



Attachment 2 to Item 4.3.2

Hawkesbury Town and Villages Place Plans

Date of meeting: 12 March 2024

Location: Council Chambers

Time: 6:30 p.m.



Plans prepared by:



HAWKESBURY TOWN & VILLAGES PLACE PLANS

NOVEMBER 2023



hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au





STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO FIRST NATIONS PEOPLES

Council acknowledges the Dharug and Darkinjung peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout the Hawkesbury.

Council recognises the continuing connection of First Nations people to their Country and respects the cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of this land.



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Disclaimer: Information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (November 2023).



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A PLAN TO 'BUILD BACK BETTER'

The purpose of this Place Plans report is to strengthen place resiliency in town and village centres, now and into the future.

Place Plans aim to enhance sense of community in Hawkesbury village centres so they are resilient against future adversity, empower collective action from all residents, support those most vulnerable, are economically vibrant and prosperous and are authentic places loved by locals and welcoming to tourists.

This report outlines how village centres can invest in and enshrine place resiliency in their DNA.



PROJECT BACKGROUND

Place resilience is critical in minimising the effect of natural disasters and contributes to community place recovery. Additional long-term benefits of investing in place resiliency in the Hawkesbury are:

- Improved resiliency infrastructure;
- Improved access to community services alongside disaster preparedness.
- Cherished and well-utilised Village Centres;
- Enhanced community spaces;
- Expanded social communication and collaboration; and
- Increased social connectedness

Following the bushfire and flood seasons of 2019–2020 and 2021–2022, the Australian Commonwealth announced Recovery Grants for affected areas, originally focusing on bush fires, including those in the Hawkesbury. The purpose of the Grants was to improve resiliency in local areas by investing in safety, community and fire protection infrastructure.

Hawkesbury Council has commissioned this report to outline how the community can attain these benefits in the bushfire and flooding affected village centres. From there, this report scoped a blue-print for town centres that identifies key projects that could be implemented in the short-term as well as strategies for long-term investment.

In doing so, this project has aligned with local community need, Resilient Sydney and Reconstruction Authority priorities to ensure community needs are met when investing in resilient services and that future development considers the place character and local values unique to each Centre.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Building and maintaining engaged communities is a priority for resiliency, so Hawkesbury Council has partnered with local community groups to define how to 'build back better'. Community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present), community engagement forums (2022) and the public exhibition of the Place Plans 24 May – 21 June 2023. Council has worked in partnership with the emergency services, State and Federal government agencies, charities and others to deliver assistance through the following means:

- Listening Posts
- Community Engagement Forums
- Town Centre
- Town Centre Care Factor Surveys
- Town Centre Place Experience Surveys
- Online Engagement Surveys

PLACE PLANS

This document features co-created place plans which showcases future-focused ideas for improving and enhancing sense of place in each Centre. Each plan has considered existing conditions in terms of community need, character and opportunities and challenges for future resiliency. The project methodology utilises case studies of global resilient villages to enrich each place with best practice ideas.

Common features of each place plan include:

- Identified lands for protection from encroaching development;
- Identified lands for sensitive infill development;
- Key view protections;
- Improved functionality of meeting spaces;
- New recreation amenities including hiking and walking trails to National Parks;
- New or improved regional cycle links;
- Improved open space amenities;
- Improved road safety and decreased vehicle speeds;
- Improved pedestrian and cycling infrastructure;
- Ideas for temporary / pop-up activities; and
- Placemaking enhancements including murals and markets showcasing local farmers.

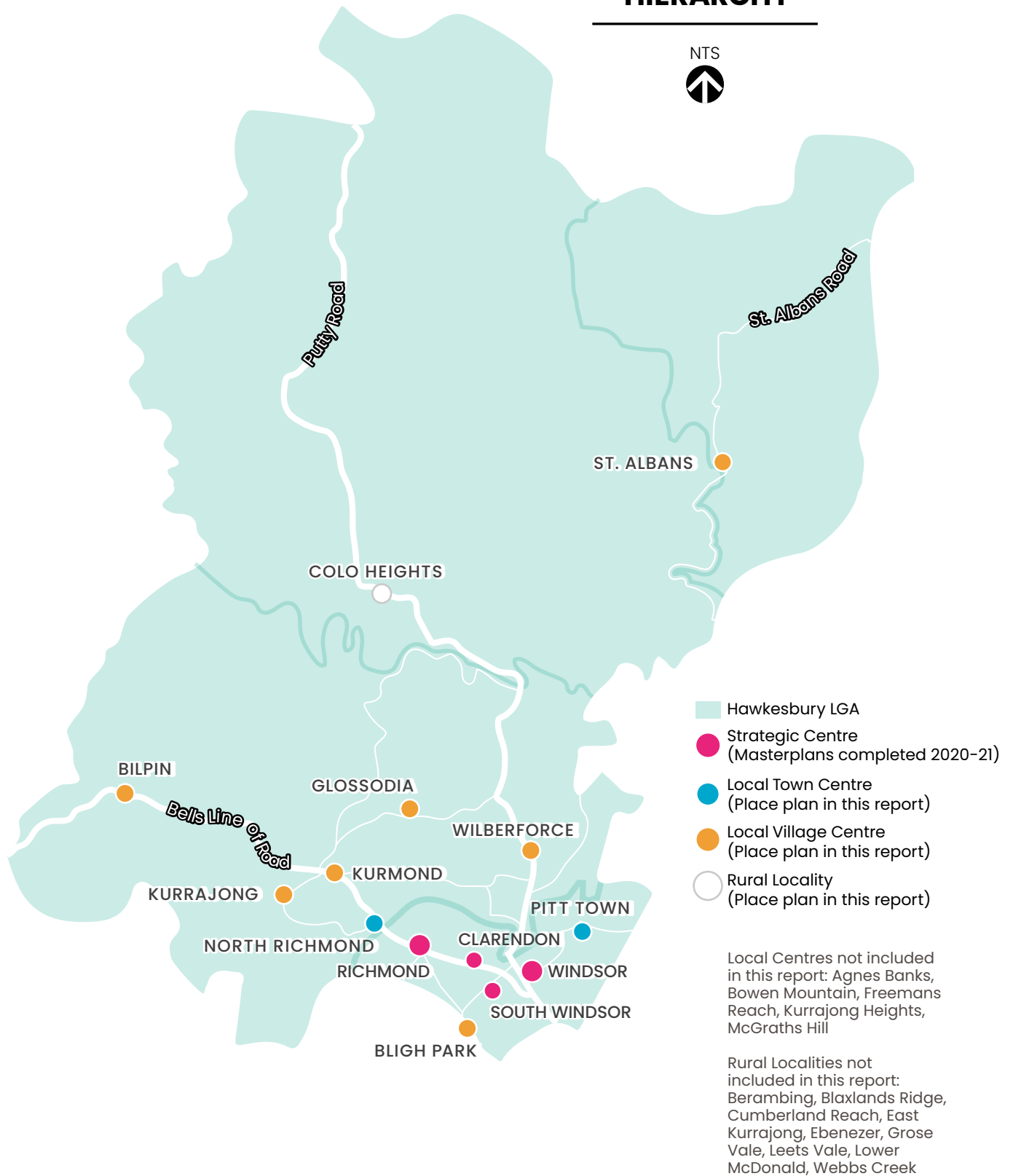


INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO THE HAWKESBURY VILLAGES & TOWNS

Located 50 kilometres from Sydney's Central Business District, the Hawkesbury LGA is located at Sydney's outer north west fringe. The area takes its name from the Hawkesbury River, which is a significant waterway flowing through the region and underpins the LGA's identity. With an estimated population of 66,623 (2017 ERP), its population is largely dispersed across over 60 small towns and villages, each with unique characteristics. The map to the right shows the Council's Settlement Hierarchy Map to distinguish between locations of 'villages' and 'towns.'

HAWKESBURY LGA SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

INVESTING IN PLACE RESILIENCE

Town and village centres are the heart of our regional communities and their future is critical to our shared values and ability to collectively respond to crises.

The Hawkesbury community needs to be prepared for shock events such as heatwaves, storms and cyber-attacks. The purpose of this report is to strengthen place resiliency in town and village centres to face future shocks.

Council has commissioned this report to outline how Hawkesbury town and village centres can institute resiliency into their DNA through strategic planning, economic development and urban design.

Strategically, this project aligns with the Resilient Sydney program to build the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive in the face of chronic stresses and acute shocks.

Locally, it aligns with the following key priorities outlined in the Community Strategic Plan:

- 1.1 Encourage a shared responsibility for community resilience, community safety and disaster management
- 1.3 Increase the range of local partnerships and plan for the future
- 1.5 Provide the right places and spaces to serve our community
- 1.6 Build on a sense of community and wellbeing
- 1.7 Encourage broad and rich celebration of our local culture and significant heritage
- 2.2 Value, protect, and enhance our natural land-based environment with an emphasis on using local resources and key partnerships
- 3.2 Increase the range of local industry opportunities and provide effective support to continued growth
- 3.3 Promote our community as the place to visit, work and invest.
- 3.4 Support the revitalisation of our town centres and growth of our business community
- 3.5 Celebrate our creativity and cultural expression
- 4.4 Build strong relationships and shared responsibilities



GLOBAL

- UN– Habitat III – The New Urban Agenda (2017)
- UN – The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015)
- UN – Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction (2015)



NATIONAL

- Places for People – An Urban Protocol for Australian Cities (2011)
- Smart Cities Plan (2016)
- National Bushfire Recovery Agency Funding (2020)



STATE

- New South Wales State Flood Plan (2018)
- Planning for Bush Fire Protection (2019)
- Urban Design Guide for Regional NSW (2020)
- Local Character and Place Guideline (2019)
- Public Spaces Charter (2020)
- Draft Design and Place SEPP (2021)

Regionally, the Greater Sydney Region Plan and associated District Plan envisions Sydney as a metropolis of three cities and predicts the Hawkesbury LGA population to grow from around 67,000 people (in 2016) to just over 85,000 people in 20 years. The Plan also identifies a growing tourism opportunity focused on history and rural character.

Hawkesbury is growing, inequity is rising and infrastructure and services lagging. Council is adopting a resilience approach in strategic planning processes and operational plans. Engaging communities in these issues will support integrated planning for resilience in economic development, employment opportunities, education, integrated transport, infrastructure, services and technology.

MEETING RESIDENT NEEDS

To be resilient we need to include communities in the decision making that shapes their lives. By doing so residents can better connect to where they live, jobs and opportunities for flourishing. Therefore, decision making must address community stresses and meet resident needs. A village centre rich in resiliency assets and loved by the community is critical to this effort. This report has been put together through a community outreach and collaboration process and features key community priorities for improving local resiliency and placemaking.

PLACE PLANNING

Celebrating local character is critical to the Hawkesbury village's place resiliency, as it is what makes the area distinctive. It is the translation of land use and built form, the local economy, public realm and private spaces and the tradition and history of cultures, linked to individual places. Celebrating unique character alongside practical investment in resilient infrastructure can ensure Hawkesbury villages are equipped to tackle future adversity and shocks.



WESTERN SYDNEY

- A Metropolis of Three Cities – Greater Sydney Region Plan (2017)
- Western City District Plan (2018)
- Resilient Sydney (2018)
- Western Sydney City Deal (2019)



LGA

- LSPS (2020)
- Community Strategic Plan (2017–2042)
- Place Score (2018)
- Hawkesbury Housing Strategy (2019)
- Resilient Valley, Communities (2017)
- Rural Lands Strategy (2021)
- Employment Lands Strategy (2021)
- Net Zero Emissions & Water Efficiency (2021)
- Destination Management Plan (2022)
- Environmental Sustainability Strategy (2022)
- Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan (2023)
- Urban Greening Strategy (2023)



HAWKESBURY VIBRANT TOWNS & VILLAGES

- Windsor, Richmond, South Richmond Town Centre Masterplan and Public Domain Plan (2020)
- Big Ideas For Our Future (2020)
- This Report (2023)

// A resilient place and community is one that works together to understand and manage the risks that it confronts

- Australian National Strategy for Disaster Resilience

//





WHAT IS COMMUNITY RESILIENCY?

OVERVIEW

According to the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience as well as the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, community resilience is the ability of a community to use its assets and networks to withstand and recover from adversity (e.g., economic stress, pandemic, man-made or natural disaster). Community resilience aids a community in (1) preventing, withstanding and mitigating adversity; (2) recovering sufficiently; and (3) using legacy knowledge to strengthen future preparedness. By conducting capacity-building activities, communities can improve their ability to withstand and recover from disasters.

HAWKESBURY TOWNS AND VILLAGES ARE VULNERABLE

Bushfires and flooding in the Hawkesbury can cause significant property damage and loss of human and animal life. For example, bushfire severity is increasing; the 2019–20 season saw 50% of the LGA burnt, prompting a state of emergency. It is estimated that days with severe fire danger rating will increase by 30 to 70% by 2030. Community resilience is critical in minimising the effect of these disasters and contributes to a quicker, more effective response.

WHY FOCUS ON ‘PLACE PLANNING’ FOR TOWN AND VILLAGE CENTRES?

A CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL IDENTITY IS CRITICAL TO SOCIAL COHESION AND RESILIENCY

Town and village centres, more than any other place in the community, can bring people together to hold meetings, share knowledge, co-create and develop a shared identity. These places can be re-purposed buildings, civic open spaces, a main street or created by partnering with local businesses.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Research from the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience suggests key benefits of enabling place resilience include:

1. CHERISHED AND WELL-UTILISED TOWN AND VILLAGE CENTRES

A village centre that is invested in and represents local character enables it to become a community focal point loved by the community.

2. ENHANCED COMMUNITY SPACES

Physical spaces to meet and communicate is critical to building resiliency.

3. EXPANDED SOCIAL COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION

A resilient village or town centre is more likely to build social networks to include social services, behavioural health, community organisations, business, academia, at-risk individuals and institutional stakeholders in addition to traditional emergency management partners. Effective networks can share expertise and knowledge; build better plans; enable collaboration and coordination. People who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of disasters need to be linked to these networks.

