

# STRATHBOGIE STREETSCAPE RENEWAL PROGRAM

Concept Design [DRAFT]  
Prepared by About Architecture for Strathbogie Shire  
August 2021



## **PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Within the 2020/21 budget, the Strathbogie Shire Council approved funding for works to be undertaken to renew and improve existing streetscapes within the shire.

This allocation has been supported by a grant from the Federal Government.

Effective streetscape design is an integral part of shaping a community's identity, increasing civic pride and improving a sense of well-being and belonging. Areas for improvement may include but are not limited to; town entry features, street furniture, planting, pedestrian/traffic circulation and safety, public art, lighting, general wayfinding and signage.

## **PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This document presents a conceptual streetscape renewal plan for the town of Strathbogie.

The intention of this streetscape renewal plan is to provide a visual guide for future streetscape development, rather than a literal or specific representation of works to be completed.

The recommendations include streetscape projects which can be implemented progressively as well as a palette of streetscape materials, finishes, fixtures and landscaping recommendations that work to maintain streetscape consistency, improve functionality and amenity and reflect a sense of identity and character for the area.

The project concentrates on the public realm, which includes the components of the streets and footpaths.

## **STUDY AREA**

The focus of the study area is the town centre of Strathbogie, defined by the entry to Main Street from the north and south.

The study area also includes Euroa-Strathbogie Road, including the Spring Creek Bridge and picnic area.

PROJECT PHASING / TIMELINE

CURRENT PHASE



FUTURE PHASES



# EXISTING CONDITIONS

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## KEY QUALITIES & STREETSCAPE CHARACTER

*Strathbogie is characterised by its undulating topography and its expansive views. Surrounded by rich granite geology, forest and agricultural land - its township has a simple and calm quality.*

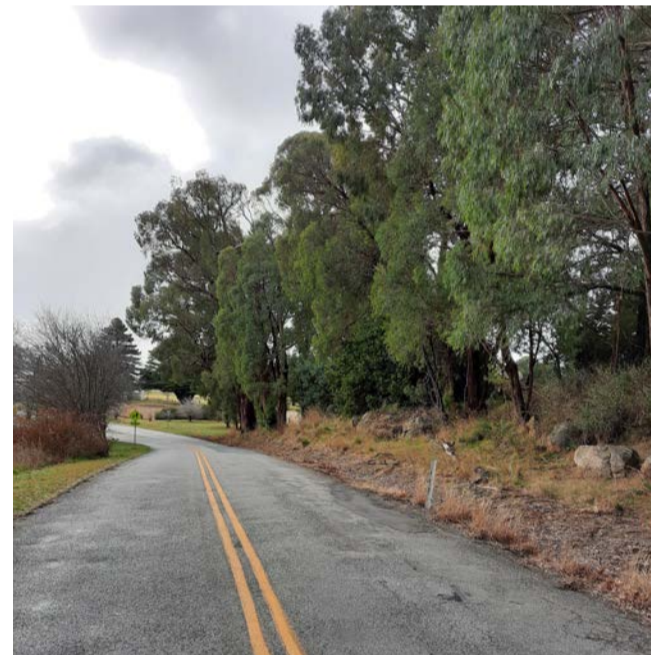
*Its link to the natural environment and its rich farming history should be considered when developing its streetscapes. Maintaining a rural sense of simplicity and quietness in the streetscape is key to enhancing its most attractive and dominant feature - the wider context of the natural environment*



Undulating topography and wide open views to the surrounding landscape



The topography of the land contributes to a surprise arrival into the township area



Native vegetation on the edge of the township helps to define the formal township



A mixture of soft and hard edges of median strips and the roadside contribute to both a sense of informality and formality



Formal streetscape elements such as a central median strip dividing the main road and several memorials speak of a rich history



A wide and open road configuration contributes to the informal character

AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT & ADVERSE VISUAL IMPACTS



**Gateway and Pedestrian Signage**  
The key entry points at each end of Strathbogies main street lack signage to welcome visitors to the town.



**Gateway and Pedestrian Signage**  
Signage has the opportunity to set the scene of the town, celebrating contextually significant features such as granite which is renowned within the Strathbogies region. Prominent gateway signage alerts drivers that they are entering a town and has the capacity to slow traffic down.



**Paths**  
Existing pedestrian pathways are evident. Refreshing the surface treatment to the existing paths and establishing additional paths will assist with connectivity throughout the township. Creating clear pathway links and loop walks between existing infrastructure may encourage public interest and use. Signage to these walks along with improving the quality of tracks to enable year round use would improve pedestrian safety and reduce fire risks.



