



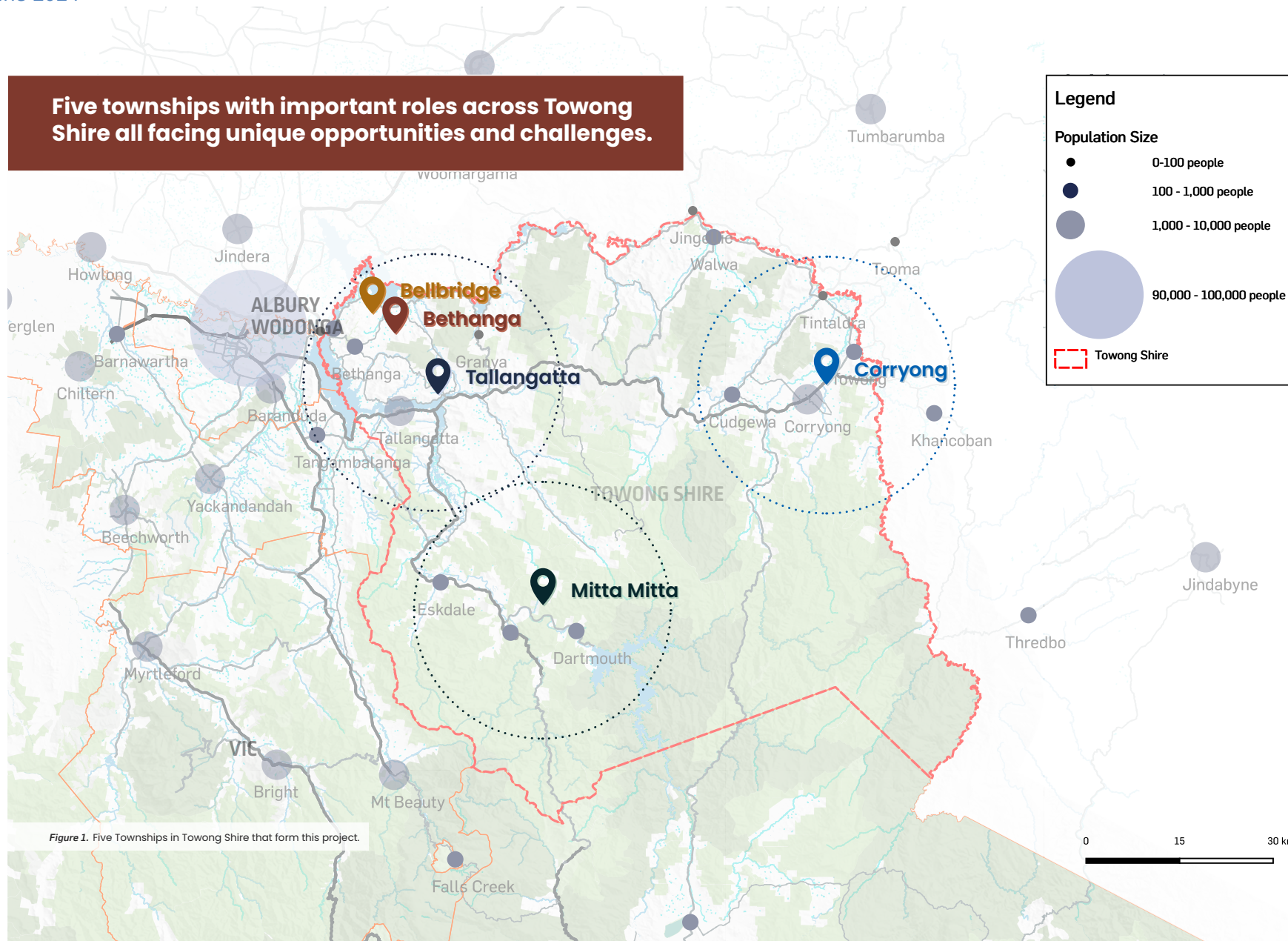
Contents

1.0	Introduction	5		
1.1	Project overview	7		
1.2	Creating a shared vision	9		
1.3	Understanding the context	11		
1.4	Township & surrounds character	15		
1.5	Key features & places	17		
2.0	Engagement	19		
2.1	Engagement summary	20		
2.2	Engagement 1: Let's chat	22		
2.3	Engagement 2: Planning ahead	24		
3.0	Place Plan	27		
3.1	Big ideas summary	29		
3.2	Big Idea 01: Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve	30		
3.3	Big Idea 02: Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable	38		
3.4	Big Idea 03: Grow the township while retaining the village character	46		
3.5	Big Idea 04: Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture	52		
4.0	Implementation Plan	59		
4.1	Making it happen	60		

1.0

Introduction

OUR
TOWN



1.1 Project overview

The Bethanga Place Plan is a 10-year roadmap for Council, community and other stakeholders. The plan identifies community and other stakeholder priorities to guide the future shape and character of the township.

The Bethanga Place Plan is part of Our Town Towards 2030, a Placemaking and Co-design Project (the project) initiated by Towong Shire Council for five townships across the Shire.

The project delivers town-based plans for Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta. The plans have provided an opportunity to re-imagine the way each township works and has allowed us to bring together the big ideas that drive growth while identifying the services, infrastructure and public spaces required to support the population. Each plan identifies a shared set of goals and initiatives that can be developed and delivered over the next 10 years.

While the place plans have a ten year lifespan, each plan provides a good base level summary of what people said; captures what is important to the community; and provides direction beyond the ten-year period of the plan.

Place-based approach

Towong Shire has adopted a place-based approach to master planning exemplified in the Mitta Valley Our Valley Our Future Plan. This plan places community interests at the core of decision-making. The Council Plan 2021-25 identifies community engagement as a key strategy to deliver Council's Strategic Objective 'Organisational

Improvement'. This strategy, places people at the centre of conversations about the future planning of the communities in which they live, work, study, visit and recreate. It is based on the belief that the people who are part of a community are best placed to understand and identify their needs.

Why do we need a Place Plan

Regional towns in Australia have experienced significant growth in recent years increasing pressure on services, housing, jobs and infrastructure. The five towns – Bellbridge, Bethanga, Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta – all face unique challenges, as well as opportunities, that have been further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the bushfires of 2019-20.

Our Town Towards 2030 has looked at ways to strengthen the long-term resilience and sustainability of the towns by helping each community to identify and prioritise its future needs, services and opportunities. The co-design project has enabled current communities' input into how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

Project purpose

The purpose of the project is to:

- + Develop a vision shared by the community and other stakeholders.
- + Identify community aspirations and opportunities to address the challenges facing the township.
- + Support the community to prioritise their future needs, services and opportunities.
- + Align community and other stakeholder expectations including how growth and change can be carefully and positively managed.

How to read this document

This document is structured in four parts commencing with a project introduction, and understanding of the context and township as the first part.

The second part provides an overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat and Engagement 2: Planning Ahead.

The third part is the Place Plan comprised of the Big Ideas, and the outcomes, objectives and actions that will bring the ideas to life.

The fourth part is the Implementation Plan comprised of actions, timeframes and key stakeholders / partners.

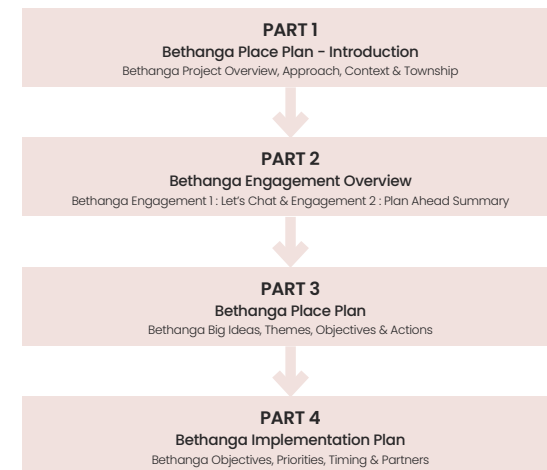


Figure 2. Format of this document, Bethanga Place Plan.



Figure 3. Engagement 1 workshop, Bethanga.

1.2 Creating a shared vision

Three engagement touchpoints were developed as part of a co-design process to inform the town vision and place plan. A broad spectrum of stakeholders, including residents, workers, visitors, students, and government authorities were included across all three engagement touchpoints.

Place-based approach & asset based engagement

The engagement process was highly inclusive and collaborative to co-design solutions with the community that build upon the strengths, assets and opportunities for each town. This is called an asset based approach. Asset based engagement recognises and builds upon the value and resources that exist within the community.

Engagement touchpoints

As the first of three touch-points, Engagement 1 was an opportunity to introduce the Our Town Towards 2030 project to each of the five communities and have conversations with people to understand what they value about their town and what really matters to them.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to present the Big Ideas, report back what we heard and how this could translate into future initiatives / projects, asking did we get it right?

Engagement 3 is the final engagement touchpoint. Feedback from Engagement 2 was collated and used to finalise the place plans during 'Delivering the Vision', keeping the community informed of the final project outcomes.

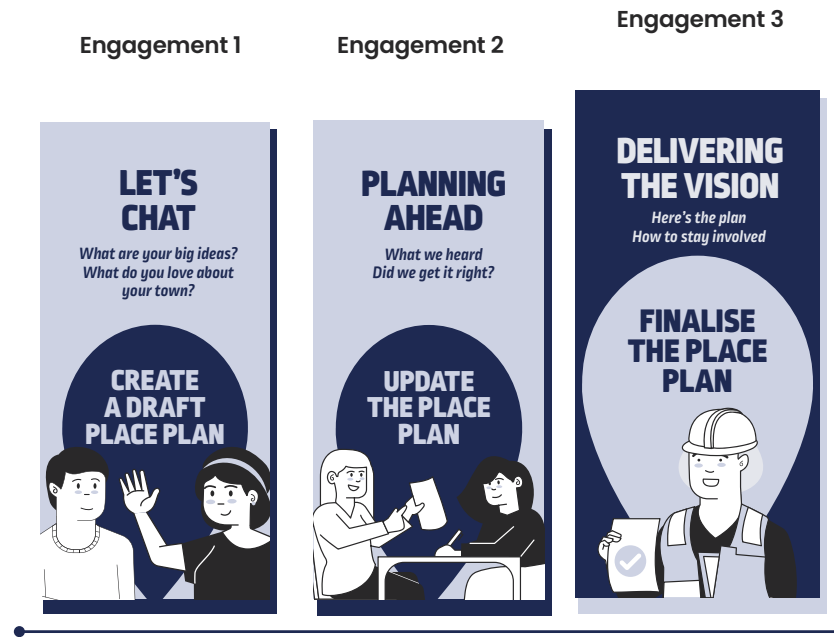


Figure 4. Three engagement touchpoints.



Figure 5. Bethanga Recreation Reserve.

1.3 Understanding the context

Every project begins with an understanding of the people, location and physical characteristics that define the township. Understanding the township at different scales – from regional, township to town centre – helps to build a picture of the unique features and qualities that contribute to place identity.

Region

With a population base of 485 inhabitants, Bethanga is a very small township less than 5km from the Victoria and New South Wales border.

Bethanga is 26km south-east of the regional city Albury, approximately 8kms to the south-east of Bethanga and the heritage listed Bethanga Bridge built between 1927-30 when the Hume Weir was completed.

We understand that prior to European settlement the area was home to the Jaitmatang and Pallanganmiddang / Waywurru First Nations people.

The township is located in a Declared Special Water Supply Catchment Area with protections on water quality and the environment.



Figure 6. Regional context.

1.3 Understanding the context

Township

The township covers an area of approximately 168 hectares and is positioned at the bottom of the valley with steeper hills rising up to the north and west and gentler hills to the east and south.

Lake Hume foreshore is 4km to the south-west with nearby towns Talgarno 10km to the north-east, Bethanga 8km north-west and Old Tallangatta 50km to the south-east.

Pastoralists occupied the area in 1836 before the discovery of gold in 1875 followed by copper in 1877.

The township has an unusual shape and settlement pattern originating from mining activity, with the upper town defined by the Wallace Bethanga Smelter – now a designated Historic Area – and the lower town by the Harris and Hollow’s Smelter.



Figure 7. Township context.

Town Centre

The village centre is located on Bridge Street at the intersection of Bethanga Bay Road, Springdale Road and Bethanga Creek, situated to the east of the township.

Key destinations are located along Beardmore and Bridge Streets including the Bethanga General Store, Hotel, Hall, Primary School, playground, Fire Station and Police Station.

The Recreation Reserve is the largest open space in the township and includes a pavilion, oval, courts and camping facilities.

The core township is comprised of predominantly single storey free standing dwellings with larger rural lots located around the township.

