

# SHARE STRATHBOGIE

## Engagement Report

Updated September 2021

# Document control

## Document information

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# 1. Introduction

The Local Government Act Victoria 2020 requires Council adopt a Community Engagement Policy that includes deliberative engagement practices. These practices must then be used to ensure true community input into the development of the:

- Community Vision
- Council Plan
- Financial Plan, and
- Asset Plan

The Act provides Councils until March 1 to have a Community Engagement Policy adopted. The Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan deadline is October 31 this year.

Council is working hard to improve our communications and engagement practice to build confidence and trust in what we do. We know, working with our community will mean we can achieve great things. Our goal is a shared vision, a common direction, a united community.

## 2. The Engagement Approach

Our engagement program will be delivered in five stages. These are outlined below.

Stage one February – April 2021	<p>We hit the streets hosting <i>Share Strathbogie</i> sessions in all seven of our townships.</p> <p>Hundreds of face-to-face conversations were held with locals about why they love living in Strathbogie Shire, what would make it an even better place to live and if there was anything people could live without.</p> <p>Our goal was to understand our community's values and expectations. To be really clear on what matters to our community. These broad questions helped us achieve this goal.</p> <p>During stage one we also used a budgeting exercise that allowed us to understand our community's infrastructure and service priorities.</p> <p>The outcomes of this exercise were two-fold. They helped us set the priorities in our Council Plan and Community Vision, along with informing the 2021/22 Budget and our 10-year Financial Plan.</p>
Stage two April 2021	<p>In April we launched our online engagement platform <a href="http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au">www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au</a>. Through this platform we continued to ask our community the three broad questions designed to understand their values and expectations.</p> <p>Stage two also allowed us to test what we were hearing, to ensure we weren't misunderstanding any of the themes we had developed during stage one.</p> <p><a href="http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au">www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au</a> allowed Council to engage more broadly than ever before. This platform allowed people to share their feedback from any place at any time. It meant those who didn't value the face-to-face sessions in stage one could be heard.</p>

Stage three July to August 2021	<p>The Strathbogie Shire Community Panel was held over three consecutive Sundays in July and August.</p> <p>Panel members were independently recruited in a random-selection process to ensure there was a cross-section of people working together to drive Council's direction.</p> <p>Through an independently facilitated process, the panel drafted a Vision Statement that captured what our community values most about living in our Shire and helped set the priorities for a Council Plan that gets us there.</p> <p>Expert facilitators used deliberative engagement methods to support panel members with different viewpoints to work together in a respectful manner and come to a shared position.</p> <p>Participants deliberated on a range of topics and voting was used to confirm the final recommendations and rationales.</p>
Stage four September	<p>In September we provided another opportunity for our community to provide their thoughts, advice and feedback.</p> <p>We released our Draft Council Plan and Draft Financial plan for a traditional 28-day consultation period on <a href="http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au">www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au</a></p>
Stage five	<p>This stage will include an extensive communications campaign to ensure our community has access to the final Council Plan, Community Vision and 10-year Financial Plan and understands how their input shaped the final documents.</p>

### 3. Engagement methods

Our planned engagement program ensured our community was engaged using the method or tool they preferred.

In stage one we created meaningful face-to-face engagement opportunities across our Shire. This ensured we proactively sought feedback and generated two-way conversations.

The *Share Strathbogie* sessions provided the first opportunity for our community to have their voices heard. Having Councillors at every session demonstrated to the public their ideas were being considered and acknowledged.

Face-to-face engagement generated trust in the process. It allowed community members to ask questions, be provided with answers and feel heard.

As we moved through the stages the depth of engagement changed. This has ensured our engagement activities have stretched along the IAP2 Engagement Spectrum from 'inform' to 'collaborate' and 'empower'.

The table on the following page outlines the engagement methods we used based on the level of impact.

**Table 1: Engagement methods used based on the level of impact.**

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
<b>General Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertising</li> <li>Media releases</li> <li>Social media</li> <li>Emails</li> <li>Newsletter stories</li> <li>Website</li> <li>Fact sheets</li> <li>Posters</li> </ul>	<b>Direct and Interactive Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customer Centre</li> <li>Letters seeking feedback</li> <li>Draft Council Plan and Financial Plan</li> </ul>	<b>Feedback forums</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share Strathbogie face-to-face sessions</li> <li>Prioritisation exercise</li> <li>Meetings with stakeholders</li> </ul>	<b>Community Panel and online engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Panel</li> <li>Share Strathbogie Online Engagement Hub</li> <li>Polling</li> <li>Surveys</li> <li>Briefing papers</li> <li>Videos</li> </ul>	<b>Community Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Panel</li> </ul>

### 3.1. Deliberative engagement

During stage three the Strathbogie Shire Community Panel was able to test the findings we received during the previous stages.

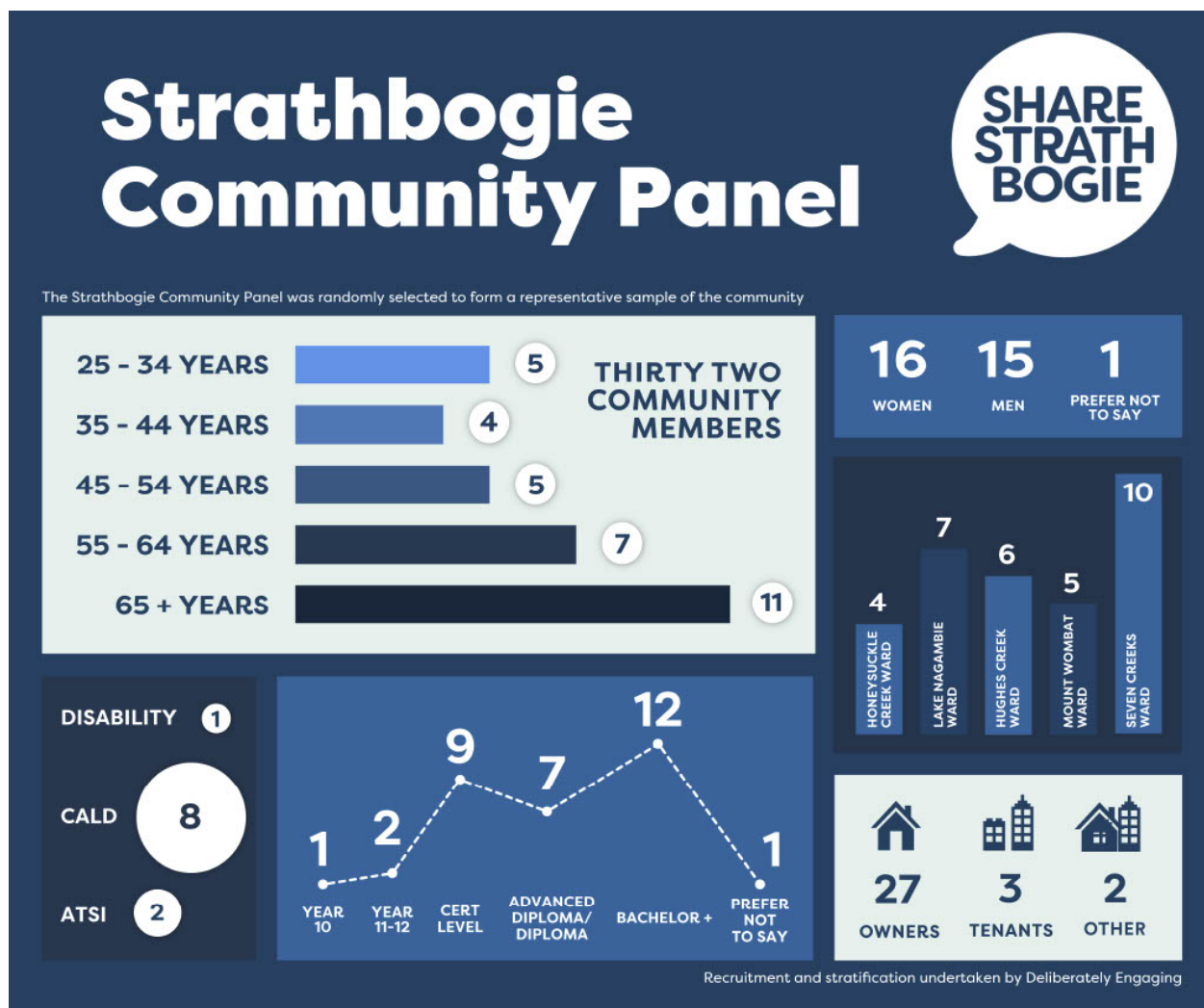
We engaged two consultants for the delivery of our Community Panel: Max Hardy Consulting and Deliberately Engaging. This ensured true deliberative engagement was achieved with true independence in the process.

Deliberately Engaging independently managed the entire recruitment process – selecting a representative sample of 32 participants across our Shire. Max Hardy Consulting designed and delivered an engagement process that ensured open, honest, genuine, transparent and fair input into our Community Vision and Council Plan. It also ensured we met the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

The process was completed using a deliberative engagement approach that:

- had a clearly defined scope and objective
- provided objective, relevant and timely information
- included a panel of participants that were representative of the community impacted by the matter in question
- participants were offered support to ensure they are able to participate meaningfully in the engagement process, and
- the participants were informed of the ways in which the community engagement process would influence Council decision making.

**Figure 1: Community Panel participants by ward, gender and age.**



This process confirmed for Council the strategic focus areas that have been included in our Council Plan and allowed us to develop strategies, key initiatives and actions that directly response to our Community Vision and community's priorities. Robust discussions were held on key topics raised through previous engagement sessions and new topics, driven by the panel. This included.

- Environment and waste
- Project delivery
- Asset planning
- Planning and investment
- Tourism, arts and culture
- Corporate operations
- Economic development

Council also drew on the expertise of id Consulting to present the panel with information on demographic shifts impacting Australia, Victoria, Melbourne and Strathbogie Shire.

On topics where consensus on recommendations being put forward could not be reached polling was used and recommendations were accepted where 75 per cent or more of the panel said they could live with the recommendation. These responses can be viewed in an [independent facilitator's report](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/independent-facilitator-s-report) on [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au).



### 3.2. Information provided to the community

During our engagement activities extensive information was provided to the community. Correspondence was sent to all households in our community twice. The first through the MyStrathbogie Bulletin to launch the Share Strathbogie face-to-face sessions and the second through an invitation to apply to be part of the Community Panel.

**Table 2: Links to all the information provided.**

What	Topic
Media release 1	<a href="#">Help shape the future of Strathbogie Shire</a>
Media release 2	<a href="#">Sense of Community makes Strathbogie Shire special</a>
Media release 3	<a href="#">Help drive the future direction of Strathbogie Shire</a>
Media release 4	<a href="#">Community at heart of Council Plan</a>
Media release 5	<a href="#">Feedback on draft plans wanted</a>
Fact sheet	<a href="#">Help shape Strathbogie Shire's future</a>
Fact sheet	<a href="#">Join the Strathbogie Shire Community Panel</a>
Newsletter to all Shire households	<a href="#">My Strathbogie Bulletin</a>
eNews	Links to <a href="http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au">www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au</a> in every edition
Euroa Gazette Advertising	Weekly from April to September
Nagambie Voice Advertising	Fortnightly from April to September
Posters	<a href="#">Ruffy poster</a>
Invitation to all Shire households	<a href="#">Join our Community Panel</a>
Strathbogie Shire Community Panel	<a href="#">Welcome pack</a>
Briefing note	<a href="#">Tourism and community services</a>
Briefing note	<a href="#">Project delivery</a>
Briefing note	<a href="#">Waste and environment</a>
Briefing note	<a href="#">Planning and investment</a>
Briefing note	<a href="#">Economic development</a>
Briefing note	<a href="#">Corporate operations</a>
Briefing note	<a href="#">Asset planning</a>
Social media 1	<a href="#">Share Strathbogie launch</a>
Social media 2	<a href="#">Have you heard about Share Strathbogie?</a>
Social media 3	<a href="#">Strathbogie Shire event reminder</a>
Social media 4	<a href="#">Strathbogie alert</a>
Social media 5	<a href="#">Avenel alert</a>
Social media 6	<a href="#">Longwood alert</a>
Social media 7	<a href="#">Violet Town alert</a>
Social media 8	<a href="#">Ruffy alert</a>
Social media 9	<a href="#">Online engagement platform launched</a>
Social media 10	<a href="#">Online engagement platform reminder</a>
Social media 11	<a href="#">Online engagement platform reminder</a>
Social media 12	<a href="#">Online engagement platform reminder</a>
Social media 13	<a href="#">Avenel alert 2</a>
Social media 14	<a href="#">Join our Community Panel</a>
Social media 15	<a href="#">Community request – join our panel</a>
Social media 16	<a href="#">Join our Community Panel</a>
Social media 17	<a href="#">Community request for young people to join our panel</a>
Social media 18	<a href="#">Community Panel registration now open</a>
Social media 19	<a href="#">Have your say on our Draft Council Plan</a>

## 4. Participation

Many of our Share Strathbogie sessions were held at public events throughout our Shire. Through these we held hundreds of conversations with our community. While we have not captured the number of participants we have:

- Captured more than 800 individual pieces of feedback
- Completed eight *Share Strathbogie* sessions in Strathbogie, Nagambie, Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Violet Town, Ruffy and Avenel (after weather impacted the twilight market)
- Dedicated more than 200 hours face-to-face hours
- Hosted a Community Panel, using deliberative engagement methods across three consecutive Sundays in July-August.
- Achieved a social media reach of more than 15,000 and post engagement of more than 880.
- Online hits of more than 3300
- Received more than 200 pieces of feedback from the community panel and more than 23 recommendations to include in the Council Plan
- Received 11 submissions to our Draft Council Plan
- No submissions were received on the Draft 10-year Financial Plan

## 5. What our community told us

Through the face-to-face Share Strathbogie sessions we captured more than 800 individual pieces of feedback. We have worked through all feedback to determine topics in Council's remit and those that are outside Council's area of control or, which sit as opportunities for Council advocacy. This feedback can be found in 6.9 *Key questions feedback*.

### 5.1. Key questions

People responded well to our three key questions – what do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire, what would make it even better and is there anything you could live without.

This exercise was designed with two goals in mind:

1. To provide every person living in Strathbogie Shire with an opportunity to share their values and aspirations
2. To understand our community's values, needs and hopes for the future.

From this feedback we have been able to develop seven themes, which are outlined below.

**A creative community.** Our community told us they value arts and culture. They are proud of their cultural heritage and our artistic talents. Now is the time to build on that so everyone can enjoy it.

**Liveability and connectivity.** This is about roads, rates, footpaths and rubbish – they matter. Our people want easy access around our townships and throughout our Shire. These services are important they make us love where we live.

**Our environment.** Our community is telling us this is why they love where they live. It's the natural environment, the open space, the parks, gardens and waterways that draw people here

to live, work and play. More importantly, they're telling us to protect it. They want future generations to experience the special place we call home.

**Sustainable growth and development.** This is a topic on many people's minds. Development must be managed carefully to protect the natural environment, to protect our sense of community. We must ensure the community infrastructure grows at the same pace as housing, tourism and industry.

**Our people.** To borrow a line from a famous movie (and our community, we heard it several times) it's 'the vibe', it's the people, it's a feeling of safety. It's passion, it's spirit, it's just an awesome place to live. Let's build on the things that support our people – young, old and in between.

**Smart spending.** Of course there's the serious side. Our community want us to spend funds wisely. They're concerned they're not getting value for money. They're expecting we spend smart and buy local whenever we can.

**An engaged community.** When it comes to communication we can't do enough. They're grateful for the customer service team, but beyond that there are improvements to be made. Our community is telling us they're seeing better input into our decision making, but we're definitely on notice. Community engagement makes for better decisions and better outcomes.

## 5.2. Prioritisation Exercise

At each *Share Strathbogie* session participants were able to complete an exercise that allowed them to prioritise Council services and infrastructure. Participants were given 200 points and were asked to put their points towards the infrastructure and services that mattered to them. This exercise was designed with two goals in mind:

1. To provide every person living in Strathbogie Shire with an opportunity to share their priorities with Council.
2. To ensure we understand our community's priorities to inform the 2021/22 Budget, Community Vision and Council Plan

Through this activity we found our community's top five service and infrastructure priorities are:

Service priorities	Infrastructure priorities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths</li><li>2. Climate Change</li><li>3. Supporting local business</li><li>4. Planning and development</li><li>5. Environment</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths</li><li>2. Buildings and facilities</li><li>3. Arts and cultural facilities</li><li>4. Major facilities that promote tourism or regional events</li><li>5. Waste management</li></ol>

Full results can be found in section 6. *Findings*.

## 5.3. Community Panel

### 5.3.1. Community Vision

Day one of the Community Panel focussed on the development of a draft Community Vision Statement. Participants were first asked to describe what their ideal week in Strathbogie Shire

would look like in 2040. This information was then used by the panel to begin drafting the Community Vision.

An editorial group was then elected who were tasked with developing a single combined vision that reflected the overall sentiment of the group. The panel had many opportunities to provide their input into the draft vision, before the group was polled on the final vision statement.

The vision statement passed with 87 per cent of the panel voting that they could live with it or better.