4. INCREASED SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS AND 'SENSE OF COMMUNITY'

People are more empowered to help one another after a major disturbance in communities in which members are regularly involved in each other's lives.

5. IMPROVED ACCESS TO COMMUNITY SERVICES ALONGSIDE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Information and education that involve public health, emergency preparedness and community resilience interventions located within accessible locations can help people face everyday challenges as well as major disruptions or disasters.



PIGEONHOLE
ERICA BRAC GIFTS
HOMEWARES
LOLLIES & SWEETS

WHAT THE COMMUNITY SAYS

CONSULTATION PROCESS

Hawkesbury Council has been working with local community groups to define what the future of each village and town centre will look like. Recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present) community forums (August–September 2022) and the Public Exhibition of Place Plans (24 May–21 June 2023). For example, priority improvement ideas from the Place Score Report are summarised below:

Top 10 priorities cross all town centres	
#1	Maintenance of public spaces and street furniture
#2	Things to do in the evening (shopping, dining, entertainment etc.)
#3	Evidence of recent public events happening here (markets, street entertainers, festivals etc.)
#4	Cleanliness of public space
#5	Outdoor restaurant, cafe and/or bar seating
#6	Elements of the natural environment (views, vegetation, topography, water etc.)
#7	Evidence of recent public investment (new planting, paving, street furniture etc.)
#8	Amenities and facilities (toilets, water bubblers, parents rooms etc.)
#9	Vegetation and natural elements (street trees, planting, water etc.)
#10	Evidence of community activity (community gardening, art, fundraising etc.)

Source: Place Score Report (2018)

Council has worked in partnership with the emergency services, State and Federal government agencies, charities and the private sector to receive community feedback through the following means:

- 1. Listening Posts**
- 2. Community Engagement Forums**
- 3. Town Centre Care Factor Surveys**
- 4. Town Centre Place Experience Surveys**
- 5. Online Engagement Surveys**

Relevant outcomes from these sessions have been summarised and included in each town/village centre place plan (and outlined to the right). These outcomes sit alongside strategic alignment from all tiers of government.



A.

RETOOL BUSHFIRE & FLOOD READINESS

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

- Improved water storage capability
- Fire resistance upgrades to community halls
- Investment in renewable energy and storage capabilities
- Bushfire and/or flooding signage replacement that was recently damaged

B.

ENHANCE COMMUNITY SPACE & SENSE OF PLACE



SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

- Multi-age playground and recreation facilities
- Outdoor space for communal gatherings
- Community generated public art feature/s
- Oval improvements in each Centre
- AV equipment community meetings
- Celebrate unique heritage and enhance 'village vibe' for each Centre
- Institute civic heart for each village, whether a community hall or public green space.



C.

IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY, PEDESTRIAN AMENITY, SIGNAGE & PARKING

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS

- Manage parking areas
- Improved pedestrian amenities and crossings
- Improve village street and pedestrian connectivity
- Institute 40-50km/hr speed limit in the Villages
- Improved signage warning drivers to slow down through the village

VISION & GOALS

RESILIENT PLACES RICH IN CHARACTER

This report is underpinned by a vision articulated in the Community Strategic Plan. It states:

// We see the Hawkesbury as a vibrant and collaborative community living in harmony with our history and environment, whilst valuing our diversity, striving for innovation, a strong economy and retaining our lifestyle and identity.

//

PLACE-BASED VALUES



ECONOMIC

HERITAGE



ENVIRONMENT

SOCIAL



WHAT WE'RE AIMING TO ACHIEVE

We aim to enhance sense of community in our town and village centres so they are economically vibrant, resilient places loved by locals and welcoming to tourists. Town and village centres will be destinations for community gathering to increase social cohesion and collaboration and be equipped with practical resiliency infrastructure to enable collective action against future adversity and disaster. Town and village centres will welcome the whole community and support those most vulnerable to adversity.

// When you plant public space, you harvest public health

- Gretta Louw, with Munich Culture Department

//



KEY REGIONAL QUALITIES



BEAUTIFUL, NATURAL SETTING & ENVIRONMENT

The Hawkesbury is defined by its natural environment. National Parks with rugged topography, natural bushland, animal life, waterways and rural hinterlands create a beautiful setting with rich biodiversity. The sensitivity of the landscape demands a sensitive, sustainable approach to growth and change. The protection and celebration of the natural environment is a key local value.



BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST BUSHFIRES & FLOODS

Bushfires and flooding in the Hawkesbury are a regular occurrence that have shaped the nature of the region. Flora and fauna have evolved to thrive here, however natural disasters can cause significant property damage and loss of human and animal life. Because of climate change, bushfire severity is increasing; the 2019-20 season saw 50% of the LGA burnt, prompting a state of emergency. It is estimated that days with severe fire danger rating will increase by 30 to 70% by 2030.



DISPERSED, UNIQUE SETTLEMENTS

Hawkesbury settlements are dispersed across the LGA, typically along mountain ridge or river valley corridors. The rugged landscape has meant these communities are relatively isolated, resulting in distinctive character reflecting different heritage, landscape, amenity, tourism, employment, accessibility and people. Challenges include access to major centres and services, distribution of resources and effective public transport.



LIVING ABORIGINAL CULTURE & A COLONIAL PAST

For 60,000+ years, the traditional owners of the Hawkesbury area land are the Dharug and Darkinjung people. Today, the region contains over 200 recorded Aboriginal sites which have been identified for their ongoing cultural significance, including rock shelters, camp sites and paintings. Colonial heritage in the area is also exceptional, from a Georgian town square and Australia's oldest church to a convict-hewn sandstone pub, a World Heritage Site and a pioneer village of 19th century buildings.



BURGEONING TOURISM CORRIDORS

In 2016, visitation to the region was 1.1m, with expected increases up to 1.8m by 2027. The region is a recognised food bowl and is a historic and cultural destination. As such, there is recognition that tourism needs to be a larger part of future economic growth, fuelling the creation of a Regional Strategic Alliance with neighbouring Councils and the Western Sydney Visitor Economy Strategy by Destination NSW.



RELAXED, RURAL LIFESTYLE

The Hawkesbury is known for its lifestyle benefits; villages and towns surrounded by natural bushland and rural landscapes, away from the hustle of metropolitan Sydney. It is a place that offers diverse recreational opportunities, including but not limited to swimming, fishing, boating, kayaking, bushwalking, rock climbing and hobby farms. The Hawkesbury's lifestyle attracts two key household types: families with young children and retirees.

RESILIENT PLACE FEATURES

Benchmarking case studies of smaller resilient villages and towns was completed to identify shared traits that the Hawkesbury can learn from.

1. PRESERVES RURAL CHARACTER & LIFESTYLE



The Hawkesbury towns and villages can aim to celebrate their rural, pastoral identity and don't look to hinder these valued traits. This means protecting cherished views, hill-top lookouts and pastoral lands from encroaching development and instead focusing development close to small village centres. The place values can be of "nature, passion, creativity and community" and aim to live more fully by connecting to nature.

2. IN-PERSON MEETING SPACES



A resilient place would be committed to common goals by working with each other and local authorities. Doing so successfully starts with utilising and modernising meeting spaces in village centres to provide the physical space for community members to meet, get to know each other and raise awareness about local issues.

3. CELEBRATES CULTURAL & HERITAGE ROOTS



Place heritage would be celebrated in a resilient place. Local art, storytelling, history tours and events are common ways this is currently or can be done. Many small towns or villages across Australia now promote reconciliation programs that connects kids with local Aboriginal elders, community members and celebrated local Indigenous history and ways of life.

4. REGIONAL TOURIST INFRASTRUCTURE



A village centre can function as a 'starting point' for tourists coming to a larger region, often by car or bus. A visitor centre is often embedded into villages and orients tourists looking for activities in the nearby National Parks, such as glow worm caves, farm stays, hikes, craft breweries, wineries, galleries, festivals, camping, glamping and more.

RESILIENT PLACE FEATURES

5. SPECIALISED FOOD, ARTS & RECREATION



Resilient places would appeal to diverse user groups with well-known food destinations, arts shops and craft stores, opportunities for recreation and includes festivals celebrating local identity. The local Savour the Flavour Festival is an excellent example that provides a showcase for the talents of local people involved and a cultural activity that promotes community togetherness

6. DIVERSE & ATTRACTIVE MAIN STREET



IMAGE CREDIT: The Haverty Group

Towns and village centres are places of pride and present themselves in a welcoming manner. This means well kept public space and attractive shops and buildings. Shops function best when they are clustered into a small walkable core where visitors can easily park their car nearby and walk around, popping into shops and cafes. In the case studies, Main Street lengths vary from 270-790m long. The more diverse the offering, the better, as a broad mix of shops attracts a larger range of residents and visitors. Also, resilient places would feature a small cluster of shops and services on smaller lots. Serenbe in Georgia, USA does this particularly well with its charming, focused village centre and has become a regional draw for the famous Blue Eyed Daisy Bakeshop.

7. GREENS, GARDENS OR AGRICULTURE



IMAGE CREDIT: John Mongard Landscape Architects

Town and village centres can be platforms for community gatherings and exchange. It is where residents go to discuss important matters or hold festivals and markets. For this to flourish, villages have defined village squares, community gardens or amenity-rich park space at their centre. Tamborine Mountain in Queensland, Australia understands this, recently transforming their Main Street's open space into the Village Greens, which features seating, heritage features and environmental plantings alongside sculptures of local native animals.

8. WALKABLE, CONNECTED STREET NETWORK



IMAGE CREDIT: Forbes Magazine

Village life can revolve around a pedestrian atmosphere. Circulation of pedestrians along village main streets is particularly critical to the lifeblood of local shops and vital for a sense of vibrancy. Folks need to be in control of their visit through visible signage, easy access and visible cues to assist them in finding key points of interest. This also means wide footpaths and shorter block lengths with many street, trail and laneway connections, both internally and externally. In Serenbe, Georgia, USA, its block structure features 1 intersection every 120m, keeping pedestrian connectivity and accessibility high, and car speed slow. Narrow streets are also an important feature of walkable villages, particularly along the Main Street. Serenbe's Main Street street width is approximately 16.5m, wide enough as a 2-way traffic street with on-street parking on both sides and 2.5m footpaths.

RESILIENT PLACE FEATURES

9. COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS NEAR EACH OTHER



Image Credit: Denisbin user, Flickr

Town and village life can include community anchors and institutions within walking distance of each other, woven into the urban fabric that hold a community together. Common institutions have traditionally included attractors such as churches, community centres, schools, theatres, places of employment or destination retail or restaurants. Yackandandah in regional Victoria, Australia has numerous churches and schools in the village centre which provide a sense of history and community and ensure a constant flow of residents to the village from the hinterlands.

10. WELL MANAGED, SHARED PARKING



Map Data: Google Earth

Car parking is an ongoing challenge in towns and villages, but one that can be successfully catered for. In Serenbe, GA, USA, a balance of short-term, medium-term and long-term parking is considered, both for residents and shop staff. On-street parking is provided for quicker trips whereas shared, larger car parks are provided for longer visits and to accommodate big events in the village. Critically, the large car parks have been built on the edge of the village, hidden out of sight from the Main Street. This ensures car parking does not hinder the village's charm which continues as a pedestrian-oriented atmosphere.

11. CONNECTED TO NATURE



IMAGE CREDIT: Enjoyaus.com

Each town and village centre can celebrate their natural setting by limiting development in neighbouring rural lands and connecting to area reserves via walking or hiking tracks. In this way, a village centre acts as the beginning and end of tracks that attracts thrill seekers. The new Rainforest Skywalk in Tamborine Mountain, Queensland is an excellent example of an eco-adventure walk that offers guests a unique and thrilling way to explore the beautiful rainforest canopies and learn of its important biodiversity.

12. 'FLEXIBLE' ARCHITECTURE



IMAGE CREDIT: Container Build Group Pty Ltd

'Flexible' architecture is a great way to activate small towns and villages that don't currently feature permanent shop fronts. Mobile cafes, food trucks or shipping containers can easily be moved in and out of each village for events or Council could lease a space on a rolling basis.



BILPIN

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Bilpin will maintain its nature-based, informal character and rural lifestyle. With distinctive views to surrounding landscapes, the settlement's productive orchards and agricultural uses combined with its community assets will persist. Incremental infill will reflect the current built form character, displaying natural and rustic material palettes. The village centre will increase amenities for tourists and be a destination for adventure recreation. Improved local amenities and services will help anchor the settlement and meet the daily needs of the community, ensuring that people have a village centre they are proud of.



WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present) and community engagement forums (2022).