**Heavy, unattractive roadside infrastructure**  
The selection of heavy galvanised material and its design has a negative impact on the arrival experience into town. It also works to conceal and disrupt a visually appealing aspect - the pedestrian bridge and the creek.



**Poorly maintained road edges**  
Worn out concrete kerbing.



**Drainage**  
Informal open drains provide difficulty in long term maintenance. Consideration of rain gardens/swales in areas where water gathers would improve visual appeal.



**Signage**  
Signage design does not reflect any sense of identity. Many signs are ineffective or outdated.



**Underutilised prominent areas**  
Small trees and no low level planting



**Lack of Amenity**  
No public toilets or town square space.

# STREETSCAPE PLAN STAGE ONE

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STAGE ONE - MEDIAN STRIP RENEWAL

*The first stage of the streetscape renewal plan aims to deliver a portion of the project in the immediate term which utilises an existing funding agreement with the Federal government.*

*The following describes this stage of the streetscape renewal plan and the initial steps required to see it implemented.*



DELIVERABLES

- Repair of median strip edges where required. Consideration of new edge treatment as shown in the material palette
- Installation of waterwise irrigation system
- Installation of surface drainage systems at appropriate locations
- Preparation of soil for planting
- Installation of advanced trees and low level planting
- Installation of bark/ground cover and feature granite rocks
- Long term maintenance schedule and plan for the future



STAGE ONE - MEDIAN STRIP RENEWAL



# STREETSCAPE PLAN FUTURE VISION

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## THE STREETScape PLAN

### VISION & OBJECTIVES

#### Improve Visual Appeal

- Create a unified and visually appealing town
- Reinforce and improve existing streetscape character
- Improve arrival experience
- Encourage landscaping that is contextually considerate in species selection and is considerate of the landscape character of the town
- Feature landscaping and/or public artwork in selected locations
- Improve the visual appeal of carparking areas

#### Improve Connection to Place

- Create a local sense of place by reinforcing identity and telling local stories through the choice of materials and placemaking
- Reinforce visual and physical connections to the surrounding landscape and heritage

#### Improve Access & Movement

- Connect the community and visitors to the surrounding natural landscape
- Facilitate walkable streets with key signage to enhance visitor experience
- Improve mobility access, circulation, safety and connectivity in the pedestrian and cycling network
- Create links and wayfinding methods to enhance locals and visitors experience of the township with particular regard for key community assets - bridge to bridge walk, Nunganook walk, recreation reserve
- Create visual cues that encourage reduced vehicle speed through town centre

#### Improve Activation & Diversity

- Generate more activity
- Improve current land uses such as outdoor dining
- Create future opportunities to increase activity of surrounding land use
- Provide places for gathering, the arts, sports, play, resting and dining in a landscaped or sheltered setting
- Provide infrastructure such as seating, bike racks, water refill stations

#### Improve Environmental Function

- Improve the environmental function of the street and improve drainage
- Embrace opportunities to increase passive irrigation and stormwater
- Replace landscape treatments that are at the end of their life cycle
- Increase the capacity of existing green networks to enhance biodiversity and habitat corridors
- Ensuring the retention and renewal of the significant mature street trees and the character of leafy streetscapes
- Introduce additional shade trees to increase year round engagement with the streetscape



# FEATURED AREAS

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FEATURED AREA - SPRING CREEK BRIDGE

VISION & OBJECTIVES FOR THIS AREA

New picnic pavilion. including new picnic settings, bins and bike rack and BBQ

New footpath along Spring Creek Road between the township & the recreation reserve

Remove & replace heavy galvanised bridge edges with appropriate yet visually appealing alternative

Installation of interactive granite storytelling sign

Low level planting and a consideration of welcome/entry signage

Where tree planting is not possible due to shallow sheet rock, introduce low level planting

New gravel path linking existing bridge to bridge walk. Consideration of updated and relocated bridge to bridge walk signage

Improved and more defined parking surface for picnic reserve

Installation of large map signage. This map should detail surrounding attractions, bushwalks and trails and provide information on geology, flora and fauna



FEATURED AREA - SPRING CREEK BRIDGE
















FEATURED AREA - MAIN STREET

VISION & OBJECTIVES FOR THIS AREA

- New public amenity block in location of existing CFA shed (relocated)  
To include public toilets, picnic area and play areas.
- Key area for directional and map signage
- Installation of bike racks
- Extension of pavement verge to attract and highlight visitors to this area
- Path connection and signage to existing bridge to bridge walk
- Defined parking and seating area near hall
- Low level planting and additional trees to streetscpae and central median strip

LEGEND			
	EVENT SPACE		EXISTING TREE
	PLAY AREA		PROPOSED TREE
	ART OPPORTUNITY		LOW LEVEL VEGETATION
	POINT(S) OF INTEREST SIGN		DIRECTIONAL SIGN
	ENTRY SIGN		BINS
			BIKE RACK