*Figure 2: The vision statement developed by the Strathbogie Shire Community Panel.*

**“The Strathbogie Shire is a region of natural beauty with vibrant communities who are respectful, optimistic and inclusive.**

**We have a strong sense of belonging and of our collective history. We care deeply for Country and First Nations people.**

**We are bold. We embrace opportunities. We welcome you.”**

### 5.3.2. Testing the themes

One of the key tasks on the Community Panel was testing the themes developed through Stage one of the face-to-face Share Strathbogie sessions held in townships throughout the Shire.

The panel voted to consolidate these themes by combining 1, 5 and 7 into a single theme and 4 and 6 into a single theme. This meant the panel identified four key themes that would support the delivery of the Community Vision, these being:

- Engaged Community
- Connected people and places
- Living in our Healthy Environment
- Holistic Growth/Productivity and Development

### 5.3.3. Developing actions

The Community Panel made 23 recommendations under these four key areas that would be used to achieve the Community Vision. These recommendations can be found in section seven, with the full [Community Panel Report](#) and on [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au).

#### **5.4. Submissions to draft Council Plan and 10-year Financial Plan**

To ensure we had captured the feedback through eight months of community engagement the Draft Council Plan and Draft 10-year Financial Plan were released for a 28-day consultation period in September.

The release of the draft documents was accompanied by an extensive communications campaign, which shared our call for feedback through all our communications channels. This included social media, website, [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au), emails and the media.

We received 11 submissions. All submissions can be found in section eight.

# 6.Findings – stage one

## 6.1. Overall findings

Table 3: Overall service priorities

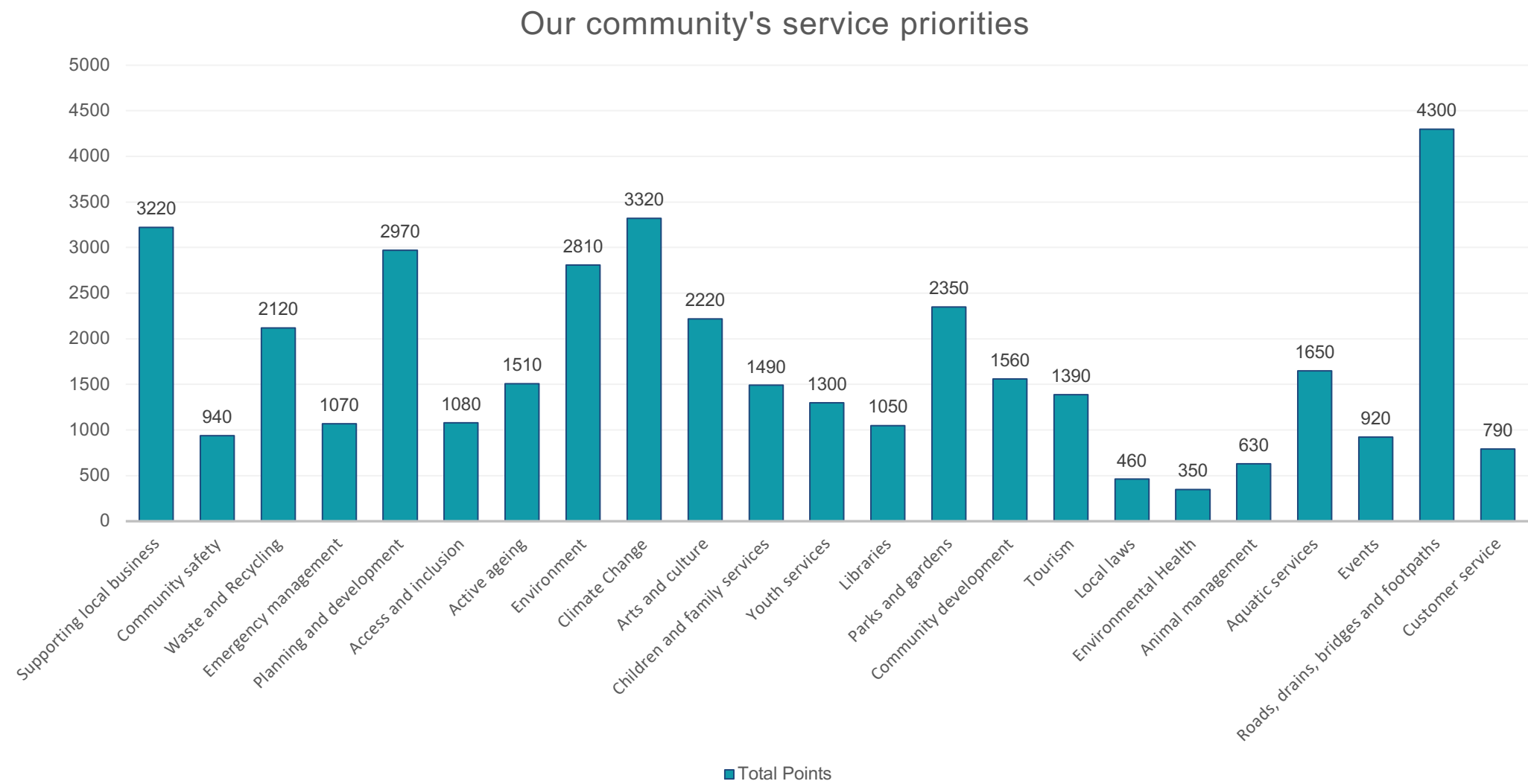
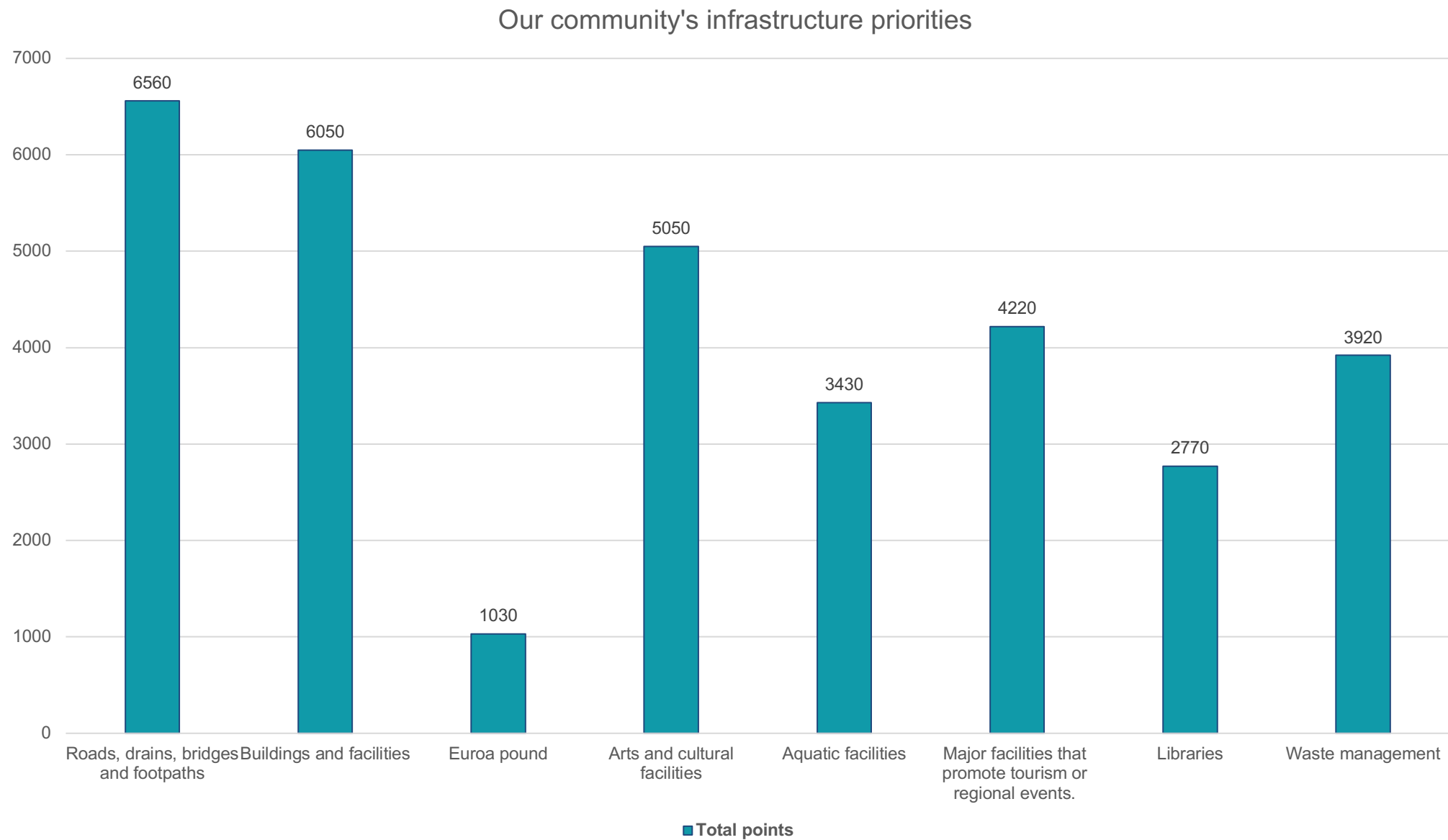
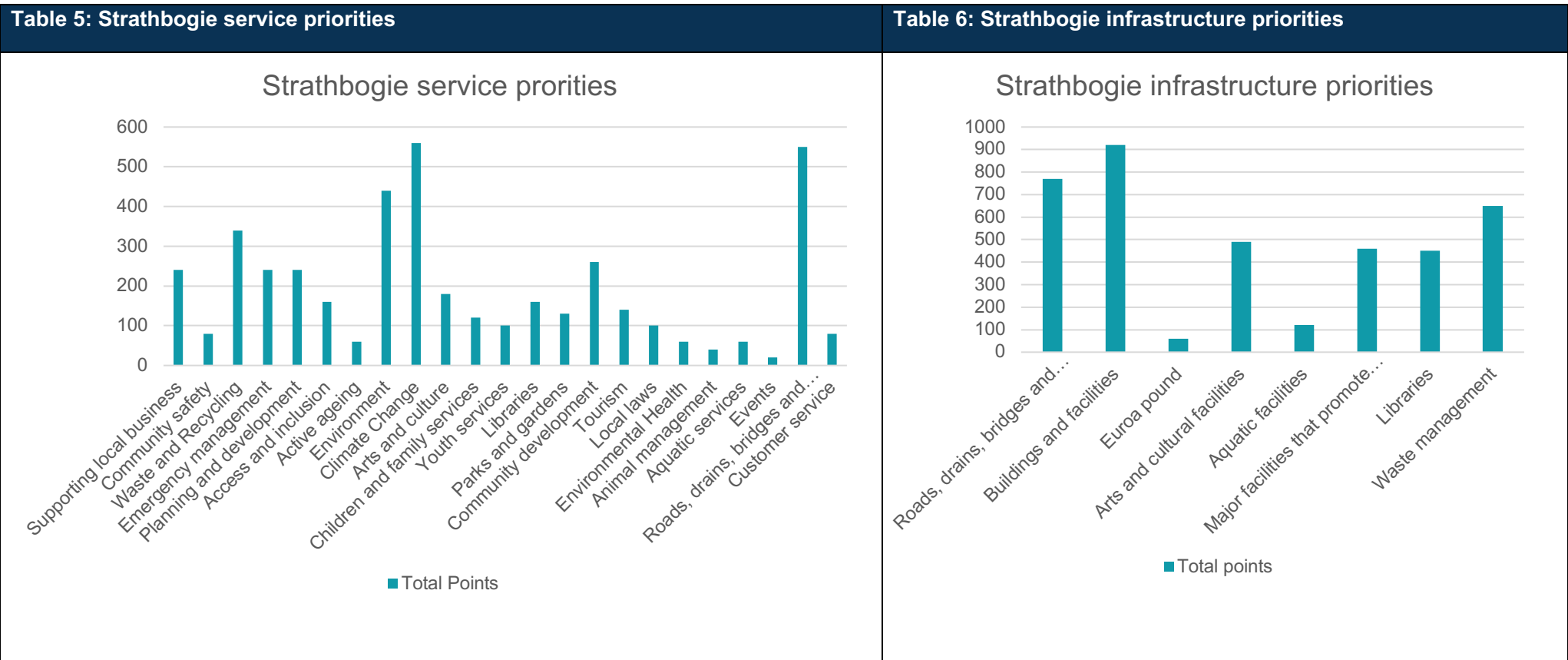


Table 4: Overall infrastructure priorities

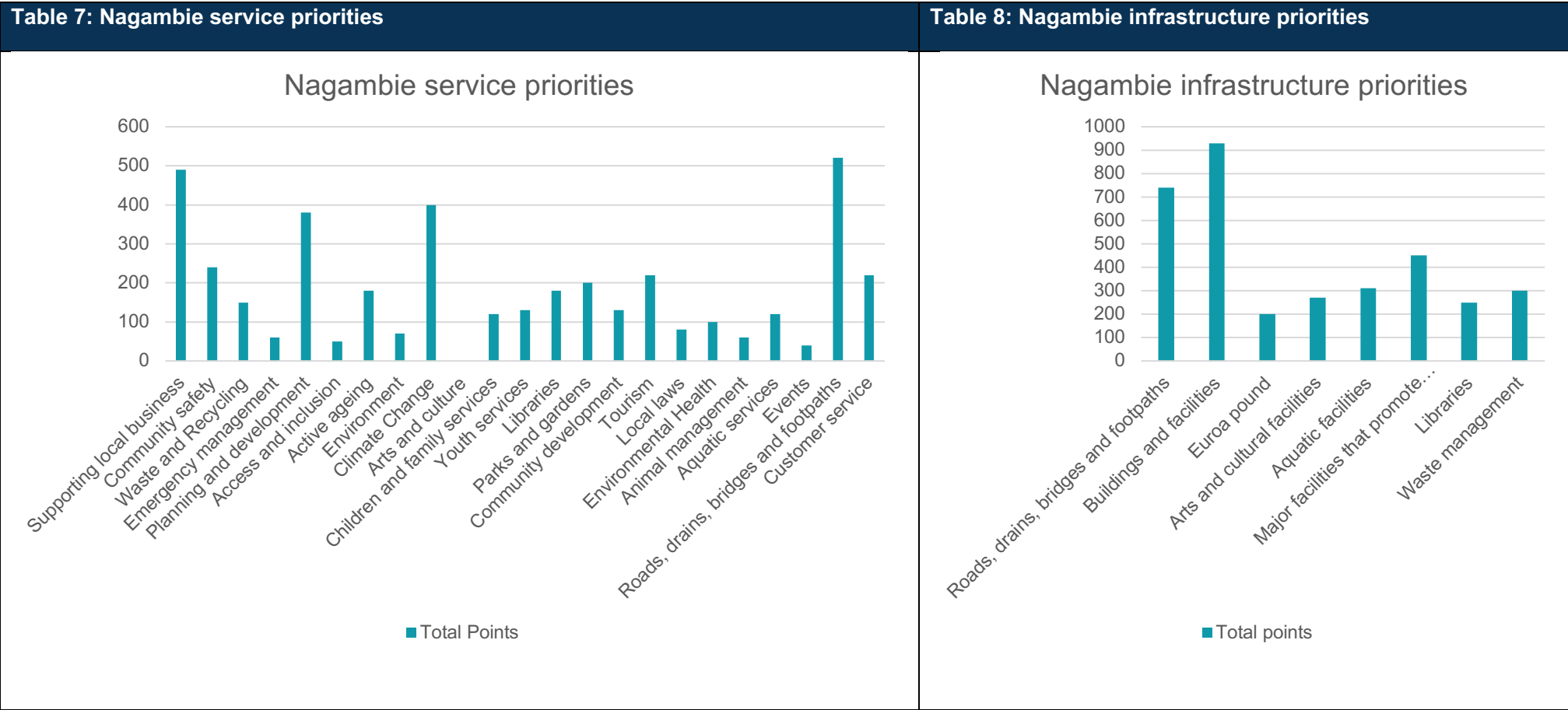


6.2. Strathbogie findings





6.3. Nagambie findings



6.4. Euroa findings

Table 9: Euroa service priorities	Table 10: Euroa infrastructure priorities																																																																		
<div><p>Euroa service priorities</p><table><thead><tr><th>Service Priority</th><th>Total Points</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Supporting local business</td><td>850</td></tr><tr><td>Community safety</td><td>200</td></tr><tr><td>Waste and Recycling</td><td>780</td></tr><tr><td>Emergency management</td><td>150</td></tr><tr><td>Planning and development</td><td>1350</td></tr><tr><td>Access and inclusion</td><td>300</td></tr><tr><td>Active ageing</td><td>380</td></tr><tr><td>Environment</td><td>980</td></tr><tr><td>Climate Change</td><td>850</td></tr><tr><td>Arts and culture</td><td>680</td></tr><tr><td>Children and family services</td><td>450</td></tr><tr><td>Youth services</td><td>430</td></tr><tr><td>Libraries</td><td>230</td></tr><tr><td>Parks and gardens</td><td>810</td></tr><tr><td>Community development</td><td>180</td></tr><tr><td>Tourism</td><td>430</td></tr><tr><td>Local laws</td><td>200</td></tr><tr><td>Environmental Health</td><td>50</td></tr><tr><td>Animal management</td><td>150</td></tr><tr><td>Aquatic services</td><td>240</td></tr><tr><td>Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths</td><td>320</td></tr><tr><td>Events</td><td>880</td></tr><tr><td>Customer service</td><td>130</td></tr></tbody></table><p>■ Total Points</p></div>	Service Priority	Total Points	Supporting local business	850	Community safety	200	Waste and Recycling	780	Emergency management	150	Planning and development	1350	Access and inclusion	300	Active ageing	380	Environment	980	Climate Change	850	Arts and culture	680	Children and family services	450	Youth services	430	Libraries	230	Parks and gardens	810	Community development	180	Tourism	430	Local laws	200	Environmental Health	50	Animal management	150	Aquatic services	240	Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths	320	Events	880	Customer service	130	<div><p>Euroa infrastructure priorities</p><table><thead><tr><th>Infrastructure Priority</th><th>Total points</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths</td><td>1400</td></tr><tr><td>Buildings and facilities</td><td>1180</td></tr><tr><td>Euroa pound</td><td>220</td></tr><tr><td>Arts and cultural facilities</td><td>1550</td></tr><tr><td>Aquatic facilities</td><td>900</td></tr><tr><td>Major facilities that promote tourism or ...</td><td>1150</td></tr><tr><td>Libraries</td><td>480</td></tr><tr><td>Waste management</td><td>980</td></tr></tbody></table><p>■ Total points</p></div>	Infrastructure Priority	Total points	Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths	1400	Buildings and facilities	1180	Euroa pound	220	Arts and cultural facilities	1550	Aquatic facilities	900	Major facilities that promote tourism or ...	1150	Libraries	480	Waste management	980
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6.5. Longwood findings