Outlined below are what community members love most about the area:

- Open green spaces, peaceful, friendly, and country town atmosphere
- Low density population, quiet and secluded
- Clean air and cool climate, unique agricultural area
- Bush land visible and bush walks
- No high rise building and over development
- Surrounding national parks and natural environment (the farms and orchards and the wildlife.)
- Great sense of community, peaceful and tranquillity
- Close to Sydney but a great rural vibe
- Accessibility to local farms for local and fresh produce
- Fruit farms and day visitors

Outlined below are priorities (in order) raised by the community through the outreach process:

- Road safety and management
- Protecting the natural environment
- Maintaining the look and feel of the area
- Increasing tourist, and hospitality options
- Enhancing open spaces and parks
- Supporting diversity of housing
- Enhancing community services
- Enabling the provision of arts and cultural activities
- Protecting Aboriginal and Colonial history and heritage
- Developing and supporting the local economy

Outlined below are specific concerns for the Village Centre raised by the community:

- Designated parking spaces on both sides of the Bells Line of Road outside The Grumpy Baker.
- Reduce speed limit to 50km in the Village.
- Improved pedestrian crossings across Bells Line of Road, notably around Grumpy Baker.
- Designated and marked Bus Stop outside the Telstra Tower with a bus shelter on both sides of the road for school children.
- Pedestrian refuges between The Grumpy Baker and Post Office and near Bilpin Springs Road close to the Public School.
- Improved safety signage at the ends of the Village Centre to warn motorists entering the Precinct of increased pedestrian foot traffic.
- No stopping zone on Bells Line of Road at Hanlons Road South and North.
- Designated right turn lanes into the Bilpin Hall, Mountain Lagoon Road and Hanlons Road North/South.
- Marked resident driveways.
- "No Through Road" signs for applicable roads.
- Upgrade facilities to Bilpin Oval including walking and cycling, signage, fencing, lighting, irrigation, native planting, shade, off leash dog areas and water features.
- Improve information maps and signage.
- Add community gardens.
- Add water storage, AV equipment, generators and fire resistance to District Hall



01. Bilpin District Hall



02. Bilpin Oval

EXISTING CHERISHED COMMUNITY ASSETS



03. Pigeonhole



04. Public School



05. Grumpy Baker



06. Springs Orchard

BILPIN PLACE PLAN

- | | |
|--|---|
| New Hiking Trail | New/existing Shared Path |
| Existing Bus Stop | New Regional Cycle Route |
| Existing Park | Orchards |
| Key Civic Area | Village Residential Areas |
| Maintained Public Parking | National Park |
| New Public Parking | New/Upgraded Public Toilets |
| Existing Destination | New Visitor Information Board |
| Proposed Road/Intersection Safety Upgrades | Proposed New Project/Idea (from research) |
| | Proposed New Idea (from Community) |

OVAL + PLAYGROUND

PARKS PRECINCT

Viewing
Platform

i

Bilpin

Community garden

Orchard
Picking



no change
to rural
landscape

Orchard
Picking

SCHOOL + PLAYGROUND

DISTRICT HALL EVENT SPACE

Wollemi
National Park

Water Storage Tanks

Events & Markets

Message Board

BELLS LINE OF ROAD

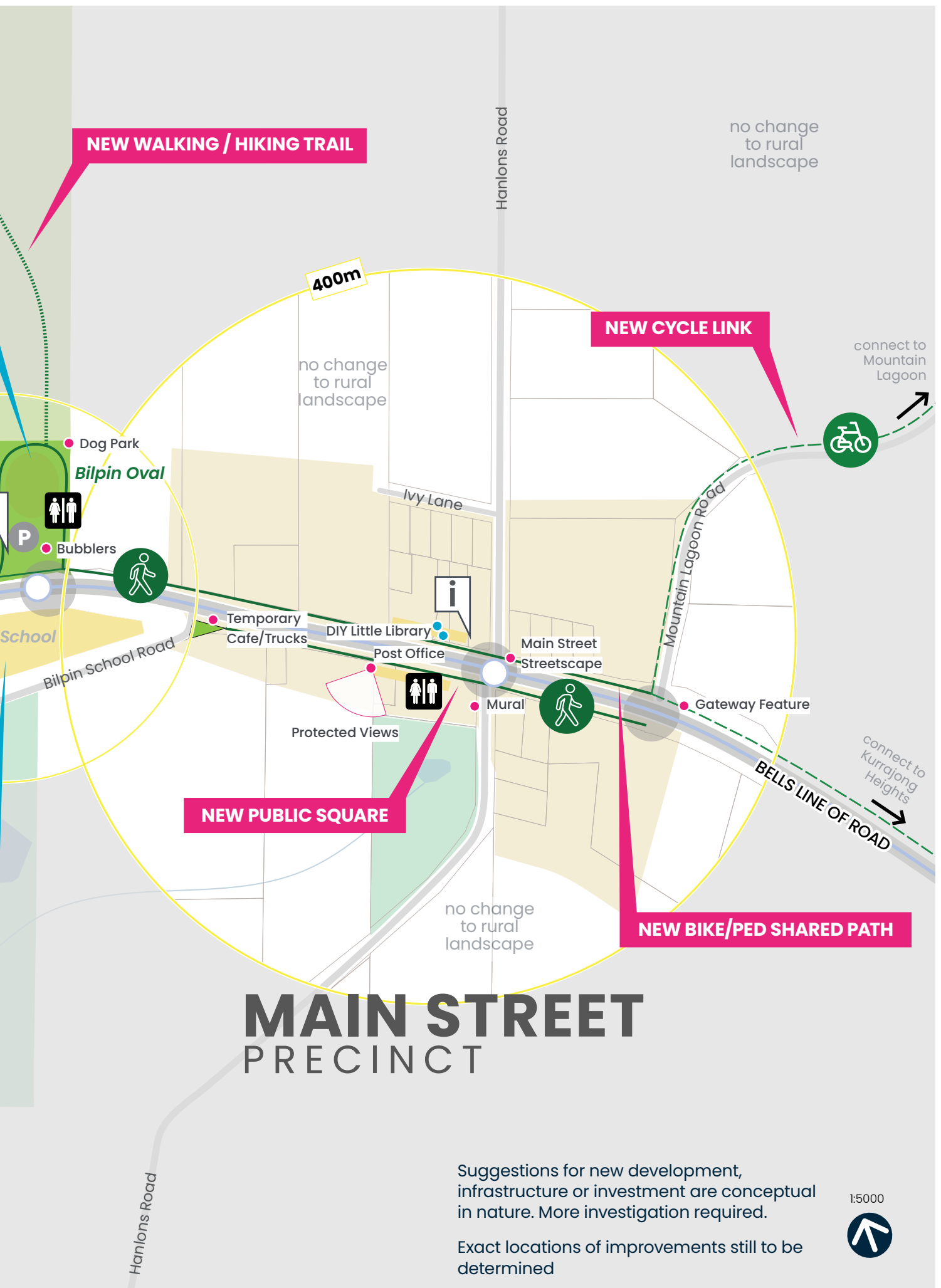
Gateway Feature

NEW WALKING / HIKING TRAIL

CIVIC HEART PRECINCT

connect to
Blue Mountains
Botanic Garden







ST. ALBANS

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

St. Albans will be conserved as a scenic rural village with an irreplaceable combination of culture and heritage. Heritage buildings, informal design and a natural material palette will reinforce the settlement's identity as a historic town. The new pedestrian-focused Market Square around Settlers Arms Inn will be the civic heart of the Macdonald Valley, with new commercial and community services. New and improved connections to open spaces, national parks and natural areas, with protected view corridors and public access to water, will improve recreation amenity and be enhanced as a unique destination.





Settlers Arms
Inn
1836

WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present) and community engagement forums (2022). Outlined below are specific concerns, priorities and cherished place attributes identified:

- Replace signs on St. Albans Road near the historic bridge that were burnt in the bush fire.
- Improved signage and notice boards with indigenous history, flora and fauna, a Macdonald Valley Map and area walks.
- Improve amenities in St. Albans Park including addition of water feature, community space for conversations, improved toilets, rotunda, more seating.
- Bike track along the back of the Park.
- Fitness circuit through the village.
- River access point for fire trucks.
- Block road from through traffic in front of Settlers Arms Inn to create pedestrian friendly area / village market place.
- Improve School of Arts Hall with new air conditioning, stairs from road, paving and fencing.
- Improve sports shed and oval with new cricket net, bike track, level oval grounds
- Expand clubhouse .
- Protect Black Bean Tree at Sporting Club grounds.
- Add water tank to Sporting Club grounds.
- Recycling facility/bin bank.
- Eliminate bats at Anglican Church, improve fencing.
- Hard paving at entry and exit of bridge.



01. St Josephs Guesthouse



02. Settlers Arms Inn

EXISTING CHERISHED COMMUNITY ASSETS



04. Anglican Heritage Cottage



05. St. Albans Park





















06. Historic Bridge



07. Fire Brigade

ST. ALBANS PLACE PLAN

Suggestions for new development, infrastructure or investment are conceptual in nature. More investigation required.

- | | |
|--|--|
|  New Hiking Trail |  River Walk |
|  New Heritage Trail |  New Regional Cycle Route |
|  Existing Heritage Item |  Agriculture |
|  Existing Park |  Village Residential Areas Above Floodplain |
|  Potential New Public Access (to be investigated) |  Market Square 'Activity Area' |
|  New Pedestrian Link |  National Park |
|  New On-Street Public Parking |  New/Upgraded Public Toilets |
|  Existing Destination |  New Visitor Information Board |
|  Proposed New Idea (from Community) |  Proposed New Project/Idea (from research) |

no change to rural landscape

NEW HIKING TRAIL

NEW CYCLE LIN



NEW SHARED STR

400m



Price Morris Cottage



The Courthouse B+B

Rustic slab seating (locations tbd)

Markets + Events

Exercise Equip

MEETING/EVENT SPACE

(@ SCHOOL)

Trail link to Jacks Trail

connect to Wollombi

Gateway Feature

Macdonald River

Upper Macdonald Road

WOLLOMBI ROAD

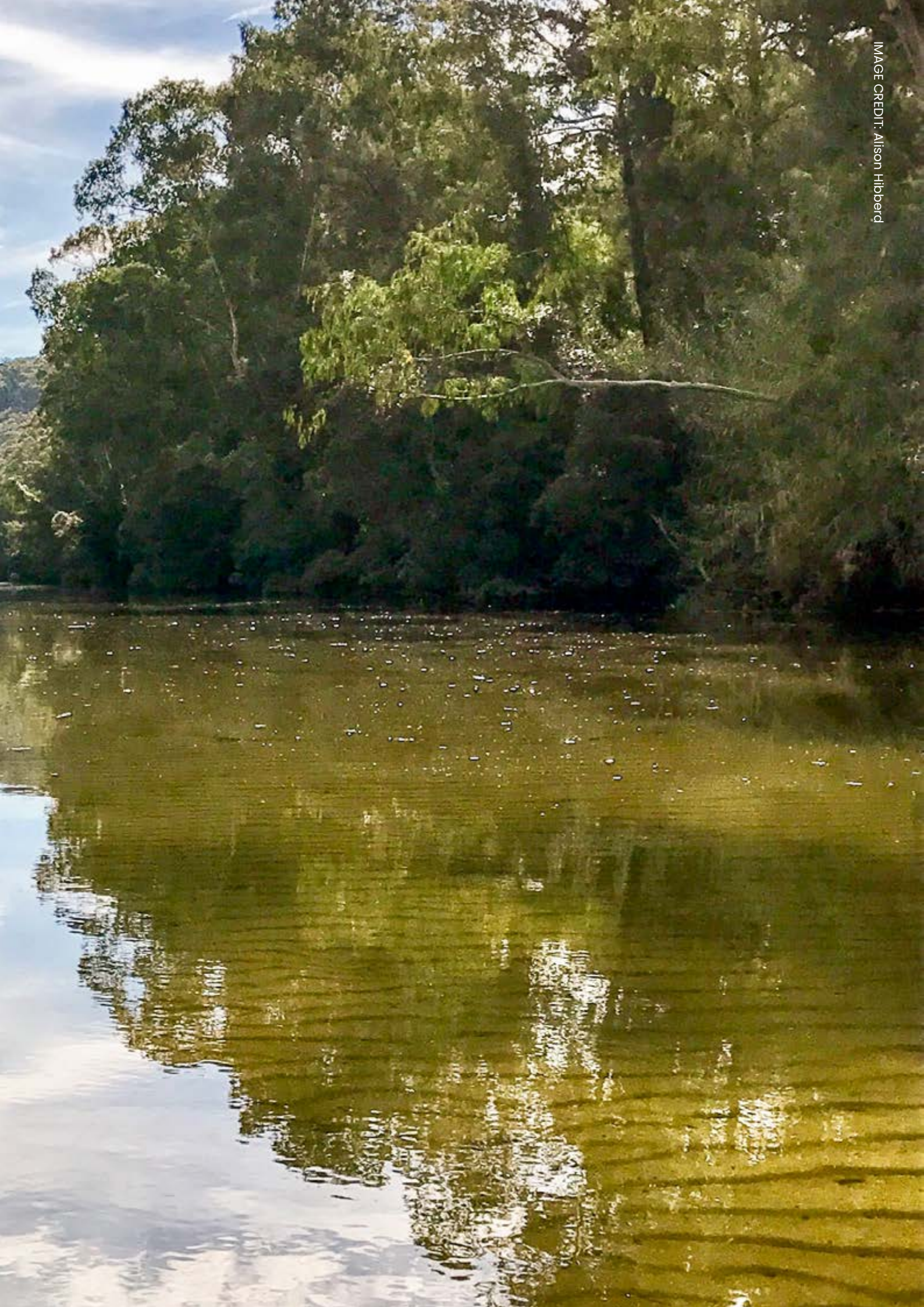




COLO HEIGHTS

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Colo Heights will remain a small welcoming settlement in a rural landscape and distinctive views to surrounding mountains will persist. The village will continue to be focused on the fire brigade, Memorial Hall and School with increased programming at Colo Heights Reserve to draw more residents and tourists regularly. Targeted development can bring improved local amenities to further anchor the village and meet the daily needs of residents or visitors. New and improved connections to open spaces, national parks and natural areas, with new glamping/camping options, will improve recreation amenities.



WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present) and community engagement forums (2022). Outlined below are specific concerns, priorities and cherished place attributes identified:

- Clean and upgrade toilets and amenities in the Reserve. Consider replacing them with composting 'dry' toilets.
- Install community gardens in or around the Reserve.
- Add BBQ and shade facilities to the Reserve.
- Add shade trees and improved seating to the Reserve to encourage lingering.
- Increase events programming such as movie nights, markets or performances.
- Add lights to the Oval.
- Improve carpark surfaces between Memorial Hall and Fire Brigade so it is 'all-weather' protected.
- Upgrade Memorial Hall's kitchen, power boards and surveillance cameras.
- Upgrade bushfire protection for Memorial Hall and the School with improved sprinklers, off-grid power supply and central water supply.
- Improve phone lines, WiFi access and electricity reliability.
- Create fire refuge/safe evacuation point at the Oval.
- Clear land of undergrowth around the School, Memorial Hall and Fire Brigade.
- Clear fire trails.



