and debris that will clog the already slow flowing gutters.</p> <p>Gum trees will also crack and raise the roadway over time. This is a foolish idea. The trees we have in situ are refreshing, colorful in autumn and pretty by nature. I certainly object to this plan.</p>
4	Online	<p>Improving the streetscape as per the proposal would be great but not with gum trees! The town centre contains various established European tree types and any upgrade should be in keeping with that. The walking trails along the creeks immediately surrounding the town contain an abundance of native flora and fauna including may gums of course. Gums are messy, drop branches and are a fire hazard.</p>
5	Online	<p>It's not clear whether the current plantings on the median strip will be retained and enhanced or whether they will be removed. It would be good if the current plantings were incorporated as they are starting to get to a good size.</p>

6	Online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current trees in the medium strip were only planted within the last five years. They are starting to establish and are just starting to grow. It would be a waste of the grant money to replace them. • A watering system can still be installed and mulch to replace lawns if it is maintenance concern. • Planting trees and landscaping on the entrance from Euroa into the township of Strathbogie also around the creek shelter table area would be money better spent.
7	Online	<p>I would suggest you've been consulting with the wrong people. I first drove into Strathbogie 22 years ago and was delighted with the streetscape that that greeted me. The beautiful autumn colors, reminiscent of places like Bright , Myrtleford etc won my admiration and I decided to settle here. Fast forward a few years and those wonderful trees were brutally replaced, although with hopefully similar trees which have not had a chance to establish. The thought then, of replacing them with gum trees which are abundant everywhere in the town boundaries (and outside, obviously) is anathema to me and many others that I have spoken to.</p> <p>The loss of colour ,in the name of natification (new word) is intolerable. Reference the magnificent trees outside the hall.</p> <p>Please go back to the drawing board.</p>
8	Online	<p>The approach from Euroa, after the bridge over Spring Creek shows an attractive universal vista of European trees and shrubs established over decades. The "before" illustration of the median strip from this approach is years out of date, trees having grown significantly since the photo used, indicating a lack of interest by council in the base for planned changes.</p> <p>The predictable pc plan to impose native eucalypts and grasses on the existing historical planting is unacceptable.</p> <p>Main Street Strathbogie is visually attractive and in no need of change.</p> <p>What Strathbogie does need is a major effort to repair and upgrade local roads. They are in many instances unsafe. I am more interested in safety and amenity of basic services rather than spending on ill considered cosmetic "improvements".</p>
9	Online	<p>Integrate existing median strip trees into streetscape design. The Strathbogie community has contributed to establishing and watering these trees in recent years. Keeping them, at least until other plantings are well-established and flourishing, would be good diplomacy and design.</p> <p>Plant selection (trees and shrubs) will be important. A mix of indigenous and exotic trees (to mimic the township's established trees) would provide multiple services: deciduous trees - shade, cooling, biodiversity, drought tolerant; small indigenous/native trees (eg Snow Gums, flowering gums) - dappled shade and biodiversity. Ensure careful selection of large eucalypts for median strip planting, re roots, dropping limbs. Shrubs and ground-covers could be entirely indigenous, contributing to a water efficient planting.</p> <p>Strathbogie Landcare is currently working with the Shire to design plantings around Spring Creek picnic shelter that will complement streetscape design.</p>
10	Online	<p>Please keep the existing trees and complement them with extra plants.</p>

11	Online	<p>I feel that the idea to put eucalyptus trees in the Main St, is an uneducated one. Who ever thought it up unfortunately didn't think about the element of fire.</p> <p>We are a fire prone area, and have enough Bush in or close to town and we are surrounded by Bush on every side of the tableland and you people are thinking of more March sticks in what should be a "safe zone".</p> <p>Asking for trouble I would say.</p> <p>I feel it would be more Safe and Respectful to the People that lovingly planted the maples and to the trees themselves, to at least let them grow to a reasonable height, let them show themselves, so to speak.</p> <p>Being a tree from the northern hemisphere, they are less prone to Fire.</p> <p>As you may gather, I am not in favour.</p>
12	Online	<p>Contrary to the ratings above I am in favour of most of the design. The one area where I believe it is wrong is the treatment of the median strip. I am strongly against both low level planting and replacing the existing deciduous trees with native trees for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gaps in the median strip here are very often used to do U turns and low level planting will reduce visibility for both motorists and cyclists. • The low level planting no matter how sure you are of planning for future maintenance will become messy and unattractive - Have seen this on numerous occasions. • The existing deciduous trees are in keeping with the surrounding trees in the Main street. • The existing deciduous trees have only been planted for 5-6 years and with some irrigation would certainly grow more quickly. <p>Strathbogie is a cold town in winter and deciduous trees are more suited to the main street to allow as much sun as possible into the town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I don't think a "Habitat Corridor" in the median strip of the Main street is a good idea for any native ground animals who would have to cross the road to get there. We do have vast areas of native forest surrounding the town. <p>I am not against the planting of native trees in general and have planted thousands on our own property, however I don't think it is a good idea for the Median strip in Strathbogie.</p>
13	Online	<p>Yes the trees planted have only just got going and will be lovely when at their full growth , would be a shame to pull them out and replace with native trees that will drop limbs and leaves throughout the year .leaving a mess for shire to clean up . But some ground cover design would look lovely under the existing trees</p>
14	Online	<p>The original street was put there by our pioneers it contains our history and is just starting to flourish from previous attempts to brighten the street up in which it is doing. This native adaptation is not the answer just look at fire hazard from your previous attempts at the creek. Leave it alone.</p>
15	Online	<p>I do not want to see gum trees and native grasses in the middle of our township, as they are a fire hazard, and very messy, what we have now is very pretty, and a lot of work has gone into developing what is there now. I think guttering and pathways on town, and some seating along the footpath would be more appropriate. I think a township should have clear views, and be neat and clean, and natives don't do that. I can't see why everything has to be changed all the time. Respect for what the community had achieved in the past would be nice,</p>

