

Hepburn Together, Deliberative Engagement, Update

Prepared for Date

Hepburn Shire Council
July 2021

Version

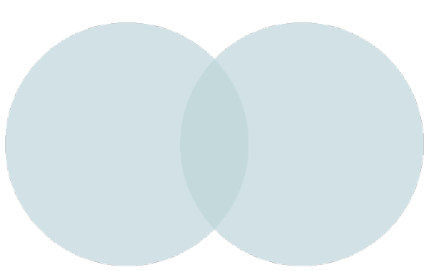

DRAFT 4.0


Author

Kate McRae
Projectura

Disclaimer

The information contained in this document produced by Projectura is for the exclusive use of the organisation for which it has been prepared. Projectura makes every attempt to ensure that all material is accurate and complete but recommends that readers exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use. Projectura has prepared this document in good faith and accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for or in respect of any use of or reliance upon this report by any third party. The information in this report is current as at the date of publication.





Hepburn Shire acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we live and work, the Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognise their ongoing connection to the land and waterways. We also recognise the many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members across the Shire who make up the vibrant communities to which our organisation provides services. Hepburn Shire pays respect to the wisdom of Elders, past, present, and emerging and shares a commitment to engaging communities with a spirit of reconciliation and respect.

Executive Summary

This deliberative engagement update provides participants in the Hepburn Shire Council Community Panel (the Panel) with details of how their recommendations have shaped the Community Vision and Council Plan.

Throughout the report Panel members will see each recommended priority statement has been listed as adopted, amended, or included.

Adopted recommendations will appear in their original form in the draft Council Plan as priority statements. Amended recommendations have been reworded or included as strategies in the draft Council Plan, and merged recommendations are those that have been joined due to similar content and meaning.

Panel members will have an opportunity to provide further feedback through the public exhibition process. An overview of the Panel's initial recommendations can be viewed in the blue box to the right of this page.

Council would once again like to extend our thanks to all Panel members for their time and effort in developing a Vision and Plan that will set the strategic direction of our Shire for the next 10 years.

Recommendations

Innovative and sustainable environment

Priority statement 1: Climate adapted and resilient carbon-free community by 2030.

Priority statement 2: Prioritise environmental management, protection, and regeneration.

Priority statement 3: Transition to ecologically sustainable and accountable tourism economy.

Healthy, supported and resilient community

Priority statement 4: Increase the diversity in housing stock (including house sizes) with appropriate land use to accommodate more affordable long-term housing within townships that conform with the character of the area.

Priority statement 5: Support and encourage the increase of local businesses with diverse offerings.

Priority statement 6: Increase the availability and accessibility of services in the Hepburn Shire area to support liveability, health and wellbeing.

Diverse economy and opportunity

Priority statement 7: Work towards attracting and retaining young people in our area through the provision of improved internet and education opportunities and employment pathways.

Priority statement 8: Develop and promote the circular economy to diversify our local economy and support our sustainability goals.

Priority statement 9: Advocate for improved internet infrastructure to support business, residents who work from home, students, and other citizens of the Hepburn Shire area.

Priority statement 10: Increasing opportunity through social enterprise and innovative business models for social and economic impact.

Embracing our past and planning for the future

Priority statement 11: Recognise, understand, celebrate and preserve Indigenous and long-standing culture and traditions of our area.

Priority statement 12: Protect and regenerate the natural resources of the Shire including soils, water and ecological systems, from both current and future threats.

Priority statement 13: Actively engage and involve youth of the Shire to provide opportunities for youth leadership and participation.

A dynamic and responsive Council that is representative, adaptable and viable

Priority statement 14: Harness community expertise.

Priority statement 15: Actively and regularly communicate to inform and engage our community of events and decision-making.