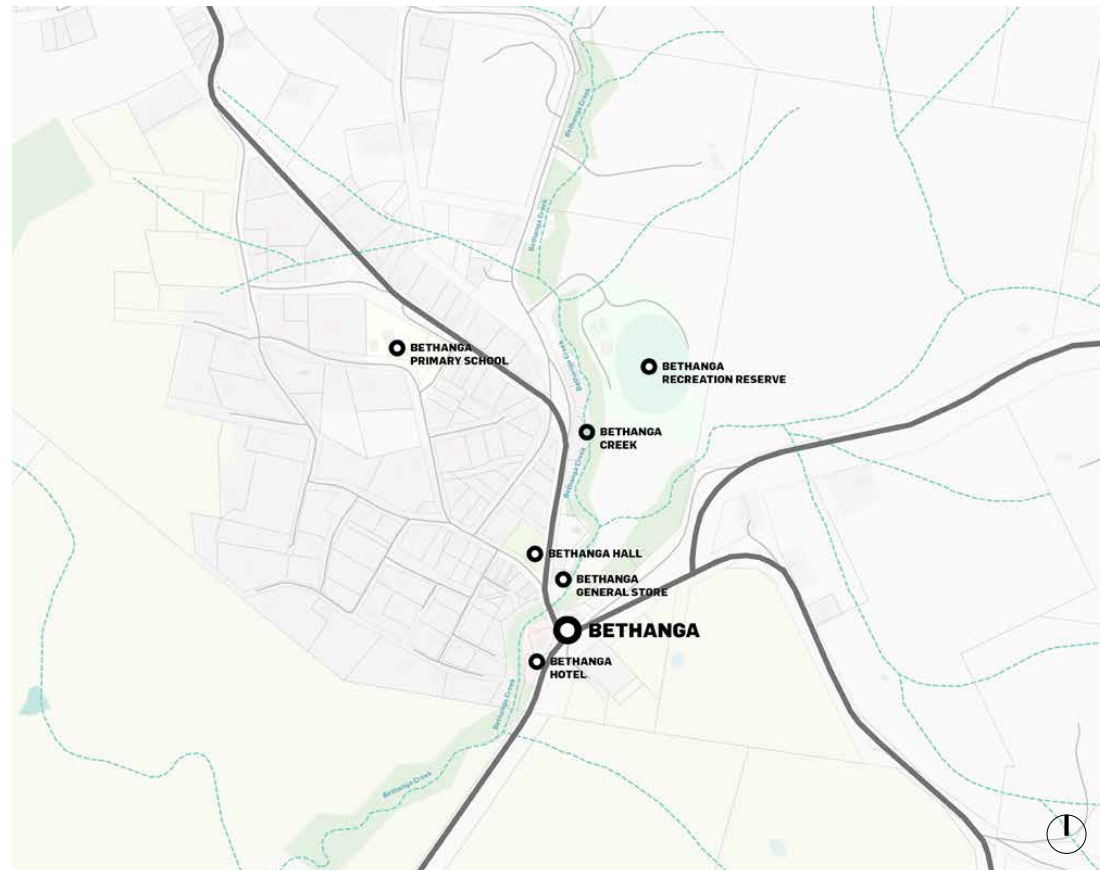


Figure 8. Town centre context.



Figure 9. Bethanga General Store.



Figure 10. Bethanga Township.



Figure 11. Bethanga Primary School Art Show.



Figure 12. Bethanga playground.



Figure 13. Kurrajong Gap lookout.



Figure 14. Lake Hume brand logo.



Figure 15. Bethanga Creek trail.



Figure 16. Bethanga Hotel.

1.4 Township & surrounds character

Local Character

Bethanga is a unique township nestled in a valley and surrounded by rolling hills. It's unique mining heritage is evident in the remnants of the mine shaft, tailings and drag lines. Key buildings such as the Memorial Hall, General Store, Post Office, Hotel, Rechabite Hall, Catholic and Anglican Church, are reminders of what was once a bustling township built on gold and copper mining.

The village centre is located at the confluence of Bethanga Creek, Bethanga Bay Road, Springdale Road, Bridge Street and the township's central open space. Various water courses flow into Bethanga Creek.

This plan shows Bethanga's character and heritage, highlighting the townships layout, contours, heritage overlays, open space adjacent to the Bethanga Creek, residential area between public conservation and resource zones and surrounding farmland.

These and the character of the existing township buildings and landscape are important considerations for a discussion on how to re-imagine the future of the township.

Key facilities, features, qualities and characteristics are captured in the adjacent images across the following page.

Legend

- VILLAGE CENTRE
- TOWNSHIP ZONE
- HERITAGE OVERLAY
- PUBLIC CONSERVATION & RESOURCE ZONE
- PUBLIC PARK & RECREATION ZONE
- FARMING ZONE
- PUBLIC USE ZONE

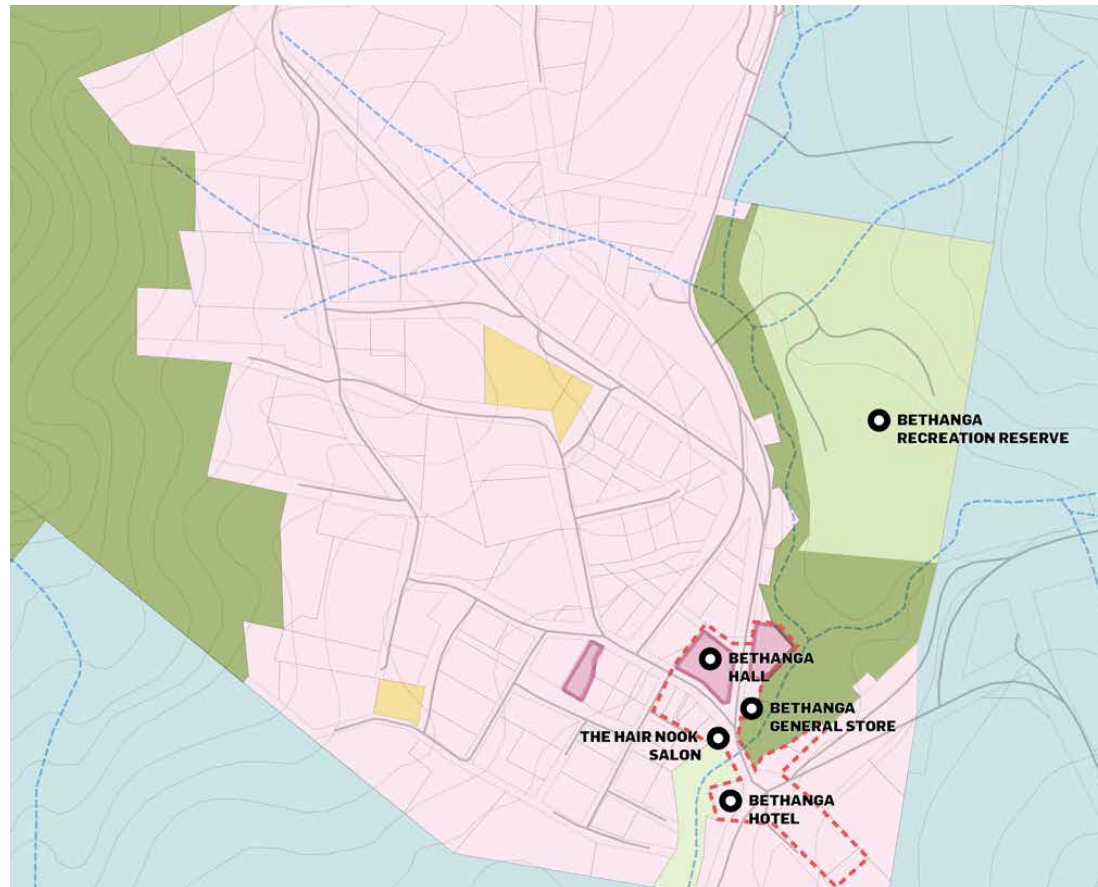
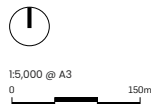


Figure 17. Bethanga planning zones, character and heritage.



Figure 18. Bethanga Memorial Hall.



Figure 19. Bethanga Rechabite Hall.



Figure 20. Bethanga Primary School.



Figure 21. Bethanga Anglican Church.



Figure 24. Bethanga Creek.



Figure 22. Bethanga Hotel.



Figure 23. Bethanga General Store.

1.5 Key features & places



Figure 25. Key features and places.



2.0

Engagement



2.1 Engagement summary

Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy

Council's commitment to engagement is outlined in the Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy which "is committed to participatory democracy and providing community members with the opportunity to engage in decision making in relation to matters that affect them". This project has adopted key principles from Policy including:

- + Identifying key stakeholders and user groups impacted by the decisions.
- + Being respectful of and allowing space for a diversity of perspectives and views.
- + Embedding transparency and accountability by keeping participants informed and 'closing the loop'.

The Towong Shire Community Engagement Policy includes a public participation spectrum adapted from the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum with five levels of public participation: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower. This project has incorporated levels 1-4 at different stages of the project with the aim of building consensus with participants.



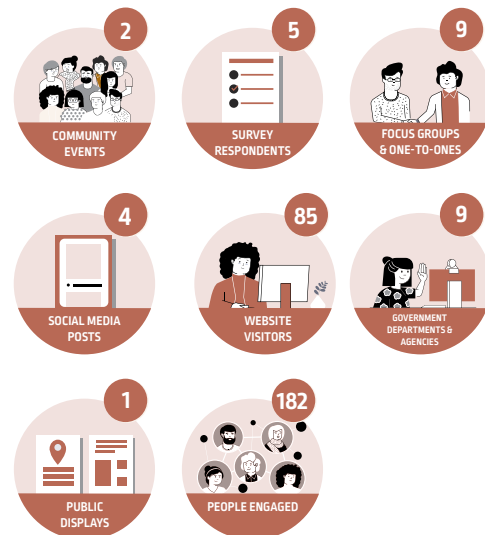
Figure 26. Engagement touchpoints.

“Bethanga is a quaint, charming and tight knit community. I love Bethanga’s sense of history which makes it unique but more needs to be done with that Bethanga’s geographical position nestled among hills, close to weir and driving distance from Albury / Wodonga makes it unique.”

Figure 27. Engagement collateral.

Engagement 1: Let's Chat

People were informed and encouraged to participate in a variety of ways including the 'Town-hall' style meetings, face-to-face and online meetings, surveys, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters, letterbox drops, posters and advertising. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.



Engagement 2: Planning Ahead

Similar methods were used for Engagement 2 including 'Town-hall' style workshops, face-to-face and online workshops, online survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletter and letterbox drops. A summary of engagement types / methods including the number of people engaged is captured below.

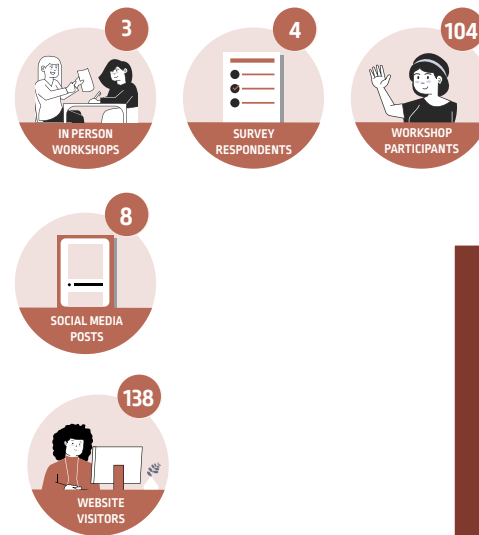


Figure 28. Engagement 2 community event, Bethanga.

*"Bethanga has a beautiful community.
A community of like minded people who always look out for each other.
It has its heart and soul imbedded with environment, farming, caring, 'quirkiness' especially in the arts and crafts, with a potential in tourism.
Take one look around at the Peninsula Market and you'll see most of this on display.
The lake and the beautiful rolling hills attract people who are like-minded, outdoor-sy and ready to roll up their sleeves!
It's a perfect place for young families and for retirees.
It's a bit of a hidden gem in the hills.
It'd be an awesome place to promote the arts with maybe a small art gallery built for locals to display their works!"*

2.2 Engagement 1: Let's chat

The first engagement, Let's Chat took place between March-April 2023 and included a broad spectrum of stakeholders – residents, workers, visitors, students, government departments and agencies.

Let's Chat included a number of methods including 'Town-hall' style meetings and events, face-to-face and online focus groups and 1:1 meetings, online and hardcopy survey, targeted social media posts, e-newsletters, poster and advertising.

