



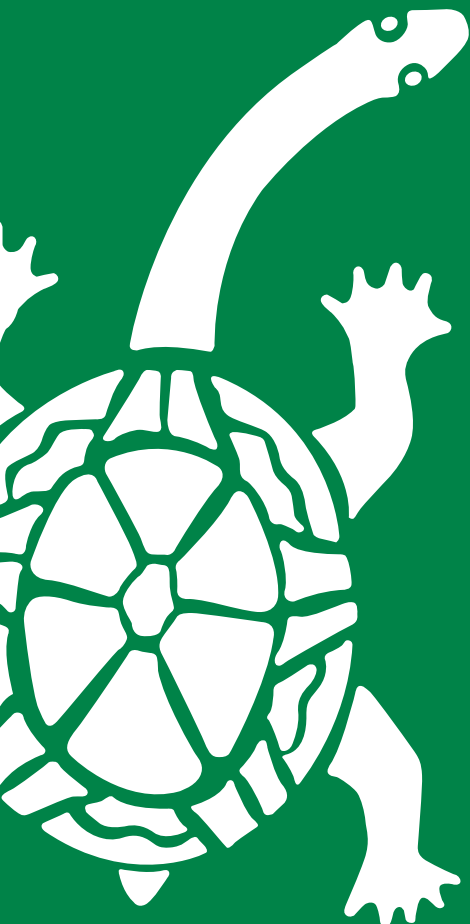
Campaspe Open Space Strategy

spiire

publicplace



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This report has been prepared by the offices of Spiire and Publicplace



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INTRODUCTION BY THE MAYOR

On behalf of Council, I am very pleased to present to the community our Campaspe Open Space Strategy, which provides strategic direction and key actions focused on improving, managing and acquiring public open space over the next ten years.

The Campaspe Open Space Strategy has been developed in a collaborative manner, with significant input from communities, large and small, across the municipality. The outcomes are reflective of both community and Council input.

The aim of the document is to provide key policy and project recommendations that improve the way Council manages and develops public open space.

In speaking to our community, it is clear that our open spaces are important assets that support the economic, social and physical wellbeing of our residents. They are used as event spaces, as places to be physically active, as areas where people connect socially and as places where natural settings and our indigenous heritage is valued and enjoyed. It is clear from this community input that our open spaces should be managed effectively, be accessible to all community and we should have enough to ensure a variety of experiences and opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

Having said that, we have developed the Campaspe Open Space Strategy around the following key principles:

Our open spaces will;

- Reflect "whole of community" values
- Provide flexible & multipurpose settings
- Be accessible, connected and distributed to allow access for the whole community
- Provide diverse opportunities
- Be environmentally sustainable spaces
- Maximise community benefit
- Focus upon partnerships and working together

Details of key strategies and actions that we will undertake to deliver on these principles are outlined in detail within the Strategy. Supporting the key strategic document is an implementation schedule and background research section that provides more specific information and explanation on how various decisions were made.

Council is keen to continue working with partners, other tiers of government and our community to ensure our open spaces are places we are all proud of and use regularly.

The Open Space Strategy recognises that we cannot achieve outcomes alone and that Council does not control all open spaces that are accessed by community and visitors. We need to work as advocates for our community and work with partners to ensure a sustainable and viable open space network.

The Campaspe Open Space Strategy is another important step in realising the Council commitment to create a place where people want to work, live, play and invest. We look forward to implementing the many recommendations within the strategy to help achieve this.

Cr Ian Maddison

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Dja Dja Wurrung and Yorta Yorta tribes as the traditional custodians of the land within the Campaspe Shire for many centuries.

We acknowledge that the land which we now use for public open space was the place of age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal for indigenous tribes and that the Dja Dja Wurrung and Yorta Yorta people's living culture had and has a unique role in the life of this region.

Yorta Yorta people traditionally lived around the junction of the Goulburn and Murray Rivers in present-day northeast Victoria. In May 2004 the Victorian State Government signed a co-operative management agreement with the Yorta Yorta people covering public land, rivers and lakes in north-central Victoria. The agreement gives the Yorta Yorta people a say in the management of traditional country including the Barmah State Park, Barmah State Forest, Kow Swamp and public land along the Murray and Goulburn rivers. Ultimate decision making responsibility was retained by the Environment Minister.

Dja Dja Wurrung, also known as the Jaara people and Loddon River tribe, occupied the watersheds of the Loddon and Avoca Rivers in Central Victoria. They were part of the Kulin alliance of tribes. In 2013, the State of Victoria and the Dja Dja Wurrung people entered into a Recognition and Settlement Agreement under the Traditional Owner Settlement Act 2010 which formally recognises the Dja Dja Wurrung people as the traditional owners for part of Central Victoria. The agreement area extends from north of the Great Dividing Range near Daylesford and includes part or all of the catchments of the Campaspe River.