Table 11: Longwood service priorities

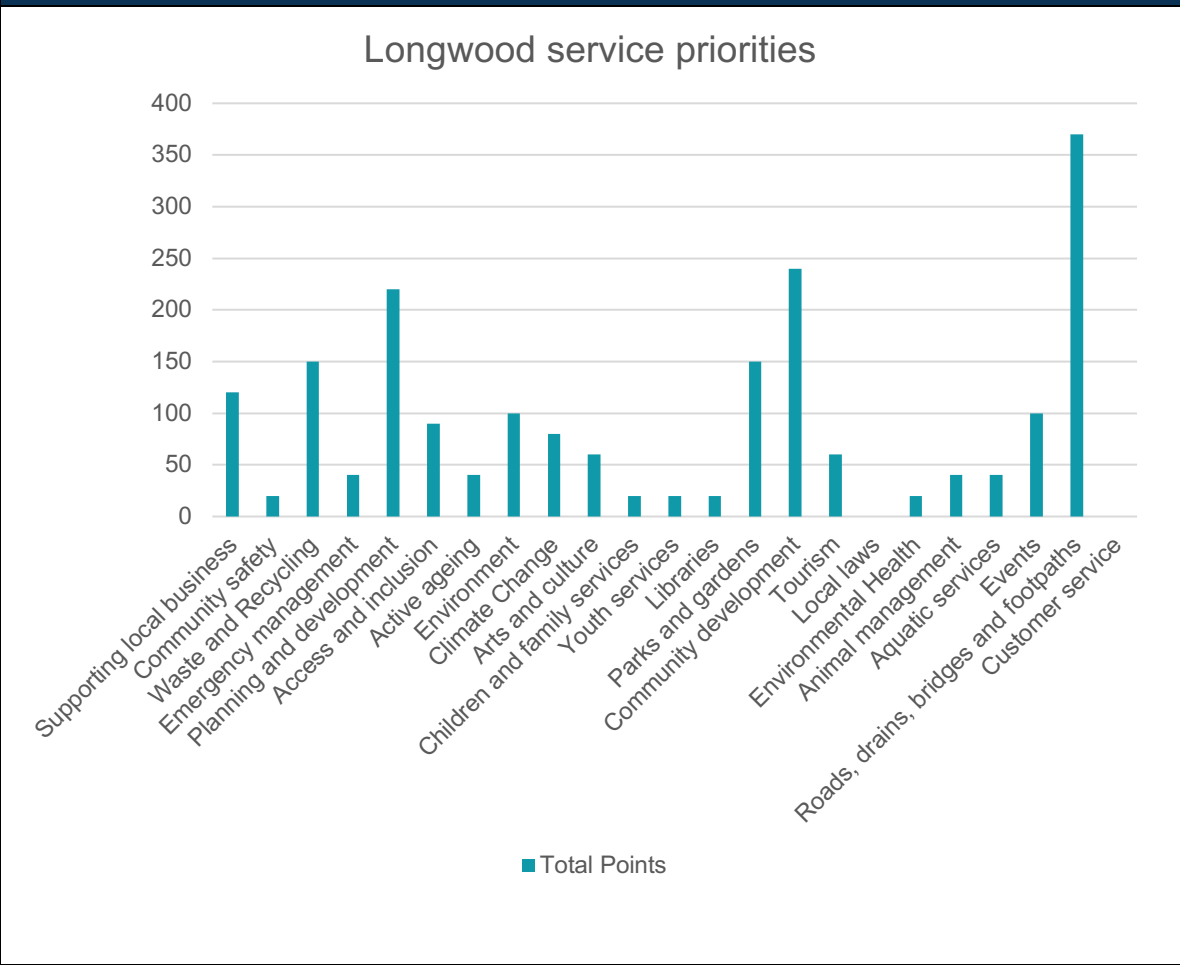
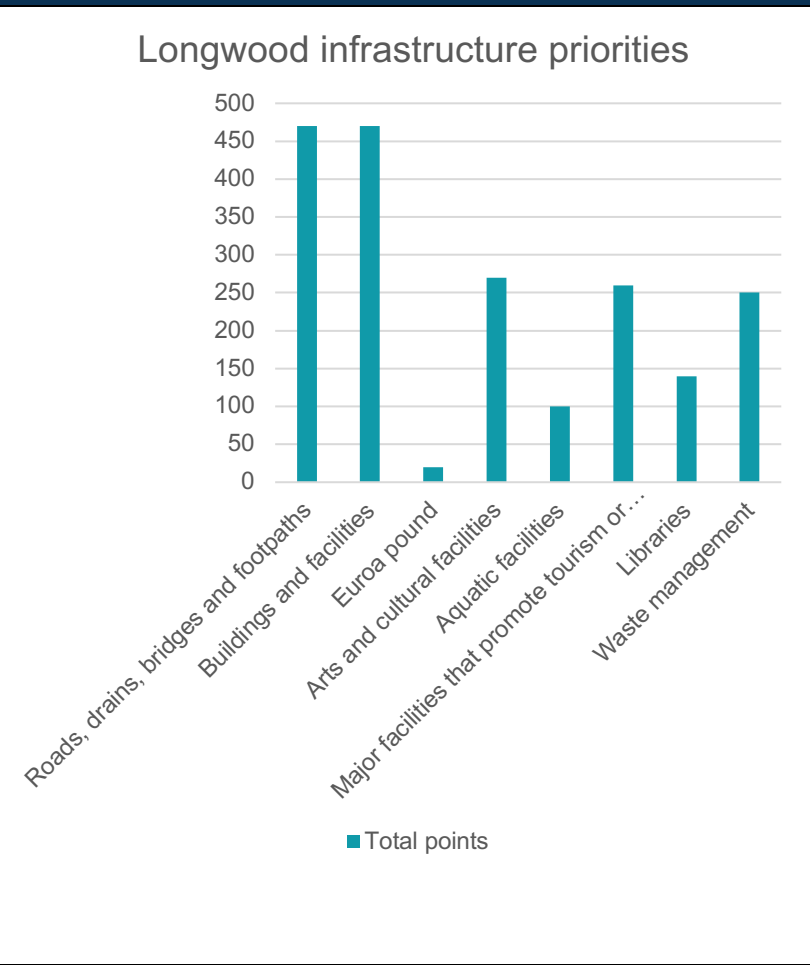


Table 12: Longwood infrastructure priorities



6.6. Violet Town findings

Table 13: Violet Town service priorities	Table 14: Violet Town infrastructure priorities																																																																		
<p>Violet Town service priorities</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Service Priority</th><th>Total Points</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Supporting local business</td><td>810</td></tr><tr><td>Community safety</td><td>180</td></tr><tr><td>Waste and Recycling</td><td>250</td></tr><tr><td>Emergency management</td><td>190</td></tr><tr><td>Planning and development</td><td>330</td></tr><tr><td>Access and inclusion</td><td>220</td></tr><tr><td>Active ageing</td><td>390</td></tr><tr><td>Environment</td><td>250</td></tr><tr><td>Climate Change</td><td>340</td></tr><tr><td>Arts and culture</td><td>650</td></tr><tr><td>Children and family services</td><td>250</td></tr><tr><td>Youth services</td><td>150</td></tr><tr><td>Libraries</td><td>220</td></tr><tr><td>Parks and gardens</td><td>310</td></tr><tr><td>Community development</td><td>340</td></tr><tr><td>Tourism</td><td>160</td></tr><tr><td>Local laws</td><td>60</td></tr><tr><td>Environmental Health</td><td>90</td></tr><tr><td>Animal management</td><td>60</td></tr><tr><td>Aquatic services</td><td>600</td></tr><tr><td>Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths</td><td>310</td></tr><tr><td>Events</td><td>520</td></tr><tr><td>Customer service</td><td>80</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>■ Total Points</p>	Service Priority	Total Points	Supporting local business	810	Community safety	180	Waste and Recycling	250	Emergency management	190	Planning and development	330	Access and inclusion	220	Active ageing	390	Environment	250	Climate Change	340	Arts and culture	650	Children and family services	250	Youth services	150	Libraries	220	Parks and gardens	310	Community development	340	Tourism	160	Local laws	60	Environmental Health	90	Animal management	60	Aquatic services	600	Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths	310	Events	520	Customer service	80	<p>Violet Town infrastucture priorities</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Infrastructure Priority</th><th>Total Points</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths</td><td>1170</td></tr><tr><td>Buildings and facilities</td><td>850</td></tr><tr><td>Euroa pound</td><td>120</td></tr><tr><td>Arts and cultural facilities</td><td>1000</td></tr><tr><td>Aquatic facilities</td><td>910</td></tr><tr><td>Major facilities that promote tourism or ...</td><td>800</td></tr><tr><td>Libraries</td><td>500</td></tr><tr><td>Waste management</td><td>550</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>■ Total points</p>	Infrastructure Priority	Total Points	Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths	1170	Buildings and facilities	850	Euroa pound	120	Arts and cultural facilities	1000	Aquatic facilities	910	Major facilities that promote tourism or ...	800	Libraries	500	Waste management	550
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6.7. Ruffy findings

Table 15: Ruffy service priorities

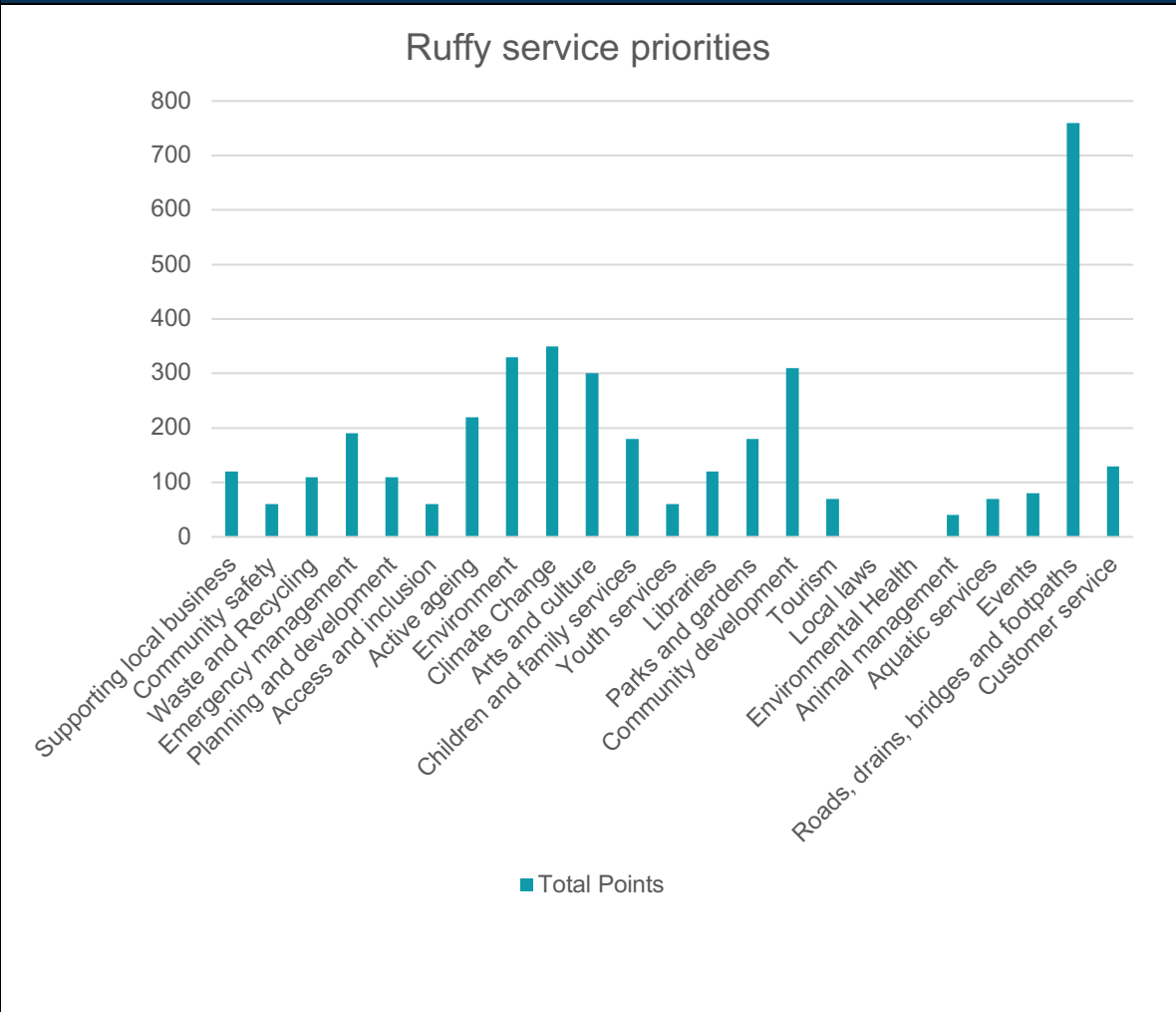
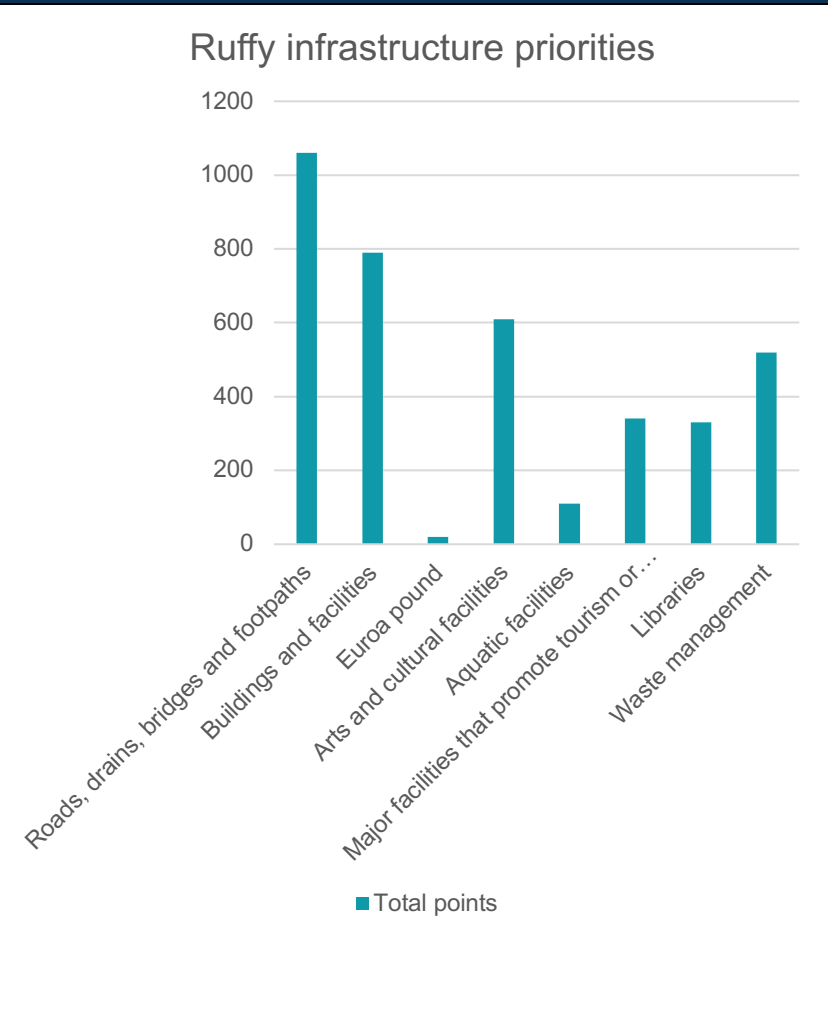


