



# Trentham Structure Plan

## Trentham Community Panel

October -November 2023



*Hepburn*  
SHIRE COUNCIL





# Acknowledgement of Country

Hepburn Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters on which we live and work. On these lands and waters on which we live and work. On these lands, Djaara have performed age-old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal. We recognise their resilience through dispossession, and it is a testament to the continuing culture and tradition, which is strong and thriving.

We also acknowledge the neighbouring Traditional owners, the Wurundjeri to our South East and the Wadawurrung to our South West and pay our respect to all Aboriginal peoples, their culture, and lore. We acknowledge their living culture and the unique role they play in the life of this region.



## The Future Hepburn project

A once-in-a-generation project, the Future Hepburn project aims to protect and enhance the existing character of our towns and rural settlements. We know that our community loves and wishes to protect their rural lifestyle, the look and feel of their townships, our biodiversity, environment and rural land.

Future Hepburn is made up of three key projects; the township structure plans and supporting technical studies, and the two shire-wide strategies including Rural Hepburn: Agricultural Land and Rural Settlement Strategy and the Integrated Transport Strategy.

# Purpose of a Structure Plan

The Trentham Structure Plan is being developed to manage growth and development of the town to 2050. It is part of Council's Future Hepburn project which aims to protect and enhance the existing character of our towns and rural settlements.

The purpose of the Trentham Structure Plan is to plan for the future of Trentham by protecting the distinctive positive elements of the township and build upon its opportunities. This will guide the physical and natural environment, liveability and activities of the township. Broadly speaking there are four elements to a Structure Plan: the vision, objectives, strategies and actions.

## Vision



A shared long-term vision (30 year horizon) for the future will guide appropriate development, protect what we value, improve liveability and empower the Trentham community to thrive.

## Objectives



The Structure Plan's objectives outline how we can realise the Vision. The Trentham Structure Plan will contain six objectives relating to the key themes. Objectives are generally 'To' statements e.g. To provide housing choices that...

## Strategies



Generally reviewed every ten to fifteen years strategies break down the Objectives into a plan. The Strategies describe how the Objectives will be achieved.

## Actions



These are actions or tasks that need to be completed to accomplish the strategies. Reviewed every five to ten years actions may include planning responses, but also may include things like masterplans or advocacy activities.

# The Role of the Community Panel

## TRENTHAM STRUCTURE PLAN

### Six Key Themes

- Housing
- Environment and heritage
- Business and economy
- Urban design
- Movement and access
- Community and social assets



### PROBLEM

What makes developing the Structure Plan difficult is balancing competing community values and determining appropriate growth.

### OUR CHALLENGE

What is our shared vision for Trentham?



What does 'appropriate' mean?

### CONSIDERATION

Consider all options for working through our community's competing values in order to realise our shared vision.



### Trentham Community Panel Recommendations

Shared vision and a key objective for each of the six identified key themes. The recommendations will be shared with Councillors, consultants and the broader Trentham community.

