

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.



Small Towns Strategy

GLENTHOMPSON



Southern Grampians
SHIRE COUNCIL

Key items in Strategy (more detail pages 102-112).

CONSTRAINTS

Community Infrastructure and Services

- Glenthompson lacks community facilities and social meeting points.
- There is limited patronage of Glenthompson pool and significant upgrades are required.
- Residents have limited access to emergency services.
- Infrastructure, services and activities to support wellbeing of youth and children are lacking.

Lifestyle and character

- Residents have to travel 40 minutes by car to the nearest supermarket for fresh fruit and vegetables.
- While Glenthompson is rich in history, the town doesn't currently maximise its tourist attractors.

Access, Connection and Transport

- The town lacks regular and consistent public transport options or active transport infrastructure.
- The high-speed road environment to the Glenelg Highway lacks amenity and poses safety risk for pedestrians.
- Inadequate signage at the Glenelg Highway/Cameron Street/McLennon Street intersection means trucks frequently U-turn in the middle of the Glenelg Highway as they miss the turn off to Ararat.

Infrastructure (servicing)

- There are no sewerage services in town and septic systems pose risk to both environment and human health.

Natural Values and Open Space

- FFG covers most of the town and land surrounding the town boundary with some native vegetation requiring a permit for removal located about 800m northwest of the town.
- Public green spaces are poorly maintained.

OPPORTUNITIES

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

Community Infrastructure and Services

- Repurpose pool / reinvest in alternative community infrastructure.
 - Reduce pool service to a splash pad.
 - Invest in making meeting hall accessible.
 - Improve playground or skatepark.
 - Develop the former school site.
- Investment in community hall
 - Build accessible facilities.
 - Implement programming of activities for young people and families.
- Improve access to fresh produce.
- Support energy economies
 - Investigate how to foster/hasten the development of a renewable energy economy in the area – esp. Wind and solar.
 - Investigate how to leverage potential economic development associated with the Stavely mine.

- Upgrade capacity at Dunkeld police station
 - Address limited presence of police in area.
 - Test whether Glenthompson is adequately serviced/residents have adequate access to emergency services.

Lifestyle and character

- Celebrate history.
 - Introduce wayfinding signage.
 - Introduce dual street names to reflect aboriginal history.
 - Provide historical information at key sites (linked to app with audio).
- Activate the public realm.
 - Investigate repurposing former brick works site.
 - Restore and promote the heritage significance of the railway station and hotel.
 - Activate and revitalise old shops through artist residencies.
 - Signage at town entrance to welcome visitors and promote attractiveness as a destination.
 - Fund mural on mechanics hall to foster town beautification.
 - Deliver creek walk and dam beautification.

Access, Connection and Transport

- Improve walking and cycling paths
 - Improve walking and cycling path to Dunkeld (such as Yuppeckiar Creek Walk).

Deliver an accessible shared path network.

- Improve bus services
 - Continue to advocate to dot for improved frequency on Ballarat-Hamilton-Mt. Gambier route.
 - Support the creation of a local transport forum to come up with solutions to local transport and seek funding through the Victorian Government Flexible Local Transport Solutions program.
- Advocate to Department of Transport for road safety improvements.
 - Broad and ongoing road renewal.
 - Signage to direct trucks to avoid using brakes to reduce noise pollution.

Infrastructure (servicing)

- Investigate alternative wastewater management solutions
- Pursue rectification/mitigation of off-site discharge.
- Improve waste management services
 - Provide additional facilities around public spaces.
 - Deliver skip or smart bins for visitors existing the National Park.

Natural Values and Open Space

- Invest in reducing bushfire risk.
 - Reduce grass loading on streetscapes.
 - Provide community water tanks/ overhead fill in areas with non-reticulated water supply.
 - Address lack of water supply to 4000-8000sqm lots.
 - Investigate how to reduce risk of chemical spills from pool/water treatment plant in event of Bushfire.
 - Improve telecommunications infrastructure (including areas in between towns)..

Key Aspects to be Updated in Strategic Planning Documentation

- Investigate delivery of township plan
 - Position Glenthompson as the “eastern gateway” to Southern Grampians region
 - Identify infrastructure needs
 - Review zoning regime and lot sizes