16	Online	Yes. The concept design talks about Strathbogie's rural environment and therefore recommends plantings of native trees within the township. I do not agree with these planting choices. The character of current plantings within the township of Strathbogie is to use exotic plants which are better from a fire safety perspective, and importantly give the township wonderful character and colours through all the four seasons, particularly spring and autumn. Many residents choose these plants for their own gardens and thus the whole township is filled with these northern hemisphere plants that suit our climate exceptionally well. These plants were the choice of the local community only a few years ago and volunteers planted them. They would benefit from the addition of watering and soil improvement, but please do not replace them with natives. We all enjoy the wonderful natives in our wider environment, but please let us have the benefit of both world. Exotic species contribute positively to our environment. They are not weeds.
17	Online	A new and improved playground at the red grounds and a clean out of the creek next to bridge to turn it into a safer swimming hole
18	Online	I dislike the use of large native feature trees being used in the median strip. The townShip has a lot of European trees and to add native trees to the major focal point (median strip) would look extremely scruffy, ugly,, sad and not in keeping with the current majestic, elegant feeling provided by European trees. There are plenty of other places for native trees to be used, but not the centre strip. trying too hard to use natives, just for the sake of it.
19	Online	Concern where water storage reliability will be from.
20	Online	as the raised beds are on a sloping road, i cant see the need for swails. trees would be good but the existing ones will grow in time. please allow for the annual Anzac Day events which requires access to the memorial for a collection of viewers. please also improve parking out front of the hall. perhaps angled?
21	Online	Seating along bridge to bridge walk.tourist info kiosk/display(unmanned-maps-points of interest-what to do-short trip ideas etc) rubbish bins- Strathbogie township signage- tourist brochures at general store if permitted by owner. Centre strip trees are fine. Why waste money planting new ones?????
22	Online	Current trees are now well established and should remain as they blend with the now streetscape and are not a fire hazard as are proposed trees.
23	Online	It would be great if the Maple Trees remain in place, as they are established trees, and growing well. They were also funded by the community. We certainly don't need eucalyptus trees in a fire prone area. The understory looks terrific, hopefully all plants are indigenous to our area.

24	Online	<p>My comments are specifically about the Spring Ck picnic ground end of the streetscape, from the SBogie side of the bridge and on into the picnic area and up the new footpath to Session's property. In this area I think only local native tree species (eg mountain swamp gum, the local snow gum <i>E. pauciflora</i>) should be used. In this picnic area site, including on the section of footpath up to Sessions property, all exotic trees (there is a clump of them beside the footpath) should be removed and replaced with snow gums (these are fairly rare local natives and it is important to re-establish them here as there are only a few very old trees in the paddock opposite, plus a few younger roadside ones left here. <i>Lomandra</i> should be used for borders, as required, and also for scattered planting. If grasses are used in that area, they should be local native grasses such as kangaroo grass (<i>Themeda</i>, which is already on the site) and wallaby grass etc. The area of kangaroo grass upslope of the small new pavilion at Spring Ck should be managed to preserve it.</p> <p>My personal preference for the remainder of the township end of the streetscape is for local native Eucalypts and longer lived midstorey trees such as Blackwood wattles <i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>. The latter are evergreen plus less volatile than eucalyptus in the event of fire (I know some locals have expressed concern about fire prone trees like eucs). It would be good to see the ground level plants in your proposal carefully selected from local native species including <i>Lomandra</i> and local native grasses - while I know the pictures are schematic at this point, I am always concerned when I see plantings of non local species when it could (and should, in my view) have been local species that are suited to the local climate, especially since our local arboretum in Euroa would have or could grow these local species.</p>
25	Online	<p>Since there are young trees that are just starting to mature I believe they should be incorporated in any new design rather than removing perfectly good trees that council only planted a few years ago.</p>
26	Online	<p>Not to be a waste of money like the amount spent on the picnic area that no one uses as it's too far away from the nice setting of the creek</p>
27	Online	<p>My score is 2 stars because some things about the concept design are good, but I do have one significant concern. Firstly, it's great that the median strip is up for improvement - good news. Re the deliverables...</p> <p>Repair of the median strip edges is a good idea but I would not be pleased to see city type gutters in this small, quiet rural town. It's not clear from the picture what is planned.</p> <p>Installation of waterwise irrigation - great, as long as there is sufficient water in the township to cater for this.</p> <p>Preparation of soil, installation of ground cover/bark and long term maintenance - always good for plantings</p> <p>Installation of advanced trees - great, but choice of species leads me to my major concern, particularly as the local town has already gone through this task a few years ago and the current plantings were the result of what the community wanted.</p> <p>MY MAJOR CONCERN</p> <p>Most of what is in the current plantings are exotic species, not natives. These are a much better choice to any natives from a fire perspective. Also, the current streetscape qualities and character are filled with exotic species. Our climate is special in that we can celebrate 4 distinct seasons - spring is filled with white and pink flowering trees, summer with cool, bright greens, autumn with brilliant colours and winter with bare frost covered boughs. None of this will be possible with native species. The four seasons we celebrate with our exotic species trees and underplanting are an integral part of our little town just as the native species are an integral part of our wider environment. Please don't change this aspect of our streetscape, just enhance it with more of the same. I would be devastated to see these glorious exotic species removed and replaced by natives. Natives have their place, but so too do exotic species, and our township enjoys both - exotics in our main street and natives all around and about.</p>