"Let's Chat" reflects the broad and wide ranging challenges and opportunities affecting each community. It also helps us to identify and leverage key strengths and assets in the development of the vision and place plans.

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

- + What makes your town special? What do you love and value?
- + What challenges does your town face?
- + What are the opportunities over the next 10 years?
- + What would make your town more environmentally sustainable and resilient?

The results of Let's Chat were compiled into a Draft Place Plan which includes a project introduction, overview of Engagement 1: Let's Chat; vision exercise for the workshops and survey; and a summary of 'what we heard' captured in four Big Ideas with potential initiatives / projects.

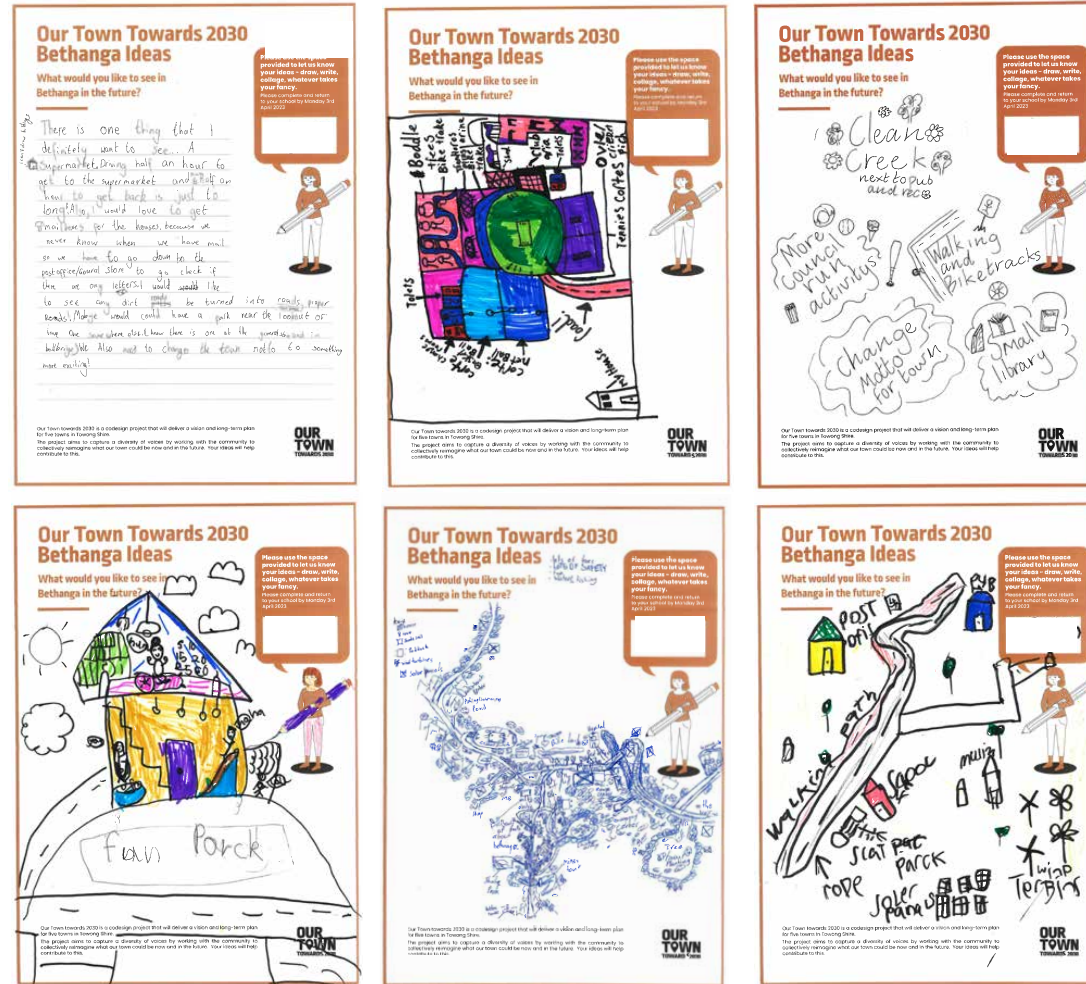


Figure 29. Responses to the question: How can Bethanga be a better place for their future. Bethanga Primary School students, Years P-6.

“Retaining and maintenance of old / historic features, keeping the look of old Bethanga with new infrastructure & amenities.”

Strengths, Assets & Challenges

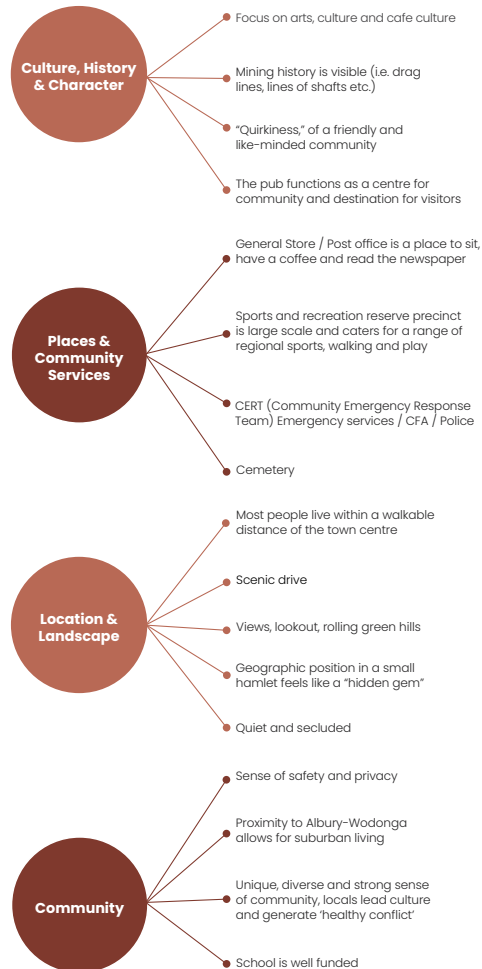
An analysis of responses to the questions ‘What makes your town special?’ and ‘What do you love and value?’ are summarised in the following strengths and assets, with responses to the question ‘What challenges does your town face?’ summarised in the following challenges. These have informed the vision and big ideas for the place plan.

Big Ideas

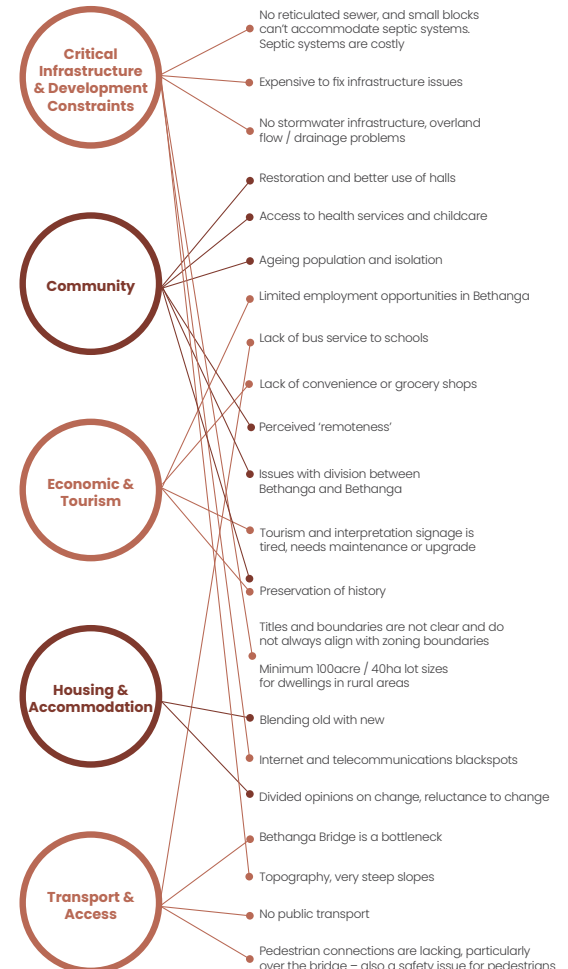
The four Big Ideas for Bethanga broadly capitalise on:

- + Retaining Bethanga’s existing village character while growing the town.
- + Potential to strengthen community and increase the visitor economy through heritage, arts and culture.
- + Integrating Bethanga Creek and Recreation Reserve with the village heart.
- + Environmental improvements to increase the township’s sustainability and long-term resilience.

Strengths & Assets



Challenges







2.3 Engagement 2: Planning ahead

The second engagement, Planning Ahead took place between November 2023-January 2024 and included residents, workers, visitors and government authorities. Planning Ahead was comprised of in-person workshops and an online survey replicating the face-to-face workshops. The workshop and survey were based on the Draft Place Plan which captured the key directions and outcomes to emerge from 'what we heard' during Engagement 1: Let's Chat.

Engagement 2 was an opportunity to provide feedback on the Engagement 1 findings. A vision exercise was held with participants during the workshop to prioritise key words for the overarching direction for the place plan. These words were used to create the town vision.

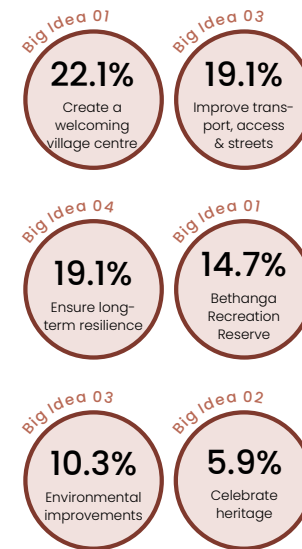
The four Big Ideas for Bethanga were presented to participants, followed by two prioritisation exercises. The first exercise was focused on themes, with participants requested to select their top three. The second exercise was based on the initiatives / projects under each theme. Participants were requested to select their top ten initiatives / projects.

Results from the prioritisation exercise are captured in the diagram to the right. While Big Ideas 01, 03 and 04 included the highest priority themes, across the four ideas, 'Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve', and 'Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable' were the highest rated big ideas.

Big Idea	Theme
 01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve	1.1 Create a welcoming village centre 1.2 Bethanga Recreation Reserve 1.3 Strengthen community infrastructure / services
 02 Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture	2.1 Celebrate heritage 2.2 Improve amenity and broaden the visitor offer
 03 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable	3.1 Environmental improvements 3.2 Environmentally sustainable design 3.3 Improve transport, access & streets
 04 Grow the township while retaining the village character	3.1 Increase housing supply 3.2 Ensure long-term resilience

Theme priorities

The highest rated themes are captured below.



"I love the quiet, secluded nature of the town, the history and the connection to the natural environment."

Initiative & Project Priorities

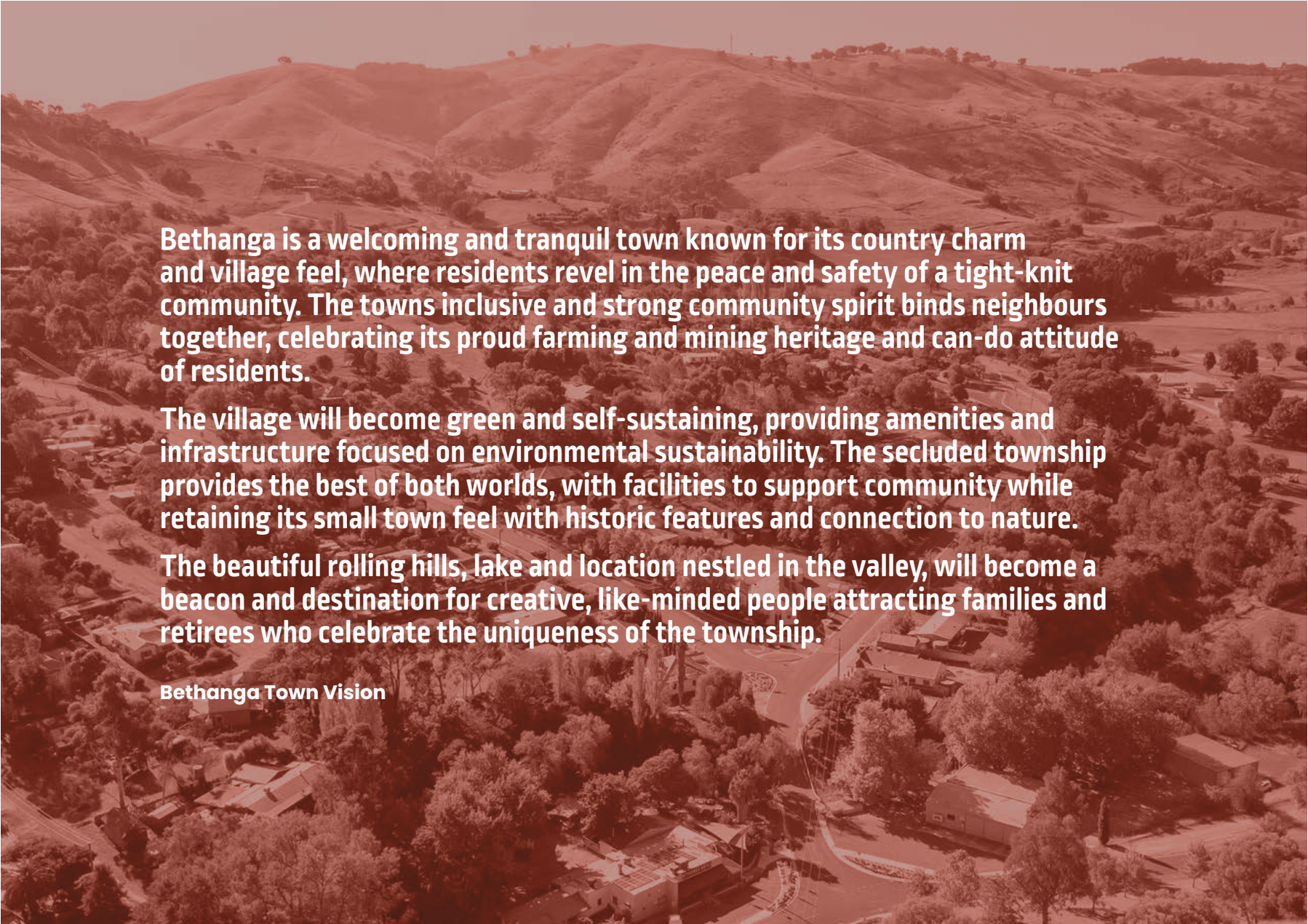
During Engagement 2 stakeholders were requested to prioritise the most important initiatives / projects listed under each theme. The following nine initiatives / projects were rated as the top priorities for the community. Some initiatives / projects received equal rating and are grouped together. For example 'Road upgrades & maintenance (incl. fuel)' and 'increase tree canopy cover' received equal support at 6.8%.