# The Role of the Council

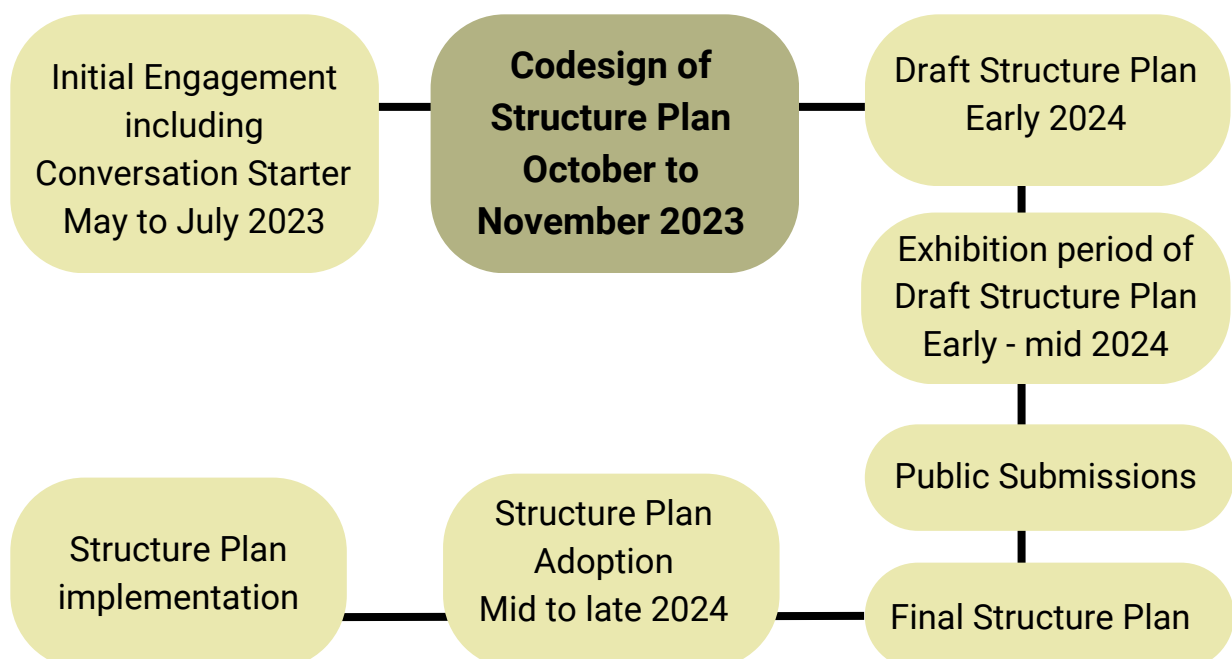
Structure Planning is complex. There are challenging discussions and tradeoffs that will need to be worked through to ensure that our township is socially, economically and environmentally sustainable into the future. Examples of these tradeoffs include housing diversity and town character or planning for biodiversity and climate change.

Council commits to partnering with the Community Panel to develop a shared vision and objective for each of the key structure plan themes. We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions to the identified tradeoffs and incorporate your advice and recommendations to the maximum extent possible.

To support our community as it works through these issues Council will:

- Prepare and provide information in a timely manner to support the Trentham Community Panel's deliberations.
- Listen, hear and consider the community's input with an open mind.
- Publish the Community Panel's recommendations on Council's engagement platform, Participate Hepburn.
- Report back on what we have heard from the Community Panel.
- Identify where the Panel's recommendations have influenced Council's thinking and provide an explanation for any recommendations that are not incorporated into the final draft Structure Plan for Trentham.

## Project timeline



# Session information

The primary responsibility of the Trentham Community Panel will be to work together to create a shared vision and objectives based on six key themes identified within the Trentham Conversation Starter for the township Structure Plan.

Community Panel members working together over three sessions during October and November to gain a deeper understanding of complex issues and finding a common ground on what you wish to recommend to Council. Panel members will be given time between sessions to access to information, talk with Council staff, hear from and ask questions of planning experts, to explore each of the Structure Plan's key themes.

## Session 1

Working together with the Trentham Community Panel, this session will lay the foundation for our work over the coming weeks. Coming away from this session each Panel member should have a clear understanding of the purpose and scope of the task they have been given. We will begin work on pulling together a shared vision for your township's Structure Plan.

**When:** Saturday 7 October, 9.30am to 12.30pm

**Venue:** Victoria Park, 3021 Ballan-Daylesford Road, Daylesford.

**Catering:** Morning tea and light refreshments provided.

## Session 2

Community Panel members will spend this session getting to know a lot more about each of the key structure plan themes. A number of technical studies have been completed or are underway, and participants will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of each of these. Any questions that can't be answered during this session will be answered before the final session.

**When:** Monday 16 October, 6.30pm to 8.30pm

**Venue:** Trentham Pavilion, 25 Falls Rd, Trentham.

**Catering:** Supper and light refreshments provided.



# Session 3

During this final session our consultants, Plan2Place who are drafting the township structure plans, will be present to work with participants to finalise the shared vision and an objective for each of the key themes. Any work developed during any of the sessions by the Community Panel that can inform the strategies and actions will be shared with Councillors, Council staff and all consultants working on the Future Hepburn projects. Councillors will also attend the final session to hear from participants, in their own words, about the vision and objectives they have developed for the Trentham Structure Plan.