# DESIGN ELEMENTS

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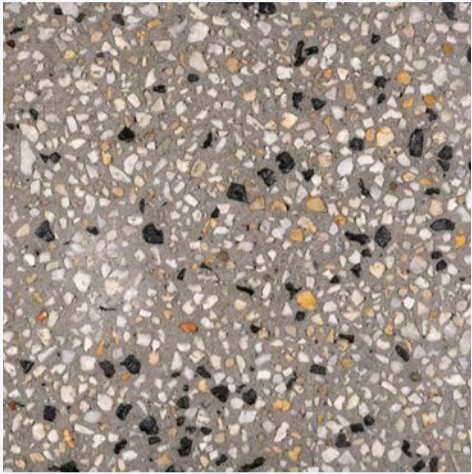
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MATERIAL PALETTE

PATHS, PAVEMENTS



**INFORMAL PATHS**  
Local Granitic Gravel



**SEALED PATHS**  
Exposed Aggregate Concrete  
Colour: Bacchus Marsh



**RAISED WALKWAYS**  
Envirograte  
Colour: Light Grey  
Predominant Use: Over Swales

EDGES & FENCES



**PROPOSED**  
Predominant Use: Areas where informal parking is effecting plant growth. Areas where existing kerb is visually obtrusive



**EXISTING**  
Consider re-design of barrier to reduce its obstruction of the pedestrian bridge



**PROPOSED**  
T18 Log Rail Traffic Barrier  
**Location:** Spring Creek Picnic Area  
**Key Material:** Timber & Concealed Steel



MATERIAL PALETTE

SEATING & EATING



**PROPOSED**  
**Predominant Use:** Main Street  
**Key Attributes:** Granite



**PROPOSED**  
**Predominant Use:** Picnic Areas  
**Key Attributes:** Granite & Timber

PICNIC PAVILION



**PROPOSED**  
Examples  
Picnic Pavillion  
**Location:** Spring Creek Area  
**Key Attributes:** Granite BBQ Area, Open or semi-open to all sides to allow for views  
**Key Material:** Granite surfaces, Steel & Timber Construcion

OTHER STREET FIXTURES

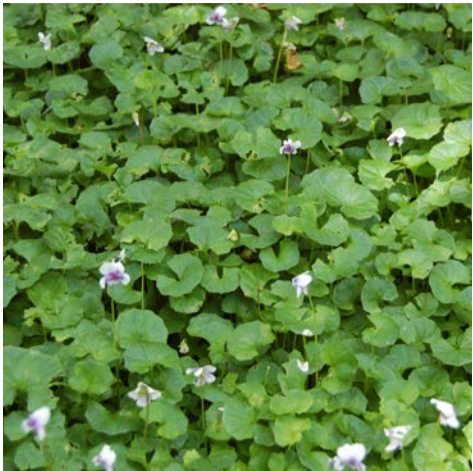


**BIKE RACK**  
Example  
**Location:** Spring Creek Area, Public Amenity Block  
**Key Attributes:** Simple  
**Key Material:** Steel



**BOLLARD**  
Example  
**Location:** Main Street  
**Key Attributes:** Simple  
**Key Material:** Timber & Steel

LANDSCAPING



**LOW LEVEL PLANTING EXAMPLES**  
Common Heath, Pink-bells, Moth Daisy Bush, Common Hovea, Handsome Flat Pea, Ivy-leaf Violet, Kidney Weed, Grass Trigger-plant, Grey Tussock Grass, Tasman Flax-lily, Weeping Grass, Westringia Fruticosa, Lomandra Tanika, Ficinia Nodosa, Kangaroo Grass, Lomandra longifoia, Lomandra 'lime light', Juncus psammophilus, Pycnosaurus globulus, Drumsticks, Woolly grevillea – prostrate form, Acacia mitchellii



**SHRUB EXAMPLES**  
Austral Bracken, Mother Shield-fern, Mountain Clematis, Purple Coral Pea, White Correa, Wyeena Flax Lily, Common Cassinia,

LANDSCAPING REFERENCE GUIDE

Refer to the Ecological Vegetation Class Bioregion Benchmark for Vegetation Quality Assessment in the Northern Fall bioregion. EVC 23: Herb-rich Foothill Forest Highlands

This streetscape renewal concept incorporates a mix of local indigenous planting to improve local biodiversity, promote sustainable local plantings and provide a sense of identity and connection to place through the landscape approach. The use of local and indigenous plantings has many benefits including local availability, environmental tolerance, reducing the effects of climate change and improved water use. The additional benefit of involving existing community groups (that have interest and expert knowledge in conservation, land care and their local environment) into the plant selection process, has the ability to also see this landscaping approach thrive.