TABLE OF HIGHEST RATED SURVEY RESULTS				
Priority	Big Idea	Theme	Percentage	Initiative / Project
#1	03	3.1	10.9%	Water and sewage improvements.
#2	02	2.1	6.8%	Road upgrades and maintenance (incl. fuel).
		2.1		Increase tree canopy cover.
#3	01	1.2	6.4%	Upgrade Bethanga Recreation Reserve buildings / facilities.
		1.1		Village centre streetscape improvements.
#4	01	1.2	5.0%	Upgrade Bethanga Recreation Reserve external facilities.
#5	01 & 02	1.2	4.1%	Improve links with the village centre.
		2.2		Bethanga Creek environmental rehabilitation and trails.
		2.1		Improve footpaths, crossings and wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage.



Figure 30. Engagement 2 vision exercise, Bethanga.





Bethanga is a welcoming and tranquil town known for its country charm and village feel, where residents revel in the peace and safety of a tight-knit community. The town's inclusive and strong community spirit binds neighbours together, celebrating its proud farming and mining heritage and can-do attitude of residents.

The village will become green and self-sustaining, providing amenities and infrastructure focused on environmental sustainability. The secluded township provides the best of both worlds, with facilities to support community while retaining its small town feel with historic features and connection to nature.

The beautiful rolling hills, lake and location nestled in the valley, will become a beacon and destination for creative, like-minded people attracting families and retirees who celebrate the uniqueness of the township.

Bethanga Town Vision

3.1 Big ideas summary





Four Big Ideas emerged from an analysis of responses from Engagement 1. These were tested with community during Engagement 2. All of the big ideas received support, however, it was clear through the analysis that followed, that there are clear priorities across the community. These priorities are reflected in the numbering of each big idea with 'Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve' receiving the most support, followed by 'Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable', 'Grow the township while retaining the village character', and 'Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture'.

Format of the Big Ideas

Each Big Idea is comprised of themes that describe the outcomes we are seeking to achieve. Each theme includes a series of objectives outlining the different components that make up each theme. Each objective lists actions required to implement the objective. The actions can be projects or initiatives.



Figure 31. Format of the Big Ideas.

Big Idea	Theme
 01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve	1.1 Create a welcoming village centre 1.2 Bethanga Recreation Reserve 1.3 Strengthen community infrastructure / services
 02 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable	2.1 Improve transport, access and streets 2.2 Environmental improvements 2.3 Environmentally sustainable design
 03 Grow the township while retaining the village character	3.1 Ensure long-term resilience 3.2 Increase housing supply
 04 Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture	4.1 Celebrate heritage 4.2 Improve amenity and broaden the visitor offer

3.2 Big Idea

01

Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve



Theme 1.1: Create a Welcoming Village Centre

What we heard

'Making the Bethanga Creek a feature of the town', and 'development of a village heart with retail / commercial space' were two of the highest rated suggestions on how to improve the township during Engagement 1. Together, the Creek, General Store, hair salon, Post Office, Memorial Hall, Churches, CFA, Police Station and Recreation Reserve converge to form the heart of the community at the base of the valley. Initial findings indicate that the village centre lacks cohesion including direct access to key assets such as the Recreation Reserve and Creek environs, with limited retail / commercial spaces for future expansion. Road maintenance, a lack of footpaths, signage and stormwater drainage, and pedestrian safety particularly at the Creek crossing on Bridge Street were identified as issues.

Engagement 2 findings reinforced the need for improved streetscapes in the town centre with 'Village centre streetscape improvements' and 'Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage' the third and fifth respectively highest ranked initiatives / projects across the Big Ideas.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - Streetscape improvements
- + 2 - Gateway arrival and intersections
- + 3 - Retail / commercial expansion
- + 4 - Parking strategy.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on strengthening the village heart with:

- + Streetscape improvements including bridges, footpaths, crossings, signage and reducing vehicle travel speed
- + Increasing commercial opportunities and improving parking in the village centre.

Objective 1: Undertake streetscape improvements in the village centre

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to provide a separated shared path for pedestrians and cyclists over Bethanga Creek to the village centre and address safety concerns. Explore options to upgrade the existing bridge or provide a separate bridge for pedestrians and cyclists.

Action 02: Improve streetscapes within the village centre with continuous and accessible footpaths, wayfinding signage, lighting, alfresco dining and stormwater drainage to support walkability and address issues around overland flows. Priority streets include Beardmore and Bridge Streets to key destinations such as the Primary School.

Action 03: Reduce the speed limit to 40km/hr through the central township on Beardmore and Bridge Streets from Hollows Road to Bethanga Bay and Springdale Roads.

Action 03: Investigate locations for pedestrian crossings or intersections such as:

- + Bethanga Primary School on Beardmore Street
- + Bethanga General Store and playground at Bridge Street
- + Jobling Street at Bridge Street
- + Springdale Road at the Bridge Street intersection.



Figure 32. Bridge over Bethanga Creek with Memorial Hall and village centre in the distance.



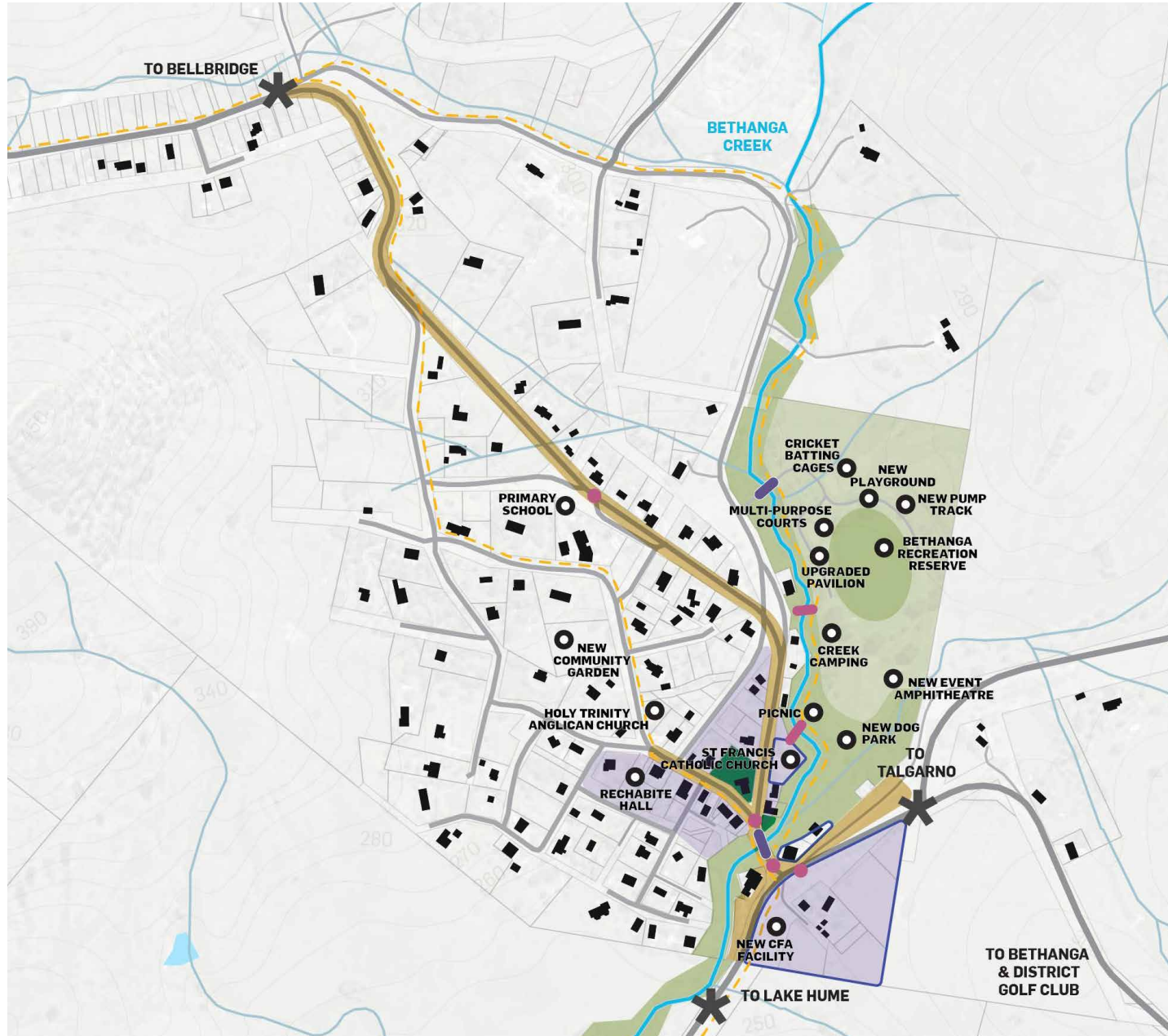
Figure 33. Cost effective ways to improve pedestrian crossings with artwork.

Legend

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



15,000 @ A3
0 150m



3.2 Big Idea **01** Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve



Figure 34. Welcoming village centre streetscape, Bright.

Objective 2: Improve the gateway arrival and intersections

Action 01: Create a sense of arrival at entry locations to / from Bethanga / Talgarno / Lake Hume with gateway and wayfinding signage at decision points, public art and beautification.

Gateway locations include:

- + Beardmore and Hollow Streets and Kurrajong Gap Road
- + Bethanga Bay Road
- + Springdale Road.



Figure 35. Gateway beautification with artwork. Compilation, Adrian Mauriks.



Objective 3: Future proof the township for commercial expansion

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to expand retail and commercial uses in the town centre. Future investigation areas for village centre expansion have been proposed on Bridge Street and at the junction of Bridge Street, Bethanga Bay and Springdale Roads including:

- + St Francis Church, recently sold, for potential adaptive reuse as a mixed use development including small scale retail / commercial and community space i.e., gallery / exhibition space in the Church building
- + Small site with sheds currently leased by the CFA at a prominent location on Springdale Road opposite the Hotel and adjacent the Creek environs with potential access to the Recreation Reserve
- + Large site to the south of Springdale Road surrounding the Police Station, suited to larger retail / commercial use and including a potential new purpose built facility for the Country Fire Authority.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities to support small businesses in the local community.

Objective 4: Improve parking within the village centre

Action 01: Develop a parking strategy that responds to current and future parking requirements and considers:

- + Potential increase in parking at the Memorial Hall
- + Events and overflow car parking
- + Current and future uses including the impact of potential village centre expansion
- + Larger vehicles (RV / long vehicle parking)
- + Incorporating greening into car spaces
- + RV dump points.



Figure 36. Small scale retail / grocer.