Table 16: Ruffy infrastructure priorities



6.8. Avenel findings

Table 17: Avenel service priorities

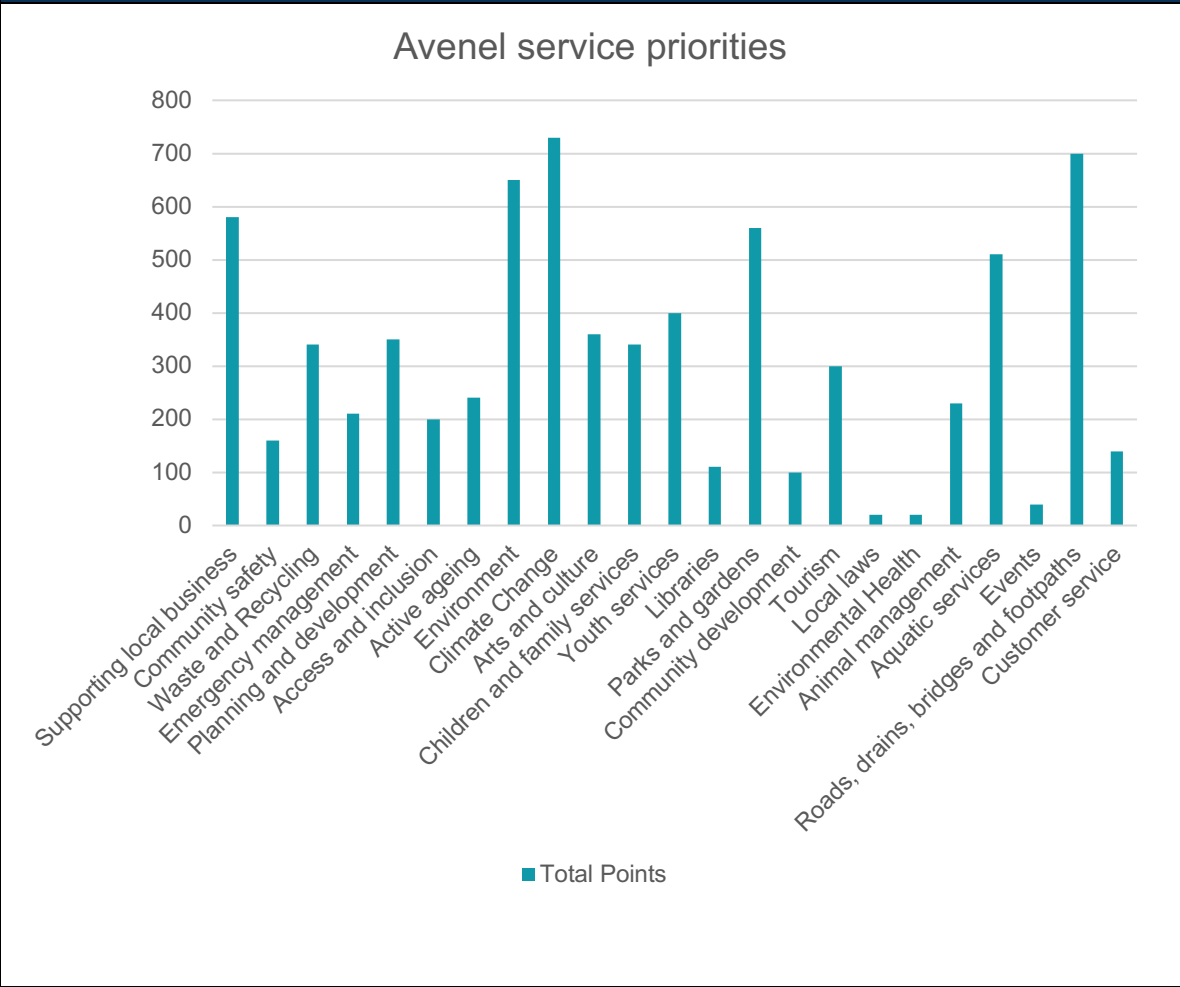
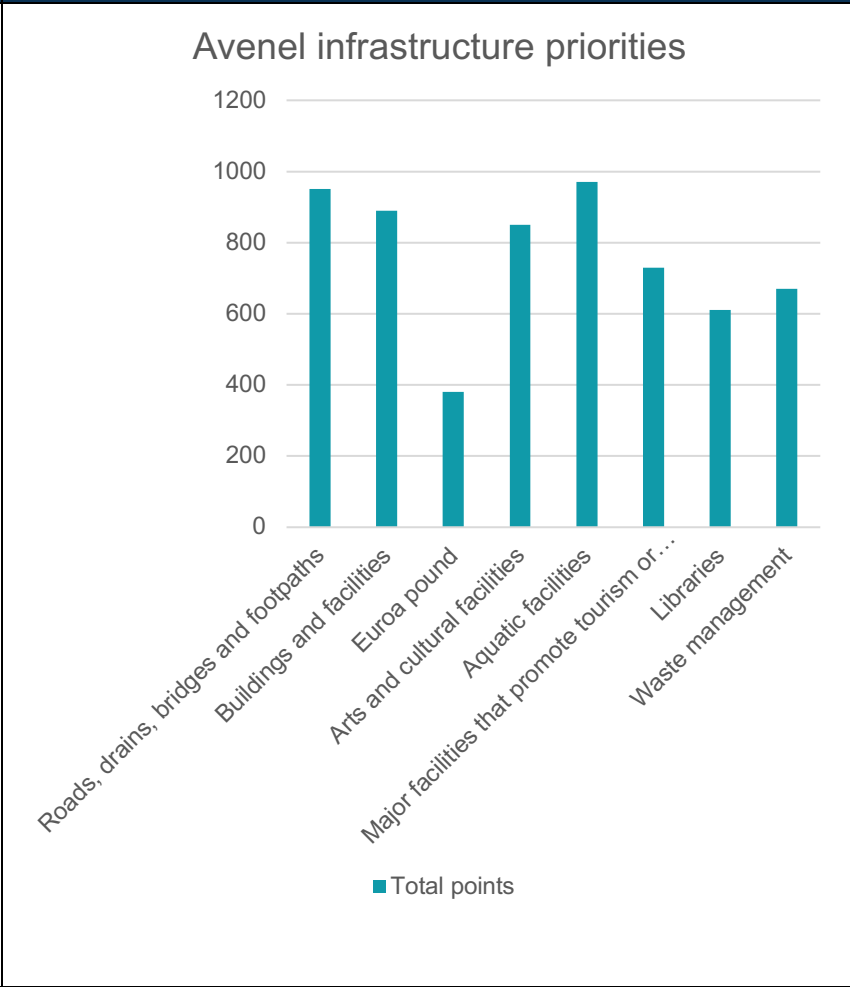


Table 18: Avenel infrastructure priorities



## 6.9. Key questions feedback

**Table 19. Feedback gathered relating to each theme.**

Theme	Key question	Feedback
<b>A creative community</b>	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Festivals and the energy they bring.</li> <li>• Variance of activities.</li> <li>• I never run out of things to do.</li> <li>• The cinema in Euroa.</li> <li>• Entertainment.</li> <li>• Tourist information friendly</li> <li>• Free camping at Longwood Recreation reserve.</li> <li>• More event - lots more could be done.</li> </ul>
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More community ART.</li> <li>• Support for VT market.</li> <li>• Promote historical aspects of Longwood more.</li> <li>• More art installations x2</li> <li>• More food and art culture to vitalise the town.</li> <li>• More street furniture for Binney Street.</li> <li>• Make Binney Street by the shops one way.</li> <li>• Binney street to go European.</li> <li>• Outdoor space Euroa Music Festival Music/events.</li> <li>• Festivals &amp; food precinct.</li> <li>• Recognise and celebrate the diversity of history in this town and make it more interactive.</li> <li>• Shared space - band hall and Visitor Information Centre</li> <li>• Use lake more as a draw card.</li> <li>• Tourism infrastructure.</li> <li>• Need energy to the place to draw people here.</li> <li>• More family tourism to bring people.</li> <li>• Sewerage dump point with parking bay in town as people pass through - however, the Regatta Centre is too far out of town.</li> <li>• Rowing events don't bring money to town as they BYO. Need to draw them into town.</li> <li>• Red Kelly statue.</li> <li>• Outdoor cinema.</li> <li>• More events activities.</li> <li>• More live music.</li> </ul>