28	Online	<p>I would to know how much this plan would cost.</p> <p>I think the best improvement to the street scape would be to provide a public toilet. It is a disgrace that there are no facilities for locals and visitors to use in the vicinity of the Main Street.</p> <p>Then I would prefer any money left to improve the condition of our local roads especially all the pot holes that keep appearing after rain.</p> <p>I also think that the "before " photo was rather unfair as it showed the current trees when they had lost there leaves. These trees make an amazing autumn display of colour and combine well with the claret ash trees further down the street.</p> <p>Finally the main focus on the median strip should be the monument which was built for the community to remember those who lost their lives and those who served in WW1. it also would be disrespectful to the families of those whose names are on the monument. The Monument also stands as a constant reminder of the awful cost of war and reminds us all to live in peace.</p>
29	Online	<p>Let the maples continue to grow. Patience will be rewarded. We are surrounded by beautiful mature forest. Let's make the median strip and the township a centre for autumn beauty.</p> <p>In my experience, the proposed plantings will be much higher maintenance, not in keeping with the established exotic trees in the township. Pause to look at the two trees at the hall to see the beauty and amenity that will come. Native shrubs and grasses need a lot of work to maintain and lack longevity. If this median strip was replanted in 2015, please respect that planting and allocate the money to more worthy projects.</p>
30	Online	<p>Incorporating the existing planting will appease those who were involved in the 2015 community planting by STAG and replacing the grass with drought tolerant natives will provide cover for small animals as well as look nice all year round. The biggest concern is the lack of water so the subsoil seepage system will work best. Overall I love this plan!</p>
31	Online	<p>I think it would be less wasteful to work with what is currently in place and fill it out with some low plantings and maybe a couple of larger trees that will fill the space and provide shade in time. I am worried about the use of gum trees in the centre of town, I feel low inflammatory trees are important in our situation. I don't agree with wasting money on advance trees, young healthy specimens grow faster and stronger and produce better root systems.</p>
32	Online	<p>The median strip along Main St was replanted in 2015 - and you want to pull it up just as the trees are establishing?</p> <p>We do not have potable water - and you want to put in a watering system?</p> <p>Water shortage is an issue in general - and you want to put in a watering system?</p> <p>I live in Main St and this is the first I have heard of plans to change the streetscape - therefore you have missed meaningful community consultation.</p> <p>There is still no path from Main St to the Rec Ground - surely that basic amenity is more important than replanting the median strip.</p>
33	Online	<p>High Bushfire Risk area is not conducive to planting indigenous plants in the middle of town. Secondly, gum trees have a tendency to drop branches when stressed (e.g. by heat) - risk to pedestrians and traffic.</p> <p>Also, there is no aesthetic need to bring the bush into town as people can explore that outside the town.</p> <p>There was one face to face time for community consultation which was poorly advertised (on very short notice and in daytime preventing workers to attend).</p>
34	Online	<p>Consultation with the Euroa arboretum on the appropriate plants for the bogie area would be good as well purchasing the plants from them. I believe it's important to support our local indigenous plant nursery.</p> <p>I'd be interested to see the woody meadow concept implemented in one of our township streetscape designs. See link https://pursuit.unimelb.edu.au/articles/a-woody-meadow-in-the-heart-of-the-city.amp</p>

35	Online	<p>You need to recognise that Strathbogie Shire Council has declared a climate emergency and structure the procurement for things like signage, seating, barriers etc around this. eg recycled plastic that is more structurally sound than timber would be ideal for the bridge barriers and other structures that are planned as it would weather extremely well and is also a sustainable choice. Replas do a lot of work for government and are well known https://www.replas.com.au/products/furniture/</p> <p>The Old Saleyards are in the wrong place on the map.</p> <p>I am surprised there is no mention of Traditional Owners. The Strathbogie Ranges were one of the few places in Australia where Indigenous peoples sheltered during the last ice age around 25,000 years ago, so Strathbogie as a 'place' has a lot more 'stories' than indicated in this proposal. In late 2019 Taungurung Land and Waters Council went through a whole workshop (Strathbogie council was invited) of implementation of indigenous place-names and how this might happen on a broader scale. I think the community in both Strathbogie, and Taungurung would appreciate Council inviting them to revisit the outcomes of this workshop, perhaps inviting Taungurung to discuss the community's thoughts on dual named entry signs or something similar.</p> <p>The region's councils, including Strathbogie, are undertaking a street tree programme, Naturally Cooler Towns, at the moment to understand the best suited species for a changing climate. The Euroa Arboretum and council's staff are involved. So its best to look at the outcomes of that so all new plantings have the best chance of survival, without any inadvertent wrong plantings being too resource-intensive for council to manage. Species resources will be handed over to Council in Feb and community will no doubt be highly interested as plantings are a key feature of a town centre, and speak to its culture, history and potential.</p>
36	Online	<p>Think you missing the bigger picture</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No Potable water in Strathbogie ,If anyone visits the town they cant get a drink unless they pay for it, (Third World) 2. Put some money towards a descent play ground at the recreational ground, try and attract people to visit ,they wont come to see a few rocks and a tree in the main steet. 3.Put an electric BBQ at the picnic area at spring creek, heaven knows council has spent a fortune there and its still deficient. 4 Promote the Bridge to Bridge walking track and make the area a proper attraction.
37	Online	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Try to retain or relocate the existing trees 2 rose garden should be retained and enhanced 3 must be irrigated- the ground is very dry and gets little moisture
38	Online	<p>The current maples planted in the medium strip were chosen by (name redacted), for shade, colour, autumnal colour, and drought resistance. They were agreed by the community and we have diligently watered them over the past four summers. The CFA volunteers have done this on the Sunday truck run. Five years later they are just starting to get there roots down and bloom. To replace them with Eucalyptus is the wrong move, firstly the fire risk and secondly that these trees are established. The understory I like, a few rocks and poas and maybe bulbine and chocolate Lillies. In our garden we have successfully married exotics with native grasses and flowers. What I worry about however is the up keep of the townscape. Especially with weeds, St John's Wort and clovers. If we don't get it right from the start and maintain it, what ever good intentions council have will soon turn to ugliness. I would put my hand up to provide more input. Our streetscape is important to us. We are surrounded by beautiful native bushland. The town scape could be something similar to that bridges the two worlds.</p>
39	Online	Really support the focus on native trees and plantings.
40	Online	It would be great to ensure the drainage is factored into the design to ensure longevity of the paths