Figure 37. Increase parking in the Bethanga village centre.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve

Theme 1.2: Bethanga Recreation Reserve

What we heard

'Additional services and community facilities for health, sport, recreation, arts and cultural activity' was the third highest rated suggestion on how to improve the township during Engagement 1. Findings indicate that the Bethanga Recreation Reserve is one of the greatest assets of the township providing a community hub for sport, recreation, camping, and an alternative space to the Memorial Hall for diverse community activities and events. A master plan is currently being developed for the Recreation Reserve to guide the future redevelopment of the site.

Engagement 2 findings reinforce the importance to community of the Recreation Reserve, with the upgrade of the building and external grounds the third and fourth highest ranked initiatives / projects across the Big Ideas. Comments also revealed that the Recreation Reserve building is a preferred location for additional community facilities and services, with the redevelopment of the facility to accommodate services such as allied health and co-working spaces. In addition, the upgrade of links to the Recreation Reserve were also supported to improve access, better integrate the facility with the township and support increasing use of the building and grounds.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - Bethanga Recreation Reserve facilities upgrade including community services
- + 2 - New outdoor recreational facilities
- + 3 - Improve links with the village centre.

What is proposed

This Big Idea supports the resilience of the village, by improving the Recreation Reserve and integrating the facility and open space with the village centre through the following:

- + Upgrading the Recreation Reserve building and external grounds to serve the needs of the community
- + Providing spaces in the upgraded facility to cater for diverse services
- + Improving links between the Recreation Reserve and village centre with upgraded bridges and new shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

Objective 1: Upgrade the Bethanga Recreation Reserve facilities including community services

Action 01: Upgrade existing facilities and infrastructure at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve taking into consideration the following:

- + Sporting opportunities including lower league sports teams and sport development for cricket, soccer, tennis, gym, horse riding and netball
- + Potential relocation of tennis courts and club from Bellbridge to Bethanga
- + Community hub with meeting rooms / multi-purpose spaces for health services such as allied health and co-working spaces
- + Incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles for water and energy to increase self-sufficiency.



Figure 38. Upgraded Bethanga Creek crossing.



Figure 39. Upgraded courts at Bethanga Recreation Reserve.



Objective 2: Improve the Bethanga Recreation Reserve grounds with new outdoor recreational facilities

Action 01: Investigate introducing new recreational facilities / infrastructure such as:

- + Nature playground to cater for pre-schoolers and primary school children in proximity to the Recreation Reserve building and oval to maintain good visibility for parents / carers
- + Outdoor fitness stations
- + Dog park
- + Pump track and BMX trails
- + Open event amphitheatre for local and visiting performances / festivals
- + Drought resistant landscape.

Objective 3: Improve connectivity between the Bethanga Recreation Reserve and the village centre

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to improve access and links between the village centre and the Bethanga Recreation Reserve with:

- + Shared pedestrian and cyclist bridges
- + Upgraded vehicular access
- + Improved walking / nature trails
- + Access to Bethanga Creek.



Figure 40. Outdoor amphitheatre for events.



Figure 41. Nature nature playground at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve, Adelaide Zoo.



Figure 42. La Rosa Reserve Stream, Auckland.

3.2 Big Idea 01 Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve

Theme 1.3 : Strengthen Community Infrastructure and Services

What we heard

Bethanga is serviced by existing community infrastructure including the Memorial Hall, Playground, Recreation Reserve, and Primary School. The towns location in proximity to Albury-Wodonga provides good access to a range of services. The Primary School caters for P-6 and is known for the Art Show which encourages students to engage in creative activity and hosts an annual Art Show at the Memorial Hall. While the township does have a centre with a general store / cafe, post office and hair salon, Engagement 1 findings indicated a need to create more opportunities for inclusive, safe spaces for community to come together, and in particular increase engagement and participation of younger people.

Engagement 2 findings indicate that increasing health, education and mail services are the highest priorities within the theme, followed by other initiatives such as community garden and cultural activities such as music festivals, also important to support a vibrant and creative community.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - Investigate need to improve health, education and mail services
- + 2 - Community vegetable garden
- + 3 - New local bi-monthly music festival
- + 3 - Small scale community infrastructure
- + 4 - Bethanga Memorial Hall upgrade.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on improvements to community infrastructure and services to increase community cohesion and inclusivity with safe spaces for community connection, engagement / participation through the following:

- + A needs assessment of health and education services to cater for young families and an ageing population
- + Activities that can build on inclusivity and foster bonds between community members
- + Increasing use of existing assets.

Objective 1: Investigate need to improve health, education and mail services

Action 01: Undertake a needs analysis to determine the improvements required for the following services:

- + Health and medical services including at-home care and preventative community health services
- + Education services to determine future growth / planning including early learning services
- + Investigate potential improvements to the mail service.



Figure 43. Increase community spaces to cater for young people, Kindergarten & Playspace, Xian County Sunshine.



Objective 2: Establish a community vegetable garden

Action 01: Create a large scale community garden to grow vegetables on the site indicated south of the Primary School.

Objective 3: Create a local bi-monthly music festival

Action 01: Create a new local music festival to be held bi-monthly and to increase the entertainment offer and showcase local talent.

Objective 4: Increase the provision of community infrastructure

Action 01: Consider the inclusion of a small scale community infrastructure such as small library and small gallery space.

Objective 5: Upgrade the Bethanga Memorial Hall

Action 01: Consider the potential upgrade to the open space at the Memorial Hall to cater for events / activities such as outdoor cinema.

Objective 6: Provide opportunities to increase community cohesion

Action 01: Introduce opportunities to improve community cohesion through measures such as a community noticeboard at the General Store or Post Office.

Action 02: Investigate opportunities to build closer connections between Bethanga and Bellbridge.



Figure 44. Community garden.



Figure 45. Art gallery in refurbished church.

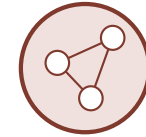


Figure 46. Small library and community spaces, Dimboola.

3.3 Big Idea

02

Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable



Theme 1.1: Improve Transport, Access and Streets

What we heard

Engagement 1 findings indicated a theme emerging around nature / environment, trails, cycling, touring routes and transport with 'accessible public transport and walking and cycling trails / routes' the seventh highest rated suggestion of how to improve the township. While the focus of this Big Idea is about the environment and sustainability, this theme concentrates on transport and streetscape improvements.

Engagement 2 findings reinforce the importance of this theme, with 'Improve transport, access and streets' the second highest ranked theme in equal position with 'Ensuring long-term resilience' across the Big Ideas. Within the theme, the two equally ranked initiatives / projects of the highest priority are 'Increase tree canopy cover' and 'Road upgrades and maintenance including fuel supply', followed by 'Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage' and 'Expand the trail and road cycling network'. The ranking allocated to road upgrades and tree canopy cover reinforce comments made during engagement about the need to improve and maintain roads in need of repair, and to continue initiatives underway such as the tree planting program aimed at beautifying the township. Engagement findings also indicate an interest to think beyond 2030 and address a warming climate through initiatives such as greening to improve the thermal comfort of streets.

There is overlap between this theme and 'Create a Welcoming Village Centre' in Big Idea 01 which focuses primarily on improvements to the village centre, while this theme applies to the entire township.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - Increase tree canopy cover
- + 1 - Road upgrades and maintenance including fuel supply
- + 2 - Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage
- + 3 - Expand the trail and road cycling network
- + 4 - Create a Great Lake Road Drive with roadside infrastructure.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on sustainability by:

- + Streetscape improvements, and expanding the trail and cycling networks
- + Improving road connectivity.

Objective 1: Increase tree canopy cover throughout the township

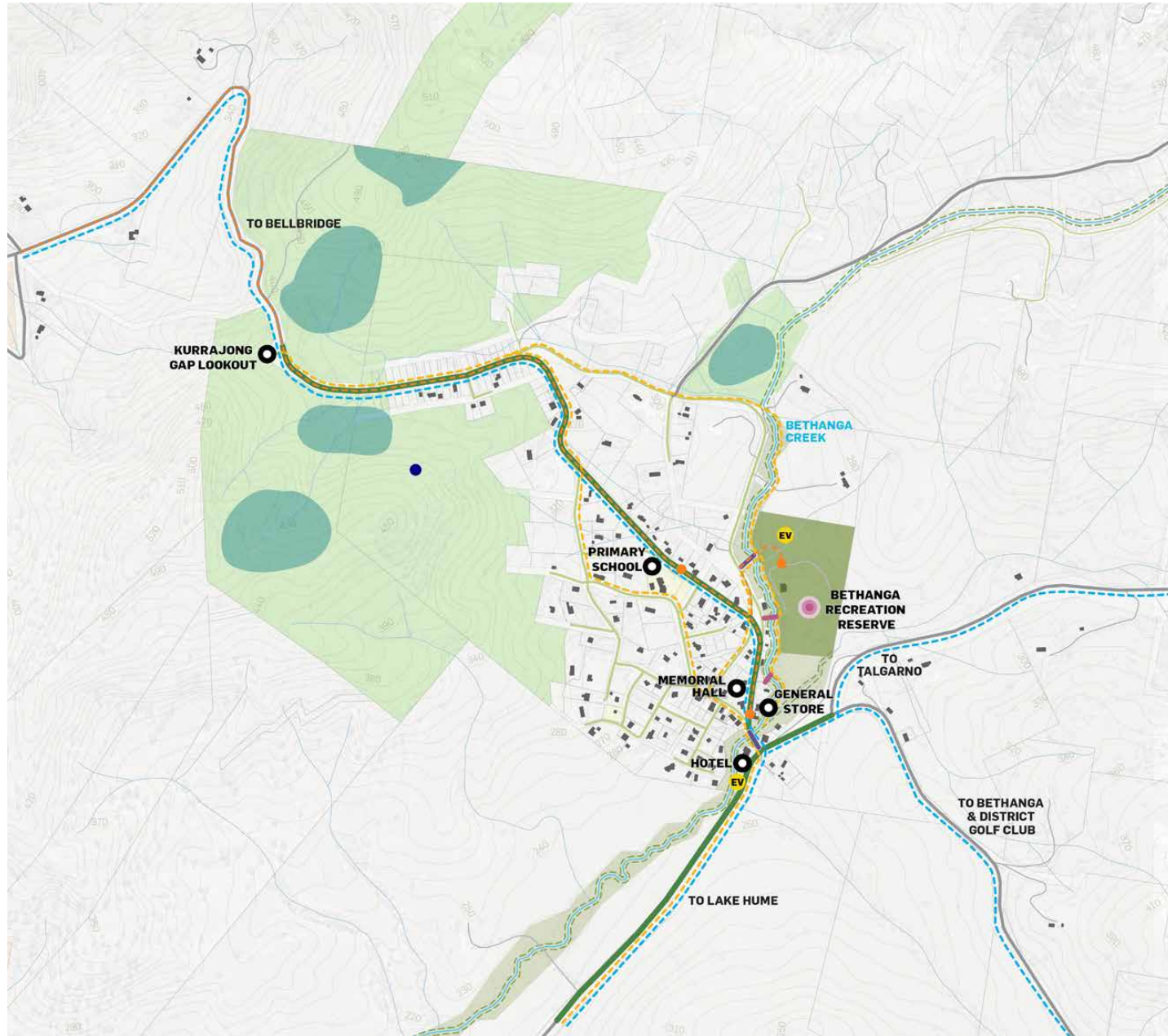
Action 01: Provide continuous tree canopy cover to streets throughout the township, commencing with key streets within the village centre, followed by streets connecting community infrastructure to the town centre, Bethanga Creek and residential areas. Investigate current issues around tree spacing, proximity to overhead powerlines and ongoing maintenance requirements.



Figure 47. Increase shade to streets and create a welcoming arrival. Continuous tree canopy, Yackandandah.

Legend

- PUBLIC CONSERVATION & RESOURCE ZONE
- HISTORIC MINING AREA
- UPGRADED PAVILION
- UPGRADED BRIDGE
- NEW PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
- WATERWAYS & POTENTIAL FORESHORE RESTORATION
- BEARDMORE STREET & BETHANGA BAY ROAD TREE CANOPY COVER
- GENERAL STREET TREE CANOPY COVER
- NEW CYCLE PATH
- NEW TOWN WALK
- EV NEW EV CHARGING STATION
- NEW PUBLIC TRANSPORT SHUTTLE ROUTE/STOPS



3.3 Big Idea 02 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable



Objective 2: Upgrade and maintain roads including provision for fuel

Action 01: Upgrade and maintain existing roads including road widening, signage and surface treatment. Roads identified during engagement include but are not limited to:

- + Kurrajong Gap Road
- + Talgarno Gap Road
- + Bethanga Bay Road.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide a petrol station including marine fuel for recreation activities at Lake Hume.