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Executive Summary

The Campaspe Open Space Strategy is a long term planning document that provides the policy and strategy to enable Council to make decisions about how we use, develop and manage open space across the municipality. It aligns with the broad directions of the Campaspe Shire Council Plan and the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan by providing recommendations aimed at creating and managing inclusive spaces that support the social, physical and economic wellbeing of our Campaspe communities.

The Open Space Strategy outlines the strategic priorities and actions that are necessary to continue to create, protect and enhance quality open space across the municipality over the next 10-15 years.

The directions outlined are diverse and span many areas of Council. They have been developed based on the feedback from community and other stakeholders in addition to physical site inspections and spatial mapping analysis and research.

The Importance of Public Open Space

There is significant research, which supports the management and development of open spaces within human populations as an essential ingredient to individual and community health and wellbeing.

Studies have shown that open space provides:

- Places for people to play, rest, walk and cycle, such as sports facilities, walking trails and parklands.
- Places for us to strengthen our connection with others through events, celebrations and public meeting spaces.
- Natural settings that support environmental quality and biodiversity.
- Areas that deliver and provide for key services and functions for communities
- Places that provide amenity and aesthetic to our environment.

The Campaspe Open Space Vision and Principles

Based on community and Council input, a clear vision and set of principles have been established that sets a broad framework for future decision making and assessment of projects involving open space acquisition, disposal, development and management.

The Vision

We will work together to build our open space system in ways that celebrate our strengths, supports biodiversity and improves health and wellbeing for our community now, and in the future. We value the unique nature of our open space including rivers, trails, pristine bushland, parks and sporting spaces.

The Principles

Open Space in Campaspe Shire will:

Reflect “whole of community” values Ensuring open space provides essential social, health, economic, environmental benefit for the whole of our community.

Provide flexible & multi purpose settings

We will support initiatives that optimise community benefit through flexible design and innovation.

Be accessible, connected and distributed to allow access for the whole community

We will encourage and require initiatives that can measurably improve the accessibility of open space within the community.

Provide diverse opportunities

Our open space provision and management should meet the diversity of need and demand.

Be environmentally sustainable spaces

We will manage our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.

Will maximise community benefit

We will maximise the social, health, environmental and economic benefits derived from open space.

Focus upon partnerships and working together

Together with government, local committees of management and community organisations we will jointly influence the range, quality and distribution of open space.

The Open Space Strategy Outcomes

Council has developed a series of broad strategies and recommendations related to the development and management of open space that reflect the values communicated through more than 1000 individual comments from communities across the municipality.

The open space strategies and recommendations include the following:

Strategy 1: Developing Effective Policy and Planning Mechanisms

Recommendation 1.

That Council will work collaboratively, across disciplines and across our community, to ensure that open space planning integrates a whole of community and whole of Council approach.

Recommendation 2.

That the changes to the Campaspe Shire Planning Scheme under Amendment C086 be noted and supported as being complementary to the intent and principles of the Campaspe Open Space Strategy.

Recommendation 3.

That Council will work toward building its body of data regarding open space in the municipality and undertake regular internal reviews of key factors impacting on provision of open space such as population shifts and age profile of community.

Strategy 2: Improving the Quality of and Access to Open Space

Recommendation 4.

Council will work on developing infrastructure plans for key open spaces as highlighted by the community as well as working with smaller townships on how best to develop open space for flexible uses and to enhance economic activity.

Recommendation 5.

Council will work to enhance the connectivity of our open space network and its connection to other community destinations through completing trail connections, improving the footpath, shared path and off road networks and continuing work on Rail Trails.

Strategy 3: Developing a Sustainable Open Space System

Recommendation 6.

Council will resource open space development in a sustainable manner, utilising community partnerships, a structured hierarchy system and other appropriate tools to ensure funding is provided in an efficient and targeted approach.

Recommendation 7.

Council will manage open space in an environmentally sustainable manner, considering appropriate levels of human activity and how open spaces can contribute to the sustainability of the surrounding environment.

Strategy 4: Promoting Open Space and Activity Within Open Space

Recommendation 8.

Develop a seasonal and recurrent program that can assist in promoting the benefits of open space, use of open space and the assets that exist within the Campaspe region.

Following on from these key directions are twenty seven specific actions that will result in a range of Council and stakeholder activities aimed at delivering the key strategies and recommendations noted above.

As part of the extensive consultation program, many initiatives and ideas were identified by the community as possible future projects. This information has been invaluable in the preparation of the vision, objectives and key actions of this strategy. Schedule 1 provides a comprehensive summary of the projects and initiatives of high community interest, which may be subject to future detailed review and consideration.