01. Colo Heights Reserve

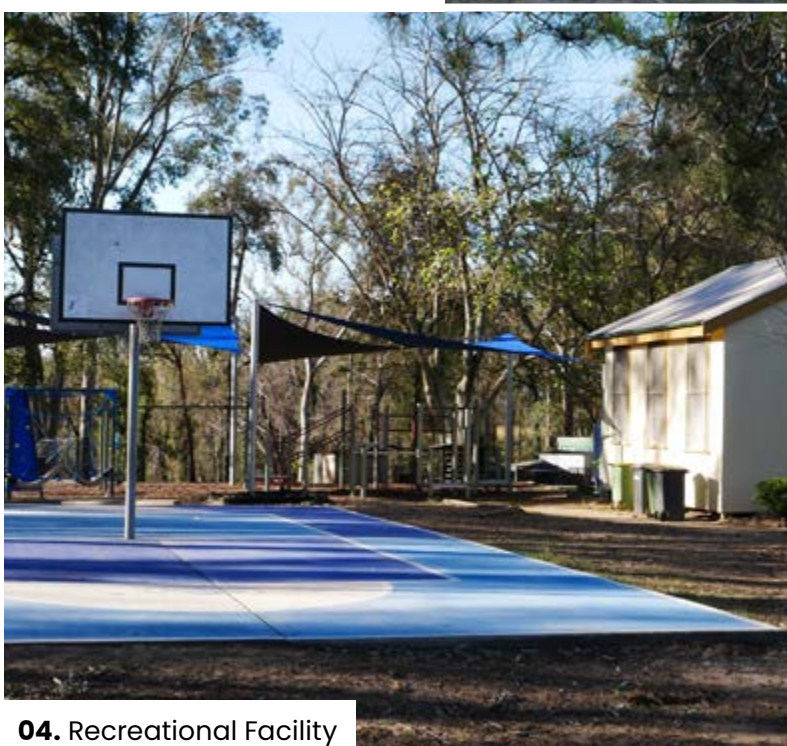


02. Memorial Hall



03. Colo Heights Public School

EXISTING CHERISHED COMMUNITY ASSETS
















04. Recreational Facility



05. Fire Brigade

COLO HEIGHTS PLACE PLAN

- | | |
|--|---|
|  New Hiking Trail |  Existing Park/Bush land |
|  Enhanced Regional Cycle Route |  Civic Heart 'Activity Area' |
|  New Shared Path |  National Park |
|  New Pedestrian Link |  New/Upgraded Public Toilets |
|  Existing Public Parking |  New Visitor Information Board |
|  Existing Destination |  Proposed New Project/Idea (from research) |
|  Proposed New Idea (from Community) | |

Suggestions for new development, infrastructure or investment are conceptual in nature. More investigation required.

Exact locations of improvements still to be determined

no change to rural landscape

Trail link to Bob Turners Walking Track

PUTTY ROAD

NEW WALKING / HIKING TRAIL

Wollemi National Park

'BIG COLO' CYCLE LINK

Glamping/Camping

connect to Colo River

OVAL + COUR

NEW HIKING TRAIL

Viewing Platform

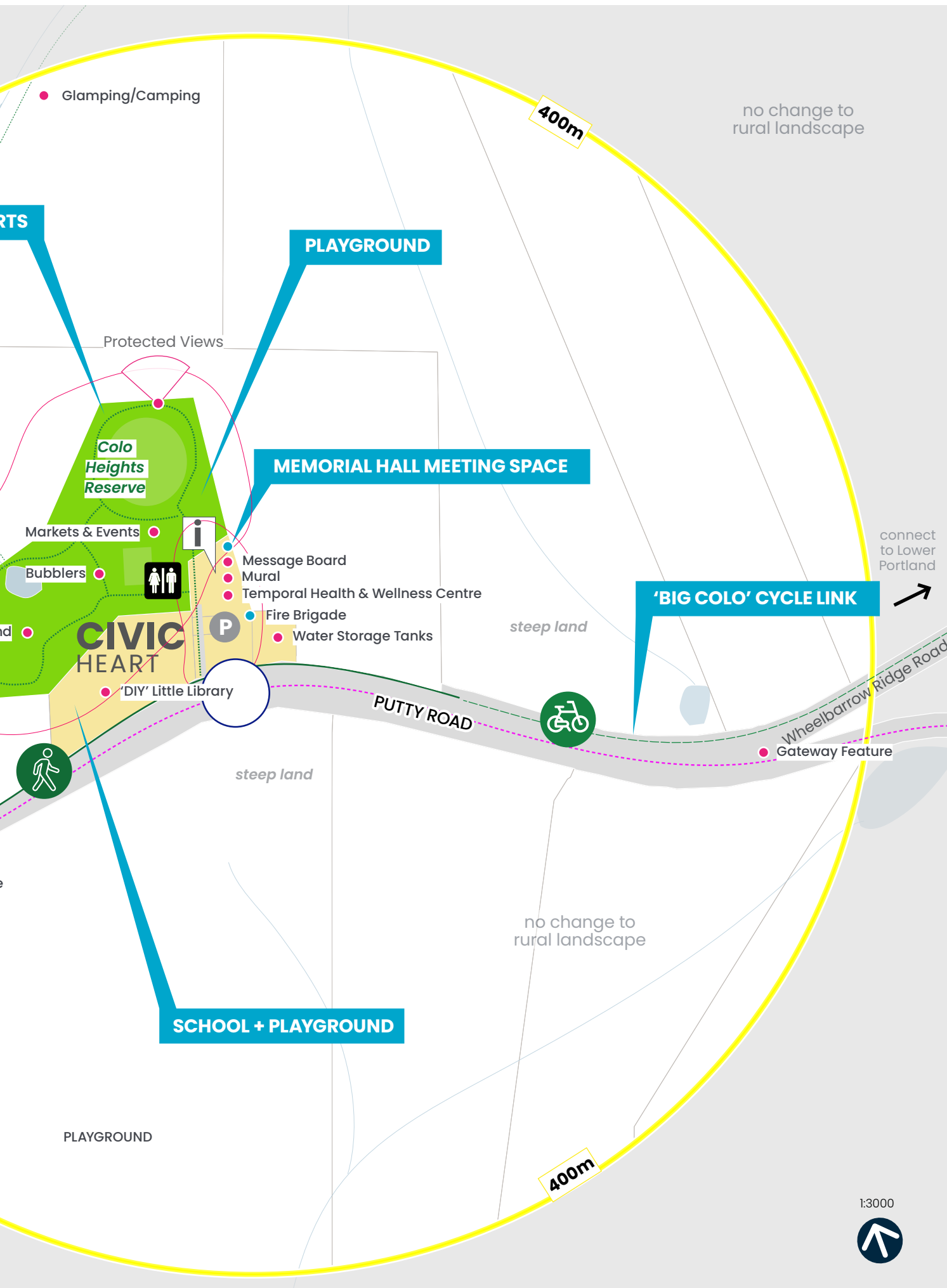
Enhanced Bushland

Community garden

steep land

Gateway Feature

Colo Heights Road





PITT TOWN

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Surrounded by pastoral countryside and the Hawkesbury River, Pitt Town will continue to be an iconic heritage town that people love to live in and visit. The town values pay tribute to its unique physical characteristics and rural, quaint character to attract visitors, which underpins its economy. Its historic and leafy setting will continue to be showcased through a consistent built form and material palette. Formal and well maintained trees and landscaping will continue to be cherished in Pitt Town. The riverfront and revitalised village centre will become identifiable civic hearts and cherished public space for the community.



WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019–present) and community engagement forums (2022). Outlined below are specific concerns, priorities and cherished place attributes identified:

- The village centre is welcoming to all people and businesses reflect the local community and values.
- Pitt Town is great for interacting with locals.
- The overall visual character of the area is appealing.
- There is not enough activities to do in the evening such as dining, shopping or entertainment.
- There is a desire for improved amenities such as toilets, water bubblers, parents rooms, etc.
- There isn't much evidence of community activity and no 'destination.'
- There isn't much evidence of public events happening in Pitt Town such as markets, street entertainers, festivals, etc.
- There is a demand for more community interaction and activities in Pitt Town.
- Improve shade, amenities and provide performance spaces such as in the empty open space on Chatham Street.
- There is a desire to diversify the shop offerings.
- A desire to celebrate its colonial history as one of the five Macquarie towns.



01. Pitt Town Village



02. Fernadell Park



IMAGE COPYRIGHT: Aussie Towns

03. Heritage Churches



04. Pitt Town Public School



05. Halls Point

IMAGE CREDIT: Destination NSW

PITT TOWN PLACE PLAN

Suggestions for new development, infrastructure or investment are conceptual in nature. More investigation required.

KEY PROJECT

1.

NEW RIVERSIDE PARK

Embracing the waterfront has long been an objective of the Pitt Town community. That goal may soon be reality with a connected, publicly accessible Riverside Park on the south bank of the Hawkesbury River. The Park is expected to be informal and include walking paths and/or minimal recreation facilities.

KEY PROJECT

2.

NEW BOAT RAMP & PARKING

Alongside the sealing off of Punt Road to allow for more regular vehicular access, a boat launch and car parking facility is proposed at the terminus of Punt Road on the south bank of the Hawkesbury River. The facility is expected to be minimalistic in character.

KEY PROJECT

3.

FERNADELL PARK UPGRADES

Fernadell Park can become a destination district park for Pitt Town. Upgrades may include a community facility, multi-purpose sporting fields and courts, event space, playgrounds, amenities, off-leash dog area, picnic facilities, walking and exercise circuits, plantings, water sensitive urban design and more additional parking.


















KEY PROJECT

4.

VILLAGE CENTRE UPGRADES

The aim for Pitt Town, similar to Windsor or Richmond, is to have a walkable, character rich village centre that is the 'civic heart' of the larger area. Longer term ideas for upgrading the village centre include enhancing the walking environment to connect shops and residents, outdoor dining, murals, message boards, information kiosks and encourage more events and markets to occur in the Village Centre.

LEGEND

-  New River Trail/Shared Path
-  Enhanced Regional Cycle Route
-  New Thornton Street
-  New Street
-  New Pedestrian Link
-  Existing Bus Stop
-  Existing Park
-  Enhanced/Celebrated Civic Park
-  Cumberland Plain Protection Area
-  Development Intensification
-  Village 'Activity Area'
-  100-year floodplain
-  New/Upgraded Public Toilets
-  New Visitor Information Board
-  Existing Heritage Item
-  Proposed New Project/Idea (from research)
-  Proposed New Idea (from Community or Council)
- Existing Destination/Project





NORTH RICHMOND

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

North Richmond rests at the intersection between rural landscape and employment hub. The settlement will continue to celebrate its heritage and waterfront as a key destination, and offer new recreation connections to surrounding areas. North Richmond will still provide services, retail and employment and a new 'Main Street' bisecting Bells Line of Road will provide a walkable, quiet environment lined with shops, murals and plazas. If new housing options develop, they will reflect existing built form elements such as brick, pitched roofs, and landscaped front gardens. View corridors to surrounding mountains will be preserved.



WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present) and community engagement forums (2022). Outlined below are specific concerns, priorities and cherished place attributes identified:

- There is relatively good offer from the shops and services including groceries and fresh food.
- There is a diversity of price points.
- There is a lack of street furniture such as benches, bins and lights and so it is not comfortable to linger.
- There isn't much evidence of community activity and no 'destination.'
- There is a lack of a point of difference or unique attributes.
- There is a perception that North Richmond does not get as much public investment as it needs.
- There is a desire for increased public art, community art, water or light feature.
- Environmental issues could take centre stage in the village centre. For example, participating in the Compost Revolution in the centre could rally folks around environmental issues broadly.



01. Community Centre



02. Turnbull Oval

EXISTING **CHERISHED** COMMUNITY ASSETS

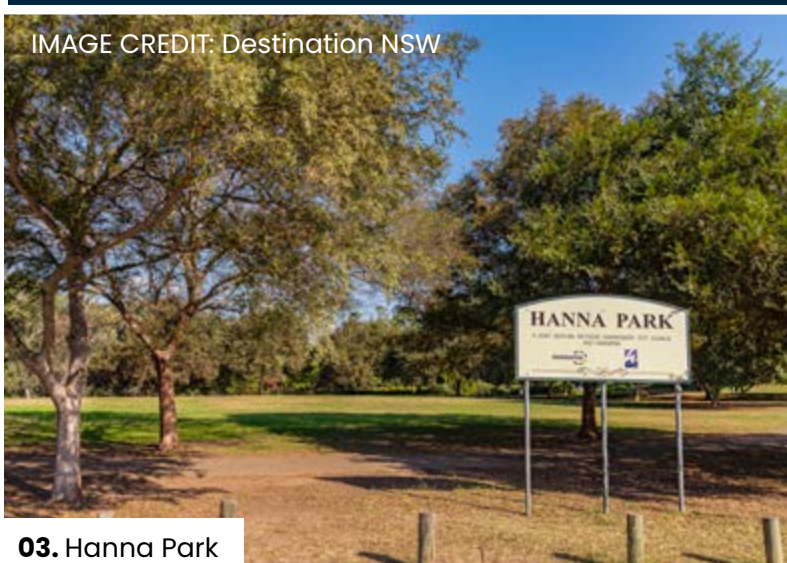


IMAGE CREDIT: Destination NSW

03. Hanna Park

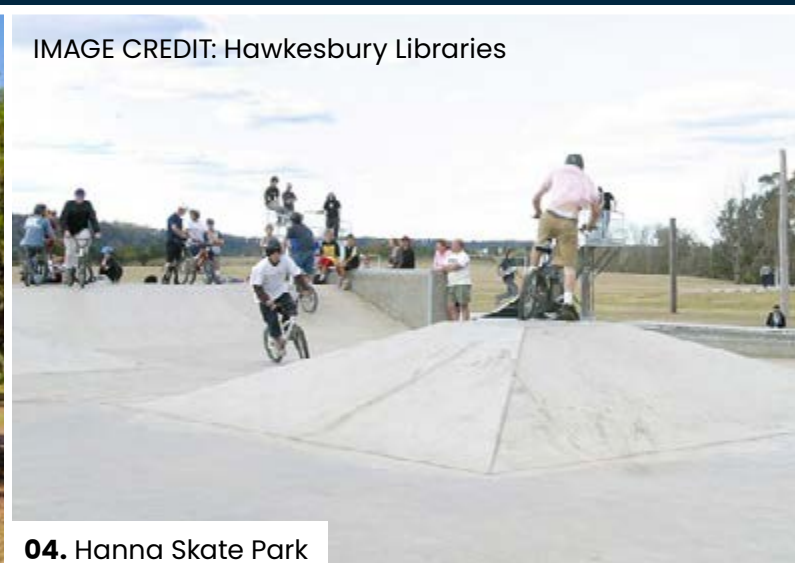


IMAGE CREDIT: Hawkesbury Libraries

04. Hanna Skate Park



05. Richmond Public School



06. Panthers

**KEY
PROJECT
1.**
(PGS 56-57)

UPGRADED COMMUNITY 'HUB'

COMMUNITY PRECINCT

Suggestions for new development, infrastructure or investment are conceptual in nature. More investigation required.