Objective 3: Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage

Action 01: Provide continuous and fully accessible footpaths connecting key facilities in the township.

Action 02: Provide / improve curbs, gutters and stormwater drainage to streets to address issues with overland flow and blocked culverts.

Action 03: Implement water-sensitive urban design with swales to filter stormwater and permeable paving / surfaces to decrease water run-off.

Action 04: Provide wayfinding signage at key decision points for pedestrians and cyclists.

Action 05: Review street lighting to determine where upgrades are required.

Action 06: Provide crossings at key locations such as the Primary School, community facilities and open space.

Action 07: Identify and implement measures to assist residents with the maintenance of nature strips on steep roadsides.

Objective 4: Expand cycling and horse riding trails and the road cycling network

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to improve and expand the existing trail and road cycling network including:

- + Nature trail along Bethanga Creek connecting the village centre to Kurragong Gap Lookout
- + Existing trail along Bethanga Bay Road not currently maintained, including a review of the existing gravel surface and potential replacement to address safety issues
- + Road cycling network within the township and to nearby destinations.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to identify the preferred routes for safe pop-up cycling lanes in the township.

Roads identified during engagement to provide cycling infrastructure include:

- + Kurrajong Gap Road to Bellbridge foreshore trail and future cycle paths to Albury City
- + Talgarno Gap Road to Talgarno
- + Bethanga Bay Road to Bethanga Cemetery, Lake Hume and Tallangatta East to the High Country Rail Trail.

Action 03: Identify opportunities to improve the walk from Bethanga to Bellbridge and Talgarno:

- + Bellbridge to Bethanga 7.6km
- + Bethanga to Talgarno 9.6km.

Action 04: Identify opportunities for horse riding trails and camp areas.

Objective 5: Create a Great Lake Road Drive with roadside infrastructure

Action 01: Opportunity to create a 'Great Lake Road' and market / promote the drive as per the Great River Road on Murray River Road with:

- + Lookouts
- + Interpretive signage
- + Artwork
- + Walking trails
- + Toilets.









Objective 6: Introduce public bus service and shuttle

Action 01: Advocate for public bus service to / from Albury-Wodonga and Tallangatta to access services as a priority, followed by Corryong and Mitta Mitta. Investigate the option to divert the existing bus service to Corryong via Tallangatta, Bethanga, Bellbridge to Albury-Wodonga.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity with schools in Albury to provide bus services.

Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to provide a community shuttle to health service and other key locations in the township.

Legend

-  TOWNSHIP/REGIONAL CENTRE
-  ACCESS TO MOUNT GRANYA
HIKING TRAILS, 4 WHEEL DRIVE
& MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
-  LAKE HUME HUSTLE TRAIL
-  PROPOSED CYCLING TRAIL
-  EXISTING HIGH COUNTRY RAIL TRAIL
-  GREAT RIVER ROAD AND UPGRADED
SITES BY PARKS VICTORIA INCLUDING
LINK TO ALBURY-WODONGA
-  LAKE HUME
-  BETHANGA BEAST TRAIL



SCALE 1:200,000 @ A3



3.3 Big Idea 02 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable

Theme 2.2 : Environmental Improvements

What we heard

Sustainability and the environment emerged as an important theme during Engagement 1 with particular focus on Bethanga Creek and the remnants of the historic mining areas. The Creek, Recreation Reserve and public conservation areas to the east and west are great assets providing amenity and focal points for the township. The Creek environs and bridge crossings have been damaged from previous flooding, with visible erosion along the banks of the waterway, and water quality a concern resulting from previous mining activity. Mining waste or tailings are visible upon arrival into the township detracting from efforts to beautify the streetscape and are a potential health hazard. Findings in Engagement 1 were reinforced during Engagement 2, highlighting the potential to improve the Creek and mining areas.

While the historic mines and Creek can be viewed as environmental issues, they offer considerable opportunities for the township by providing unique points of interest for visitors as well as for community, preserving the township's unique history and restoring the environment.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - Bethanga Creek environmental rehabilitation and trails
- + 2 - Mining area environmental rehabilitation and trails.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on improving the environment by:

- + Rehabilitating the mining areas, Bethanga Creek and environs
- + Improving recreation infrastructure and facilities.

Objective 1: Investigate the environmental rehabilitation of Bethanga Creek

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to undertake the environmental rehabilitation of Bethanga Creek by:

- + Increasing planting of native trees / vegetation and biodiversity
- + Selecting fire-retardant and drought resistant trees / vegetation
- + Reducing bank erosion and revitalising riparian zones
- + Including landscape elements and water features
- + Creating play areas and integrating trails and nature walks with the village centre and Recreation Reserve
- + Incorporating stormwater treatment systems capturing and treating run-off
- + Reducing the impact of agriculture.



Figure 48. Stormwater treatment, Water Reuse Project, Sydney Park.



Objective 2: Investigate the environmental rehabilitation of the historic mining area

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to undertake the environmental rehabilitation of the existing mining areas to beautify the township, improve amenity and address environmental concerns including:

- + Integrate the mining area with the township and surrounds with trails for walking and cycling
- + Develop a Landcare program to remove the mining waste or landscape the mine tailings
- + Identify environmental issues including waterflows, landscape repair and biodiversity recovery
- + Create a tourist attraction with lookouts and interpretive signage.



Figure 49. Historic mine restoration and walking trails, Igalada Spain.

3.3 Big Idea 02 Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable

Theme 2.3 : Environmentally Sustainable Design

What we heard

The third theme in this Big Idea focuses on environmentally sustainable design. During Engagement 1, the highest rated opportunities for environmental sustainability and resilience in order from first to fourth priority were renewable energies, bushfire preparedness, waste minimisation / recycling and water reuse / recycling.

During Engagement 2, 'Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD)' was ranked third out of three themes in Big Idea 02. Within the theme, three initiatives / projects were equally weighted in first place, followed by 'Incorporating Environmentally Sustainable Design principles'.

While, ESD generally emerged as an important priority, it is clear that a focus on greening, transport, and environmental rehabilitation are focus areas for the community.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - EV charging station for vehicles and bicycles
- + 1 - Renewable energy generation
- + 1 - Water reuse / recycling and green waste / recycling
- + 2 - Incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on incorporating environmentally sustainable design by:

- + Installing an EV charging station
- + Exploring renewable energy generation
- + Conserving and reusing water
- + Reducing green waste and introducing green waste recycling
- + Incorporating ESD into new developments.

Objective 1: Install an EV charging station for vehicles and bicycles

Action 01: Include provision for an EV charging station, with potential locations to be discussed with community.

Potential locations include:

- + Bethanga Hotel in the village centre
- + Bethanga Recreation Reserve.



Figure 50. Electric vehicle (EV) charging station, Shepparton.



Objective 2: Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling

Action 01: Investigate options for renewable energy generation to develop an energy resilience strategy including the potential for a town battery and micro-grid or alternative solutions in solar and wind.

Action 02: Investigate options to reduce waste, improve recycling including green waste recycling, collection and management and alternative waste to energy solutions.

Action 03: Identify barriers and investigate options to reduce water use, increase reuse for buildings and community facilities including on-site water storage and water treatment solutions.

Objective 3: Incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles into new building works

Action 01: Ensure new works incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles into buildings and grounds to create green and healthy buildings.



Figure 51. Green waste collection.



Figure 52. Alternative power sources. Yackandandah town battery.

3.4 Big Idea

03

Increasing housing supply while retaining the small town feel



Theme 3.1: Ensure Long-Term Resilience

What we heard

The township's location and proximity to Albury-Wodonga make it an ideal commuter town for remote workers, however residential development is currently constrained by a lack of reticulated water and sewerage, unclear title boundaries with unaligned zoning boundaries, small lot sizes and restrictive planning requirements for development adjacent waterways.

While many dwellings are self-sufficient with septic systems, rain water tanks and solar power, Engagement 1 findings indicate support for the provision of reticulated water and sewerage infrastructure to reduce existing constraints on undevelopable lots, and improvements to telecommunications infrastructure and services to realise the township's economic, environmental, health and social opportunities.

During Engagement 1, support for bushfire preparedness, was one of the highest rated opportunities followed by renewable energies in how to improve environmental sustainability of the township.

Engagement 2 findings reinforce these key directions from Engagement 1, with 'Ensuring long-term resilience' the second highest ranked theme in equal place with 'Improve transport, access and streets' across the Big Ideas, and 'Water and sewage improvements' the highest priority of all the initiatives / projects.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - Critical infrastructure improvements (water and sewage)
- + 2 - Critical infrastructure upgrades (telecommunications and electricity)
- + 2 - Bushfire preparedness
- + 3 - Disaster and resilience planning and emergency preparedness.

What is proposed

This Big Idea focuses on increasing the long-term resilience and liveability of the township through the provision of:

- + Critical infrastructure
- + Enabling the development of constrained sites
- + Embedding bushfire preparedness
- + Planning for long-term disaster and resilience.



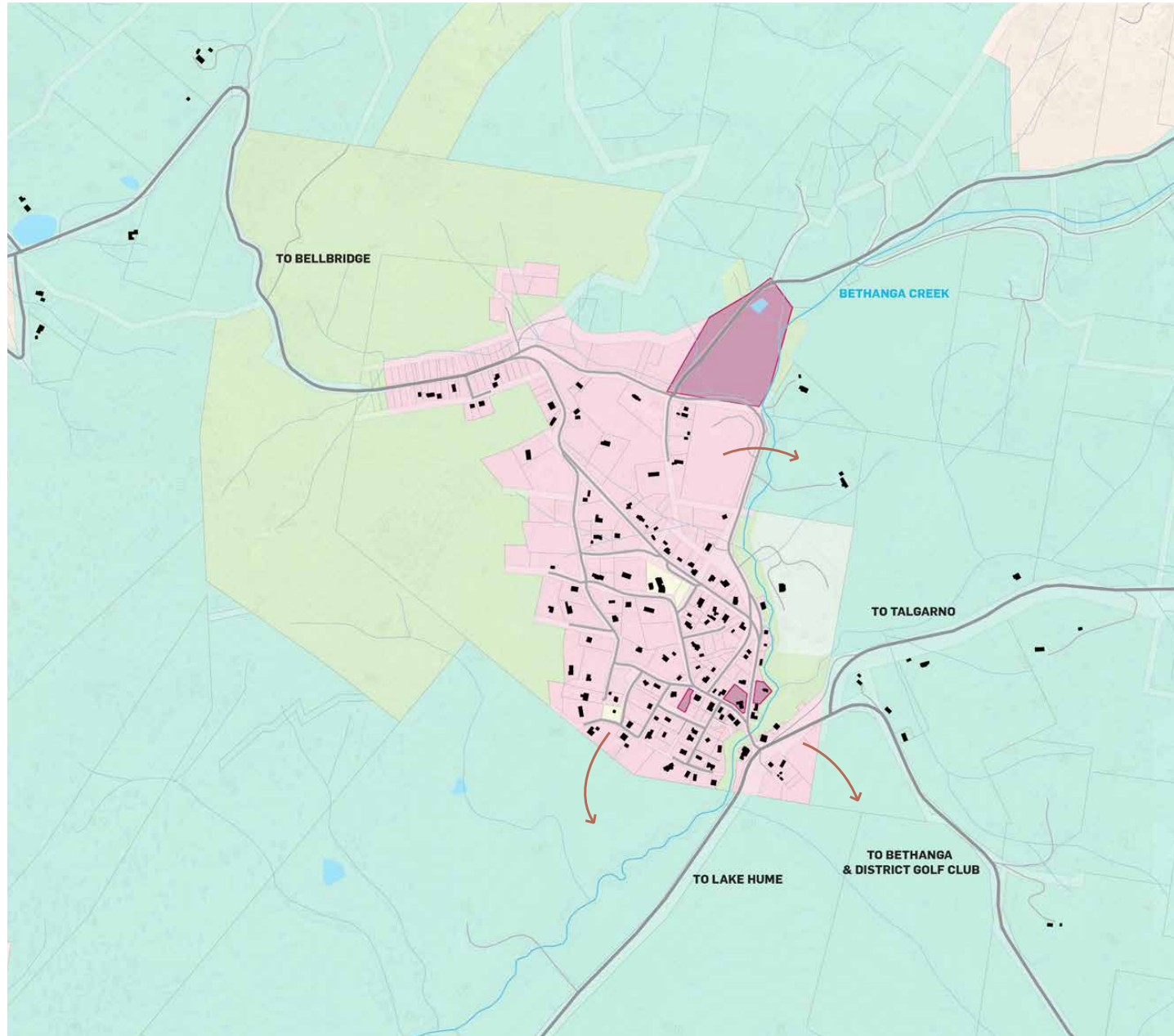
Figure 53. Water collection and septic tanks.