**When:** Sunday 12 November, 9:30-12:30pm.

**Venue:** Trentham Pavilion, 25 Falls Rd, Trentham.

**Catering:** Morning tea and light refreshments provided.

## Venues



**Vic Park, Daylesford  
Session 1**



**Trentham Pavilion  
Sessions 2 and 3**



# Who will you be working with?



These sessions will be conducted by an external facilitator, Helen Jennings from Wayfarer Consulting. Helen's role is to support you in your discussions. Helen is a social planner who works with communities across Victoria specialising in all forms of community engagement, facilitation and strategic planning. She enjoys harnessing community knowledge to develop real and achievable local solutions to a range of issues and challenges. Prior to consulting Helen worked in a range of roles in local government, as a university tutor, a park ranger and a gardener. She lives in rural Victoria.

Your contact points within Council for any information or issues relating to your experience as a Community Panel Member are:



**Michelle Whyte**  
Engagement Specialist  
Mobile: 0438 184 248



**Andrew Littlejohn**  
Administration Officer  
Strategic Planning

**Contact email address:**  
[strategicplanning@hepburn.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@hepburn.vic.gov.au)

## Your recommendations

As a group, you are responsible for developing the vision and six key objectives for the Trentham Structure Plan. You will be expected to work collaboratively with the other participants within three workshops to ensure that the desired outcomes are achieved.

During the process, you and the other Community Panel members will consider the six key themes, the community engagement undertaken, and other technical reports carried out as part of the structure planning process.

Recommendations will be adopted by the Panel where there is over 75 percent agreement of the panel. After the three sessions are complete, Wayfarer Consulting will provide a report that will be presented to Councillors.

The report will provide a de-identified overview of the Trentham Community Panel composition, an overview of the activities undertaken and the findings from each activity, along with the agreed upon vision and key objectives.

Your recommendations will then be published by Council on the Future Hepburn project page on the Participate Hepburn community engagement platform. This is reflective of Council's promise to continue to communicate with the community and report back on what we have heard.

Council will consider the recommendations and provide feedback to the Panel about what recommendations will be included in the Structure Plan, and which ones will not. If the recommendations are not adopted, Council will provide feedback on why they have not been adopted and explain the reasons for their decision.

All input and ideas of the Trentham Community Panel, even that outside of the Vision and Objectives work, will be shared with Councillors, Council staff and external consultants to inform all elements of the Future Hepburn project. They will be used to inform project directions, content and other activities.



# Structure Plan Themes

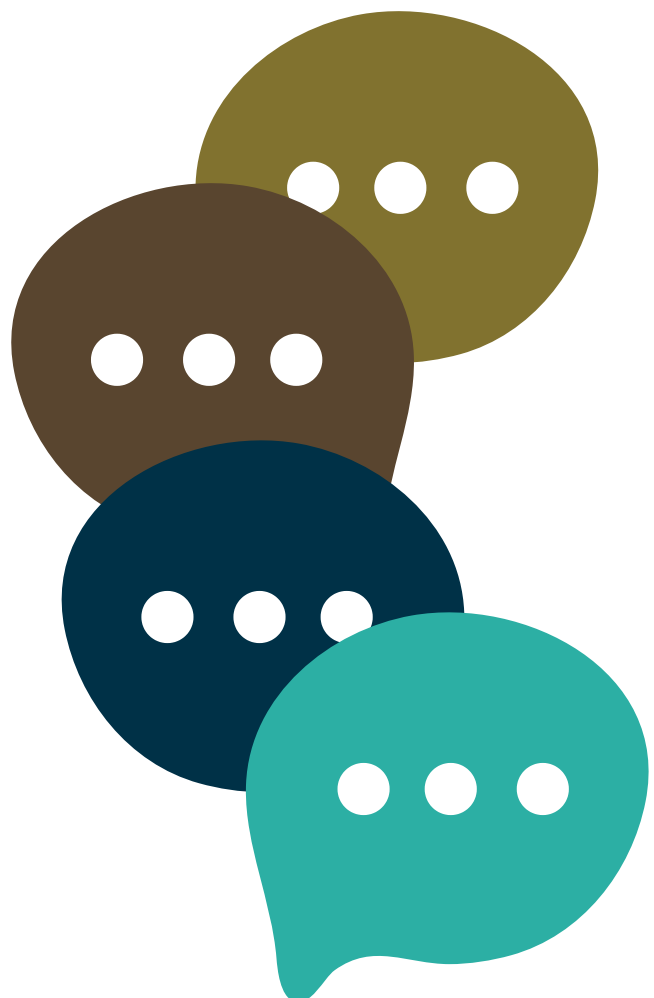
The voices of the Trentham community are integral to the planning process. Communities have lived experience, understood the changing environment and have opinions on the future of their township. Community engagement provides local knowledge that is key to the planning process.