	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 km speed limit through Nagambie.</li> </ul>
<b>Liveability and connectivity</b>	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Happy here - the Shire maintains the oval when you want it to be done.</li> <li>• Smaller town.</li> <li>• Location (to Melbourne) x 2</li> <li>• Our library, kinder friendly businesses (café, supermarket) pool, the creek The Parish.</li> <li>• Pools.</li> <li>• Sport in VT.</li> <li>• No need to shop out of town. Yah</li> <li>• Great pool. X 2</li> <li>• Country, freedom, peace.</li> <li>• Freedom - Its home. X 2</li> <li>• It's quiet.</li> <li>• Peaceful and tranquil location. Centrality ie to Victoria.</li> <li>• Proximity to Melbourne. but far enough away! x5</li> <li>• The parks are tended to regularly and tidied up.</li> <li>• Escape from Melbourne.</li> <li>• Great that it is a destination in itself.</li> <li>• Amenity - relaxed atmosphere.</li> <li>• Proximity to Melbourne. X 2</li> <li>• Facilities - driving options have improved.</li> <li>• Love the lifestyle.</li> <li>• Location, east of access, quick trip to Melbourne (by car) Village atmosphere.</li> <li>• Wouldn't swap it for metro ever.</li> <li>• Ice creams - must have been for the market!</li> <li>• Village feel of smaller towns.</li> <li>• Nice soft village.</li> <li>• Quiet, beautiful, cafes, lakes, homewares etc.</li> <li>• Lovely and clean and well preserved. Retains heritage.</li> <li>• Continue the support of the heritage buildings.</li> <li>• Architecture and ambience of old world.</li> <li>• Lovely and clean and well preserved. Retains heritage.</li> <li>• Proximity to Melbourne x 2</li> <li>• Can walk everywhere and leave the car at home.</li> <li>• Facilities.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like the pop ups in the main street - a great feature - good focus.</li> <li>• Historical buildings.</li> <li>• Lots of different sports.</li> <li>• Access to larger towns.</li> <li>• Pretty town.</li> </ul>
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sealed, safe roads X 3</li> <li>• Toilets - the TCC become public toilets and cleaned by Shire X 4</li> <li>• Roadsides - better management and large fallen trees - balancing habitat &amp; fire safety.</li> <li>• Mobile library to Ruffy.</li> <li>• Fix Buntings Hill Road wheelie bins.</li> <li>• Roads need to be graded properly - recent grading has made road unsafe. X 2</li> <li>• Grade roads more often.</li> <li>• Quality of roads - improve back road to Seymour.</li> <li>• Tar Buntings Hill Road.</li> <li>• Tar Longwood-Ruffy road -new section being done.</li> <li>• Disabled toilet is the only toilet open near walking track. Council needs to supply toilet paper, soap, towel and clean.</li> <li>• Ruffy Rec - fix the disabled reserve toilet door! It needs to open outwards X 2</li> <li>• Manage road side trees getter. Fuel load too high - older trees pose a lot of risk - Longwood Ruffy Road typical example.</li> <li>• Check trees that don't look too healthy for white ants - they love blowing over in the wind.</li> <li>• Safer roads (Welby track trees unsafe).</li> <li>• Clean nature strips of rubbish.</li> <li>• More activities for kids.</li> <li>• Flood mitigation infrastructure plan.</li> <li>• Upgrade the VT reserve. Improve main street re traffic.</li> <li>• A strategic Early Childhood Education Plan. Support for early childhood education.</li> <li>• Enforce dogs to be on leads.</li> <li>• Need electric car charger at servo as on junction of two highways.</li> <li>• \$\$\$ spent on the VT streetscape like other towns.</li> <li>• 50 km signs coming into VT are not visible, overgrown? Poor placing (coming from Murchison VT road.</li> <li>• Harrys Creek Road dangerously narrow (5-6 km out) 4-10 km.</li> <li>• Pool open longer months.</li> <li>• Community building available for music, dancing activities, kids and teens X 2</li> <li>• Appealing streetscape x 3</li> <li>• Footpaths. X 4 - Pedestrian crossing in Cowslip Street. Better pavements. X2</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easier process of septic tank permits.</li> <li>• Gap Road needs to be graded more.</li> <li>• Improvements to roads.</li> <li>• Better (some) town drainage in Longwood.</li> <li>• Masterplan for Longwood.</li> <li>• Masterplan on recreation reserve (plus grants we can use through Longwood East Landcare).</li> <li>• Better access to transport for those that do not drive.</li> <li>• More recreation/sports for children and adults.</li> <li>• Roadside should be cleared more when trees come down.</li> <li>• Better Longwood Ruffy Road.</li> <li>• Dangerous overhanging trees.</li> <li>• A masterplan for the Longwood Recreation Reserve.</li> <li>• Better servicing of unsurfaced roads.</li> <li>• Drainage for Hurley Street.</li> <li>• A decent town mower for Longwood.</li> <li>• Half basketball court &amp; playground in the pub paddock.</li> <li>• Footpaths &amp; kerbs to get kids safely to the bus stop.</li> <li>• 2nd netball court. X 2 for juniors as this age group growing numbers.</li> <li>• Amenities block for multipurpose (currently no facilities for female umpires).</li> <li>• A Council electric bus to service Strathbogie residents once each week (and Avenel, VT, Ruffy etc) on other days. To meet morning train (for city travel) and leaving Euroa after picking up passengers from midday train. For shopping, health etc.</li> <li>• A better place for the future? A more connected Shire Council. Better transport. Better infrastructure. Encourage new families.</li> <li>• Roadside management, fallen trees, damaged fences. If it fall in Euroa its removed, if it fall outside town boundary - push it off the road and forget it.</li> <li>• Children's Playground.</li> <li>• Tidy up around town.</li> <li>• Higher standards for footpaths and accessibility.</li> <li>• Clean picnic tables.</li> <li>• Clean bins.</li> <li>• Holes near service pits.</li> <li>• Pedestrian link to clock tower.</li> <li>• Need pathways for older people/disabled people around the lake.</li> <li>• Off leash dog area.</li> <li>• Hard rubbish pick up opportunities.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring back the water slide with a coin donation to raise money for community groups.</li> <li>• Water park.</li> <li>• Walk way to leisure park.</li> <li>• More walking tracks around the lake to town.</li> <li>• Need disabled parking at Buckley Street car park.</li> <li>• More disabled facilities.</li> <li>• No infrastructure which disadvantages the younger community.</li> <li>• Maintain the water front.</li> <li>• Need pram/wheelchair ramps and pathways such as at Clocktower.</li> <li>• More accessible tracks around the lake and town for prams and wheel chairs.</li> <li>• Kerbs and ramps to pathways from roads aren't suitable for power chairs and wheelchairs.</li> <li>• Parallel parking near water tower - all the way through.</li> <li>• If path to Regatta Centre happens - reserve land for potential extension. - bridge - G Ryan development - Parklea - so it goes around the lake.</li> <li>• Footpaths near hospital. Gaps in the network around town.</li> <li>• Angle park in High Street near statue. Move bus stop to outside Forbes garage.</li> <li>• Walkway from Regatta centre to town.</li> <li>• Public access to the lake.</li> <li>• Larger/more infrastructure need more ovals to cater for growth in town.</li> <li>• Where do kids play? More organised sport? Where are the facilities and planning.</li> <li>• Focus on water safety and education. Policing of waterways laws.</li> <li>• Playgrounds.</li> <li>• Even better skatepark.</li> <li>• More bike tracks and trails.</li> <li>• More things to do - bike riding.</li> <li>• A croquet lawn in Avenel.</li> <li>• Shire support for our historic buildings and bridge.</li> <li>• Avenel Rec Reserve support.</li> <li>• Better footpaths x 2</li> <li>• Heated swimming pool. X2 Not an ice bath.</li> <li>• Footpaths in Avenel.</li> <li>• Strathbogie township need more maintenance.</li> <li>• Creek to creek project needs mowing it's fire friendly.</li> <li>• Flying cars, robot animals, new equipment in the play ground.</li> <li>• Bike paths on Strathbogie Road.</li> <li>• Footpath 2 especially to the kinder.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longwood-Ruffy Road near horse studs when trucks stop going up and down.</li> <li>• Bike and walking tracks.</li> <li>• Footpaths granitic sand and doesn't need to be smother.</li> <li>• Track around Lake Nagambie - support foreshore path.</li> <li>• Improved playground in Avenel.</li> <li>• Better play equipment and spaces.</li> <li>• Better signage and road thoroughfares - main road cleaner and routes.</li> <li>• Splash park - something for the teenagers in town. Maybe in the creek.</li> <li>• Extend the bike path.</li> <li>• BMX track x 4</li> <li>• Kennedy Street footpaths.</li> <li>• Apex walking track to Clifton Street.</li> <li>• Bike track Euroa to Violet Town along Mahers Road.</li> <li>• Permanent recycling bin in Rotary Park.</li> <li>• Better skatepark.</li> <li>• A permanent sign promoting Euroa Farmers market on Band Hall wall.</li> <li>• Weekend cafes open or an information centre with café.</li> <li>• Speed stopper Creek drive.</li> <li>• Maybe road base on Creek Drive - all the way.</li> <li>• Dust suppression along Creek Drive. (If not speed humps down Creek Drive near Anderson Street, where it butts onto Creek Drive.)</li> <li>• Footpath to Arboretum.</li> <li>• A rubbish bin at Sevens Creek walk start and finish (for poop bags)</li> <li>• More dog waste bins around the Apex track.</li> <li>• A better road into Mt Wombat.</li> <li>• Please supply bitumen to both sides of Brackett Street to stop all the dust.</li> <li>• Kids adventure playground.</li> <li>• Road improvements.</li> <li>• Less dead trees along sides of roads that fall down and risk people's lives.</li> <li>• All access walking track around the creek/Apex track (must be concrete or bitumen)</li> <li>• Palmer avenue block - needs cleaning up - the buildings that were moved there.</li> <li>• All seasons covered pool x 2</li> <li>• Designated waking tracks to open up Strathbogie.</li> <li>• Plan for footpaths - get them connected.</li> <li>• Suspension bridge at Rockies x 2</li> <li>• Better garbage pickup at Miepol and better mail delivery to my door!</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic houses &amp; buildings to keep up the authenticity of the region.</li> <li>• Things take time when they are related to Council and other services like Vic Roads.</li> <li>• Adventure playground on the other side of the bridge near toilets (like Bright has.)</li> <li>• Less dogs in Binney Street (ie more under control)</li> <li>• More rubbish collection in Creightons Creek.</li> <li>• Bring historic buildings back to life - celebrate - meaningful information.</li> <li>• Pruning street trees for aesthetic purposes.</li> </ul>
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VTAG</li> <li>• Unrestrained dogs - unregistered dogs - feral dogs and cats.</li> <li>• Park near toilets on main street needs overhaul.</li> <li>• No pedestrian cross in Cowslip Street - accident waiting to happen.</li> <li>• Dust from trucks on Oak Valley Road.</li> <li>• Neighbours that blast rock without notice.</li> <li>• Mobile library.</li> <li>• Town's rubbish service</li> <li>• Very slow completion of some community projects - such as Spring Creek picnic area.</li> <li>• No 20 km speed limit mid week.</li> <li>• Council staff could be walking around town to see what needs to be done.</li> </ul>
<b>Sustainable growth and development</b>	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I love the small village atmosphere and that there's great roadside vegetation. I love that landholdings on the Tableland are bigger (ie I'd hate to see them chopped up.)</li> <li>• Support progress.</li> <li>• Support all development as it brings people and prosperity.</li> <li>• Bypass for trucks has improved it.</li> <li>• Diversified heritage precinct being preserved.</li> </ul>
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maybe a retirement village - can't manage 1/2 acre block by myself.</li> <li>• Support for housing refurbishments to become more sustainable with insulation and energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Security in rural zones - remote from towns makes rural locations vulnerable.</li> <li>• More subdivision opportunities in Violet Town.</li> <li>• Big picture planning focus for the future.</li> <li>• More available space for pop ups and shops.</li> <li>• Better, easier Planning team.</li> <li>• Never KFC McDonalds</li> <li>• Guidelines and a real desire to make our building developments and planning laws reflect action on sustainable energy goals.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop at 'hill top' house site approvals, much the same as some other councils have done eg Mullumbimby. Ensuring all the remaining natural environments are protected, including roadsides. Educating landholders and strong leadership needed here. Many new landholders are 'clearing' the scrubby roadsides.</li> <li>• Progress.</li> <li>• Remove rowing courses - retractable course to free up the lake - putting boats back into long rowing course stuffs it up.</li> <li>• More and varied shops.</li> <li>• Need to be in front of the curve with infrastructure.</li> <li>• People don't get accessibility - need toilets/parking/facilities.</li> <li>• Need kindergarten/primary school.</li> <li>• Need pocket parks in estates &amp; playgrounds.</li> <li>• Need facilities to support locals.</li> <li>• More efficient approvals for development.</li> <li>• Better facilities for families and young children ie parks &amp; equipment.</li> <li>• Need to cater for peak periods eg car parking.</li> <li>• Need more community infrastructure to cater for growth.</li> <li>• If new infrastructure is not built then you won't catch up to support the population.</li> <li>• Manage the growth &amp; infrastructure needs to catch up.</li> <li>• Install angle parking alongside Jacobson's lookout to increase parking spaces (currently parallel)</li> <li>• Need developer contributions - developer needs to pay.</li> <li>• Infrastructure under pressure - do only urgently needed infrastructure.</li> <li>• Infrastructure already stressed by population but growth will make it worse.</li> <li>• Council needs a bigger picture of how the town is developing to service the growing community.</li> <li>• Stop further development until these issues of water and power are fixed for existing residents then proceed with all the development.</li> <li>• Keeping infrastructure up to development and service.</li> <li>• Parking - including near hospital.</li> <li>• Need long term plans for infrastructure. Planning properly for growth.</li> <li>• More green spaces on estates.</li> <li>• Three more housing estates need more infrastructure.</li> <li>• Sustainable carefully planned development.</li> </ul>
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pub veranda - old pub VT. Slow process!</li> <li>• Inappropriate development that is too large growth needs to be in steps.</li> <li>• Money for the Rowing Course.</li> <li>• Over development in Nagambie.</li> <li>• Change traffic - take out Northbound lane.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overdevelopment which could destroy environment - this is particularly vulnerable here.</li> <li>• Don't let Nagambie grow too big.</li> <li>• Too much housing development.</li> <li>• No kerb and channelling - grass drainage</li> <li>• Don't want to see unsustainable development.</li> <li>• New and ugly developments.</li> <li>• Large recycle facility in Boundary Road.</li> </ul>
<b>Our environment</b>	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate. (seasons) X 2</li> <li>• Environment. X 3</li> <li>• Tranquillity X 7</li> <li>• Rocky outcrops.</li> <li>• Surroundings.</li> <li>• Seasons.</li> <li>• How's the serenity.</li> <li>• Landscape. Environment including the sky</li> <li>• The granite.</li> <li>• The natural environment.</li> <li>• The animals (native) X 3</li> <li>• My freedom. Native animals and birds. X 3</li> <li>• The gum trees.</li> <li>• Beautiful area.</li> <li>• Parks and gardens</li> <li>• Natural remnant landscape.</li> <li>• Flora magnificent.</li> <li>• Fauna.</li> <li>• Scenic views.</li> <li>• The creeks and springs</li> <li>• High quality environmental land.</li> <li>• The environment. Natural landscape.</li> <li>• Climate. The boulders.</li> <li>• Natural environment.</li> <li>• Creek space a great asset. Green spaces - parks.</li> <li>• Love the shire is declaring a climate emergency.</li> <li>• Serenity and quiet. X 3</li> <li>• Close to hills and views from the hills.</li> <li>• Park area around the river a big asset.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country/rural life. X4</li> <li>• The environment x2</li> <li>• Seven Creek area.- Natural beauty.</li> <li>• Strathbogie Tablelands - the unspoilt environment.</li> <li>• Recycling Depot</li> <li>• I love the clean air, the wildlife. The sharing nature of the Tableland community. People can bring their ideas to the table and actually feel their voice being heard in projects and activities.</li> <li>• The environment of the Strathbogie Plateau - this is a very species rich place and does have many areas of native vegetation, even if some are disturbed - one of the richest mammal faunas in the state - we need to practically protect this and the community.</li> <li>• The environment and nature - the community - it is a real community - we look after each other. Freedom. Living in the country. Small community ???feel.</li> <li>• The environment, the landscape, the community locally in Strathbogie township and Euroa. (I have little experience in other locations.)</li> <li>• I love that there is nature unspoilt and abundant and that the people speak up to protect it. Clean Air, Clean Water.</li> <li>• Tableland great environment and the community needs to be protected.</li> <li>• The lake. Its environment, its people, flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Lake is such an asset</li> <li>• Peace and quiet x2</li> <li>• Lake a big attraction.</li> <li>• Waterways, environment and the people.</li> <li>• Small community, lifestyle is relaxed and uncomplicated, waterways &amp; natural wildlife.</li> <li>• The environment.</li> <li>• Quiet and peaceful x 3</li> <li>• Love the country life.</li> <li>• Natural surroundings - fresh air - pool hall.</li> <li>• Fresh air, mountains, people, space, community.</li> <li>• Trees.</li> <li>• Climate, people, sense of community.</li> </ul>
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase native vegetation &amp; wildlife.</li> <li>• Wind turbines and solar are a good idea.</li> <li>• Better weeds program &amp; don't use contractors and spray at the right time - not too late.</li> <li>• Free waste drop off.</li> <li>• Protecting native veg/nature strips. X 2</li> <li>• More things in the sustainable Strathbogie 2030 for local towns/residents</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shade trees on sides of Cowslip Street shopping strip to provide shade for cars in Summer.</li> <li>• Recycle shop at Violet Town tip.</li> <li>• Support for bush kinders.</li> <li>• Nature play areas for children.</li> <li>• Solar/wind micro grid.</li> <li>• More support of regenerative small scale farmers.</li> <li>• Children educated on sustainability - tip excursions.</li> <li>• More council purchases of recycle content items.</li> <li>• Worry about the fuel and danger of fallen logs laying on the side of the road.</li> <li>• More walking tracks.</li> <li>• Transfer station needs a recycle shop.</li> <li>• More information on recycling to encourage people to recycle.</li> <li>• Make parkland better and bigger.</li> <li>• More shade trees in town.</li> <li>• Eliza Street - get rid of what's been cut and dead - new shade trees and the drain.</li> <li>• Plant-up Euroa.</li> <li>• Clean up Sevens Creek from rubbish weeds etc and reinstate the foot walk near Memorial Oval.</li> <li>• Bush walk to Pollie McQuinn's then onto Gooram (1/2 km)</li> <li>• More green spaces and street trees x 2</li> <li>• It may not be Council's responsibility but the creeks management is a disaster. Blackberry and other weeds - Who cares?</li> <li>• Sustainable housing models - maybe a tour.</li> <li>• Much better weed management of Tableland roadsides.</li> <li>• The hall could have many solar panels generating into a local microgrid. We could power a community electric bus. Courtyard on the north with paving and vines - doors opening onto the paving from the hall.</li> <li>• Being confident that the natural environment will be protected under strong council regulations that are enforced. We need a system for reminding landowners and notifying new landowners about habitat protection once these precious habitats or even components of these are lost they will never be replaced - I am particularly concerned about ongoing loss of precious roadside vegetation when new 'farmers' move into the area - I have been around since 1991.</li> <li>• New residents education session about land care and environmental sensitivity around land management.</li> <li>• A better environmental policy or one at least!</li> <li>• Weed control</li> <li>• Transfer station needs to have the 'reuse' recycle ethos. ie timber now goes to landfill.</li> <li>• How can you make timber at the transfer station available for reuse.</li> <li>• Tip needs to be open more.</li> <li>• Don't try to save the planet globally, concentrate on local matters and you will make a difference.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More trees</li> <li>• Solar requirements in new developments - built in by developers, batteries etc.</li> </ul>
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind turbines X 2</li> <li>• Rabbits.</li> <li>• Foxes x2</li> <li>• I could definitely live without the visitors/trailbikes, who seem to think our hills are fair game for destruction! Our walking tracks are naturally beautiful areas should be better protected from such ignorant and uncaring people. Why don't they crucify their own backyard!!</li> <li>• Climate emergency.</li> </ul>
<b>Our people</b>	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I still do - I have embraced living in the Ruffy area but we are going down hill.</li> <li>• Community spirit. X 2</li> <li>• People friendly. X 4</li> <li>• Caring community.</li> <li>• Acceptance - the vibe.</li> <li>• Ancestor settled here and we live on the property. X 2</li> <li>• Isolation - small population. X 2</li> <li>• Community involvement.</li> <li>• VT market, tourists, people and freedom.</li> <li>• Community, quiet life, friendly neighbours, proximity to mountains, little shops, trainline, trees, community initiatives, clubs.</li> <li>• Small friendly town X 2</li> <li>• Space, quiet, community, friendly less stress X 7</li> <li>• Strong sense of community. X 2</li> <li>• Great Community house, library and shops.</li> <li>• Sense of community X 6</li> <li>• Community X 3</li> <li>• Likeminded people</li> <li>• Good neighbours</li> <li>• Community. X4</li> <li>• People. X3</li> <li>• Quiet for retired people.</li> <li>• Friendly people.</li> <li>• The sense of community and the support we give each other (Strathbogie township - not Shire)</li> <li>• Community, Environment, Diversity and Topography</li> <li>• The people.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I love the people of Strathbogie. I have the ability to enact progressive and unique improvements for our community. The community is small enough for people to have a go to enact our ideas that are needs relevant to the people.</li> <li>• Just love Nagambie.</li> <li>• Atmosphere - feel safe here.</li> <li>• Open/safe town.</li> <li>• Friendly people and community.</li> <li>• Nice feel about it.</li> <li>• People even teenagers talk to us oldies.</li> <li>• Retired here for the lifestyle and being in the rural area.</li> <li>• Great place to life - the people and country lifestyle.</li> <li>• Great community atmosphere.</li> <li>• I come from Sydney, lovely, quiet, friendly.</li> <li>• Not many bushfires fundraiser, lots of nice people, big country town.</li> <li>• Sense of community.</li> <li>• Nice town.</li> <li>• Rural, moved from country to country, love freedom.</li> <li>• Quiet space and community</li> <li>• Proximity with country town feel.</li> <li>• Community feel.</li> <li>• Sports.</li> <li>• Just like it</li> <li>• Nice place to be</li> <li>• Belonging to a wonderful community.</li> <li>• Volunteering. X2</li> <li>• The people. X2</li> <li>• Small town feel x 3</li> <li>• Grew up here - great family place.</li> <li>• Homely.</li> <li>• Peace and quiet.</li> <li>• Diverse range of people.</li> <li>• Smaller inclusive community.</li> <li>• Friendly people. X 7</li> <li>• The openness of people. Not crazy like city.</li> <li>• People care about people.</li> <li>• Community passion.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming community.</li> <li>• Active community.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keeping the spirit of the community up and always help people in need.</li> <li>• More teen activities/shops.</li> <li>• Needs for mid teenagers - a community hub for kids (ask the kids down assume.!) )</li> <li>• More activity for kids especially in holidays.</li> </ul>
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Smart spending</b>	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value for money</li> </ul>
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural rate consideration (not continual increases).</li> <li>• Euroa, Avenel, and Longwood get all the attention but smaller towns are being left behind. X 2</li> <li>• Lower rates X 2</li> <li>• Council having a buy local priority especially with business, be pro-active. Hosting online lists is not enough.</li> <li>• Reasonable rates levels.</li> <li>• More attention to small towns – it's not all about Nagambie and Euroa.</li> <li>• Council focused on outcomes not roadblocks.</li> <li>• Council spend money sensibly.</li> <li>• More accountable Council expenditure.</li> <li>• Funding real needs, not follies.</li> <li>• Excessive waste of rate payer funds on projects like the Spring Creek picnic area, which wasn't even wanted by the majority of our community. Short cycle vision by the Shire workers.</li> <li>• Value for money.</li> </ul>
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excessively high rates compared to many other councils - many people in this Shire are not wealthy.</li> <li>• Council spending on re-doing projects (get it right first time!).</li> <li>• Rural rates, very little service for rates paid - compared to the towns - compared to eg Melbourne. Possible answer: lobby state government jointly with other councils and VFF etc</li> <li>• Excessive consultants fees for projects we just need to do.</li> <li>• High rates x no returns.</li> <li>• Rates increase with little return.</li> <li>• Excessive rates \$\$\$\$\$</li> <li>• Excessively high rates.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High rates!</li> <li>• Small vision (foresight)</li> <li>• Non compliant Shire officials!!</li> <li>• Funding real needs, not follies.</li> <li>• Excessive waste of rate payer funds on projects like the Spring Creek picnic area, which wasn't even wanted by the majority of our community. Short cycle vision by the Shire workers.</li> <li>• The rates are excessive!!</li> <li>• Pay too much for what Euroa gets.</li> <li>• All money goes to Nagambie.</li> <li>• Wasteful staff resources.</li> <li>• Council staffing seems to be excessive.</li> </ul>
<b>An engaged community</b>	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotion by caravan park.</li> <li>• The new councillors' approach to engaging with the community - keep it up!</li> <li>• Customer service people are fabulous. It's what happens after that.</li> </ul>
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responses from Shire after events like this.</li> <li>• Sign to say picnic people take rubbish away from Rec Reserve because no council pick up. X 2</li> <li>• Better communication.</li> <li>• More community engagement with Council.</li> <li>• Feedback on actions of previous meetings. X 3</li> <li>• Get 'back room staff' to call people when they lodge a customer complaint.</li> <li>• Front line staff are great but it is like an Iron Curtain behind them.</li> <li>• Plan to engage upper primary and youth in our small towns.</li> <li>• Improve communication with the publican at the old pub where veranda is.</li> <li>• Improve Shire's communications to residents.</li> <li>• Newsletter to community (similar to East Gippsland) but not stopping advertisements in the Gazette.</li> <li>• More of this engagement</li> <li>• More exposure of smaller towns.</li> <li>• Keep the website up-to-date - info out of date.</li> <li>• New, even better free camping signage for recreation reserve.</li> <li>• Longwood Action Group.</li> <li>• Longwood on the Shire website map!! X 2</li> <li>• Autonomous community groups. It's stifling and kills creativity that everything must go through STAG. This has created unnecessary bureaucracy.</li> <li>• Better and actual council and community engagement in local projects. Completion of local projects - on time and within budget.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education on recycling/waste management.</li> <li>• In this day of COVID 'restrictions" we should have Service Victoria App everywhere and for everyone.</li> <li>• More education on waste management.</li> <li>• Fill up the empty shops with promotions.</li> <li>• Signage lettering is too small.</li> <li>• More engagement and consultation with community.</li> <li>• No coordinated voice for all issues (resources harnessed.)</li> <li>• A comprehensive Shire that delivers for all and not just the loudest or most active voices.</li> </ul>
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website is hard to navigate.</li> <li>• Small groups don't talk for everyone.</li> </ul>
<b>Advocacy opportunities (or topics raised outside Council remit)</b>	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday at the Ruffy store (sadly no longer!)</li> <li>• CFA is excellent. X 2</li> <li>• Great schools</li> <li>• Ice creams</li> <li>• Food.</li> <li>• Good transport to Melbourne via Seymour.</li> <li>• Coffee shop</li> <li>• Lots of great cafes</li> <li>• The smoothies at Mely &amp; Me</li> <li>• Good schools.</li> </ul>
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow to clear native strip - fire hazard.</li> <li>• No cars dumped on properties in Redgate Lane Ruffy.</li> <li>• Better services upgrade put new mobile phone towers Ruffy photo - top of Welby track - benefit increase connectivity.</li> <li>• Clean up hanging trees off the roads. X 3Extend fire wood collection time for fallen trees along roadside. X 2</li> <li>• Weekly community shopping bus &amp; appointments ie Tolmie.</li> <li>• Bring back the Granite News X 2</li> <li>• Community bus (Ruffy).Better internet &amp; phone service X 5</li> <li>• Road safety - Tulip Street.</li> <li>• A primary school we could feel confident sending our kids to.</li> <li>• Early childhood programs such as Music &amp; movement - Gymbaroo.</li> <li>• Hall committee to be proactive in seeking people to use hall more often.</li> <li>• Safety/remoteness - the emergency app does not work when there is a local emergency.</li> <li>• Amalgamation &amp; a larger council.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shire investigate activity on stolen property from farms - livestock stolen.</li> <li>• Support for housing refurbishments to become more sustainable with insulation and energy efficiency.</li> <li>• Initiatives to support getting locals employed in ECEC.</li> <li>• Reliable internet. X 2</li> <li>• No mobile service at Boho South - needs to be improved!!</li> <li>• Signed &amp; formalised walking school bus track/path from sides of towns to schools and CBD.</li> <li>• Better pub.</li> <li>• Maybe a retirement village - can't manage 1/2 acre block by myself.</li> <li>• More support by local community for our primary school enabled by the Shire.</li> <li>• Reliable trains.</li> <li>• More low cost housing suitable for aged fold in VT.</li> <li>• Better mobile reception +better mobile data reception in VT + NBN X 3</li> <li>• Run with community house training on how to take minutes of a meeting - so as to meet statutory requirements.</li> <li>• Support for local employment.</li> <li>• First aid training for volunteers throughout Shire.</li> <li>• Mental health training for volunteers throughout Shire.</li> <li>• The pub needs to be open often.</li> <li>• More kids at the school. X 4</li> <li>• Buses to Euroa.</li> <li>• Longwood station back in commission.</li> <li>• The rail bridge. X 8</li> <li>• Heavy vehicle bypass.</li> <li>• Rail underpass. X2</li> <li>• Large rail overpass.</li> <li>• Traffic.</li> <li>• Get rid of ugly overpass.</li> <li>• Public transport - V-line to Melbourne.</li> <li>• Secondary school &amp; primary school represented at the market (with adult interaction).</li> <li>• Sunday too dull on main street - missed opportunity.</li> <li>• Upgraded hospital.</li> <li>• Sunday afternoon supermarket.</li> <li>• Better rail system.</li> <li>• More shops to bring people in.</li> <li>• Business centre restricted. Railway station an option (new design where will we go with new stores in the future.)Stop hoon behaviour. Lewis street/Farmer avenue.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More breakfast food cafés.</li> <li>• Business to be open longer hours especially weekends and public holidays.</li> <li>• Don't change it - railway precinct.</li> <li>• Plant out the roundabout at McDonalds - make it beautiful .</li> <li>• Park Run is great.</li> <li>• More train services.</li> <li>• More visiting health specialists.</li> <li>• Support underpass - ARTC. Railway precinct - green space in and around - push for this with ARTC.</li> <li>• Support the caravaners by having Burtons open mid arvo Saturday and Sunday.</li> <li>• More action in the main street on weekends - shops, cafes etc.</li> <li>• The drug shop next to the library.</li> <li>• Easy access to train line &amp; travel to Melbourne.</li> <li>• Main street to stay open.</li> <li>• Regular and timely bus to Melbourne.</li> <li>• Not closing down early Thurs and Saturday.</li> <li>• Coffee shops open on public holidays for the tourist town.</li> <li>• I would love to see the road speed limit being reduced to 80 and more signage to alert drivers to wildlife who share our roads. It is so distressing to see the unnecessary carnage on our roads, and its all due to the speed and perhaps lack of awareness.</li> <li>• Gas</li> <li>• Water pressure in Prentice Street.</li> <li>• Council could advocate more for infrastructure power/water/services.</li> <li>• Restaurants need to open longer hours particularly in Winter.</li> <li>• Pub takeaways great idea.</li> <li>• Markets are great</li> <li>• Good food choice is key.</li> <li>• Night time life is needed as Nagambie grows.</li> <li>• Water pressure is crap at the Whroo Estate.</li> <li>• Need to deal with reliable power supply.</li> <li>• Another supermarket.</li> <li>• Bus travelling to Shepparton &amp; Seymour.</li> <li>• Monday and Tuesday there is nothing open or happening! We need lots more activity/energy needed. X2</li> <li>• Bring the Town pub to the modern era.</li> <li>• Shops open at key times.</li> <li>• Need shops for residents, clothes hardware, shoes not just eateries. X 2</li> <li>• Need food premises opening later at night.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People making tree change want services and more opening hours.</li> <li>• Water pressure is poor. X 3</li> <li>• Water supply is a concern due to growth.</li> <li>• Improve electricity infrastructure - summer drop outs are painful!</li> <li>• Water pressure &amp; power improvements.</li> <li>• Lack of power certainty.</li> <li>• Retaining wall on High St addressed.</li> <li>• Upgrade railway station - carpark has major dust issues.</li> <li>• More good quality restaurants.</li> <li>• Better opening hours and choice for locals.</li> <li>• Varied businesses ie shops. X 2</li> <li>• Public transport</li> <li>• Abandon Government and return to a Common Law assemblies throughout.</li> <li>• No hoons.</li> <li>• More passenger train services x 2</li> <li>• Better high school options.</li> <li>• Fully equipped weights gym with spin bikes.</li> <li>• Restore/maintain the old stone bridge (respectfully)</li> <li>• More shops.</li> <li>• More room in the school.</li> <li>• Not closing down early Thurs and Saturday.</li> <li>• Coffee shops open on public holidays for the tourist town.</li> <li>• More action in the main street on weekends - shops, cafes etc.</li> <li>• The drug shop next to the library.</li> <li>• Easy access to train line &amp; travel to Melbourne.</li> <li>• Main street to stay open.</li> <li>• Regular and timely bus to Melbourne.</li> <li>• Railway precinct - green space in and around - push for this with ARTC.</li> <li>• Support the caravaners by having Burtons open mid arvo Saturday and Sunday.</li> <li>• Plant out the roundabout at McDonalds - make it beautiful.</li> <li>• Park Run is great.</li> <li>• More train services.</li> <li>• More visiting health specialists.</li> <li>• Support underpass - ARTC.</li> <li>• Business to be open longer hours especially weekends and public holidays.</li> <li>• Secondary school &amp; primary school represented at the market (with adult interaction).</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday too dull on main street - missed opportunity.</li> <li>• Sunday afternoon supermarket.</li> <li>• Better rail system.</li> <li>• More shops to bring people in.</li> </ul>
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roadside debris x3</li> <li>• Dead trees (safety) x5</li> <li>• Pests, mice, rats and possums.</li> <li>• COVID-19 x 2</li> <li>• Macca's and Kentucky Fried.</li> <li>• Non-functioning pub.</li> <li>• Fast trucks barrelling through town.</li> <li>• Barking dogs. X2</li> <li>• Sulphur crested cockatoos x 6</li> <li>• Pub fencing.</li> <li>• Possums in the hall and the damage they are causing. Destroying one of our best assets.</li> <li>• Speeding/hooning through town.</li> <li>• The freeway noise - haha.</li> <li>• Stop feeding the cockatoos vermin for farmers and very destructive.</li> <li>• Railway line being rebuilt every 'few weeks'.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Undrinkable water.</a></li> <li>• My neighbours barking dogs.</li> <li>• Hoons in car - safety.</li> <li>• Hoons.</li> <li>• Rubbish lying around McDonalds roundabout.</li> <li>• Heavy Vehicle bypass. No no no.</li> <li>• The overpass.</li> <li>• Racism, abuse against females.</li> <li>• New bridge will be an abomination - go for underpass.</li> <li>• Burtons closing on weekends at 5 pm (12.30 Saturdays)</li> <li>• Wasteful staff resources.</li> <li>• Council staffing seems to be excessive.</li> <li>• Rail underpass. X2</li> <li>• Large rail overpass.</li> <li>• Traffic.</li> <li>• Get rid of ugly overpass.</li> </ul>