Exact locations of improvements still to be determined

NORTH RICHMOND PLACE PLAN

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | Existing Trails | | Existing Park |
| | New Pansy Line Trail | | Enhanced/Celebrated Civic Park |
| | New River Trail | | New Plaza |
| | New Cycle Link | | Expanded Turnbull Park |
| | New Shared Path | | Rural/Pastoral Lands |
| | New Street | | Development Intensification |
| | New Pedestrian Link | | Village 'Activity Area' |
| | New Bypass | | Existing Heritage Item |
| | Active Facade | | New/Upgraded Public Toilets |
| | Existing Bus Stop | | New Visitor Information Board |
| | New Bus Stop | | Proposed New Project/Idea (from research) |
| | New Public/Private Parking Mix | | Proposed New Idea (from Community or Council) |
| | Pedestrian Crossing Improvements | | TfNSW preferred route study area for new Richmond Bridge & traffic improvements |
| | Traffic Configuration Changes (TfNSW plan) | | |
| | Existing Destination | | |

connect to
Kurmond

Gateway Feature

New Richmond Bridge & traffic improvements preferred option study area, 2022, TfNSW)

BELLS LINE OF R

Events & Meetings

Emergency Service/ Health
& Wellness Centre

Youth centre/pre-school

Richmond
North School

William Street

SCHOOL + PLAYGROUND

Grose Vale Road

Enfield Avenue

connect to
Kingsford
Smith
Village

NEW VILLAGE S

Trail link along waterfront



KEY PROJECT

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE 'HUB'

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The redevelopment of the North Richmond Community Centre will create a hub that will serve as a meeting and cultural space, social and recreational hub, and a much-needed fit-for-purpose emergency evacuation centre for our community residing west of the Hawkesbury River. The improvements include:

- A branch library service and technology space
- Performing arts and rehearsal space with a mobile stage for musical and theatre productions as an extension to the existing Youth Centre
- Multi-purpose art studio space
- Indoor sports stadium and change rooms to support hard-court sports including netball, basketball, futbol and volleyball
- Emergency evacuation centre for use during natural disasters through upgrades to the existing centre
- Precinct grounds improvements to create a mix of active and passive outdoor spaces with seating, shaded areas, barbecues, a shared bike path and additional carparking.

The North Richmond Community Centre Hub has been identified through the PP Consultation and will be delivered through the WestInvest program funding for transformational infrastructure projects that will improve the liveability of communities and support economic recovery throughout Western Sydney.

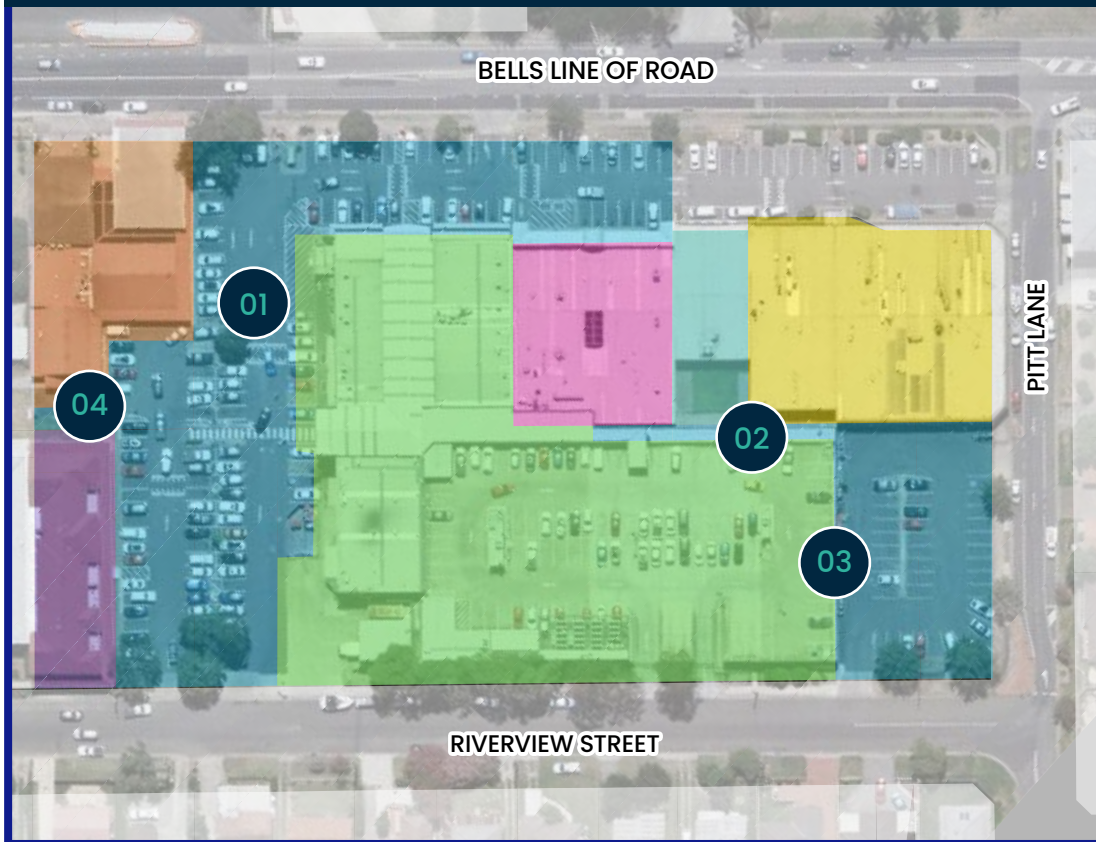
Project Rendering



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KEY PLACE IDEAS: VILLAGE SQUARE

not to scale



01 North Richmond Village Square



02 North Richmond Lanes

IMAGE CREDIT:
Destination NSW



Spice Alley, Chippendale

IMAGE CREDIT: Toga Group



Surry Hills Village

IMAGE CREDIT: Toga Group



Surry Hills Village

03 Living Wall Car Park with Active Ground Level



IMAGE CREDIT: Transport NSW



Manly Vale, NSW



Miami, USA

IMAGE CREDIT: ZipCar

04 Street Art Way



North Richmond, NSW

Byron Bay, NSW

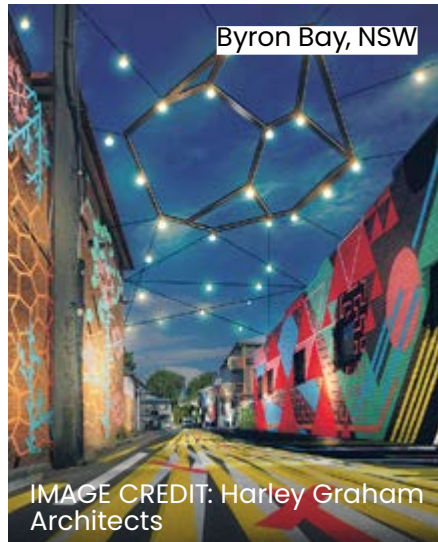


IMAGE CREDIT: Harley Graham Architects

IMAGE CREDIT: Time Out



Sydney, NSW



KURRAJONG

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Charming Kurrajong will be a delightful place, offering a compact, walkable character within a rolling pastoral landscape. The settlement will continue to reflect its cultural heritage with consistent natural built form materials as well as new street trees, signage, lighting and other pedestrian amenity along Old Bells Line of Road and Grose Vale Road. Views to the surrounding rolling hills will be maintained and gateway features to the ridge-top main street will invite tourists. A highly-local retail offer combines with the fire brigade, galleries, theatre, schools and post office to create an appealing local centre which is an attractive destination whilst also catering to everyday needs.





WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present) and community engagement forums (2022).

Outlined below are what community members love most about the area:

- Atmosphere is related to small village/ country town community
- Heritage and history both colonial and indigenous (including heritage architecture)
- Open green spaces, peaceful, quiet, and friendly unique village
- Easily accessible and proximity to local shops, cafes, and local farms for produce, schools hospitals
- Proximity to national parks and wildlife
- No high rise building and over development, low density populations

Outlined below are priorities (in order) raised by the community through the outreach process:

- Maintaining the look and feel of the area
- Protecting the natural environment
- Road safety and management
- Enhancing open spaces and parks
- Enhancing community services
- Enabling the provision of arts and cultural activities,
- Developing and supporting the local economy
- Protecting Aboriginal and Colonial history and heritage
- Increasing tourist, and hospitality options
- Supporting diversity of housing

Outlined below are other specific concerns for the Village Centre raised by the community:

- The village centre is welcoming to all people and businesses reflect the local community and values.
- The village centre is comfortable to linger in and has a high sense of safety.
- There is not enough activities to do in the evening such as dining, shopping or entertainment.
- There is a desire for increased public art, community art, water or light feature.
- There needs to be better coordination or a coordinated group such as chamber of commerce of business owners working together with the community and Council to make the place more active.
- Local history, heritage buildings or features are the top attribute folks care about in the community.
- Elements of the natural environment, vegetation and other elements are attributes residents care deeply about.
- Lack of growth and investment opportunities
- Increased over development will ruin the quiet village atmosphere and threat to wild life
- Lack of childcare/schooling options for working families
- Accessibility and parking need to be upgraded/Lack of public transport and cycleways
- Not enough activities for children/teenagers (playgrounds, skate parks, walks etc) and not enough hospitality options and events
- No town sewerage system is a major issue
- Lack of emergency services during flood



01. Kurrajong Public School



02. Walkable village with shops/cafe



03. Kurrajong Fire Brigade

EXISTING CHERISHED COMMUNITY ASSETS



04. Memorial Park



05. Heritage church




















New shared path to McMahon Park and community centre

no change to rural living landscape

Suggestions for new development, infrastructure or investment are conceptual in nature. More investigation required.

Exact locations of improvements still to be determined

KURRAJONG PLACE PLAN

- | | |
|--|--|
|  New Regional Cycle Route |  Village 'Activity Area' |
|  New Pedestrian Link |  Existing Park |
|  Existing Bus Stop |  Enhanced/Celebrated Firehouse Square |
|  Green Streetscape Upgrades |  potential investigation area for new village greening or parking |
|  New/Improved Pedestrian Crossings |  Rural/Forested Lands |
|  New Shared Path |  Existing Heritage Item |
|  New Public/Private Parking Mix |  Public Toilets (recently upgraded) |
|  Intersection Geometry Improvements |  Visitor Information Board (recently upgraded) |
|  Existing Destination |  Proposed New Project/Idea (from research) |
|  Proposed New Idea (from Community) | |

MEETING HALL/EVENTS SPACE

(@ SCHOOL)

AMPHITHEATRE

Old Bells Line of Road

Nursing Home

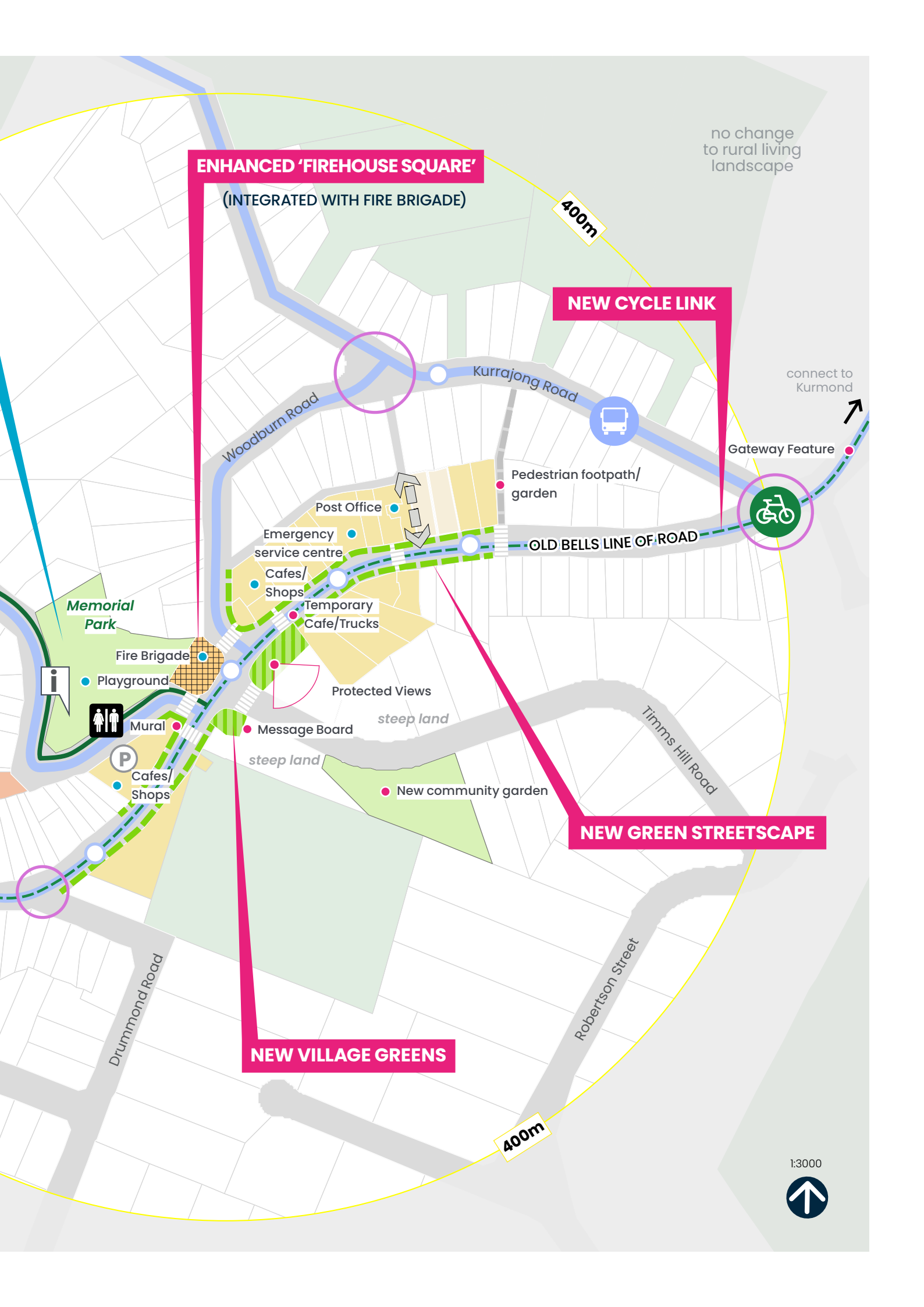
Kurrajong Public School

Gateway Feature

Grose Vale Road

connect to Kurrajong Heights

connect to North Richmond



ENHANCED 'FIREHOUSE SQUARE'