OTHER LANDSCAPING TREATMENTS



**LANDSCAPING ROCKS**  
Predominant Use: Mixed in with low-level planting areas

**DECORATIVE GROUND-COVER**  
Predominant Use: North-West /Spring Creek side of road where planting is not possible due to shallow sheet rock



**MEDIUM TREE EXAMPLES**  
Silver Wattle, *Tristanopsis laurina*  
'Luscious', *Eucalyptus mannifera*  
'Little Spotty', Lemon Squash *Corymbia citriodora*, *Corymbia citriodora* 'Scentuous' syn. 'Dwarf Pink',  
*Acacia implexa* - Hickory Wattle, Lightwood,



**LARGE TREE EXAMPLES**  
Broad-leaved Peppermint,  
Narrow-leaved Peppermint,  
*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*  
*megalocarpa* , *Eucalyptus blakelyi*,  
Blakeley's Red Gum, *Eucalyptus leucoxylon*, Yellow Gum,  
*Eucalyptus melliodora*, Yellow Box, *Eucalyptus microcarpa*, Grey Box, *Brachychiton populneus*,  
*Lophostemon confertus*

SIGNAGE

EXISTING SIGNAGE - AREA FOR IMPROVEMENT



**EXISTING**  
Ineffective, Replace with Map Signage



**EXISTING**  
Remove, incorporate into welcome signage



**EXISTING**  
Consider relocation or if required



**EXISTING**  
Consider relocation to entry roads



**EXISTING**  
Consider this data to be included on entry signs



**EXISTING**  
Replace with new directional signage

PROPOSED SIGNAGE TYPES & EXAMPLES

MAP SIGNAGE



**PROPOSED**  
Example  
**Location:** Main Street, Spring Creek Picnic Area  
**Key Attributes:** Map of the Area, Community Noticeboard on Reverse, Covered Area  
**Key Material:** Timber

ENTRY/WELCOME SIGNS



**PROPOSED**  
Example  
Strathbogrie. Township of the Strathbogrie Tableland Est 1877  
**Location:** Both ends of Main Street (near bridges)  
**Key Attributes:** Simple, Clear, Consistent Text  
**Key Material:** Granite

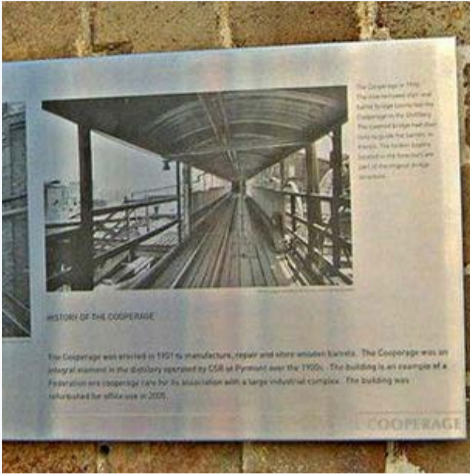
DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE



**PROPOSED**  
Examples  
Direction to public toilets, shop (map sign), Picnic Areas  
**Location:** Main Street, Spring Creek Picnic Area, At Main St/ Intersection  
**Key Attributes:** Simple, Clear, Minimal  
**Key Material:** Granite and/or Metal

SIGNAGE

HERITAGE STORYTELLING SIGN



**PROPOSED**  
Examples  
**Location:** As Per Heritage Trail  
**Key Attributes:** Key Images, Consistant text type with other signage. Possible accompaniment of qr code linking to additional photos and audio description  
**Key Material:** Etched steel. Possibly set in granite. Muted grey tones.

GRANITE STORYTELLING SIGN



**PROPOSED**  
Examples  
**Location:** Spring Creek Picnic Area  
**Key Attributes:** Interactive. Possibly include touchable samples, magnifying glass  
**Key Material:** Granite, Steel, Timber



CONNECTIVITY



# IMPLEMENTATION

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION

*Involvement and engagement with local groups is key to achieving the best outcome for the streetscape renewal program.*

*Community groups active in Strathbogie such as the Euroa Arboretum, the Strathbogie Tableland Action Group and the Strathbogie Landcare group can provide a wealth of knowledge and understanding of desired local outcomes in particular to plant selection and long-term maintenance strategies.*

*Other community groups with interest in arts and culture can provide a local voice and identity to furniture design, signage design and identified art opportunities.*

*Engaging the skills of these groups and their networks within the community as part of the implementation process will improve;*

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Knowledge Transfer    | Site Specific and Appropriate Outcomes |
| Local Wealth Transfer | Community Ownership                    |
| Community Involvement | Community Socialisation & Well-Being   |