Legend

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



1:10,000 @ A3
0 500m



3.4 Big Idea 03 Increasing housing supply while retaining the small town feel

Objective 1: Plan and advocate for critical infrastructure to support the liveability of the township

Action 01: Advocate for North East Water to include Bethanga in their priority list for the provision of reticulated sewerage and water. Potential options include:

- + Extending the existing wastewater treatment facility from Bellbridge
- + Installing a pumping station at Bethanga Bay to service the township.

Action 02: Investigate alternate funding models for the implementation of reticulated water and sewerage infrastructure such as incremental payments in Council rates.

Action 03: Advocate for improvements to the telecommunications infrastructure, internet service and the mobile phone network for reliable communications particularly during emergency situations.

Action 04: Provide learning opportunities for the community to better understand the different telecommunication services available.

Action 05: Advocate for upgrades to the existing electricity infrastructure network.

Objective 2: Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township

Action 01: Upgrade existing buildings, manage vegetation and ensure new buildings comply with requirements and guidelines to mitigate the impact of bushfires.

Action 02: Develop cost-effective methods to retrofit existing buildings for bushfire preparedness.

Action 03: Upgrade the Bethanga Recreation Reserve for emergency situations.



Figure 54. Bethanga township.



Objective 3: Plan for natural and man-made hazards and disasters and emergency preparedness

Action 01: Incorporate disaster and resilience planning to reduce the impact of natural and man-made hazards and disasters.

Action 02: Determine if a Bushfire Risk Assessment is required to guide the future development of the township.

Action 03: Plan for a new purpose built Country Fire Authority facility in the village centre to the south of the Police Station. Investigate opportunities to provide mains water for fire trucks and engines.

Action 04: Plan for future upgrade and potential needs of existing emergency services and infrastructure as the population increases, including consultation with emergency services organisations for future projects which can impact existing commitments.

Action 05: Include hazard resilience in future planning such as buildings, infrastructure, open space and vegetation including higher stormwater drainage and run-off, infrastructure that can cope with floods and storms, vegetation that reduces risks of fire and wind damage.

Action 06: Consult the State Emergency Services to determine how Council can provide assistance in response to hazards on Shire land.



Figure 55. Rural housing.

3.4 Big Idea 03 Increasing housing supply while retaining the small town feel

Theme 3.2 : Increase Housing Supply

What we heard

'Retaining / complementing the character and lifestyle of the township' was the second highest rated opportunity after 'making the Creek a central feature' during Engagement 1, indicating that future development needs to be sensitive to the township's character and low density lifestyle, with increases in density achieved through small acreages rather than following the example of nearby residential subdivision developments. Other findings indicate support for the provision of housing for an ageing population.

The Towong Shire Settlement Strategy identifies that rural land zoned Rural Activity Zone to the north, east and south of the Bethanga settlement is not deemed to be of high quality for the purpose of agriculture, and proposes potential rezoning to Rural Living to meet demonstrated demand. Preliminary advice from the Country Fire Authority supports future development to the east of the township due to the topography and access requirements, and also because it is in the opposite direction of bushfire risk from the north-east.

Engagement 2 findings prioritise an increase in land for rural living over increasing housing density within the existing township and rural living zones. This indicates that an increase in housing supply is supported, however, not at the expense of increasing density on existing lots and changing the existing low density character of the township. The second highest rated initiative / project in this theme is 'increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities', recognising the need to accommodate an ageing population and increase options for retirement living.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - Investigation areas to increase land available for Rural Living
- + 2 - Increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities
- + 3 - Increase housing in existing Township and Rural Living Zones.

What is proposed

This Big Idea proposes to increase housing supply through:

- + Investigation areas for rezoning land to Rural Living
- + Diversifying housing choice for a changing demographic
- + Increasing housing density within land zoned for residential.

Objective 1: Investigation areas to increase land available for rural living

Action 01: Investigate rezoning existing farmland to Rural Living Zone, subject to the recommendations of a Bushfire Risk Assessment. Consider the option to increase density through the provision of small acreages by reducing parcel size.



Figure 56. Land in and around Bethanga.



Objective 2: Increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities

Action 01: Investigate options to increase housing prioritising residents and workers.

Action 02: Investigate options to provide a greater range of housing typologies including Retirement Village, ageing in place, younger families, key sector workers, seasonal worker accommodation, multi-generational homes and co-housing.

Action 03: Investigate pathways with government to reduce housing used as holiday homes and short-term accommodation to increase the number of long-term rental properties.

Objective 3: Increase housing in the existing Township and Rural Living Zones

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to provide infill housing on vacant sites in the Township Zone in proximity to the town centre, subject to septic system requirements or future reticulated water and sewerage provision.



Figure 57. Off-grid house, Naturvillan Sweden.



Figure 58. Passive housing.



Figure 59. Community living and gardens.

3.5 Big Idea

04

Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture



Theme 4.1: Celebrate Heritage

What we heard

History was another strong theme that emerged during Engagement 1 focused on the township's mining heritage. While remnants of the old mines such as mine shaft, mine tailings and drag lines are evident, there is a sense that more could be done to preserve the mining heritage including replacing the existing interpretive signage and creating a series of town walks. The Rechabite Hall, St Francis Church, Anglican Church and Cemetery were also identified as important to the town's heritage with suggestions to preserve history through the restoration of Rechabite Hall. The celebration of history provides an opportunity for people to participate in community as well as create a visitor drawcard.

Engagement 2 findings reinforced this approach, however received less support as a theme and group of initiatives / projects across the Big Ideas. The highest ranked initiative / project in this theme is 'Historic town walks and mining trails' which overlaps with the theme 'Environmental rehabilitation' focused on the restoration of the mining areas, Bethanga Creek and includes a trail network.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - Historic town walks and mining trails
- + 2 - Permanent historic exhibition
- + 3 - Historical and information hub at Rechabite Hall
- + 4 - Incorporate First Nations cultural heritage and knowledge.

What is proposed

This Big Idea capitalises on the potential to:

- + Increase visibility of the town's history
- + Increase use of existing assets
- + Incorporate First Nations culture and history.

Objective 1: Create historic town walks and mining trails to celebrate the township's history

Action 01: Develop a historic walk of significant places and buildings to increase visibility of the town's history. Include interpretive signage and a walking map of key landmarks of:

- + Bethanga Memorial Hall
- + Rechabite Hall
- + St Francis Catholic Church
- + Holy Trinity Anglican Church
- + Wallace's Smelting Works and historic mine area around Kurrajong Gap Lookout.

Action 01: Create a multiple loop town walk, with interpretive signage about the history of the township and it's people including an all ages and abilities segment.

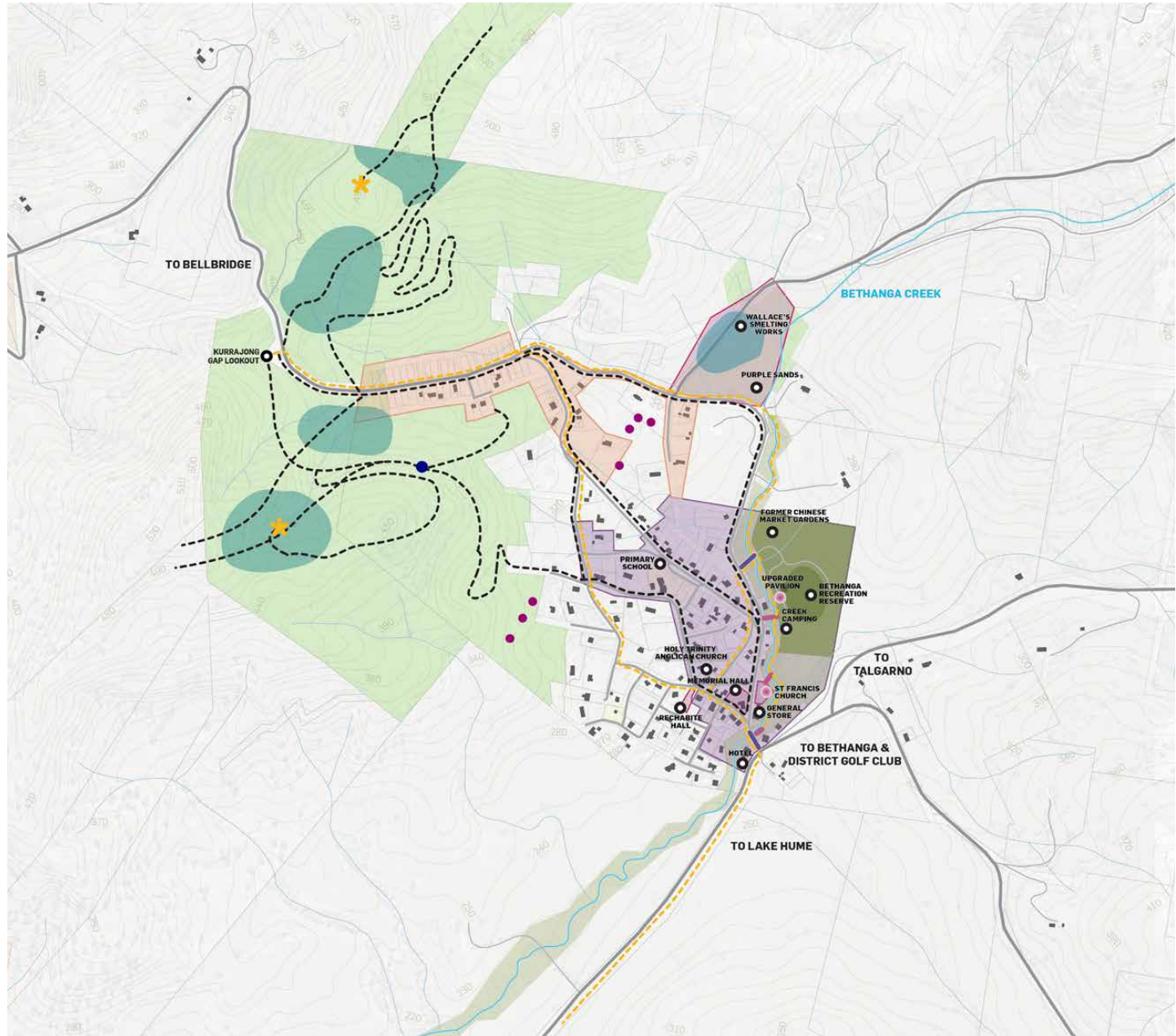
Action 02: Investigate the opportunity to develop a cemetery route to Bethanga and Talgarno Cemeteries utilising the proposed trail along Bethanga Bay Road to Lake Hume.



Figure 60. Historic mine restoration and walking trails, Igalada Spain.

Legend

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



3.5 Big Idea 04 Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture



Figure 61. Historic trail with informational signage.



Figure 62. Gallery / exhibition space.

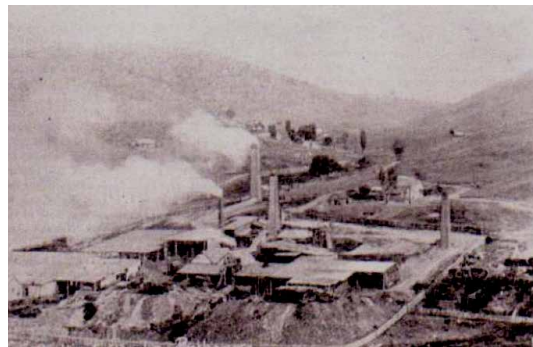


Figure 63. Wallace Bethanga Chlorination Works, Circa 1897.

Objective 2: Create a permanent historic exhibition on the township's history

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity to create a historical and information hub with a permanent exhibition on the history of the township in joint partnership with the Primary School and an architecture / planning school. The permanent exhibition is to include information on the mining history, the establishment of the township and First Nations history. The exhibition could replace the existing panels outside the Memorial Hall. Potential locations for the permanent exhibition include:

- + Memorial Hall
- + Rechabite Hall
- + St Francis Catholic Church
- + Holy Trinity Anglican Church.

Consider the potential to relocate Rechabite Hall to a central location such as the Memorial Hall, Bethanga Playground or Recreation Reserve. The Hall is in a poor state and requires major refurbishment.

Objective 3: Incorporate First Nations cultural heritage and knowledge into the township

Action 01: Identify any sites of significant First Nations cultural heritage in / surrounding Bethanga with traditional custodians.

Action 02: Develop an Aboriginal place name strategy with traditional custodians to incorporate First Nation's culture and heritage through acknowledgment, place names, truth-telling and stories.