## 6.10. Share Strathbogie Feedback on key questions

<p>What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?</p>	<p><b>Ability to engage in active travel</b> I would like to see the council encourage cycling and active travel around Euroa and other towns. Council could do this by installing more bike racks - particularly outside council buildings. Council could also do this by encouraging staff to cycle to work. Is there a ride to work week? Council could allow staff to salary sacrifice the purchase of an ebike. There is a system for doing this in the Australian Capital Territory, so the model exists.</p> <p><b>More artwork murals</b> I know in Nagambie there has been a big want to get the water tower painted to add vibrant life, colour, and culture (of local wildlife such as platypus or local birds or a local person) to the main street. This would also attract comers marking it on the art silo trail to attract ppl to visit town. There are a few other fantastic old buildings that could also be worth painting. I think it's important at this time after covid to also support our artists with work, as there was no artist job keeper benefit for a casual job such as this. Now is the time!</p> <p><b>Nature!</b> I love being close to nature, having access to an amazing arboretum and local people who are passionate about wildlife and preserving our environment. I love that our green bins go out weekly and that I have a backyard to plant natives that attract fauna.</p> <p><b>Heathcote-Graytown National Park</b> This is 28000 acres approximately and is one of the largest standings of Ironbark trees in the southern hemisphere. Unfortunately, the government agencies that are supposed to look after this park, namely Parks Victoria is NOT doing a good job. This puts our whole community at risk, and I would like the Council to follow up with Parks Victoria to establish what they plan to do, for example, I would think its 20 or 30 years since the fire tracks have been cleared. There are small trees growing on some of these tracks. We live in the worst place for bushfire in the world but they, Parks Victoria, VicRoads and DELWP just are not good at doing their job as we have all seen with the useless polies and public servants during Covid. We as a community should have more say regarding these organizations that are outside our area but have a huge impact on our lives.</p> <p><b>Arty Stuff</b> Very much enjoy the mix of 'art' and recreational activities and facilities across the Shire; all of the 'villages' and towns have distinctly different attractions. Great to see things like "Fungi Festival", Rodeo a few years ago, "Mini Park" in Binney St, outside the Post Office. Particularly enjoy our Community Cinema - and would like to see it upgraded to incorporate 'live' acts and potentially becoming involved in something like the Melbourne International Film Festival's annual "Travelling Roadshow". Then there's a very rural environment very close to Melbourne.</p>
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	<p><b>Why do I like it here, on my farm outside of VT.</b>  Why do I like to live here?  It's defined by the people around me:  I know, I meet, I talk to, I care for.  It makes a difference of been known by name or just be one of many.  In short: the difference of living in a small rural community or in a big city.  Then there is the wide sky above and the old trees along the creek, running through my property.  The birds who seem to know me.  The many trees and shrubs I planted over the years.  The creek and dams, their rise and fall over the seasons.  The weather.  The bush fires and floods.  Being aware of nature.  Mind you, the feelings expressed by me could apply to any place I live at and not necessarily to this area around Violet Town.</p>
What would make it an even better place to live?	<p><b>More Footpaths Safer Towns</b>  For more foot paths to be put in through streets in towns such as Avenel and any town that lacks them.  Footpaths would provide a safer place for people to walk, especially families, elderly and people with pets. Avoiding near misses with vehicles and people driving too fast.  The roads are also not very appropriate to be pushing prams and walkers etc</p> <p><b>More things to do and better infrastructure</b>  I would like more opportunities to meet other local people after hours. There seems to be a few things to do like special interest groups but they are all during the day for retirees. There aren't a lot of opportunities to get creative and connect with local artists.  I would also like to see council have stronger advocacy capabilities for things like internet and electricity infrastructure as it is terrible here and hinders the ability for younger people to work remotely.</p> <p><b>Services in town</b>  Sealed roads and sewer systems within the town boundaries</p> <p><b>Female changing rooms at the Memorial Oval</b>  I would like to see changing rooms for the female participants in cricket, football and netball at the Euroa Memorial Oval. Active lifestyles, participation, safety, health and wellbeing of females in the region is just as important as that of the males. There is sufficient areas for males to change yet we expect the girls to go home or change in the car park.</p> <p><b>Further comment</b></p>

By having change room facilities for females participants enables our community clubs the opportunity to be more inclusive & supportive that will result in greater participation outcomes.

### **An inter-generational focus**

Given our demographic is largely made up of the older generation I would love to see a greater focus on creating a community that embraces and supports this demographic and encourages: promotes cross generational engagement.

This may include the development of inter-generational and inclusive playgrounds, removing fences and creating fences that have playgrounds as part of a larger recreational space, wider designed footpaths that would better accommodate wheelchairs, walkers and scooters sharing these spaces, more footpaths so that all areas are able to navigate townships council support for programs that encourage cross generational engagement that would support older people to remain living at home and reduce isolation/loneliness which is shown to improve health and well-being.

The recent temporary installations in Binney street and the twilight street closures were things that have encouraged community social engagement for all age groups.

Rather than viewing our older demographic as a negative to embrace and celebrate this. Planning for future residential development that will offer staged options for independent and supported living allowing older persons to remain living in our shire with the varied support levels needed.

### **Public Transport**

There are at least 7 GOTAFE campuses and 2 university campuses within an 80 km radius of Euroa - yet all of them are effectively out of reach of school leavers or adults wishing to access further education and training if they don't have access to a car. Many other services - hospital, medical, shopping etc - are equally unreachable. And where there are services, timetabling is so poor as to effectively render these facilities useless - you can't get to 'class' on time. Looking at how to make timetables more 'friendly' would be a great place to start.

### **Inclusion, diversity and accessibility lens**

The importance of inclusion should not be underestimated.

As inclusive planning and capacity building around inclusion benefits all who live work and play in our shire.

The social model of disability explores that it is the infrastructure that is disabling not the persons disability or mobility need.

Shopping for some people with accessibility needs and can be very challenging for many in our community and for those who visit our retailers and business's.

With access to the buildings and navigating the shop/service a challenge and often excludes participation of part of our community. As it is often the building that is a barrier to participation.

It is also the service provided with some retailers not possibly aware of the benefits of a welcoming accessible store.

Attitudes are also exclusionary where some with mobility needs or other forms of disability are not always served in an inclusive way.

Council has in the past explored an inclusion lens on service provision.

	<p>With the cafe culture building it to can pose opportunities and challenges. The chairs tables, signs trade tables on the foot path at times can pose a risk to access while offering an opportunity of with appropriate planning can make the atmosphere very inclusive.</p> <p>For example, pop up park areas have been potentially exclusionary by some people with access needs including disability not able to access equally with fellow residents and tourists.</p> <p>They also can pose risk for access to the shared space by limiting the footpath traffic area and more.</p> <p>The benefits of inclusive respect for diversity benefits us all who live work visit and play in our shire.</p> <p>This includes communication of the shires communication documents, with word versions of policy for example being available to ensure accessibility to all in our community to view and contribute to an inclusive process and inclusive consultation process. Diversity is a fact inclusion is a choice.</p> <p><b>Micro-Recycling</b></p> <p>Can we have 'boutique' recycling bins located conveniently in town centres to easily drop-off: soft plastics, batteries, and small electronics? In bigger towns, Officeworks and Coles have convenient drop-off points for these items at their front doors. It would be great to have an easy drop off point at e.g. the Euroa IGA for these micro-recycling items?</p>
Is there anything you could live without?	<p><b>Art</b></p> <p>I can live without creative hubs and new art installations for a couple of years.</p> <p><b>Climate Change Denialists.</b></p> <p>Like Gravity, Climate Change is here. All for the Shire developing its Climate Change Policy - and enacting it, particularly in relation to the local consequences of changes to weather extremes (heat and cold), environmental impacts of fire and the consequences for local agriculture and tourism and businesses and homes ability to gain insurance coverage for the foreseeable negative impacts (eg fire, flood, stock losses etc).</p>

## 7. Community Panel Report

A report was produced by the Strathbogie Shire Community Panel - a diverse, representative sample of people from across Strathbogie Shire, who worked together to develop the Community Vision and drive the recommendations for the Council Plan.

The report recommended 23 actions for inclusion in our Council Plan, which are listed below. A full report can be found on [www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.share.strathbogie.vic.gov.au) at [this link](#).

### 7.1. Theme 1: Engaged Community

(Note: Theme 1 and 2 are so intertwined and we want to make the distinctions that 1 is about the makeup of our community and 2 is the enabling infrastructure for connectivity and spaces.)