Introduction

Deliberative engagement

Panellists participated in three deliberative engagement sessions during April 2021:

- 15 April 2021 Session One: In-person deliberative engagement session.
- 19 April 2021 Session Two: Online workshop to refine and deliberate on proposed priority statements.
- 21 April 2021 Session Three: Online workshop (part 2) to refine and deliberate on proposed priority statements.

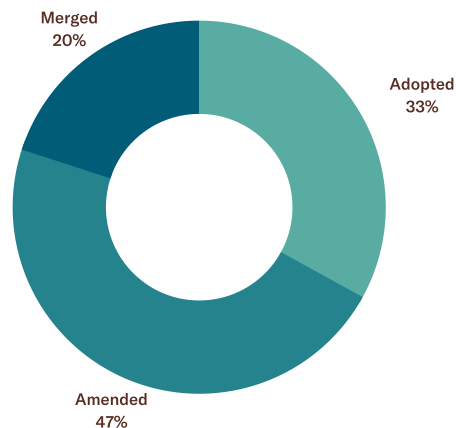
Through the deliberative engagement process participants developed 15 draft priority statements that were presented to Council as recommendations for their consideration in the development of the Community Vision and Council Plan.

Progress

Hepburn Shire Councillors, executive, leadership team and the Hepburn Together project control group have considered the recommendations of the panel. These recommendations were critical to the development of the draft Community Vision and Council Plan. Council was committed to working with the recommendations to the greatest extent possible.

This report contains a summary of the initial recommendations and whether they were adopted, amended or merged. Comments have also been included in order to explain Council's thinking in either adopting, amending or merging recommendations. A summary of the adopted, amended and merged priority statements can be seen in the image to the right of this page.

Summary of recommendations



Feedback

If you would like to provide feedback on this process, or the outcomes of the recommendations, please feel free to contact Michelle Whyte via email at mwhyte@hepburn.vic.gov.au.

Focus area 1: A resilient and sustainable environment

Overview

The vision statement for focus area 1 envisages a responsive, adaptive, and resilient community that addresses changes to our climate and biodiversity. Of the four priority statements included in the draft Council Plan, three were proposed by the Panel as recommendations. Two of those recommendations have been adopted, and one has been amended.

Table 1. Focus area 1

Focus area 1: Priority statement reconciliation				
Ref	Recommended priority statement	Adopted/ amended/ included	Revised or new statement	Comment
1.1	Climate adapted and resilient carbon-free community by 2030.	Amended	Adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change to reach net-zero community emissions by 2030.	Priority statement supported and amended to reflect climate change emergency declaration.
1.2	Prioritise environmental management, protection, and regeneration.	Adopted	Prioritise environmental management, protection, and regeneration.	Merged with original recommendation 3.2 as they were closely aligned.
1.3	Transition to ecologically sustainable and accountable tourism economy.	Adopted	Transition to ecologically sustainable and accountable tourism.	Removal of reference to economy as the word 'tourism' will capture all facets.

Focus area 2: A healthy, supported and empowered community

Overview

The vision statement for a healthy supported, and empowered community promotes a community that values connection, supports diversity, health, and wellbeing, and is inclusive of all people and their needs. Of the three recommendations provided by the Panel one recommendation has been adopted, one has been amended and the other has been merged with another aligned recommendation.

Table 2. Focus area 2

Focus area 2: Priority statement reconciliation				
Ref	Recommended priority statement	Adopted/amended/included	Revised or new statement	Comment
2.1	Increase the diversity in housing stock (including house sizes) with appropriate land use to accommodate more affordable long-term housing within townships that conform with the character of the area.	Amended	Support appropriate land use and accommodate more affordable long-term housing within townships that conform with the character of the area.	Re-worded for readability.
2.2	Support and encourage the increase of local businesses with diverse offerings.	Merged	Support and facilitate a diverse and innovative local economy that encourages an increase of businesses with diverse offerings to achieve positive social and economic impacts.	Moved to focus area 4 'Diverse economy and opportunity'. See priority statement 4.3 Merged with recommendation 4.3
2.2	Increase the availability and accessibility of services in the Hepburn Shire area to support liveability, health, and wellbeing.	Adopted	N/A	N/A

Focus area 3: Embracing our past and planning for the future

Overview

The community's vision for embracing the past and planning for the future encompasses the acknowledgement and empowerment of the Traditional owners and other cultures of our area to protect our historical roots while planning for future generations. Of the three recommendations made by the Panel, one has been amended and two have been merged with strongly aligned recommendation in different focus areas. Additional priority statements included to reflect strategic planning schedule for land use, and infrastructure requirements.

