

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Small Towns Strategy

WHAT IS THE SMALL TOWNS STRATEGY?

Over the last two decades Council has conducted extensive strategic planning work to guide the future growth and character of the region responding to the variety in size, infrastructure provision, history and community needs of each of the local towns surrounding Hamilton.

Accordingly, the specific strategic direction for each town, outlining a vision, existing assets, challenges, and a future plan for service and infrastructure delivery needs to be reviewed and updated.

The limitations in funding and resources available to Council means that creative approaches to service and infrastructure delivery are required.

Strategic thinking is necessary to determine how to best balance investment across the towns with projected growth and those experiencing population decline, while ensuring communities have fair access to the facilities and services necessary for liveability.

To do this, it is important to understand how each community uses the facilities in their town, what they need and value, and how/where they access services not available locally.

The vision for each town outlined in this Small Towns Strategy will enable each of our towns to complement and support one another to provide the services, infrastructure and opportunities necessary to ensure the wellbeing of the Shire's residents for years to come.

NEXT STEPS?

The project team is now pleased to exhibit this draft Small Towns Strategy to the community for a final engagement period.

Feedback on the document and on township priorities can be sent through to planning@sthgrampains.vic.gov.au.

All feedback received will be considered by Council prior to adoption of the Strategy early next year.



Key items in Strategy (more detail pages 56-64).

CONSIDERATIONS

Community Infrastructure and Services

- None.

Lifestyle and character

- Lack of maintenance in public green spaces discourages use.
- Poor maintenance of vegetation on verge.

Access, Connection and Transport

- Current speed zones discourage walkability and negatively impact the public realm.

Infrastructure (servicing)

- Poor waste management services, especially recycling.
- Poor internet connectivity limits town growth.
- The town experiences drainage issues.
- There is no sewerage or water services in Byaduk.

Natural Values and Open Space

- Improved maintenance needed for Cricket oval and club, which are on Crown Land.
- Byaduk Caves are a significant site yet are poorly managed by Parks Vic. Investment in infrastructure such as fencing, facilities, signage, and trails is needed.
- Properties without reticulated water provision in Byaduk do not have adequate bushfire protection.
- Further development with the town boundary is not significantly limited by environmental factors, however there is significant flora under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act (FFG) interspersed throughout the town as well as native vegetation requiring a permit for removal.
- Byaduk contains FFG as well as native vegetation requiring a permit for removal throughout the township boundary, with some parcels in the west and east of the township boundary remain free of these development hinderances.

OPPORTUNITIES

The following list of opportunities was developed to reflect previous strategic work and community engagement results.

Community Infrastructure and Services

- Advocate to DEECA to make improvements to the facilities at the cricket oval (such as toilets, shade for playground, gender inclusive change facilities, seating).

Lifestyle and character

- Investigation of whether investment in Byaduk Caves under the Volcanic Trails Masterplan project changes local demands for services
- Advocate to Parks Victoria to deliver infrastructure such as fencing, facilities, signage and trails at the Byaduk Caves

Access, Connection and Transport

- Advocate to Department of Transport to current speed zones through Byaduk and reduce as necessary to increase safety and walkability.
- Advocate to DoT for broad and ongoing road renewal
- Improve amenity and safety of path from Byaduk - Peshurst Road up to the tennis courts.

Infrastructure (servicing)

- Implement better waste management services, including offering recycling and community composting initiatives.
- Deliver better internet infrastructure.
- Better manage bushfire risk by delivering community water tanks or overhead fill supply in areas with non-reticulated water supply.

Natural Values and Open Space

- Develop a drainage management plan, incorporating water sensitive urban design and drainage solutions into verge planting.
- Community water tanks or overhead fill supply needed to get water supply faster in areas with non-reticulated water supply.
- Prioritise the protection of native flora and fauna, especially microbats in the Byaduk Caves.
- Protect avenue of mature trees along Port Fairy Road and identify key areas for additional planting.
- Deliver improvements to Byaduk Recreation Reserve and the oval.

Key Aspects to be Updated in Strategic Planning Documentation

- Development of a future thinking, community involved vision for the town of Byaduk.
- Byaduk is a rural settlement - the Township Zone suggests a level of development probably beyond what the community would want. The zoning may be more realistically RLZ. A restructure overlay may have benefits to the west and east.