#### 7.1.1. Description

Engaged, willing and vibrant community

Creativity: Fostering and supporting creative responses in the community

Health and wellbeing: Encouraging health and wellbeing activities including a wide range of sports and recreation.

Culture and inclusion: Collaborating and engaging individuals/groups. Spaces for social inclusion and new friendships where people can connect on common interests and share knowledge across generations and cultures.

A community engagement approach with Council

#### 7.1.2. Actions

##### **Council processes**

- Enable the local action groups more effectively by Council with greater funding opportunities and less superfluous admin burden. Cut down on needs for admin by Council (strategic plans etc).
- Stronger community engagement with new projects and infrastructure rollout.
- Councillors talk about how they are working with the community to realise the vision at the start of each Council meeting, every Council gathering. Keep bringing the vision to the fore.
- Partnerships - partnerships strategy - clear goals, clear approach, principles, assessment criteria and focus areas. Key deliverables / performance indicators. Incorporate Action Groups and Chamber of Commerce

##### **Others**

- Strathbogie Shire community website and forum having more information about services, connections, events etc. More interactive engagement websites/forums between community, businesses and council.

- Build relationships and partnerships with Taungurung people to increase understanding within the community on First Nations land and water practices and culture.
- Revamp the Euroa Show to be for the whole council and have an annual vision competition that gets young people involved.
- Developing a community gathering space with emphasis on engaging with the natural environment and building intergenerational relationships/connections.

## 7.2. Theme 2: Connected people and places

(Note: Theme 1 and 2 are so intertwined and we want to make the distinctions that 1 is about the makeup of our community and 2 is the enabling infrastructure for connectivity and spaces.)

### 7.2.1. Description

Access: Our community has access to important services including shops, health and medicine, jobs, green spaces, and family services that meet the needs of the community.

Access: More diverse transport beyond cars are enabled and encouraged through walking and cycling tracks.

Live: Focus on activities that build economic, financial, social security that enable everyone to thrive.

### 7.2.2. Actions

- Expanding accessibility of transport through advocacy for public transport, new community service models (eg Community bus program -Avenel)
- Provide a safe (maintained and quality) and secure built and natural environment (roads, footpaths, street lights)
- Council spending prioritisation framework
- Diversifying revenue streams beyond rates for infrastructure upgrades
- Lobbying for state government about public transport infrastructure
- Explore means-test rates schedules and payments (adapt payments based on household income)

## 7.3. Theme 3: Living in our Healthy Environment

### 7.3.1. Description

Restore, protect, enhance and promote our rich, healthy and diverse natural environment with emphasis on native Flora and Fauna for present and future generations to celebrate.

In all below actions council acknowledges the contribution of the Taungurung people in a tangible and respectable way as part of the development of the MoU.

### 7.3.2. Actions

- Identify the key threats and challenges to our environment and develop strategies to ensure future developments minimise harmful impacts on our natural environment



- Understand, enhance and protect our environment to reverse biodiversity decline including consulting and educating all rate payers and business owners in sustainability practices using best practice examples i.e. renewable energy, regenerative agriculture
- Strategic town planning to manage the built and natural environment including responsible developer strategies
- Develop our own Open Space Policy to set strategic direction for the future planning for vision and design and management of open space

## 7.4. Theme 4: Holistic Growth/Productivity and Development

### 7.4.1. Description

Effective housing and commercial planning to enable the best-balanced outcomes for community and the environment.

Targeted economic development that supports enhancements to the region. We recognise the strengths of our region and capitalise on it. We are the gateway to the North East and focus on value adding industries and agriculture.

Infrastructure is deployed and managed in a cost-effective way that meets the growing and changing needs of the community.

### 7.4.2. Actions

- Growth zones identified and managed with specific policies including frameworks to ensure infrastructure is fit for purpose but sustainable and using renewable resources where practical. Ensure developers demonstrate the community benefit gained from their proposals.
- Lobby State and Federal government for changes to planning policies - including recognising Mangalore Airport as a transport hub, limit viable agricultural land subdivision, reviewing sizes of residential allotments(ensuring new land is not jam packed), more reliable power supply focussing on renewable energy and telecommunications infrastructure to support the economic development strategy
- Economic development strategy that attracts (defines) the industries that will set us up now and to 2040 with a focus on value adding primary and food related industries
- Create incentives for longer opening hours within the hospitality and retail industries
- Council facilitate collaboration and partnerships to drive outcomes from the strategy

## 8. Submission to draft documents

Number	Location	Submission
1	Community member	<p><b>1. Road Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce speed limits to 40 kms per hour in the township so as to cut greenhouse gas emissions and to improve pedestrian safety – especially as many streets and road have no footpath.</li> <li>• Actively work with Victorian Police to penalise speedsters and and other hazardous drivers. (set up a liaison unit that must report to the Shire on the types of problems observed and the remedies taken)</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Climate Emergency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stop granting approval for tree felling on private land unless a genuine safety concern exists. Ask applicants for evidence, rather than simply accepting the argument form the property owner. Also, request alternative solutions to tree removal such as judicious pruning and structural adaptations to allow property owners to maintain safety and to keep their trees.</li> <li>• Offer a rates reduction to property owners who have installed solar panels or can demonstrate other greenhouse gas emission reduction actions such as limiting the number of vehicle registered at their property and rewarding owners of electric or small engine petrol/diesel vehicles.</li> <li>• Actively encourage tree planting and use drown technology to detect unlawful tree removal.</li> <li>• Replace Shire vehicles with electric vehicles</li> <li>• Replace Shire lawn mowers and other petrol powered gardening equipment with electric equipment.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Environmental and landscape aesthetics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employ a ranger to survey and punish the owners of the many junkyards and abandoned cars in the Shire. Use drone technology to monitor unauthorised shipping container placements and rubbish accretion and impose fines upon offenders.</li> <li>• Offer counselling for recalcitrant hoarders and junk yard proprietors</li> <li>• Provide cost effective re-cycling services for the above</li> <li>• Provide a hard rubbish collection –in line with that provided by urban councils.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Citizen Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Euroa Health to address community health issues such as obesity.</li> <li>• Encourage citizens to exercise and enjoy activity – a good example is the Park Fun Run</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage Euroa Health to offer medical services to the wider community – outpatients and physiotherapy, for example.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Social Responsibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Euroa Health to investigate the possibility of converting the vacant Amaroo and Euroaville facilities to provide emergency housing for homeless persons and to other persons undergoing housing stress.</li> <li>Encourage owners of empty and abandoned houses to release them onto the rental market</li> <li>Encourage home ownership by requiring builders and developers to guarantee a set percentage of new houses to owner occupiers.</li> <li>Discourage AirBNB owners from establishing such offerings in the shire as it may reduce the availability of long term rental properties.</li> </ul> <p><b>6. Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the fullest extent possible (given that education is a State government responsibility) act as a lobbyist on behalf of the Shire to stop the decline in State School enrolments in Euroa and to promote community engagement with the local State Schools. (volunteer homework and sporting clubs, for example)</li> </ul> <p><b>7. Internal administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install Project Management software for mandatory use by staff who are controlling all forms of projects</li> <li>Establish cost saving targets each financial year and require staff to report on their progress towards meeting these targets</li> <li>Undertake a staff skills analysis that identifies the skills required by the Shire and implement programmes to fill any gaps in the skill sets of existing and future staff</li> <li>Include a performance component in the annual remuneration of staff – perhaps related to an agreed performance plan that includes project completion and cost saving targets.</li> <li>Customer Service</li> <li>When ratepayers send an email to the <a href="mailto:info@strathbogie.vic.gog.au">"info@strathbogie.vic.gog.au"</a> address, no reference number is provided in the automatic reply. I recommend providing such as number in the automatic reply.</li> <li>Allow staff to communicate with rate payers and other correspondents</li> <li>Include high levels of customer service in the performance plans of Shire staff.</li> </ul>
2	Euroa Health	Thanks for the opportunity, overall a really well written and developed document Some general feedback

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considering demographic data on Chronic and Complex healthcare needs in the community there is little focus on that as an issue</li> <li>• Recycling for the region including industry could have a greater presence in the document</li> <li>• The role of Council in COVID preparedness and management could be expanded</li> <li>• Social isolation considering COVID situation is causing issues in society could the need to overcome this have a greater presence especially for the older generation who may be fearful of wider community engagement strategies</li> <li>• Pg. 23 outlines Nagambie Health in item 2.1.3 why no mention of Euroa Health to expand these services for the people of for Euroa</li> <li>• Code Red planning for the region needs greater presence with the Shire to lead greater integration of the stakeholders</li> </ul>
3	Community member	<p>Thank you for putting together the Council Plan and for engaging the community through the Community Panel.</p> <p>It would be good to see the broader consultation captured in the document to show how the community voice is impacting the actions of Council. For example, understanding the top focus areas by the community would be good to note.</p> <p>I would also like to see a stronger evidence base for how decisions are being made through the proliferation of these outlined strategies. I understand you have a set of performance measures, however many of the indicators are not relevant to the goals and objectives. I would like to see more evidence for how money is being spent etc. For example, using people counting sensors and economic spend data to determine where the big opportunity areas are for investing in tourism.</p> <p>As tourism is a strong focus, I would like to see the Euroa Sevens Creek Park precinct become a destination that surpasses Nagambie by creating innovative and engaging spaces that draw people into town and encourage cafes to stay open for longer. It has the potential, however the lack of investment in the area due to focus on Nagambie has been detrimental to the growth of the space to support the growing tourism in the town.</p> <p>Using more innovative forms of data can help Councillors and other members of staff to make strategic and better informed decisions.</p> <p>The Council Plan at the moment seems a bit sporadic and busy with so many actions. I understand that Council has to achieve a lot however focusing on efficiencies by reducing manual labour (maintenance, finance and</p>

		<p>operations, service reviews, shared services etc) will show how our community will receive more from the already very high rates we pay.</p> <p>Strathbogie Shire Council Share Strathbogie Project – Draft Council Plan and Draft Financial Plan I would also like to see more emphasis on how we partner more effectively. There are a range of partnership actions here, however this requires capability to deliver including with shared services and public private partnerships.</p> <p>Currently developers do not have any accountability or requirements to invest in the infrastructure of the town. Creating stronger planning teams with provisions and policies that outline what type of developers Strathbogie Shire wants to attract is critical to setting up our region for success.</p> <p>In response to focus area 2- live access connect, there needs to be more emphasis on mobile and internet infrastructure. beyond advocacy, we need to attract private industry to invest in infrastructure. For example, would like to see how we can attract Starlink, 5G co-location and 100 gb fibre to key education and health precincts.</p> <p>Would also like to see how Council can facilitate pathways to provide ways for the community to have a voice with companies like NBN who have neglected this region. When I moved back to Euroa I had absolutely shocking internet reception and it hampered my ability to work remotely. It was incredibly frustrating and created a negative impact on my move to town.</p> <p>I understand the Council is not responsible for this infrastructure, however currently community is voiceless and this infrastructure is not deemed as 'critical' like water and energy. This mindset needs to shift at a fed and state level and Strathbogie can play a role in advocating for this as well as promoting private industry to innovate with Council.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to review this document and looking forward to reading the final version.</p>
4	Euroa Action Group	<p>On behalf of the Euroa Community Action Group, we welcome the emphasis from Council on community health and wellbeing as well as upgrading local amenity including the natural environment.</p> <p>It would be nice to have a summary of the engagement with the community to ensure the community voice is shared beyond the vision community panel. Having a snapshot of the community engagement report following the 'our region' section will help to provide context and the broader voice of the community.</p>

		<p>The six focus areas are slightly confusing as they all have three words each. There seems to be a lot of activity that Council is trying to achieve, and it was difficult for ECAG to find a few focus areas or actions to support the strategic plan as there was just a plethora of adjectives and action.</p> <p>Simplifying the message and the focus areas would be a great way to ensure that everyone can understand and act in partnership with Council on their plan. It would be great to see a 'call to action' for the community as well.</p> <p>There is a laundry list of actions by Council and creating a partnership framework for tangible ways the community can partner with Council. The local Action Groups and Chamber of Commerce should be seen as trusted advisers to the Council and therefore an elevated voice in how this plan is endorsed by them as well as how they can partner on the work outlined in the plan.</p> <p>It would also be great to have a debrief session with the CEO and Councillors for the Seven Creeks Ward to understand where the Euroa Community Action group will provide the most benefit to support these goals.</p> <p>Strathbogie Shire Council Share Strathbogie Project – Draft Council Plan and Draft Financial Plan Regarding the carbon neutrality statement in focus area three, why not become carbon positive? Reducing more emissions than we collectively use?</p> <p>Also would be good to know the plan for neutrality as carbon markets are not adequate for genuinely reducing emissions towards carbon neutrality. Further, ECAG encourages Council to create a community solar strategy as a way to uplift the community facilities footprint across the Shire.</p> <p>By coordinating an approach to uplifting solar and batteries across key community infrastructure, Council will also enable greater advocacy towards various funding sources as it will identify community solar projects that are ready to be deployed.</p> <p>Further to focus area three, there is no focus on circularity of materials and the circular economy. It would be good to see links between how Council manages their waste and how they are procuring materials that keep materials in use for longer. This is of critical importance to climate change and any environment strategy. ECAG would like to see the Strathbogie Shire aspire to be a circular shire, one that has the lowest waste in Victoria and procures the most recycled materials.</p>
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		<p>For focus area four ECAG would like to see a precinct master plan for the Seven Creeks Park to become an tourist destination. It is already a well loved stop off point for tourists and should be invested in, to a similar level as Nagambie.</p> <p>Overall, ECAG appreciates the aspirations of the Strathbogie Shire Council to deliver greater outcomes for the community. Having a stronger focus on consolidating rather than proliferating actions and strategies and creating a clear prioritisation framework for Council to make decisions will help to ensure effective use of ratepayer money whilst maximising community benefit. Having something like this outlined in the Plan would help community to understand what is being undertaken and why.</p> <p>The current document does not outline the 'why' or purpose for the next four years. Having a succinct set of goals rather than six focus areas with three words each and a sequence of goals makes it difficult for ECAG and other groups to understand how best to support.</p> <p>We would appreciate quarterly updates of which strategies and actions are being undertaken and which ones may require the support of the local ECAG community. This will enable us to not have to track Council actions through this document and will enable proactive relationships to be built between Council and key community groups.</p>
5	Community Member	<p>I appreciate all the work and consultation that has gone into preparing the Draft Council Plan and Financial Plan.</p> <p>There are some pretty exciting initiatives all-round to see come into fruition. I write in relation to action 2.7 (strategic focus area two). Can any budget be set aside for a new and engaging all-abilities play space in Euroa?</p> <p>I am grateful for the contributions of community groups for the current playgrounds, but a nature-based set-up would complement existing play equipment and offer yet another space/drawcard for both locals and visitors. Mansfield, Benalla and Winton Wetlands cafe offer some great ideas and inspiration. These are very inviting spaces. More challenging climbing apparatus could be included for older kids too as there appears to be a gap for their recreational needs.</p> <p>I believe that there may plans being scoped for a splash park, bike track/scooter ramps and possible adventure play for older kids/teens - all of which sound incredible and it would be great if all the above could be considered together (rather than planned as ad-hoc separate projects) to get the best value &amp; best possible design to ensure that there's something for every age group.</p>