38	Email	<p>Received 16/12/22</p> <p>Can I also make a couple of comments about the proposed streetscape works:</p> <p>The proposal to plant natives in the centre strip to provide native habitat does not seem to be in the best interest of native creatures – to have habitat located in the middle of a road, particularly when there is plenty of safe habitat along the creek.</p> <p>Also, Strathbogie has been assessed as having an extreme bushfire risk in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register and the planting of natives in the middle of town would act as an accelerant for any fire.</p> <p>I understand that it is proposed to retain the existing crepe myrtles which are not Australian natives and the maples which are currently in the centre of the road were recommended by Craig Irving from Sunnymeade and would be considerably improved with an appropriate watering system.</p> <p>Perhaps the actual street plantings should be consistent and provide a rich display (possibly similar to Beechworth) rather than half native and half ornamental?</p> <p>The planting of native vegetation would be better located around the “carport” along the creek rather than in the middle of the street.</p> <p>Received 29/1/22</p> <p>STRATHBOGIE STREETSCAPE PROJECT</p> <p>In relation to the Process</p> <p>Information for the development of the Streetscape Plan was derived from a consultation session held in February 2021 and on line feedback during June and July.</p> <p>The consultation session was part of Council’s annual Corporate Plan discussion (see Council Fact Sheet) at which a range of topics were available for comment – it was not specifically related to the Streetscape Plan. It is far more likely that community members attended to express their concern re the excessive expenditure and mismanagement of the “carport” project.</p> <p>In relation to the on line feedback, the population of the Tableland is not young (refer Census statistics) and many do not communicate electronically. This may also mean they are not generally aware of community meetings. In addition, the internet on the Tableland is extremely unreliable. (It should also be noted that, while Council puts information on bogie-tree, a large number of users are not residents of the Tableland – it is important that feedback on local issues is coming from the local community)</p> <p>Past experience (Café Conversations) has shown that it is essential to measure “off the cuff” proposals from individual members of the community against the wishes and previous planning of the community as a whole.</p> <p>Council’s Fact Sheet states that “the median strip was on top of the list” – it is difficult to see which of the comments circulated relates to the median strip, in fact many do not really relate to the streetscape brief (ie vulnerable persons’ register, camping area, replicate Wangaratta station). Are there further comments which have not been circulated to the community?</p> <p>Several years ago, when drought funding became available, Council went first to the Community Action Plans and undertook works that had already been identified by each community.</p> <p>In 2015 STAG commissioned a comprehensive Streetscape Plan. This plan described the town entry as follows “Native vegetation on the edge of town provides an important definition marker between the ‘settlement’ and the broader rural landscape”. This vision would be lost if existing vegetation in the median strip was replaced by natives and resulted in a mismatch of native and ornamental trees. STAG sought professional advice and the maples were planted by volunteers</p> <p>Comments re Proposed Streetscape Plan for Strathbogie</p>
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	<p>The information circulated is misleading, showing a small photo of a dormant existing tree compared with a large coloured print of proposed plantings. Council's Fact Sheet claims that older trees are not currently thriving"- it is difficult to portray a dormant tree as "thriving". A current photo would demonstrate that they are doing extremely well and look great.</p> <p>It is unlikely that visitors /tourists will come to Strathbogie to see eucalypts in the centre of the street – they will have seen hundreds on their way to Strathbogie. They are far more likely to be attracted to trees which will allow sunlight in during winter, are shady in summer and provide a colourful display in autumn.</p> <p>Information circulated to the community fails to accurately identify the proposed plantings.</p> <p>The proposal to provide native habitat in the middle of a road courts disaster. For some years there has been a resident koala at the school – it would be traumatic for the children to find their koala injured, or worse, if it attempted to cross to the proposed plantation. There is plenty of habitat along the creek and surrounding the township. The centre of town is not an appropriate location for native wildlife.</p> <p>Strathbogie has been assessed as having an extreme bushfire risk in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register. In the event of a fire, native planting in the middle of the street would act as an accelerant and would provide a significant barrier for those attempting to reach the place of last resort.</p> <p>Any plantation will require adequate water. Council, through its participation in the Sustainable Subdivisions pilot with nine other councils in the region, should have an understanding of the Water Sensitive Urban Design in relation to providing water to plantations – this is not evident in the concept presented to the community.</p> <p>The proposal for stage two includes a path to the Bridge to Bridge Walk beside the CFA shed – there is a steep drop behind the shed and access is already available adjacent to the Council depot.</p> <p>What research has the developer undertaken to identify issues of importance to the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) in relation to the topography of the site, areas where shallow soil/sheet rock will impact on planting b) the significance of some existing plantings c) identification of heritage overlay areas, etc. <p>It would be helpful if examples of previous streetscape work undertaken by the designer was included – there is no website for About Architecture – is this part of Edwina Alexandra Design which appears to have been mainly involved with the design of disabled toilets?</p> <p>This question was forwarded to Council on 11 January however no response has been received to date. It could also be asked whether Edwina Alexandra Design is actually part of Strathbogie Shire Council as it appears under the Shire on the website?</p> <p>Moving Forward</p> <p>There are a number of projects that have already been identified by the community and which could be undertaken with the streetscape funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of bike racks – Strathbogie is a favourite destination for a significant number of bike riders Availability of potable water Review of signage – what is essential, what could be removed or replaced – include historical signage and directional signage to Bridge to Bridge walk. Enhance the southern entrance to the township – how to hide/camouflage the fuel depot The northern entrance to the township would benefit considerably if native plantings were undertaken to camouflage the "carport" eyesore
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39	Email	<p>I strongly object to the proposal to remove the deciduous trees from Main Street Strathbogie and replace the centre strip with indigenous trees to create a wildlife habitat. The so-called community engagement may have ticked certain boxes, but it failed to reach the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal has been produced with little or no research or background knowledge • The demographics of the Shire, and in particular the Tableland, do not work well for electronic community engagement. • None of the eighteen verbatim comments on the Shire website specifically endorse the new proposal. • Some of the suggestions are already on the STAG Action Plan, which has either been overlooked or ignored by Council. • Council needs to nurture Action Groups and provide dedicated support as they are the true conduit between the community and Council.
40	Email	<p>I would like to congratulate the Shire of Strathbogie on its efforts to beautify the streetscapes of the towns in the shire. However, personally I would be very sorry to see the deciduous trees removed from the Strathbogie Main street. At a time when most towns are vying for tourism and visitor numbers it is important that our towns look attractive. The Maples in Strathbogie are now reaching an age where they are maturing and providing a beautiful feature for locals and visitors alike. In my opinion Gum trees are very dull and uninteresting, They shed bark, branches and leaves and can cause damage quite often. I think the Strathbogie Shire could do well to look at the examples set by such towns as Benalla and Myrtleford (Crepe Myrtles), Milawa (Manchurian Pears), Jamieson (a variety of deciduous trees), Bright and even Shepparton which has a colourful display of deciduous trees bordering its fruit orchards. The existing deciduous trees in Euroa and Violet Town are beautiful and do much to enhance the streetscape. In the spring the blossoms in Binney Street and Brock Street are also a great asset to the CBD. I sincerely hope that the decision makers will think twice before replacing the deciduous trees in Main Street, Strathbogie. Yours</p>
	Email and hard copy	<p>We the undersigned wish to register our concerns regarding the proposed streetscape works to the Strathbogie Main Street area. We unanimously agree that the proposed stage one - median strip renewal, specifically the inclusion of gum trees, is completely out of keeping with the current layout of the main street which consists of various European tree types. The current streetscape although on a smaller scale is akin to other high country towns including Bright, Myrtleford, Mansfield, Alexandra etc where the inclusion of gum trees in the town centre would be seen as completely contradictory and unwelcome action for several safety, aesthetic and other reasons. Strathbogie already has wonderful walking trails and an abundance of native flora and fauna along the Spring and Seven Creeks immediately surrounding the town. Any streetscape works must be in keeping with the current attractive and historically significant streetscape. We request to be kept informed of any progress or amendments to this proposal.</p>