Action 03: Consult First Nations people on the opportunities for new / upgraded open / public spaces along the Bethanga Creek foreshore.



Theme 4.2 : Improve Amenity and Broaden the Visitor Offer

What we heard

'Additional community services and facilities' and 'improving and expanding tourism were the third and fifth highest rated opportunities to improve the township during Engagement 1. Findings indicate a strong interest in the arts, culture, events and food / hospitality to build upon existing activities / events such as the Primary School Art Show and local arts community. While the Memorial Hall provides one of the two community buildings available for art classes / events / exhibitions, and Bethanga Store and Post Office create spaces for artist's and collaborators, there is a lack of purpose-built community infrastructure to create an artist's hub or to attract more visitor's and artists to the area. Other findings that support the visitor economy include accommodation and developing a 'foodie' culture to build upon the Hotel and General Store.

Engagement 2 findings indicate this theme is the third lowest priority for community across the Big Ideas while the highest ranked initiative / project in the theme is 'Create an arts, culture and community hub'. It could be argued that existing arts and culture activities / events are already in place and that the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall and master plan for the Recreation Reserve have lessened the focus on this themes and initiatives / projects.

Outcomes of Engagement 2

The highest to lowest rated initiatives and projects for this theme are as follows with equal weighting as indicated below. The themes and initiatives / projects have been incorporated into objectives and actions.

- + 1 - Create an arts, culture and community hub
- + 2 - Increase use of Bethanga Hall
- + 2 - Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign
- + 3 - Increase short-term accommodation
- + 4 - Attract destination businesses.

What is proposed

This Big Idea capitalises on the potential to:

- + Strengthen the arts and culture community
- + Improve amenity and broaden the visitor offer
- + Increase use of existing assets.



Figure 64. Music event featuring local talent.

3.5 Big Idea 04 Celebrate Bethanga's history, arts & culture

Theme 4.2 : Improve Amenity and Broaden the Visitor Offer

Objective 1: Create an arts, culture and community hub

Action 01: Investigate the opportunity for an arts, culture and community hub to support the arts and culture community and attract visitors to the area. Potential locations include:

- + St Francis Catholic Church building and site for an adaptive reuse of the church as a gallery / exhibition space, new civic space and other retail / commercial uses, with potential to include the historic and information hub and Rechabite Hall
- + Bethanga Recreation Reserve upgrade to incorporate artist's spaces such as exhibition, workshops and performance spaces.

Objective 2: Increase use of Memorial Hall

Action 01: Identify any potential upgrades to the Memorial Hall to support activities / events such as:

- + Music, dance, performance, theatre and arts events
- + Gallery exhibition space, maker's space and music making space
- + Food and makers market
- + Exercise classes, yoga, pilates and well-being
- + For hire opportunities for celebrations.

Objective 3: Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign

Action 01: Develop an activation and events calendar and marketing campaign with seasonal events for community and visitors building upon existing events / activities such as the Bethanga Primary School Art Show and Art in the Afternoon:

- + Annual music event and bi-monthly / monthly music events / festival
- + Seasonal maker's market
- + Exhibitions
- + Opportunity to develop a biennial design competition such as a landscape garden for the Recreation Reserve with installations and events
- + Food offering with farmgate, farm-to-plate, and hospitality activities
- + Touring and running itineraries
- + Leverage other events in Towong Shire
- + Equestrian events building upon the gymkhana
- + Landcare and environmental activities
- + Sports and recreation activities
- + Agribusiness and learning.



Figure 65. Art in the Afternoon, Bethanga Memorial Hall.



Figure 66. Local maker's market.



Objective 4: Increase short-term accommodation

Action 01: Broaden the short-stay accommodation options including:

- + Premium end of the market, tiny homes / cabins in landscape settings, eco-resort / lodge and farm stay
- + In combination with other attractions such as the winery.

Action 02: Review current camping facilities at the Bethanga Recreation Reserve for any upgrades required to support on-going use for camping / caravan sites.

Objective 4: Investigate and promote suitable business opportunities for the township and surrounds

Action 01: Explore the following opportunities to increase visitor attractions such as:

- + Food and hospitality such as bakery, food market to sell locally grown produce, farm-to-plate local produce / events and olive picking
- + Agritourism farmgate and learning / workshops
- + Flower tourism and pick your own flowers
- + Arts based businesses such as ceramic studio, workshop and gallery
- + Social enterprises such as community nursery and food hub / cooperative and cafe with regenerative agriculture farm, learning / employment pathways
- + Equestrian business opportunities such as horse boarding services, riding lessons and retail

- + Targeted outdoor recreation businesses such as kayaking, fishing, 4-wheel driving, trail running, cycle and motorcycle touring (gravel and road)
- + Connecting with nature such as wilderness and environmental tourism, learning about the environment and protecting ecosystems
- + Health and well-being spa, massage and health services with accommodation.



Figure 67. Farm to plate, Portland Maine.



Figure 68. Paradinha Hotel Retreat Accommodation, Portugal.

4.0



Implementation Plan

**OUR
TOWN**

4.1 Making it happen

Overview of making it happen

The Bethanga Place Plan establishes a vision and framework for achieving the vision.

This part of the Place Plan sets out how the objectives may be achieved. Each objective is examined in terms of its:

- **Priority** (low-medium-high) – the priority ranking is informed by outcomes from community engagement and input from authorities
- **Timing** – a realistic ordering of which objectives can be feasibly achieved in the short, medium, or longer term
- **Partners** – authorities who have elected to work on the objectives listed.

Some objectives may require further work and studies, including changes to planning instruments in the future, in the form of Structure Plans, reference documents or other planning studies which should be undertaken separately to these place plans where necessary.

It is recommended that the place plan is reviewed regularly, and that regular catch-ups between Council and community are undertaken to monitor and check the progress of the place plan implementation.

Government authorities’ workshop

On the 7 March 2024, the Draft Place Plans were presented as part of Engagement 2 to a group of state and local government authorities who have varying levels of involvement in the towns / region. This workshop was a follow-up to focus groups and 1:1 workshops undertaken during Engagement 1 to identify priority areas and opportunities for each authority.


The workshop was attended by representatives from a range of authorities as outlined in Table 1. Representatives from local and state government planning departments, emergency services and water management authorities were present, however it is acknowledged that there may be other relevant authorities that were not in attendance. These authorities should be engaged at a later date in the delivery of objectives as needed.


The aim of the workshop was to present the Draft Place Plans and objectives, raise any potential issues or priorities that authorities may have with relation to the Draft Place Plans, and identify partnerships to deliver the objectives in the future.


The following implementation tables set out where government authorities elected to work as partners to deliver particular elements or objectives of the place plan.


Future work should be undertaken to identify additional partners and begin to create connections between agencies to deliver the place plan.

Organisations represented
Towong Shire Council
Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) – Hume RPS
Country Fire Authority (CFA)
Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) Upper Murray
Victoria SES Tallangatta
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Department Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
North-East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA)
Ambulance Victoria
Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW)
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

 Big Idea 01: Integrate the village heart with Bethanga Creek & Recreation Reserve				
THEME 1.1: Create a Welcoming Village Centre				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Undertake streetscape improvements in the village centre.	High	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 2	Improve the gateway arrival and intersections.	Medium	Short-term	
Objective 3	Future proof the township for commercial expansion.	Medium	Long-term	DTP – Planning
Objective 4	Improve parking within the village centre.	Medium	Short-term	DTP – Planning
THEME 1.2: Bethanga Recreation Reserve				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Upgrade the Bethanga Recreation Reserve facilities including community services.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Improve the Bethanga Recreation Reserve grounds with new outdoor recreational facilities.	High	Short-term	
Objective 3	Improve connectivity between the Bethanga Recreation Reserve and the village centre.	High	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
THEME 1.3: Strengthen Community Infrastructure and Services				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Investigate need to improve health, education and mail services.	Medium	Medium-term	Ambulance Victoria
Objective 2	Establish a community vegetable garden.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Create a local bi-monthly music festival.	Low	Short-term	
Objective 4	Increase the provision of community infrastructure.	Low	Long-term	
Objective 5	Upgrade the Bethanga Memorial Hall.	Medium	Short-term	
Objective 6	Provide opportunities to increase community cohesion.	Low	Long-term	

 Big Idea 02: Green, resilient & environmentally sustainable				
THEME 2.1: Improve Transport, Access and Streets				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Increase tree canopy cover throughout the township.	High	Long-term	
Objective 2	Upgrade and maintain roads including provision for fuel.	High	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 3	Improve footpaths, crossings, wayfinding signage and stormwater drainage.	High	Short-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 4	Expand cycling and horse riding trails and the road cycling network.	Medium	Medium-term	DTP – Transport
Objective 5	Create a Great Lake Road Drive with roadside infrastructure.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 6	Introduce public bus service and shuttle.	Low	Long-term	DTP – Transport
THEME 2.2: Environmental Improvements				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Investigate the environmental rehabilitation of Bethanga Creek.	High	Medium-term	NECMA, DEECA
Objective 2	Investigate the environmental rehabilitation of the historic mining area.	Medium	Long-term	
THEME 2.3: Environmentally Sustainable Design				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Install an EV charging station for vehicles and bicycles.	Medium	Short-term	
Objective 2	Investigate options to increase renewable energy generation, green waste collection / recycling and water reuse / recycling.	Medium	Short-term	
Objective 3	Incorporate environmentally sustainable design principles into new building works.	Low	Short-term	

 Big Idea 3: Increasing housing supply while retaining the small town feel				
THEME 3.1: Ensure Long-Term Resilience				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Plan and advocate for critical infrastructure to support the liveability of the township.	High	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Embed bushfire preparedness into long-term planning for the township.	Medium	Short-term	CFA
Objective 3	Plan for natural and man-made hazards and disasters and emergency preparedness.	Medium	Medium-term	CFA
THEME 3.2: Increase Housing Supply				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Investigation areas to increase land available for rural living.	Medium	Medium-term	CFA DTP – Planning
Objective 2	Increase housing choice and prioritised housing for key communities.	Low	Medium-term	
Objective 3	Increase housing in the existing Township and Rural Living Zones.	Low	Long-term	CFA, DTP – Planning

 Big Idea 4: Celebrate Bethanga’s history, arts & culture				
THEME 4.1: Celebrate Heritage				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Create historic town walks and mining trails to celebrate the township’s history.	Medium	Short-term	
Objective 2	Create a permanent historic exhibition on the township’s history.	Medium	Long-term	
Objective 3	Incorporate First Nations cultural heritage and knowledge into the township.	Low	Medium-term	
THEME 4.2: Improve Amenity and Broaden the Visitor Offer				
OBJECTIVES		PRIORITY	TIMING	PARTNERS
Objective 1	Create an arts, culture and community hub.	Medium	Medium-term	
Objective 2	Increase use of Memorial Hall.	High	Short-term	
Objective 3	Develop an events calendar and marketing campaign.	Low	Short-term	
Objective 4	Increase short-term accommodation.	Low	Medium-term	
Objective 5	Investigate and promote suitable business opportunities for the township and surrounds.	Low	Medium-term	

This page is intentionally left blank.



ClarkeHopkinsClarke

ABN 18 146 947 762
studio@chc.com.au
www.chc.com.au

Impact Tomorrow

Melbourne

L9, 700 Swanston Street
Carlton VIC 3053
03 9419 4340

Sydney

L3, 78 Campbell Street
Surry Hills NSW 2010
02 9221 9200

Disclaimer:

ClarkeHopkinsClarke Architects Pty Ltd has been commissioned to produce this Document. The Document is intended for the specific purpose for which it refers. ClarkeHopkinsClarke Architects Pty Ltd has used best endeavours to minimise inaccuracies in the Document, exercising the reasonable skill, care and diligence to be expected of an appropriately qualified and competent consultant. ClarkeHopkinsClarke Architects Pty Ltd does not make any representations or warranties in relation to information contained in the Document, whether supplied directly or via third parties, and we disclaim liability for any possible errors or omissions. There is to be no claim in connection with any information provided in this Document or any failure to provide, or delay in providing, any information to third parties and we accept no liability for the accuracy, completeness or

currency of the information provided. All artist impressions are for illustrative purposes only. It is provided in good faith to represent the elements and finishes of the design intent but should not be relied upon as a depiction of the final product. Please refer to contract documentation for specifications for individual properties. This Document may not be shared, reproduced or copied in whole or in part without prior written consent from ClarkeHopkinsClarke Architects Pty Ltd. This disclaimer and any other disclaimers and copyright notices contained in the Document must be included in any reproduction, copy or transfer of this Document, or part thereof.