(INTEGRATED WITH FIRE BRIGADE)

NEW CYCLE LINK



NEW GREEN STREETSCAPE

NEW VILLAGE GREENS

no change
to rural living
landscape

connect to
Kurmond

Gateway Feature

Pedestrian footpath/
garden

OLD BELLS LINE OF ROAD

Post Office

Emergency
service centre

Cafes/
Shops

Temporary
Cafe/Trucks

Protected Views

steep land

steep land

Message Board

New community garden

Timms Hill Road

Robertson Street

Drummond Road

Memorial
Park

Fire Brigade

Playground

Mural

Cafes/
Shops

400m

400m

1:3000

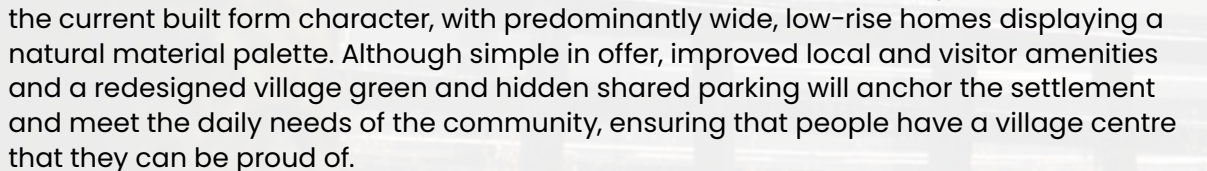




KURMOND

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Kurmond will remain a small welcoming settlement in a rural landscape. Distinctive views to surrounding rolling hills, the settlement's undulating topography will persist as a major place feature. Infill and redevelopment within 400m of the village centre will reflect the current built form character, with predominantly wide, low-rise homes displaying a natural material palette. Although simple in offer, improved local and visitor amenities and a redesigned village green and hidden shared parking will anchor the settlement and meet the daily needs of the community, ensuring that people have a village centre that they can be proud of.





WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present) and community engagement forums (2022).

Outlined below are what community members love most about the area:

- Local shopping and restaurants
- Atmosphere is related to small village/country town community, Peaceful and friendly community
- Open green spaces, Safe, secure, and friendly environment
- Sounds of natural environment and animals
- Low density population
- Above the flood plain
- Away from business of Sydney
- Lots of young families and children

Outlined below are priorities (in order) raised by the community through the outreach process:

- Road safety and management
- Maintaining the look and feel of the area
- Protecting the natural environment
- Increasing tourist, and hospitality options
- Enhancing open spaces and parks
- Protecting Aboriginal and Colonial history and heritage
- Enabling the provision of arts and cultural activities
- Developing and supporting the local economy
- Enhancing community services
- Supporting diversity of housing

Outlined below are other specific concerns for the Village Centre raised by the community:

- The village centre is welcoming to all people.
- Kurmond is great for interacting with locals.
- The business community reflects the local community and values.
- There is a lack of street furniture such as benches, bins and lights and so it is not comfortable to linger.
- Kurmond is a good place to bring visitors to the Hawkesbury for destination dining/shop options.
- There is not enough activities to do in the evening such as dining, shopping or entertainment.
- There is a perception that Kurmond does not get as much public investment as it needs.
- Maintenance of public spaces and street furniture is an issue and needs addressing.
- Kurmond could be more accessible via public transport and have more planning and direction for the future.
- There is a desire to match new home building with planning for more services.



01. Clustered Shops & Services



02. Krawings



04. Kurmond Public School

EXISTING CHERISHED COMMUNITY ASSETS

NEW VILLAGE GREEN

no change
to rural living
landscape

connect to
Kurrajong

Gateway Feature

NEW CYCLE LINK

development
intensification
investigation
sites

Longleat Lane

NEW PUBLIC PARKING

(if/when shops sites redevelop)

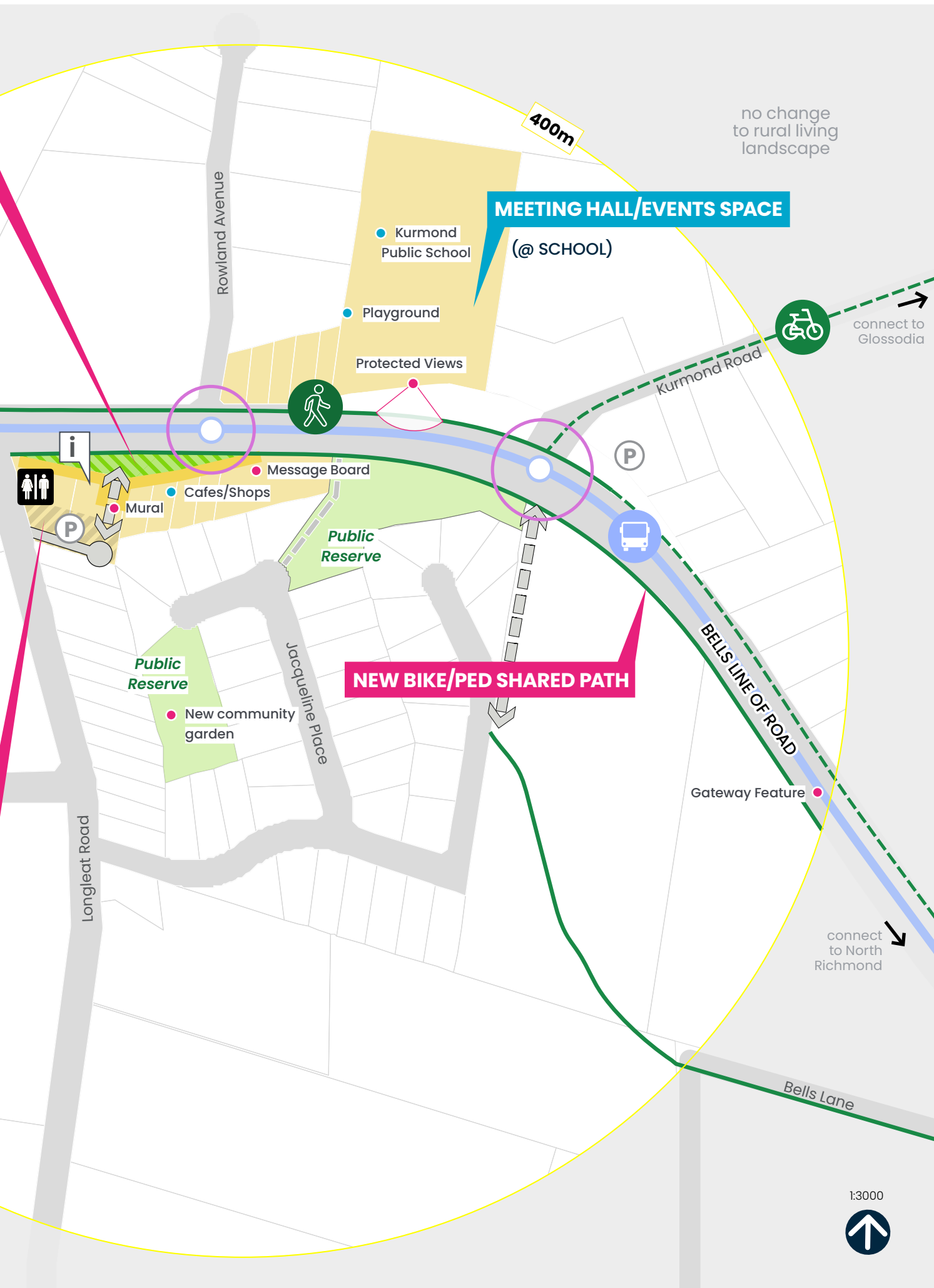
400m

Suggestions for new development,
infrastructure or investment are conceptual in
nature. More investigation required.

Exact locations of improvements still to be
determined

KURMOND PLACE PLAN

- | | |
|---|--|
|  New Shared Path |  Active Facade |
|  New Regional Cycle Route |  Village 'Activity Area' |
|  New Pedestrian Link |  Existing Park |
|  New Street |  New Village Green |
|  New Access Lane |  Rural/Forested Lands |
|  Existing Bus Stop |  New Public Parking behind commercial buildings |
|  New Public Parking (general location) |  Public Toilets (recently upgraded) |
|  Intersection Geometry / Crossing Improvements |  Visitor Information Board (recently upgraded) |
|  Existing Destination |  Proposed New Project/Idea (from research) |
|  Proposed New Idea (from Community) | |





WILBERFORCE

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Wilberforce will continue to be a delightful place, offering unique historic character balanced with a contemporary appeal. The settlement will reflect its heritage through consistent historic-influenced buildings with appropriate colours, materials and signage, including in potential infill areas. Views to the surrounding landscape will be maintained, and a new village gateway will serve as an invitation to tourists. A local retail offer, combined with galleries, cafes and shops will create an appealing destination that also caters to everyday needs. Pedestrian-focussed safety measures will enhance walkability within the village.





WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present) and community engagement forums (2022). Outlined below are specific concerns, priorities and cherished place attributes identified:

- The village centre is welcoming to all people.
- Wilberforce is great for interacting with locals and other people in the area.
- There is a nice offer of groceries and fresh food businesses.
- There is a high sense of safety.
- There is a lack of amenities such as public toilets, water bubblers, parents rooms, benches, bins and lights and so it is not comfortable to linger.
- There is a desire to have more outdoor restaurants, cafes and/or bar seating options.
- There is not enough activities to do in the evening such as dining, shopping or entertainment.
- Wilberforce needs a shared pathway starting at Coburg Road and connect to Windsor. It should be safe to walk and cycle to the shops.
- Parking, playgrounds and shade are important, particularly for child friendly amenities.
- Desire to further enhance colonial history as one of five Macquarie towns, birth of local river boat industry through the 19th Century and heritage items such as St. John's School, church and grave, nearby Rose cottage, Wilberforce Park and Australiana Pioneer Village.



01. Hawkesbury Fire Control Centre



02. School of Arts



03. Shops


















04. Wilberforce Early Learning Centre



05. Wilberforce Public School

WILBERFORCE PLACE PLAN

	New Regional Cycle Route		Village 'Activity Area'
	New Footpaths (Priority)		Existing Park
	Existing Bus Stop		Heritage Item
	New/Improved Pedestrian Crossings		New Public Toilets
	New Street		New Visitor Information Board
	New Pedestrian Link		Proposed New Project/Idea (from research)
	Active Facade		Proposed New Idea (from Community)
	Existing Destination		

* The existing village shops is a Council asset and there has been recent attempts to beautify the site or reimagine it through redevelopment.

Most of the site sits below the 1:100 floodplain and so a complete re-design of site is required. Such a scheme could integrate shopping, childcare and community space above the 1:100 level with undercover parking, leaving the entire King Road frontage for green space. This would require public/private partnership.

Suggestions for new development, infrastructure or investment are conceptual in nature. More investigation required.

Exact locations of improvements still to be determined

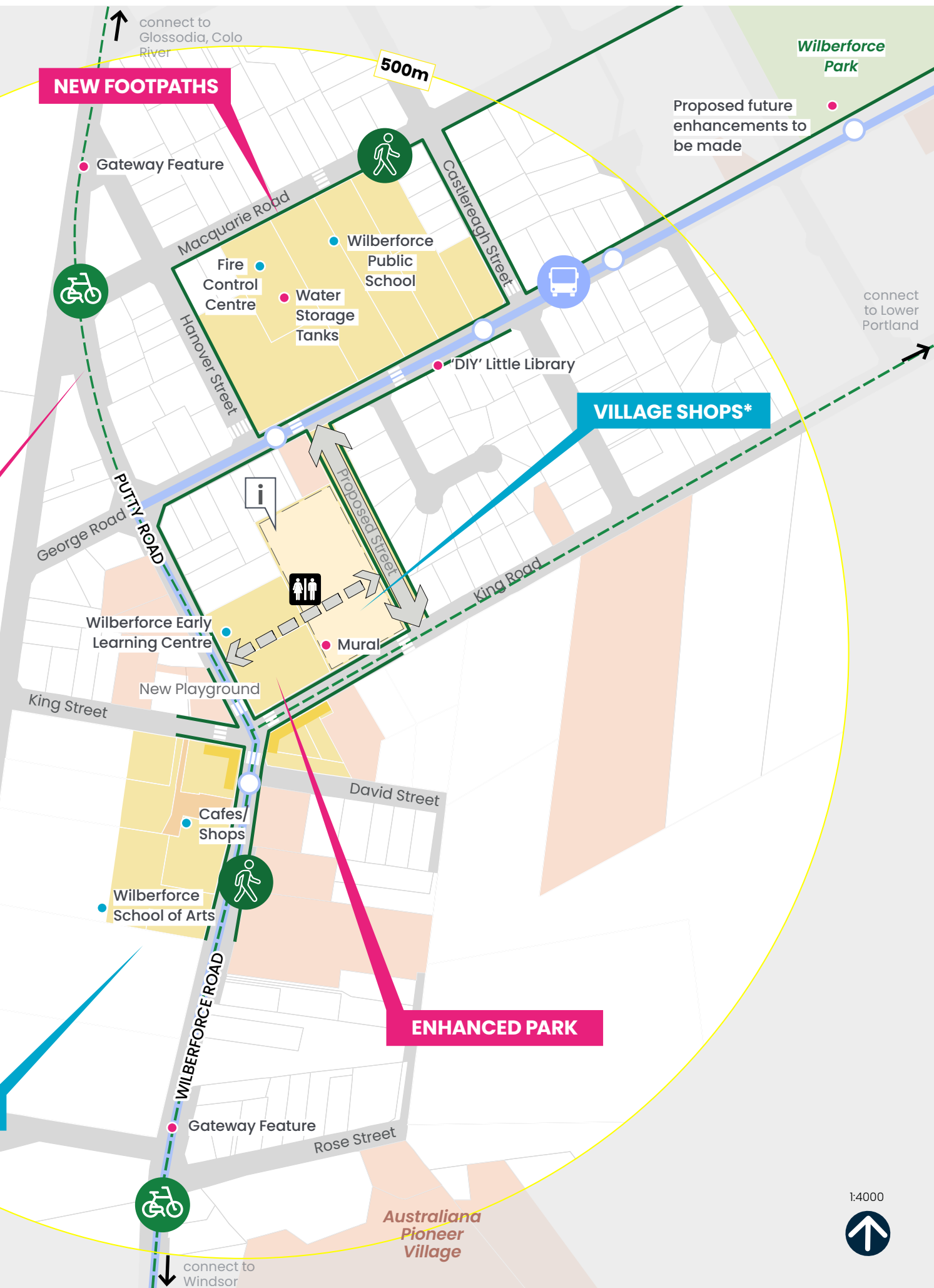
NEW CYCLE LINK

500m

MEETING HALL/EVENTS SPACE

(@ SCHOOL)