41	Email	<p>I, (name redacted) in the State of Victoria hereby strongly object to the proposed Streetscape Plan for the Strathbogie Township. Contrary to claims by Council, it is untrue there has been wide-spread consultation with Strathbogie Tableland residents. Further, there is no wide-spread local community support for the plan for the proposed streetscape development.</p> <p>The Proposed Plan is highly unsuitable because:</p> <p>Eucalyptus citriodora will not grow in Strathbogie. It is frost sensitive and Strathbogie Township experiences heavy frost. Any eucalyptus will introduce and create a fire corridor into the centre of the town and be a high fire risk. The under-planting is also a fire risk and unsuitable in the township. The removal of established deciduous trees in a high fire risk area and replacing them with eucalyptus and flammable under-story plantings makes no sense.</p> <p>In the event of a bushfire, the proposed streetscape plantings approved by Council exposes Council to potential public liability claims by township residents for damages in the event of a bushfire.</p> <p>The planting will require year-round maintenance requirements as eucalyptus continually drop leaves, bark and twigs.</p> <p>The streetscape would be visually unattractive, be a safety hazard, create a visibility barrier for school children and pedestrians alike crossing the road and provide potential habitat for bull-ants and snakes.</p> <p>The existing Acer Rubrum (Red Maple), were chosen for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attractive dark green summer foliage, providing welcome shade and giving the feeling of arriving in a cool green oasis in the brown summer countryside of Strathbogie. • Deciduous in winter, allowing in welcome sunshine. • High tourism potential. These trees were chosen because they are attractive and a variety of Red Maple that colours brilliantly and reliably in autumn, thus encouraging visitors to the township during this season. As these trees mature there is the potential to have an autumn festival as in other townships that are famous for these events. • Strathbogie has a unique climate that produces wonderful autumn colours. • Long lived and low maintenance, the trees shed their foliage once a year unlike the year round litter of eucalyptus. • Low fire risk. Deciduous trees are fire retardant because they have high moisture content in the leaves and don't contain flammable oils like eucalypts which accelerate fire. When hot glowing embers get caught in the foliage of deciduous trees, the water filled leaves cool the embers down and extinguish them. • Deciduous trees can provide crucial bushfire protection in rural Australia and can be used to make summers safer. <p>It is my opinion, it would be criminal to remove the established already existing Acer Rubrum trees which have been paid for and cared for during the past 5 years. This period is the most important years of root development that will now start to show their future potential. It would make no sense to start again from scratch with a new planting as 5 years of growth would be lost.</p> <p>The proposed Streetscape for the Strathbogie township is a totally unnecessary expense to ratepayers, it will not provide a future benefit to the township. The monies allocated to the project would be better utilized if re-directed to maintain the degraded road infrastructure on the tableland for the benefit of all.</p>
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Violet Town Feedback