Table 3. Focus area 3

Focus area 3: Priority statement reconciliation				
Ref	Recommended priority statement	Adopted/ amended/ included	Revised statement	Comment
3.1	Recognise, understand, celebrate and preserve Indigenous and long-standing culture and traditions of our area.	Amended	Partner with and empower our Traditional Owners and broader community to acknowledge, understand, celebrate and preserve our area's culture, traditions, and environs.	Rewording of terminology with the priority statement updated to refer to Traditional Owners and focus on Council action to partner and empower Traditional Owners alongside community action.
3.2	Protect and regenerate the natural resources of the Shire including soils, water and ecological systems, from both current and future threats.	Merged	N/A	Very similar to priority statement 1.2. The two priority statements have been merged.
3.3	Actively engage and involve youth of the Shire to provide opportunities for youth leadership and participation.	Merged	N/A	Priority statement better suited under Focus area 4 'Diverse economy and opportunity'. See priority statement 4.1.

Focus area 4: Diverse economy and opportunity

Overview

The resilient and diverse economy envisaged by Hepburn citizens is one that will support the community's aspirations by providing opportunity for citizens. Of the four recommendations made by the Panel two were amended, one was adopted, and one was included in the draft as a strategy and two were amended.

Table 4. Focus area 4

Focus area 4: Priority statement reconciliation				
Ref	Recommended priority statement	Adopted/ amended/ included	Revised statement	Comment
4.1	Work towards attracting and retaining young people in our area through the provision of improved internet and education opportunities and employment pathways.	Amended	Work towards attracting and retaining young people in our area through the provision of improved digital connectivity, education opportunities, employment pathways and leadership opportunities.	Priority statement merged with initial recommendation 3.3. Rewording of internet to 'digital connectivity'. Inclusion of term leadership opportunities to include leadership opportunities from recommendation 3.3.
4.2	Develop and promote the circular economy to diversify our local economy and support our sustainability goals.	Amended	N/A	Statement has been included as a strategy in the draft plan at 1.1.8 'Review waste services to ensure alignment with the State Government's new Circular Economy program.
4.2	Advocate for improved internet infrastructure to support business, residents who work from home, students, and other citizens of the Hepburn Shire area.	Adopted	N/A	N/A
4.3	Increasing opportunity through social enterprise and innovative business models for social and economic impact.	Amended	Support and facilitate a diverse and innovative local economy that encourages an increase in local businesses with diverse offerings to achieve positive social and economy impacts.	Merged 4.3 and 2. 2. The wording has been expanded to be more inclusive of all types of business.

Focus area 5: A dynamic and responsive Council

Overview

The vision for a dynamic and responsive Council envisions Council and the community partnering to achieve their aspirations through excellent communication and engagement, the delivery of effective services, strong financial management and governance. Of the two recommendations provided by the Panel one was adopted and one was amended.

Table 5. Focus area 4

Focus area 4: Priority statement reconciliation				
Ref	Recommended priority statement	Adopted /amended/included	Revised statement	Comment
5.1	Harness community expertise.	Adopted	N/A	N/A
5.2	Actively and regularly communicate to inform and engage our community of events and decision-making.	Amended	Actively communicate, inform and engage with our community about events and decision-making.	Reworded for readability



Hepburn Shire Council | PO Box 21, Daylesford, VIC, 3460 | hepburn.vic.gov.au