6	Euroa Mountain Bike Club	<p>There is growing momentum from community groups in support of a Mountain Bike Track (MBT) on the Balmattum Hill Reserve. As a key driver, we (the Euroa Mountain Bike Club – EMBC) are keen to work with Council and the Traditional Owners to explore opportunities to develop this site as a state-of-the-art recreation facility, whilst ensuring the natural values are protected and enhanced. Much thought has been given to how this locally significant White Box Woodland could benefit from sympathetic development, highlighting the natural environment to walkers and bike riders for all age groups. We see the possibilities to transform this popular reserve into a spectacular eco-tourism venue, accommodating both passive and active recreational options.</p> <p>The 2019-20 summer fires have heavily impacted the vegetation. Sympathetic development of the site would be paramount to ensure negative impacts are minimised, including erosion and weed spread. New interest and support from a fast-growing demographic of outdoor sports enthusiasts could bring much needed energy and resources to this site and generate valuable investment in a long-term management plan.</p> <p>The potential to harness this new interest in nature and sport is exciting. Our community and the travelling public have an enormous interest in nature and conservation and the introduction of a MBT to this reserve would build new appreciation and mindfulness.</p> <p>To explore the site suitability as a MBT, we recently invited Joe Penaluna (from Trailscapes) to visit. He has provided a positive and professional opinion which we trust will help us progress this idea.</p> <p>The EMBC has canvassed other interested parties seeking support for the further investigation of this proposal. We share a common vision that the site can provide benefits to recreational users, as well as foster renewed interest in the natural resource management, by bringing users in close contact with nature.</p> <p>The execution of this proposal would be dependent on shared and comprehensive management, and we would be keen to initiate discussions to explore possibilities. This development presents enormous tourism, recreation, and conservation potential.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This proposal aligns with the objectives of the Strathbogie Council Plan – to enhance community health, wellbeing and liveability. It fits as well with Councils Tracks and Trails Initiative an excellent mechanism to promote our many walking and cycling tracks and significantly boost tourism in our region.</li> <li>• Parks Vic resources are currently limited. Locals with knowledge, interest and time could form a committee of management to assist Parks Vic with management tasks. This could greatly benefit the 77ha site, currently negatively impacted by pest plants and animals as well as vegetation loss, erosion from off-road vehicle use and illegal firewood collection.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local sports clubs and travel reliant businesses have paid a high price for COVID lockdowns and are desperately trying to accommodate innovative and fun activities into weekend getaways. Outdoor activities, including mountain biking, have clear benefits for physical and mental wellbeing, critical as we seek a path out of the pandemic. Management responsibilities could improve choices for local youth, often confined and frustrated by limitation in townscape settings.</li> <li>• Our region has a reputation for its landscape values and natural biodiversity, which means we are a natural choice for weekend travellers seeking nature-based tourism. Our forest is soon to achieve National Park status (or similar now native forest logging has been ceased) and our creeks and bushland reserves are prized by locals and visitors. This proposal seeks to bring together sports enthusiasts and environmentalists to achieve better management of this reserve. There is a real opportunity to address weed and pest invasion as well as erosion and fire control by considered planning and shared management roles.</li> <li>• The addition of a world-class MBT would add another layer of choice to our already exceptional visitor facilities ie wineries, restaurants, nature places (lakes, hills etc) and other landscape gems (eg Gooram Falls the Arboretum). With collaboration and care we could be offering a range of facilities to those with the most demanding tastes, putting Euroa on the tourist map. Located at a easy travel distance from major population centres, including Melbourne, Shepparton Albury and Bendigo, Balmattum Hill could provide varying levels of bike-riding activities so families could fin adventure at a shared location.</li> </ul> <p>It is critical our community does not miss out on the exceptional opportunities presented by this proposal. The numbers flocking to this sport are phenomenal and the Balmattum Hill sits is comparable to some of Australia's more iconic riding location.</p> <p>We seek to consult widely to bring all interested parties to the table. It is our genuine hope that with Council support we can create a well-managed facility. One which gives and extraordinary visitor experience while building greater understanding of the natural world.</p>
7	Goulburn-Broken CMA	<p>The GB CMA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Strathbogie Shire Draft Council Plan 2021-2025. It is timely to take this opportunity to provide comment, given the Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy (GB RCS) is also in its Draft stage Home   Goulburn Broken Regional Catchment Strategy (<a href="https://rcs.vic.gov.au">rcs.vic.gov.au</a>). We have not reviewed the financial plan.</p> <p>I would like to congratulate Strathbogie Council on the development of a good plan. We have reviewed the document and think it represents well the areas that we have a common interest in. We have no additional</p>

		<p>feedback in terms of any changes to the document, which we feel aligns well with the GB RCS and the community feedback gathered across the catchment, including from the Strathbogie Council area.</p> <p>The GB RCS is a blueprint for improving catchment health and builds on achievements and lessons from the past to guide strategic land use planning for protection and improvement of catchment values. We value Strathbogie Shire Council as a signatory to the current GB RCS and look forward to continuing to work with you on the future version.</p> <p>We believe there are many synergies, particularly in relation to your strategy focus area one 'engage, create and unite', three, 'protect, enhance and adapt' and four 'inclusive, productive and balanced'. For example, in focus area three there are many opportunities to collaborate to reduce environmental impacts and reverse biodiversity decline, including through existing stakeholder and community partnerships such as the Goulburn Broken Local Government Biodiversity Reference Group, Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, Euroa Arboretum and local environment groups who we also engage with to deliver the GB RCS.</p> <p>Extensive engagement with community and agencies is a key driving principle of both the GB RCS and the Strathbogie Shire Plan, as evident across both documents. It's imperative that we continue to develop and deliver joint innovative community initiatives, to leverage funding to achieve our plans strategic directions, such as empowering our communities to be more resilient and adapt to climate change. Collaboration on these critical issues will help us to achieve greater value and change alongside our communities.</p> <p>Community feedback on climate change has helped develop key strategies in the GB RCS and we believe this will provide a valuable platform to leverage transformational change.</p> <p>We value our partnership and look forward to continuing to work with you to deliver the strategic direction of the Council Plan and the GB RCS and aligning our strategies where appropriate.</p>
8	Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce	<p>The Euroa Chamber of Business and Commerce has heard from both its members and the wider community in relation to this year's Draft Council Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions that have been brought to our attention over this year and that are not clearly addressed in the plan: Pathway and pedestrian lighting around clifton/tarcombe streets and the recreation reserves needs to be significantly improved. Connecting all those businesses along this section of town to the central hub of Euroa is another great benefit of lighting these spaces more predominantly.</li> <li>• Tourism and visitors to Euroa: the addition of infrastructure to support the local economy and local tourism sector. There is no clear statement or spending within the plan &amp; budget for playground upgrades</li> </ul>

		<p>or additions [e.g pump track, splash park, and adventure/nature park/playground]. The region's visitors traffic post lockdowns are outstanding, but our facilities and community infrastructure needs to be updated to cater for the demand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People leave town to visit such active spaces, which has a flow on effect for our local businesses, as this means money is being taken out of town and being spent elsewhere. Examples are: splash park in Benalla, nature park in Mansfield, Splash park/pump track in Wangaratta.</li> <li>• Euroa Information Hub: developing the Hub is key to capitalising on the visitors entering our region. Having the Hub situated near the travellers' rest or along the creek are conversations and ideas that have been raised - by doing this it would connect the park/playground area and the travellers rest to the main street area.</li> <li>• The Chamber endorses the addition of walking and bike trails around Strathbogie and on Balmattum hill. This is a great opportunity for the region.</li> <li>• The group would love the opportunity to be involved in the future development of the railway precinct</li> <li>• Provision for overflow parking in busy times around Binney St needs to be addressed.</li> <li>• We have a question regarding the action of the finalisation of the greening Euroa project. The Chamber would like to be briefed on the project and what it involves in the process.</li> </ul> <p>The Euroa &amp; District Chamber appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and help shape our shire's towns, helping grow and generate business for members and attract new businesses to the community. The Economic Development team have been a great support to businesses in our Shire and we look forward to continuing and growing the outcomes and achievements of the relationship</p>
9	Go Nagambie	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Strathbogie Shire Council 2021 - 2025 Draft Council Plan, Go Nagambie welcomes this opportunity to provide our observations, feedback and opportunities relating to the Draft Council Plan.</p> <p>To inform those council members who may not be aware - Go Nagambie is the promotional name of our incorporated Chamber of Commerce - Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce Inc.</p> <p>Go Nagambie's Vision is to make Nagambie, a premier regional centre for liveability, investment, visitation and events, with our focus being to unashamedly promote Nagambie and the surrounding regions through the support of our local community and businesses.</p> <p>Our committee is a group of passionate local residents who have a strong commitment to our region, they have great care for our community and a desire to continually support business opportunities and growth including our major industries of tourism, farming, construction, wine and equine.</p>

		<p>The committee includes several local business owners, representatives of larger scale businesses and investors and three ex Strathbogie Shire councillors.</p> <p>Go Nagambie would love the opportunity to present our feedback to the Council in person (or virtually) at an appropriate forum in the future.</p> <p><b>Overview:</b> Go Nagambie recognises and congratulates the Strathbogie Shire Council on drafting of the 2021 - 2025 Council Plan. In what must have been challenging circumstances due to the varying restrictions in place limiting face to face contact and collaboration to draft a far reaching document such as this is a credit to all involved.</p> <p>Go Nagambie recognises the strong intent of the Draft Council Plan to focus on community health and wellbeing, protection of our environment and climate, a measured approach to growth and infrastructure development and the delivery of improved governance and customer service.</p> <p>Go Nagambie believes the Draft Council Plan to be an extensive document with a number of clear strategic intents, however we would like to share some feedback for the Council's consideration in relation to both the process and content of the Draft Council Plan.</p> <p>Furthermore we would also like to highlight opportunities Go Nagambie believes the Council Plan should be addressing or expanding on which are aligned to the Plan's strategic intents.</p> <p>Please note the following information captures the collective views of the Go Nagambie committee regarding the 2021- 2025 Draft Council Plan.</p> <p><b>Feedback:</b> On process related to the creation of the Draft Council Plan Find ways to create greater community involvement (discuss individually with action groups) - Approach to engage and work closely with action groups and/or business committees across the shire to create an aligned approach. For example, Go Nagambie represents the interests of both business and community members. Community groups like Go Nagambie can play a direct role in becoming an active conduit to council. Currently there is a heavy reliance on individuals accessing online links provided by council to provide any sort of feedback. This has several limitations and it does not allow for personal feedback. Action groups and/or local chamber groups can provide an effective means of accessing feedback and information by working cooperatively with council management. There remain</p>
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		<p>large segments of the community who are reluctant or do not have the knowledge to provide information on-line which now appears to be the norm.</p> <p>Why has there been a move away from specific measurable goals in council plans to high level deliverables? The Council plan requires more measurable detailed actions e.g. increase, decrease or maintain. There are No SMART goals. SMART goals are <b>Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and anchored within a Time Frame.</b></p> <p>Clear specific measurable initiatives/projects (prior examples from prior council plan include Longwood bus stop, Lake Nagambie focus – 2017 - 2021) – include Capital works program. Previous council plans have been very descriptive in providing specific project details within their plans. The current plan lacks specificity and has only generalised commentary. Goals cannot be achieved when there are no KPIs in place.</p> <p><b>Feedback:</b> On content within the Draft Council Plan Financial – concern on future of shire in 10 years' time based on long term financials, deteriorating finances, labour increases, no legal costs included – financial projections look poor at best - What is the role of audit and risk committee in overseeing Shire finances? Should the audit and risk committee be at least setting targets allowing for increasing returns?</p> <p>There appears to be a strong focus on climate, health and wellbeing etc. Whilst this council is placing a high importance on these indices, the reality is that climate mitigation measures will be legislated at state and federal level and through international climate accords. Local governments will play a vital role in the implementation of climate mitigation strategies, but they do not play a role in legislating change which is led at other government levels. Council can play an important role in stimulating investment in local industry. e.g. Equine, tourism, hospitality?</p> <p>Example: Clarity on capital works approach to support council plan goal – minimal examples, one included is complete Violet Town landfill rehabilitation other is Mangalore freight airport – where are the timelines and performance criteria? Don't forget the fundamentals where council does have a major influence and vital role to play – roads, rubbish and rates. It is evident that the largest on-going concern from local residents is the regular increase in council rates. The only way to offset this is through creating a greater rate base through encouragement and stimulus of economic development via the private and public sector. There is surprisingly very little reference to establishing sound working relationships with investors and economic development should be one of the major pillars in any council plan. The Strathbogie Shire is fortunate to have strong private investors through a range of industries but there are no forums where council can engage in active dialogue with investors</p>
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		<p>so there are complementary public/private investment initiatives and create mutual understanding of respective long term planning initiatives.</p> <p>A key question is: Would council be comfortable in sharing this 5-year plan to potential investors or government bodies given that it lacks specificity and overall goals?</p> <p>The current Management structure has now abolished the role of a Deputy CEO. During times when the CEO is absent or unavailable with no deputy is this creating an unclear reporting pathway for management and public?</p> <p>There is reference in the plan to the creation of a MOU with the Taungurung People. Whilst this is a very admirable goal, it should be noted that there are several LGAs that are within Taungurung lands. Go Nagambie would support this initiative on the condition that all LGAs are involved and work together to create one MOU that would encompass all LGAs within Taungurung Country.</p> <p><b>Opportunities:</b> Go Nagambie believe the following should be captured or expanded on within the Draft Council Plan</p> <p>Equine Industry – a thriving industry, a compelling story of growth and opportunity. The Strathbogie Shire should embrace the industry, working together and towards becoming the global centre of excellence creating a ripple effect where all other service industries can prosper</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our region has established itself as the premier thoroughbred breeding area in Victoria and is certainly putting pressure on the Hunter Valley, NSW as no 1.</li> <li>• The 2021 breeding season boasts the strongest global stallion representation it has ever had in this region.</li> <li>• Racing Victoria announced an injection of \$7.5m more prize money per year only eligible to Victorian bred horses, which endorses that our region is fast becoming the premier breeding region in Australia.</li> <li>• In 4 years, 10 notable new thoroughbred operations have moved into the area including Dorrington Farm, Seymour Bloodstock, Leneva Farm, Chesterfield and Yu Long who now have a 4000 acre holding with 5kms of Goulburn River frontage.</li> <li>• Also note nonresponse to sculpture proposal to council from Rick Jamieson - missed opportunity</li> </ul> <p>Growth focus for Nagambie and Avenel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Growth in population +80% in Nagambie Avenel.</li> <li>• The Strathbogie Shire need to take action to align and support this in the plan</li> </ul>
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		<p>Nagambie Lakes Regatta centre/precinct</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote use of International standard rowing course.</li> <li>• Create a master plan based on works completed in prior years, a plan that identifies opportunities for the precinct. eg Nagambie foreshore engineering was completed by Roy Hetherington.</li> </ul> <p>Tourism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The tourism industry continues to boom in regional Victoria. With the increase of visitation and growth of population tourism will be our economic driver going forward.</li> <li>• What do our future employment in industries such as construction, equine, wine, and education look like?</li> <li>• We need to be visionary with our thought process focused on the employment opportunities that will be in demand in the next 5 years. Our youth should be given direction of what future pathways will be available.</li> <li>• The region could become the go to place for training hospitality students inhouse and onsite at venues and be supported by Go Tafe. The same thinking applies to the equine and wine industries. Strengthening connections with training faculties will hold the region in good stead as we grow and prosper.</li> <li>• Promote the townships for their individual attractions and their name being the identity. The branding of the Strathbogie Shire should be complimentary of the townships that form the region but not the first thing you see when entering a town.</li> <li>• The north east has claimed the title of the cycling centre of Victoria but the Strathbogie Shire can work with communities to promote and enhance the cycling offering.</li> <li>• The Strathbogie Shire should strengthen their connection with chambers of commerce and tourism associations. Working together with grass roots organisations will build and better connect communities.</li> </ul> <p>Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community consultation required to improve the communities understanding of what the declaration of climate emergency includes.</li> </ul> <p>Community Voice Survey</p> <p>Go Nagambie conducted a hard copy survey that was distributed in the Community Voice newspaper. To date 71 responses have been received. A summary of the findings are listed below for your perusal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community transport/car to transport residents to Seymour for shopping and appointments</li> <li>• NBN - 80% of respondents satisfied with current service</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile network coverage 60% dissatisfied with coverage, 40% satisfied</li> <li>• 90% of ratepayers are dissatisfied with shire rates and what they are receiving.</li> </ul> <p>Suggested improvements from survey participants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing footpaths need improving</li> <li>• CBD pavement needs improving and resealing - a similar finish to the Binney Street pavement was suggested</li> <li>• Grassed area at Buckley Park is uneven and difficult to enter water from near the boat shed. It is suggested that sand replace the grass near the boardwalk making it easier for rowers/swimmers to access the water.</li> <li>• Reintroduce a safe place for children to swim at Buckley Park</li> <li>• Public toilets in central median strip should be relocated to a more accessible site</li> <li>• Strathbogie Shire Office presence in Nagambie that includes a space for private conversation</li> <li>• Public gym needed</li> <li>• 80 % of respondents would like to see the regatta centre precinct utilised for more events including concerts, markets, expos and swimming fishing carnivals.</li> <li>• 10 % don't want any more events in Nagambie and 10%don't care.</li> <li>• All respondents looking forward to the lakeside connecting track from the township to the Regatta Centre and Leisure Park</li> <li>• Directional Signage improvements to key locations</li> <li>• Re - community voice publication - 40% prefer Digital copy, 60% prefer hardcopy</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion:</b> Go Nagambie looks forward to receiving confirmation of our feedback and welcomes further discussion to assist in delivering a Council Plan for the coming five years that is best aligned to our community needs. Go Nagambie hopes that the council finds value in the feedback and opportunities we have detailed, and we reiterate that we would welcome the opportunity to present to the council and discuss this in further detail.</p>
10	Community member	The Plan has a focus on inclusion but uses the stereo type of males and females, all able bodied to represent 'community'. Would suggest you have a re-think about the graphic. Regardless of community graphic that is used for community and the one that looks like the Heart Foundation, it makes the document very busy to read and is distracting how presented.
11	Community member	Within the Council Plan there needs to be a clear outline on where Euroa is headed with active spaces. In Euroa we are well behind the infrastructure of the other towns, especially along the Hume highway. As you know Euroa is the perfect stopover distance between so many places, and we are becoming a holiday destination for all ages and have a growing young family demographic.



		<p>We need to grow with these trends with the development of an adventure/nature playground along the Sevens Creeks linking the travellers rest to the main street. It is such a beautiful area, unlike any other place around us, we need to start capitalising on its beauty!</p> <p>The inclusion of a splash park and pump track, needs to be within Councils Plan for the town as well. Families - both local and visitors need to travel out of town on a weekly basis to visit Mansfield, Benalla and Wangaratta where these spaces have been developed to great effect. There is a great need and want amongst young families for these facilities [particularly Adventure/nature play and Splash Park] to be developed in Euroa.</p>
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## 9. Evaluation

At the end of the feedback sessions (not held at community markets) and at the conclusion of the Community Panel we asked participants to rate their satisfaction with the process. The overall satisfaction rating was 83 per cent.

**Table 21. Community satisfaction ratings – results displayed a percentage of total respondents.**

Bad	Not so good	Okay	Very good	Excellent
2%	0%	20%	38%	40%