	Method	Feedback
1	Online	I agree the area around the welcome signs should be upgraded including the entrance to the town. The freeway entrance area looks particularly unattractive. I also think that we should make more use of blank walls and install artwork on them. Maybe consider a large sculpture of the something that reflects the reason the town was originally developed. Because it was the first town to be surveyed it must have been important for something
2	Online	I think stage one needs consultation with the community first. Can we view the other stages, so we can decide for ourselves which stage would suit Violet Town, not the designer's or shire's choices? I will wait for you to add the other stages on to this platform, this will allow the Violet Town community to be informed fully about all possible choices. it is about being transparent.
3	Online	As long as there is a community meeting so we can discuss I'm very supportive, but we need to consider the truckies & caravans who park & advertise our business to others as well as the farmers who move big machinery through town, the medium strip needs an upgrade, pull out the struggling trees & plant nice flowers for all year round, VTAG do not represent us business's, we need to be consulted.
4	Online	Looking at the design proposed (whether it be an error or not) a new crossing location is not highlighted with the labelling in your drawing yet appears to be drawn in (Left of Break in the island) ... is this an error and it is not being included or was it just a failure to be labelled? I would support its inclusion. Secondly what is the proposed "new crossing location" going to be made of? The "grey colouring" of the proposed new crossings does not show nor is it explained (not that I can see) so may I ask what materials are going to be used? Considering the amount of aged, young children, prams and/or people with walking difficulties which either live or frequent violet town I wish to submit that the surface be smooth and not (what it appears to be but blocks of blue stone or gravel). I may very well be seeing this incorrectly, however if I am not I strongly recommend a smooth surface. My reasoning is Risk Assessment - the probability of a trip hazard will be very high. Endangering pedestrians with a tripping hazard in the centre of the main road I believe should not be an option.
5	Online	Maintenance of garden along median strip, speed signs to reduce truck speed,
6	Online	Cowslip Streetscape plan to be extended from Lily Street to the fire station Stage 1 proposal of renewing centre median will have little impact on the overall amenity of the street. Other areas such as reducing the width of the Daphne street intersection should be looked at as a priority.
7	Online	Colour for medium strip planting, lights in trees, sculptures and watering system for medium strip. Beautiful garden sheltered seating like the round pods around Benalla lake.
8	Online	While driving through town I have noticed many utes and trailers trying to access the Aair store. Could the gap in the median strip be moved to align with the entrance to make crossing road less traffic blocking. Only other option to enter is travel all way to post-office and then come back around.

9	Online	As far as I can tell, you may have underestimated the value of the shade that the more established trees provide. I suggest you don't remove any of the established trees in the development of this phase of the project.
10	Online	<p>There has been inadequate community consultation in the preparation of the plan and until this occurs no action can be taken. The plan does not include a cross section for the street. Does the Vic roads approve of the proposal and stage 1? The plan does not include or recognise the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • women in war project RSL • toilet block redevelopment • intersection works proposed by shire at corner shop • the need for a long vehicle parking area under the RV town proposal. <p>The stage one works should not be considered until draft plan is reviewed by community. Given that the stage one project is the only project funded it is important that the works undertaken are self-sufficient and provide the maximum impact to the town in the long term. I do not think that the widening of the island will make a significant improvement to the town. It would be better the provide some extensions to the central islands (both ends) Together with treatment to improve pedestrian safety, better signage (to enhance the image of the town) and a reduction of speed through the retail area. The provision of a screen based display to provide information on town events should also be planned for.</p>
11	Online	Widening of the median strip will make the road too narrow for safe parking in the street, this is part of a major road for through traffic. (Large trucks). Median strip needs to be shortened at the Intersection of Daphne and Cowslip Streets to make it safe for trucks and RVs to negotiate a right hand turn into Cowslip Street from Daphne Street.
12	Online	Where is Queen Street - as referred to in the fact sheet? The median strip doesn't need widening - the crossing points are a plus and must be raised, as well as coming out from peninsulas. Pedestrians need to see beyond cars so they can then walk to the existing crossing points.
13	Online	Width of median strip to remain as is. Traffic flow will unsafe for large vehicle movement to pass through the town if median strip is expanded in width. Daphne St. & Cowslip St intersection needs to be corrected. Currently RVs & trucks exiting Daphne St , RH turn into Cowslip St. is extremely dangerous and unsafe.
14	Online	Please consider that all of the trees currently growing in the median strip have a listed Useful Life Expectancy (ULE) of ten years or less.
15	Online	Why do we need three crossings, two should be enough? One near the supermarket and one near the cafe/library. We also need to update the signs entering/exiting into Violet Town, they are old and out of date. Violet Town is known for its Markets, we need to promote this. We are also a farming area, we need to address this for the local farmers. For the ART proposal, Suggestion: All the streets are named after flowers, a recycled water pond would be lovely surrounded by flowers. Or a big waterfall surrounded by flowers/gardens. Please don't give us a large copper statue. I love the idea of speed humps as the trucks going through town always speed. I would like to see the Public Toilets signage improved.