The engagement process for the Trentham Structure Plan has been designed to give community members a range of opportunities to comment throughout the development of the Plan. During the initial phase, the Trentham Conversation Starter was created to share information about each key theme that was unique to Trentham.

In this section we will share some of the differing views shared by your community. You can find the Conversation Starter and the full engagement report on the Future Hepburn project page on Council's community engagement platform Participate Hepburn.

**Follow the QR code or click on the project link:**

<https://participate.hepburn.vic.gov.au/future-hepburn>



# Housing

"Developers, small block sizes & battle axe blocks are dramatically changing the population & community feel. People moving to Trentham attracted to smaller blocks (often weekenders) are unrealistic about rural life. They are often not here during the week & want very different facilities than permanent residents...we need more families to retain the community feel, support established services & clubs (& a pool of casual teenage employees) & they need family-sized homes not 350m blocks. Help us."

"Yes - sufficient water, lack of low cost housing (really only the St George units)- which is why some present objections to subdivision are just selfish. The population is aging +median gone up steadily over the decade to 58, 20+ older than Victoria), largely due to mostly well-off retirees having enough funds to afford a home."

"Do not change the restrictions on the development of rural land. Do not want to see housing developments placed on rurally zoned land!"





# Environment and heritage

"Should ensure the streetscape especially in the main street retains its quaint 'small town' and historic charm. Should ensure that the entrance to town from both Tylden and Daylesford retains a rural feel and larger block sizes."

"Heritage feel in main street. Minimal foot paths and softer curbs. Mixture of housing sizes. Rural feel. Connection to creeks and green spaces. (needs to be protected)."

"Keep the natural environment - indigenous plants wherever possible."

"Need to preserve some refuge areas for kangaroos and wallabies where they graze."



# Business and economy

"The lack of business diversity will see the town become just known for B&B stays and not serve the residents. With so many young families in town will we have enough things for them to do without having to travel long distances for sport and entertainment activities."

"Promote tourism within the existing commercial centre and provide for more opportunities for small scale local businesses to establish on vacant or underused sites within the town, promote opportunities for diverse, small businesses/food trucks/unique retail/distilleries etc."

"Inappropriate housing on small blocks, the need for suitable small houses. The need for businesses that serve the community not just tourists."

"I do not want expanded industry in Trentham town."