Earl Street





GLOSSODIA

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Nestled at the foot of the Blue Mountains, Glossodia is a small settlement with a sense of warmth and welcome and will remain so amidst a rural landscape. The settlement's undulating topography and leafy landscape will persist as the major place features which make it unique. As infill and development occurs in the Jacaranda development, it will transform surrounding rural lands and enhance public infrastructure, local character needs to be reflected. Improved local amenities and public spaces will help to anchor the settlements and meet the daily needs of the community ensuring that people have a village centre that they can be proud of.



WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019-present) and community engagement forums (2022). Outlined below are specific concerns, priorities and cherished place attributes identified:

- The village centres comfortable to be in, including noise, smells and temperature.
- Glossodia has a nice visual character.
- The village centre is welcoming to all people.
- There is a lack of public art, community art, water or light features.
- There is not enough activities to do in the evening such as dining, shopping or entertainment.
- There is a perception that Glossodia does not feature enough public events in the village centre, such as markets, street entertainers, festivals, etc.
- There is a desire to better represent local history, heritage buildings or features in the village centre.
- There is a desire to retain the country feel of a rural town.
- It is suggested that Glossodia needs a bypass for heavy vehicles.



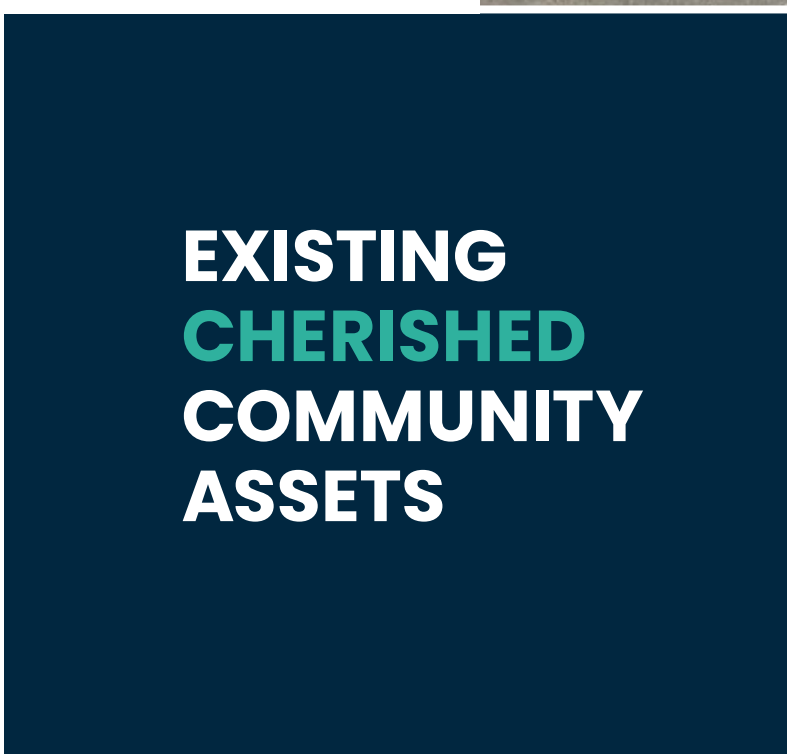
01. Cafes/Shops



02. Glossodia Community Centre



03. Child Learning Centre



**EXISTING
CHERISHED
COMMUNITY
ASSETS**



04. Glossodia Public School



05. Woodbury Reserve

GLOSSODIA PLACE PLAN

-  New Regional Cycle Route
-  New Shared Path
-  Existing Bus Stop
-  New/Improved Pedestrian Crossings
-  Existing Public Parking
-  New Public Parking
-  Intersection Geometry Improvements
-  Existing Destination
-  Proposed New Idea (from Community)
-  Village 'Activity Area'
-  Existing Park
-  Enhanced/Celebrated Glossodia Square
-  Improved Greenery
-  Rural/Forested Lands
-  Public Toilets
-  New Visitor Information Board
-  Proposed New Project/Idea (from research)

Suggestions for new development, infrastructure or investment are conceptual in nature. More investigation required.

Exact locations of improvements still to be determined

Note: Plans for Woodbury Reserve reflect Draft Masterplan (March 2021 and Draft Plan of Management (May 2021)

no change to rural living landscape

NEW DOG PARK

ENHANCED HIKING TRAILS

CHILD

Kentucky Drive

connect to Putty Road

Enhanced Bushland

Woodbury Reserve

Dam

Formalised BMX Pump Track + Skate Facilities

New Passive Lawn

Markets

Enhanced Playground

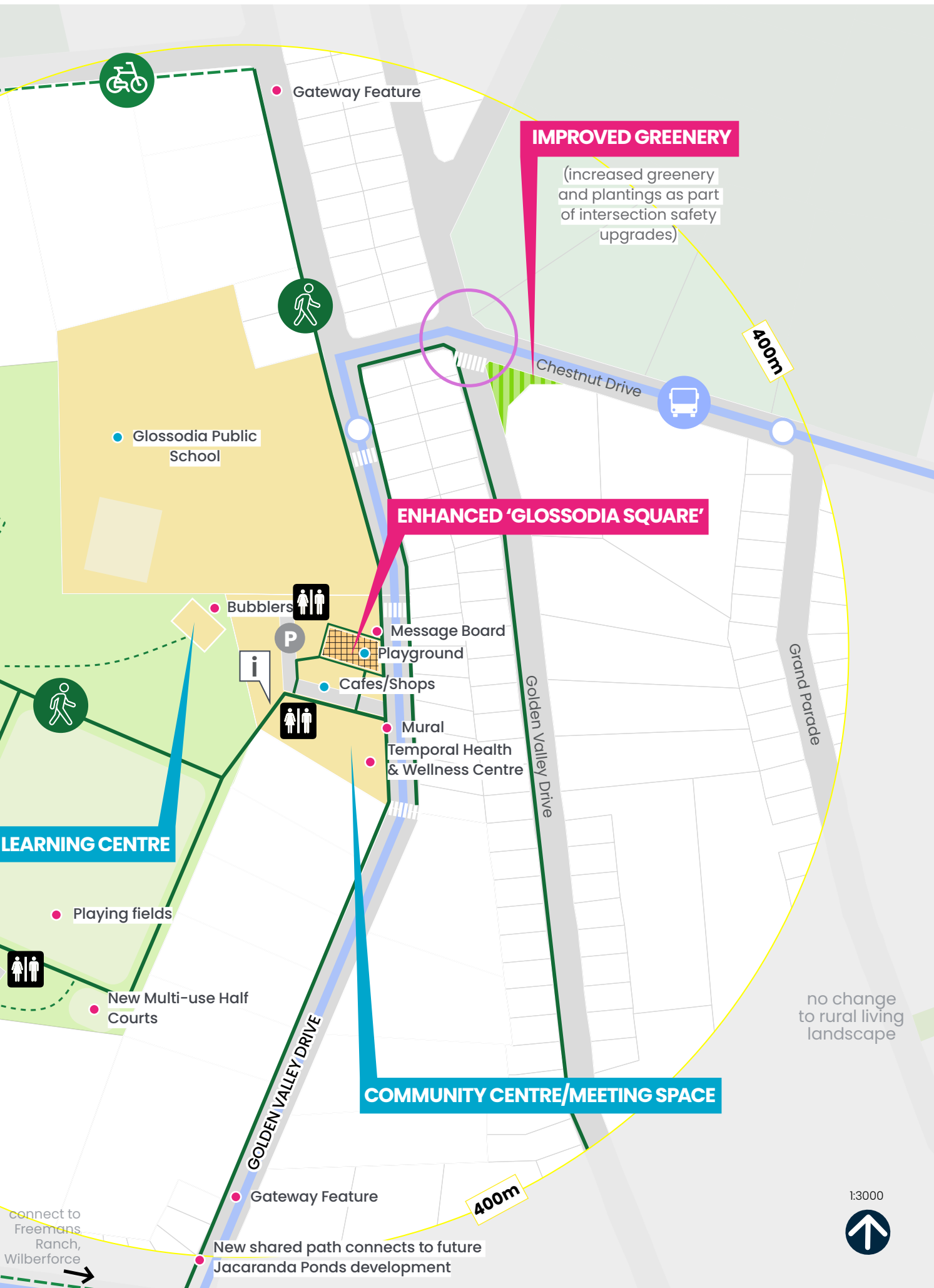
Enhanced Bushland

Fire Brigade

Water Storage Tanks

connect to Kurmond

Spinks Road





BLIGH PARK

FUTURE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Bligh Park will continue as a quiet, tight knit suburban residential settlement. The 'bushland belt' surrounding the suburb will be protected and enhanced with 'light touch' recreation amenity. Bligh Park will display a neat and tidy appearance with simple buildings and pleasant suburban streetscapes. The suburb will offer increased housing diversity including low scale medium density development in close proximity to the shopping centre and community precinct. The shopping centre will be enhanced in conjunction with the community centre as an attractive, walkable neighbourhood retail hub and meeting place with high visibility.





WHAT THE COMMUNITY TOLD US

KEY MESSAGES

Council has been engaging with the community and recent community feedback has been sought during planning processes of the Place Score Report (2018), the Local Strategic Planning Document (2020), Liveability Master Plans (2020), bushfire and flood recovery efforts (2019–present) and community engagement forums (2022). Outlined below are specific concerns, priorities and cherished place attributes identified:

- The suburb is transitioning to a denser settlement pattern
- The neighbourhood centre around the shopping precinct is small but active
- There is a lack of open space and community interaction areas
- Overall, the suburb is walkable and features passive surveillance, but more could be done.



01. Windsor Leagues Club



02. Village grocers, shops and cafe

EXISTING **CHERISHED** COMMUNITY ASSETS



03. Community Courts



04. Tiningi Hall Meeting Space



05. Community Services and Neighbourhood Centre



06. Bligh Park Public School

BLIGH PARK PLACE PLAN

- | | |
|---|---|
|  New Regional Cycle Route |  Village 'Activity Area' |
|  New/Enhanced Shared Path |  Existing Park/Reserve |
|  Existing Bus Stop |  Rural/Forested Lands |
|  Enhanced as a 'Culture Trail' |  Public Toilets |
|  Existing Footpath |  New Visitor Information Board |
|  Enhanced 'Art Alleys' |  Intersection Geometry Improvements |
|  New/Improved Pedestrian Crossings |  Proposed New Project/Idea (from research) |
|  Existing Public Parking |  Proposed New Idea (from Community) |
|  Existing Destination | |

Suggestions for new development, infrastructure or investment are conceptual in nature. More investigation required.