16	Online	<p>No speed humps, instead slow the traffic to 40kmph. Given the type of traffic that goes through town rumble strips before a slower mandated speed would be preferable to goods bouncing around in vehicles.</p> <p>Type of trees to be planted should be ones that are proven to grow well in Violet Town. Callistemon salignus, Chinese elm, Manchuria pear, crepe myrtle etc. don't plant trees that have to be frequently lopped to avoid overhead wires. The village needs shade trees for pavements, vehicles and people. A potential problem with plantings is the lack of ongoing maintenance. This is an onerous job for the shire and individuals are reluctant to contribute to the health of vegetation. If maintenance cannot be factored in then good work soon looks ugly with weeds, and detracts from what may have been a good idea. Instead use built structures to provide shelter and thematics 'sculptures' to provide visual interest. For example Shepparton has median strip 'billy buttons' between a car park and Coles and KMart. Maybe groups of stylised colourful metal flowers set in attractive hard paving. The current trees all need replacing. Their health is poor.</p> <p>The 150th anniversary garden in front of the library is a case in point re maintenance.</p> <p>A Watering system also needs attention and as one has already been put along the median strip then please don't repeat that mistake.</p> <p>Attractive lighting along the street that lit up at night could be attractive for those driving through at night. A special light sculpture perhaps on the way through town towards Bendigo could have people remembering the village for more than just a toilet stop. Furniture for lions park, in front of community house and along pavement needs to be sheltered, designed and placed for comfort and communication. There is an increased need now, with the pandemic, for safe well ventilated outdoor spaces where people can interact. I want people to be able to buy some takeaway food, sit down and enjoy it and then take a walk up both sides of Cowslip street. PS as an individual I have cleaned up, planted, weeded, and maintained public 'garden' spaces in violet town for more than 15 years.</p>
17	Online	<p>Concept design is wonderful in its own right, reflecting the assumed art and music flavour of VT. Practically, I'd like to see the crossing to the railway station from the PO side of the street, be clearly visible to traffic. When trying to cross from the station to town, the pedestrian has poor visibility to the right for oncoming traffic.</p>
18		
18	Online	<p>Currently, the Shire staff are not talking with one another, I am involved with the community action group. I know of two different funding ideas that have been put forward, to the community and they do not make sense as they are competing. Let's all stakeholders work together, not send different message to the community of Violet Town Violet Town does need a Streetscape upgrade; we all agree on that. The current proposal for the medium strip to be widened is not what is needed first. Suggestion Solar lights on the trees in the medium strip that change colour with the season or events in town. Seasonal planning of flowers in the medium strip would be an improvement without spending lots of money when the shire does not have it in the budget currently. Another idea is to budget for irrigation to the medium strip. I have asked the Shire if there is water already in the medium strip and awaiting on a response. This would improve the Streetscape greatly. It is about working with what we already have and improving it.</p> <p>Another idea that has been put forward is improving the safety of Lily Street and Cowslip St crossing at the general store. This has been identified as safety concern within our community. Knowing this might take some time to materialize. That is why I have come up with the above concept. This project should be funding in next year budget as the start of the Streetscape in Violet Town.</p> <p>Planning is great, and we all agree one must have concept plans for future planning, (planning produces the ideas for budgeting for the future). The stake holders need to work with what we have currently until the concept plans are budgeted for. Today we need to work within this year's budget and the community must support the concept. Stage one needs to be whole concept, on its own or it does not work.</p>

19	Online	Support the improvement for pedestrian crossings, and native plantings.
20	Email	<p>VTAG greatly appreciated the Shire visiting Violet Town on 30 November 2021 and presenting the draft plan for the Violet Town streetscape renewal in Cowslip Street to our members.</p> <p>On the whole, we broadly support the concept, aspects of which are exciting and have real potential benefits for the town. We like the idea that our town will be improved and have a new face to present to tourists and potential residents.</p> <p>VTAG was asked to comment on any perceived major issues with Stage One of the current plan. We find ourselves unable to do so at present without further community consultation.</p> <p>VTAG would like to work with Council on undertaking this consultation so that all in our town and district will know that their views have been heard. We feel, in particular, that the Cowslip St business community (both owners and tenants) need to be considered as they will be most affected by the plan as it stands.</p> <p>We want to be able to positively engage with all the community who use this space and thus have some suggestions regarding consultation that we are happy to discuss with you:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As previously suggested to our Secretary, a meeting for traders and owners at a time suitable for them would seem a good idea to capture their input. 2. A community meeting, following the meeting with the traders, open to all 3669 residents and held outside work hours in a suitable community space would enable those who did not have the opportunity to participate in the earlier consultation to do so. <p>At its committee meeting on 7 December, VTAG received a number of submissions from Violet Town groups who are working on current projects in consultation with Council staff whose planned outcomes are not evident in the plans presented and we would hope that any plans shown to the community will accurately reflect work already underway. We believe it would be beneficial if we can rethink how all the parties on active projects are collectively consulted.</p> <p>As immediate feedback to the proposal, we received a number of queries at our meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One question raised queried how long it will take to widen the median strip and complete all Stage One work, and would Cowslip Street be closed during this period of time. Closing the street will have a major impact on traders. 2. There were a number of people asking whether the draft plans had been approved by VicRoads - the responsible authority for Cowslip St. We believe it would answer some of the questions from the community if Shire is able to answer in the affirmative at any planned consultation event 3. It was not identified at our meeting with Shire why the median strip was chosen as Stage One and we wonder if alternatives could be considered. The current median strip plan shows that it will be preparatory work for later stages, for example, the removal of trees for potential walkways, and we feel that the Stage One should stand alone and make sense in its own right. <p>The Secretary advised the Committee that you had suggested January 2022 for the consultation period. We attempted to consult the business community this week but many are experiencing their first good period of trade this year and told us that they would find it difficult to meet during December. We are happy to discuss with you options on how to communicate with residents during this period; a mailout to residents seems the best solution.</p> <p>As requested, the Secretary has communicated with the Violet Town Museum committee and they have advised that they would be happy to display the Shire's plans. They did ask if you could advise how many drawings you wish to put up to ensure that they will have sufficient space. It</p>