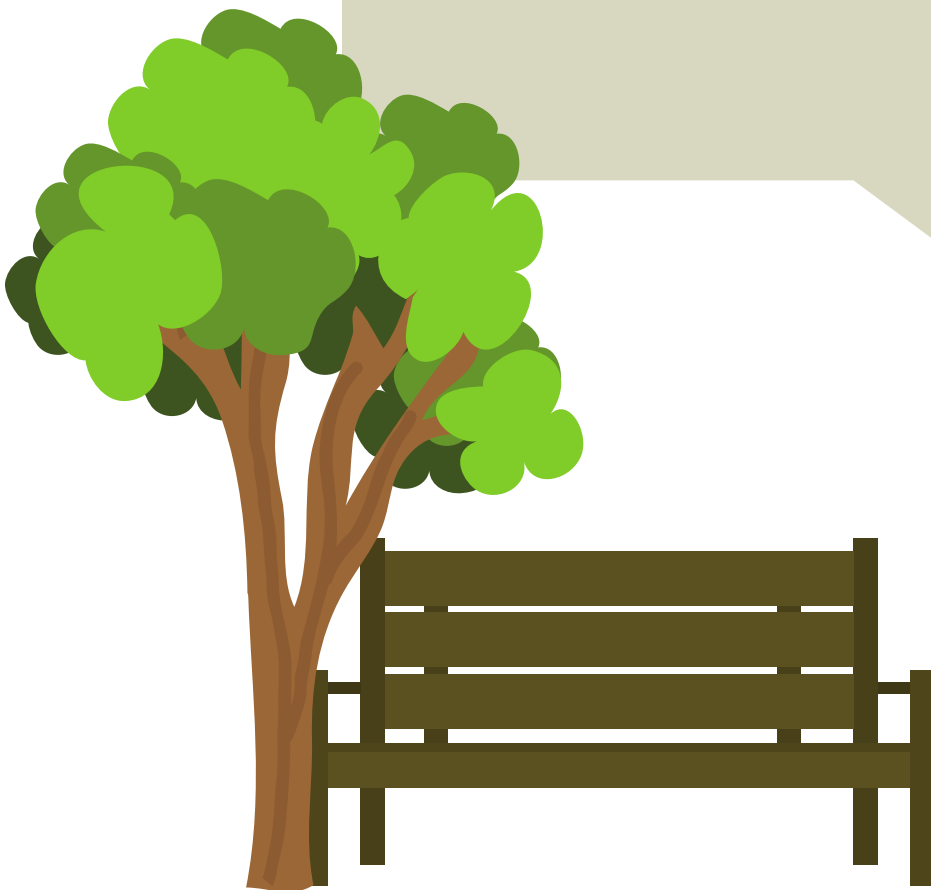


# Urban design

"The old wordly facades and appropriate landscaping around both residential and commercial properties."

"Vegetation, tree lined streets giving a more natural feel rather than just more concrete and bitumen."

"Building of new homes that do not reflect rural character and design. Example smaller blocks, no covenants on buildings by design.."



# Movement and access

## Parking

"I'd like to see less parking in the main street so as to free it up for pedestrians. Drivers often don't obey the road rules and do u turns in the main street or park in no parking zones making it difficult to see where you're trying to turn into and out of the main street. It has become particularly difficult turning into the main street from Cosmo Rd as cars regularly park beyond the designated parking spots making visibility difficult."

## Walking

"Better maintenance of walking tracks inside town after weather events. But don't concrete everywhere."

"Minimal footpaths except for Cosmo Road and near the Primary School side of town, so people have no option but to walk on the roads.."

## Cycling

"Build the proposed railtrail between Woodend and Daylesford. This is long overdue and the roads are not safe for cycling."

## Public Transport

"I realise that buses can't continue without sufficient passenger use. But more services from Trentham to the Woodend/Kyneton train would be great."





# Community and social assets

"Currently limited small meeting spaces (only neighbourhood house)."

"No arts and cultural facilities but large artist community."

"Playgrounds important for younger community, dog park has taken over playground space."

"Trentham has very little public art and the lack of it is disappointing. EV charging is needed as there currently isn't any for people visiting with electric vehicles. An RV waste dumping point is needed to make the township RV friendly and to attract these tourists. Overnight powered sites for RV's would also be extremely beneficial. A walking track to Trentham Falls should be a priority too."

"Toilets in Market Street need upgrading or replacing. Need more seats around the town centre and public spaces. Need more public spaces, eg Trent creek."



# Inputs into the Structure Plan

The Trentham Structure Plan has the following key inputs that are either completed or underway:

- Population and other key demographics
- Land use demand and supply
- Biodiversity Assessment
- Bushfire Assessment
- Shared Heritage Gap Analysis
- Neighbourhood Character and Urban Design Framework
- Urban Design Framework
- Cultural Values Assessment

The Trentham Structure Plan will be informed by the following engagements undertaken by Council:

- Trentham Structure Plan Engagement Report – June 2023
- Hepburn Together: Community Vision and Council Plan
- ACE Youth Strategy 2022-2030
- Affordable Housing: A Home in Hepburn Shire
- Sustainable Hepburn 2022-2026
- Rural Hepburn: Agricultural Land and Rural Settlement Strategy
- Integrated Transport Strategy.