Exact locations of improvements still to be determined

no change
to rural living
landscape

no change
to rural living
landscape

SHOPS/

George Street
Reserve

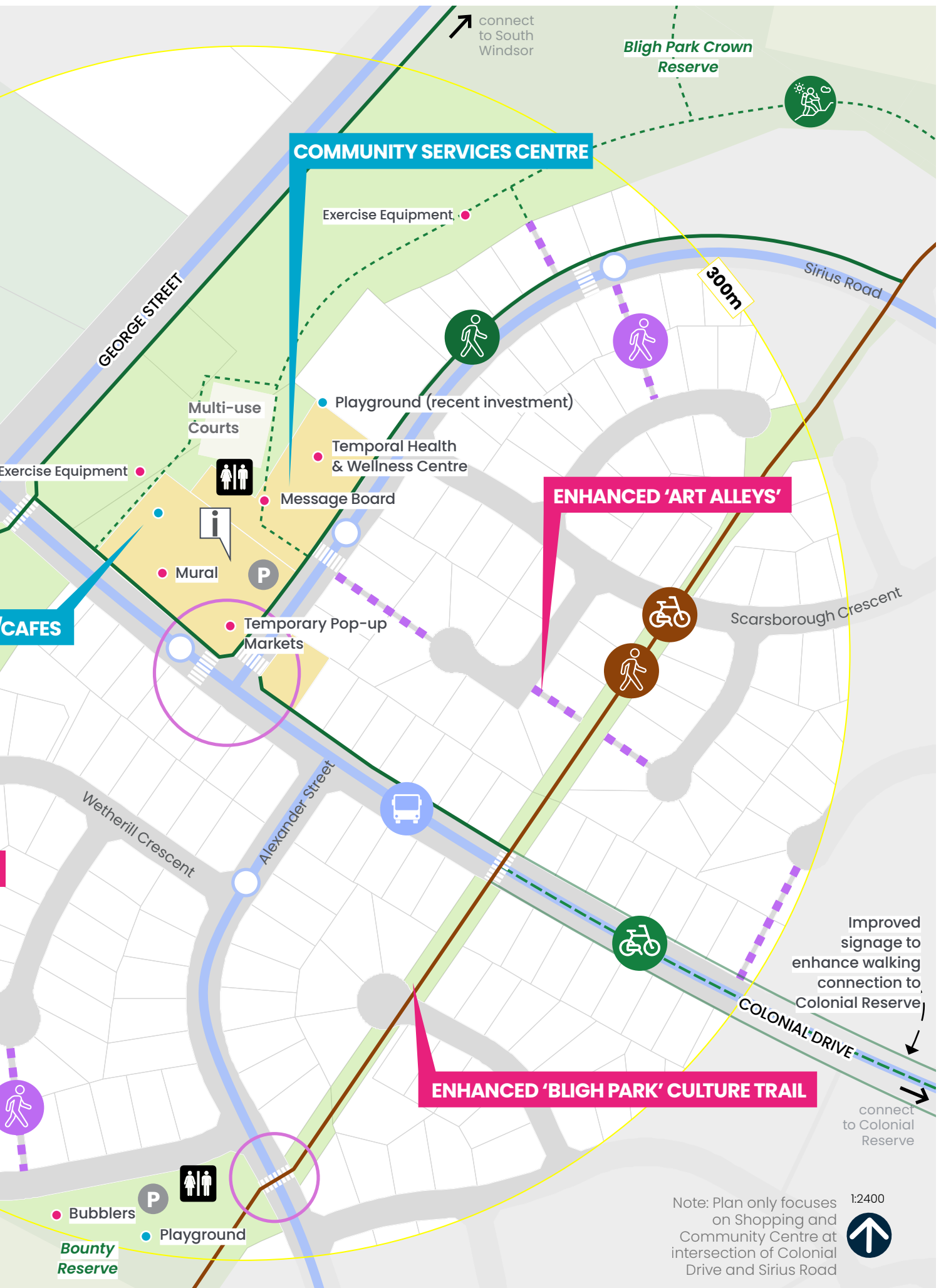
300m

NEW BIKE/PED SHARED PATH

Enhanced
Bushland

connect to
Richmond Road
shared path







PEOPLE AND PLACE

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS & IDEAS

Align future Council investment with the Place Plans to deliver needed physical community facilities to village centres and ensure history and cultural stories are celebrated and integrated with the natural landscape to enhance sense of place and community.

1. Toolkit for place resiliency – Deliver practical ‘place resiliency kit of parts’ for each Centre, including:

- AV Equipment for meeting rooms
- Message boards
- Visitor information kiosks
- ‘DIY’ Little Libraries
- Gateway features
- LED Solar lights
- EV Charging stations
- Permeable paving
- Greening and irrigation of public spaces
- Community Gardens
- Street furniture/shading
- Bus Shelters
- Additional water storage tanks

2. ‘Activity Areas’ as key places

- Locate events here, including markets, local food producer events, Aboriginal heritage and cultural events, fire brigade events, etc.
- Utilise open spaces or close off street space for festivals and outdoor dining.
- Primary destination for community services.
- Allow for higher development intensity where appropriate

3. Social places

- Seek to create identified small-scale ‘plazas’, ‘squares’, ‘village greens’ or ‘pocket parks’ to facilitate lingering and socialising.

4. Temporal health and wellness centres

- Partner with health, wellness and education institutions to provide ‘temporal’ health and wellness centres to improve access to services.
- Multi-functional meeting rooms
- Continue to provide and/or upgrade functional, safe and attractive meeting rooms within each Centre that facilitate social engagement and collective action.

5. Celebrate local character

- Retain and preserve identified heritage items, identified ‘excellent views’, landscapes, trees, public spaces and elements of local value.

6. A renewed focus on murals, arts, culture

- Work with private landholders and Council to implement murals or other interpretive art to engage with local cultural heritage
- Acknowledge and respect Aboriginal heritage and culture by integrating and preserving landscapes, places, objects, sites, stories, memories, and experiences where required
- Increase marketing of the region’s agricultural users.



DESIRED LOOK AND FEEL





NATURE AND OPEN SPACE



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS & IDEAS

Align with Place Plans to protect and maintain existing rural landscape and promote an intensity of development within each Centre, where appropriate. An increase in recreational place offers can connect large ecological systems to enhance biodiversity and promote place values.

1. Maintain existing rural landscape

- By focusing new development within Centres, Council will minimise development in areas prone to bushfire and flooding. This means maintaining rural landscape and environmental zoning where applicable.

2. Plant new trees and greenery

- Integrate generous tree canopy and plant new native trees/vegetation where possible to reduce ground temperatures and mitigate the urban heat-island effect.
- Utilise low-level planting, shade canopies and water features, as well as appropriate materials, to provide shade and natural cooling.

3. Integrate water-sensitive urban design

- When considering road upgrades or new streets, increase drainage capacity in streetscape with planting and water-sensitive urban design.

4. Design with nature

- For future developments or new streets, design with the natural topography to eliminate adverse effects on natural drainage of overland flow.

5. Enhance visual and physical links to nature

- Link waterways, bushland, national parks or mountains with identified viewing platforms, 'excellent views' and new hiking trails.
- Existing parks can eventually connect with a wider ecological and recreation framework.

6. Increase recreational offers

- Includes glamping and/or camping. Be open to commercial operators who demonstrate sensitivity to natural landscapes.

7. New Village Greens

- Most new village greens identified in the Plans are within existing road reserves, which is currently underused or utilised for car parking.

8. Upgrade existing public spaces

- When updating plans of management, consider informal landscaping, pavements, furniture, and lighting, shade, shelter, seating and play spaces.

9. Integrate natural and/or rustic materiality

- Materiality that is local, durable, resilient and appropriate for the climate.

10. Community gardens

- Work with local schools and food producers to locate gardens in identified spaces that can accommodate localised food production.

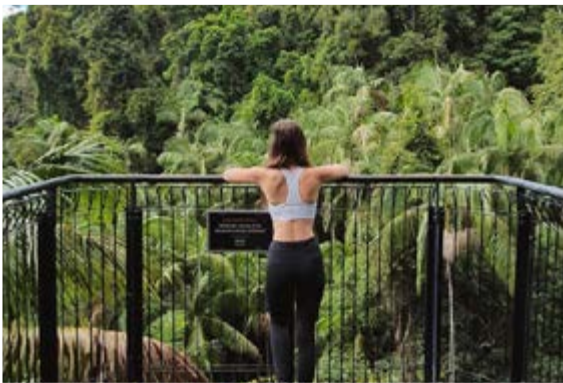
11. Emergency evacuation procedures

- Utilise large, protected spaces to accommodate emergency evacuation procedures.

12. Go off-grid

- Promote future planning so Centres (those deemed appropriate) can go off grid so they aren't reliant on Endeavour power supply.

DESIRED LOOK AND FEEL





STREETS & MOBILITY

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS & IDEAS

Align with Place Plans to improve each Centre's network of streets to for usability and regional recreation, improve infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists, ensure effective parking management and prioritise slow vehicular speeds and safe intersection geometry.

1. Walkable places

- Provide wide and shady footpaths or shared paths where indicated, include places for people to linger, be lined by active retail frontages (if applicable), include a mix of uses.
- Where roads are overly wide, transfer excess road space to cyclists and pedestrians instead of cars, particularly within Activity Areas and ensure universal access.

2. Rethink car parking

- Investigate opportunity for 'park & walk' in identified locations, on edge of Activity Areas. This can allow for private commercial operators to transfer car parking requirements onto the lot and avoid excessive parking provision that detracts from place characteristics.
- Shared parking facilities can be 'hidden' behind built form so as to not detract from pedestrian and place characteristics.
- Express parking maximums, not minimums, to ensure that the total amount of future parking can be properly planned for.
- On-street parking within Activity Area (if applicable) can be parallel or angled.

3. Cycle routes along regional roads

- Work with TfNSW to deliver regional cycle infrastructure along key corridors to connect Centres with one another and to key destinations, including transport hubs.
- Provide end-of-trip facilities for cyclists.

4. Connect bus facilities with schools

- Dedicate shared paths or footpaths between bus stops and schools to allow for safe passage.

5. Green the streets

- With new or upgraded roads, integrate street trees, street lighting, drainage and other infrastructure where required.

6. Improve safety

- Where applicable, provide zebra crossings and traffic calming within Activity Area and around key destinations including schools.
- Seek to lower vehicle speeds to a maximum of 50km/hr within Centres. Along local roads, the speed limit can be further reduced to 30km/hr.
- Upgrade identified intersections with improvements, such as pedestrian crossings or dedicated right-turn lanes, etc.

7. Connect destinations within each Centre

- Ensure key destinations (schools, district halls or park spaces) are connected by dedicated pedestrian infrastructure.

8. Integrate clear wayfinding

- Ensure clear, culturally representative wayfinding caters to residents and visitors.

9. Plan for new streets

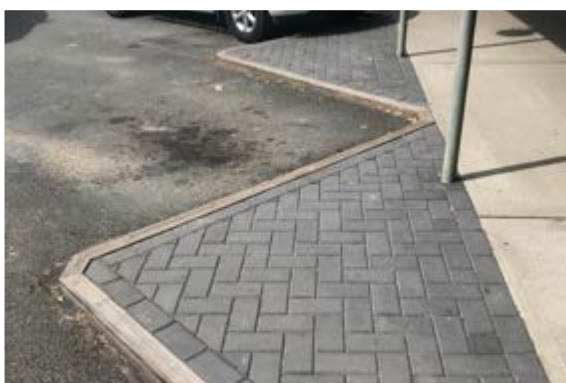
- Where shown, new streets can increase pedestrian access and facilitate development.

10. Cultural and heritage trails

- Where suggested, provide enhanced streetscape to celebrate local culture or heritage feature.



DESIRED LOOK AND FEEL





BUILDINGS & LAND USE

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS & IDEAS

Ensure new development and tourism aligns with the Place Plans and is focused within each Centres, complements local character and minimises impact on existing places. Critically, align Council investment to ensure community needs infrastructure is delivered.

1. 'Activity Areas' as key places

- Instituted as the civic heart of each Centre. These core areas can be characterised by community services, mixed use, programming, events, destinations, slow vehicular speeds, pedestrian priority and social spaces.

2. Investigate infill development in town and village centres, protect rural landscape

- Maintain rural and environmental zoning/protections by focusing new development within study area boundaries (within 300–600m radii of Activity Areas and/or on identified 'investigation development sites'). This can minimise development in areas risk prone areas.
- Work with Sydney Water and Department of Planning (DPIE) to overcome servicing obstacles for infill development.

3. Increase mixed use zoning

- Where possible, increase mixed use zoning (ie: expand Neighbourhood Centre zoning delineation) for the 'Activity Areas'. Limit isolated retail to optimise viability.

4. Focus on food and arts

- Work with local businesses to attract and curate a diverse mix of food and arts offerings, establish easier approval pathways for outdoor dining permits and temporary liquor licenses.

5. Allow for more housing types

- Allow medium density and diverse housing in immediate Centre areas and where identified as 'development investigation sites.'

6. Encourage institutions to locate in the Centres

- Where allowable, encourage institutional uses, such as religious organisations or theatres. Co-locate Council offices, libraries, schools, tertiary education and other institutional and community uses within each Centre.

7. Encourage temporal structures and uses

- Allow for temporary, adaptable structures such as mobile cafés, food trucks or shipping containers, particularly for flood affected areas where new building is not permitted. Further, encourage pop-up activity in vacant or underutilised retail space through ArtsNSW 'Empty Spaces' initiative.

8. Tourism infrastructure

- Align Council investment to ensure tourism infrastructure is strategically delivered to each Centre, not in ad hoc manner. Improve signage, wayfinding and information kiosks for visitors.

9. Local, climate responsive buildings

- Natural, rustic elements should feature in future built form. Design buildings to suit local climate through passive measures. Protect key views from development.

10. Think small

- Promote B&B and small-scale accommodation. Increase land use mix with smaller lot subdivision (where applicable).



DESIRED LOOK AND FEEL

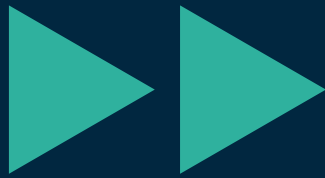


IMAGE CREDIT: Container Build Group Pty Ltd



IMAGE CREDIT: The Haverty Group





NEXT STEPS

Place plans are the beginning of a planning and community consultation process to bring the shared ideas for each town and village centre to life. Each place plan will serve as a guide for future decision making including detailed design and documentation and will guide Council in making capital works funding or grant solicitation. All further stages of planning will be accompanied by ongoing community consultation with local residents and area stakeholders to ensure decisions made remain aligned to the spirit of this document.

DETAILED DESIGN FOR PRIORITY PROJECTS



- By prioritising identified 'Key Projects,' a detailed design process will utilise the document's ideas and concept designs as a guide to further refine design outcomes and community consultation. Detailed design will involve engineers, urban designers, landscape architects and other specialists to ensure specifications meet legal requirements whilst also achieving the vision and objectives set out in this document.
- Further refinement will look specifically at the details of priority projects identified in this document including public space look and feel, site access and other further important details in consultation with site users and the wider community.

FURTHER CONSULTATION



- Community members and stakeholder groups will continue to be engaged as detailed design ideas get refined and funding sources become available.
- This will ensure that the specific community needs and expectations laid out in this document continue to get met and if refinements are required, that key constituencies are part of the decision making process.

FUNDING & DELIVERY



- Implementation of the detailed designs by way of on the ground changes are expected to be delivered in stages. Key improvements will be able to be delivered in the short-term through bushfire recovery state and national grants whilst others will be delivered through other budget sources, including capital works budgets, state government funding mechanisms or developer contributions.
- Detailed budgeting will be subject to Council approval to secure funding and to ensure investments represent value for money for the community.



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