		<p>may be possible to find an additional display site if we decide this is would be useful.</p> <p>When the community consultation phase is over, we will be happy to advise the Shire of our views of the proposal. We look forward to working with you to ensure the best outcome for both the Shire and Violet Town.</p>
21	Email to VTAG	<p>As a community member of VTAG and invited to the meeting for the presentation of the proposed Violet Town Streetscape Renewal Program, I am forwarding my comments on the proposed plan.</p> <p>The Cowslip Streetscape Plan</p> <p>The plan as presented is a contemporary curvilinear design which will add visual interest and much needed planting within the pedestrian areas and additional seating hubs along the street. There are some amendments that I am suggesting to the plan, for discussion with the VTAG committee as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The plan is to be extended to the west as far as the fire station, where the road to Shepparton narrows, so that the whole of the commercial precinct is included. 2. Removal of the pedestrian crossing between the corner store and the police station, as this has been already been deleted in a previous meeting with the council. 3. Delete the pedestrian crossing outside the Lions Park as this can be installed later, if required, during design development of that part of the street when funding is available. 4. Do not show any development in the community centre open space as existing proposals for this area are yet to be finalised with the VT community. 5. Remove all proposed splitter islands from the centre of the side streets abutting Cowslip Street. These islands will not improve pedestrian safety as people will be required to stand in the middle of the road longer. The islands will also require vertical signage on both ends which will add to the visual clutter of the street and if planted and not totally hard paved, will end up being infested with weeds, as have existing islands in the town, as maintenance may not be regular. <p>The Cowslip Streetscape Plan 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Amend the corners of Cowslip and Lily Streets to show the corner planting extensions and new footpaths, to narrow the Lily Street crossing, as recommended by VTAG and agreed to by the council at a meeting in September 2021. 7. Provide corner extensions and additional pedestrian paving and planting beds on the corners of Cowslip and Daphne Streets and Cowslip and Hyacinth Streets in order to reduce the crossing distance, and to allow for larger areas of soft landscaping. 8. The minimum width of the pedestrian pavement should be no less than 1500mm as this allows two people to pass comfortably without have to turn side on. <p>Materials Palette</p> <p>The selection of exposed aggregate concrete paving will provide a practical non slip finish to the pavement and the lighter colours will not radiate as much heat during summer as the existing asphalt pavement. It is also a malleable material which can moulded to suit the variety of entry levels to the different premises along the street. The more natural colours of beige and grey will blend with existing elements which will be retained, such as the kerb and channel.</p> <p>Landscape Features – Rocks</p>

		<p>Violet Town, along Harry's Creek Road, has some of the most beautiful granitic rock formations in the state. If rocks are to be used as a landscape feature, they should be selected lichen covered granite boulders and granite caps collected from possibly a farm hillside and then placed within the landscape to appear as if they had always been there. Angular rock from a quarry in Glenrowan does not represent or create a sense of place in Violet Town, nor does just plonking them on the top of a garden bed enhance the environment.</p> <p>Plant Species Selection</p> <p>The species selected for the lower storey planting are all in keeping with species used in other locations in town. The species that I would add to this list is <i>Viola hederacea</i> (Native Violet) as is a creeping groundcover which will tolerate some sun, and this is Violet Town after all. The upper canopy tree species are not all native to Victoria, <i>Corymbia citriodora</i> (nominated here as cultivated dwarf species) and the <i>Lophostemon confertus</i> are indigenous to Queensland. I would suggest that if the <i>Corymbia</i> and <i>Eucalyptus</i> species are specified, that they be kept clear of pedestrian paving as the gum nuts from these trees can cause a slip hazard in pedestrian walkways.</p> <p>The Cowslip Streetscape Plan 3</p> <p>Over its 150 plus years of history, the tree selection in Violet Town has seen many changes in fashion and currently has a reasonable blend of native and exotic species and this is not reflected in the tree selection list for the streetscape. I am suggesting that one exotic species be added, that being <i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Bradford', and it be used as a highlight tree at the railway station end and the fire station end of the street. The ornamental pears are already existing within the street and these additional trees would visually link the canopies and provide a spectacular display during spring and autumn as a contrast to the evergreen species.</p> <p>A decision on the removal or retention of the existing <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> in the central median will require further discussion with the community before a final decision can be made.</p> <p>Stage One Development to be completed by June 2022</p> <p>Budget: \$57,000</p> <p>The nominated Stage One Development of widening the existing centre road median would at this stage, I believe, to be unfeasible without community consensus on the existing trees and not provide much change to what already exists. I propose that the development of the Cowslip and Daphne Streets corner extensions would be a more practical use of the limited budget and could be completed within the given timeframe without too much disruption to the Cowslip Street traffic. It would enable the installation of the selected exposed aggregate pavement, introduce the curvilinear future thread and provide planting which will tie in with the Southern Aurora memorial garden. As this is also the main pedestrian and mobility scooter route from the train station to the shops, it will improve the safety of their travel experience as well as complement the development on the southern corners of Cowslip and Lily Streets, currently being organised under a separate budget. This small area of development will give all the town residents the opportunity to see the masterplan materials in reality and not just as a paper proposal. A diagram of the intersection is attached. I look forward to discussions on the streetscape proposals with you and the VTAG committee as a future date.</p>
22	Face-to-face	<p>Enhanced pedestrian safety/ connectivity (in the form of pedestrian crossings) continues to be at the forefront of discussions. Discussions regarding the possibility of formalised pedestrian access across Lily Street (corner store) and across Cowslip Street</p> <p>Investigation into the intersection of Daphne and Cowslip Streets as larger vehicles negotiate a right-hand turn into Cowslip Street from Daphne Street.</p>

	Email (not included in statistics – late submission)	<p>I would really like to make comment to council that our streetscape should reflect the flowers of Violet Town, since our town is known as the Town of Flowers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like to see the streetscape with a seasonal planting of annuals mixed with perennials, in the main street that resonate with our street names. (e.g. Rose, lilac, pink, hyacinth etc.) • Plantings should enhance the Liquidambar trees in the main street, which in autumn are now providing amazing colour that could be quite an attraction to visitors. The Liquidambar trees should remain and not be removed as we have been advised that they may be affected in an update to the streetscape. I am not sure if you are aware how long it has taken for them to grow to maturity and provide a softening to the street. It is no fault of the tree, they have had no water, no fertiliser and no care. Fairy lights should be installed in these trees to highlight our street in the evening. • Natives are not appropriate for the streetscape and natives do not fit the town of flowers branding. • Flower beds should be maintained by council staff e.g. cyclic maintenance schedule, to ensure that our street is looking its best for both visitors and the local community. <p>We are traders in the street and for over four years we have had to look at the eye sore that is our main street median strip. Over two years ago, discussions were held with the incumbent local council member for Violet Town (on more than once occasion) and nothing has happened. We have been advised today that council and VTAG have not been able to agree? on a planting and I am wondering just how much longer this will drag out for.</p>
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