In conclusion, the Campaspe Open Space Strategy provides a set of strategic directions for the management and development of open space that reflect the research and community and stakeholder input received throughout the development process of the Strategy.

The Strategy provides for a range of roles for Council with regard to public open space. These roles involve many areas of Council from open space asset development and management through to community advocate and partner with other key public open space managers.

The Strategy relies not only on Council resources but recognises the need to develop meaningful partnerships with community and other government departments that result in a sharing of resources and a sustainable open space system that ensures that the Shire of Campaspe reflects Council's vision of creating a vibrant place to live, grow and visit, with a thriving, diverse and healthy lifestyle.



1. Principles and Vision

1.1 Introduction

The Vision and Principles for Open Space in Campaspe sets a broad framework for decision making and assessment of projects involving open space acquisition, disposal, development and management.

They are intentionally broad, general statements, which espouse a set of values that can be used to test actions against. They are not area specific or task specific but are developed to provide intent, direction and a way of considering decision and projects within a framework of understood and agreed open space values.

1.2 The Vision

We will work together to build our open space system to provide improved liveability for the people of Campaspe Shire in ways that celebrate our strengths, supports biodiversity and improves health and well being now, and into the future.

We value the unique nature of our open space including rivers, trails, pristine bushland, parks and sporting spaces.



1.3 The Principles

Open Space in Campaspe Shire will:

Reflect “whole of community” values

Open space provides essential social, health, economic, environmental benefit for the whole of our community. The Shire will encourage activities and developments that relate most closely to these defined primary roles and functions of open space.

Provide Flexible & Multi-purpose Settings

Adaptable open space has a capacity to evolve with changing patterns of demand. The Shire will support initiatives that optimise multiple complimentary use and maximise overall community benefit through flexible design and innovation.

Be accessible, connected and distributed to allow access for the whole community

There are some members of our community who face greater challenges accessing open space because of their geography, ability, age and / or economic status. The Shire will encourage and require initiatives that can measurably improve the accessibility of open space within the community.

Provide Diverse Opportunities

Our Shire’s needs for and value of open space are diverse and evolving. Open Space provision and management must meet the diversity of demand.

Be Environmentally Sustainable Spaces

We will manage our open space system to improve quality of life for current and future generations, maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.

Will maximise Community Benefit

Our goal is to maximise the social, health, environmental and economic benefits derived from open space relative to the function and role of each site.

Focus upon Partnerships and working together

Together with government, the private sector, committees of management and community organisations the Shire will jointly influence the range, quality and distribution of open space.

Allow for sustainable long term financial management of open space assets

Through efficient use, management, acquisition and disposal of open space the Shire will provide a sustainable long term open space system for the whole community to enjoy now and for future generations.



2. The Campaspe Open Space System

2.1 Introduction

Defining Public Open Space

For the purposes of this study, Public Open Space is defined as open, non-built spaces managed or owned by Council that are broadly accessible for;

- community use and activity,
- aesthetic or place making value (i.e. town entrances),
- the protection of areas of heritage, cultural or ecological value, and
- utility use such as drainage reserves or flood retention.

This study also recognises other areas of open space managed or owned by other public land managers. There are large tracts of Crown Land managed by various state government departments as well as linear reserves managed by VicTrack and VicRoads. Furthermore there are significant waterways, water bodies managed by Catchment Management Authorities. In addition private areas of land are often used as Open Space by the public - examples of this include private school grounds which are not under the control of the State Government or the Shire.

These areas that are not under Council control are noted in the report where relevant but are not mapped due to the confusion that may result regarding Council's extent of authority to develop or influence management or use of these often large tracts of open space.

Council has defined the scope of public open space to include:

Primary Spaces:

- All land zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone, where Council is Committee of Management or owns the land (PPRZ)
- All land zoned Public Conservation and Resource Zone where Council is Committee of Management or owns the land (PCRZ)
- All other Crown Land for which the Council is Committee of Management
- Council owned land used as public space, but not zoned PPRZ or PCRZ.
- Crown Land open space managed by government appointed community committees of management, where Council provides financial or other resources to ensure open space is maintained for public use.



Incidental Spaces:

- Recreation clubs and facilities on publicly accessible spaces
- Road corridors, road reserves etc. where Council has management control
- Pedestrian and bicycle routes and linkages
- Significant Streetscapes

2.2 Catchments

In considering the distribution and accessibility of open space in the municipality it is important to consider the proximity of residents to open spaces.

A number of statutory planning and peak body planning documents provide consistent use of quantitative standards when considering the equitable distribution of open space.

Quantitative standards are generally expressed as:

- a percentage of the total amount of land (i.e. 10 and 6 percent of the net developable land)
- an amount per capita (i.e. 2 ha/1,000 people for active open space; 5ha/60,000 people for built facilities)
- a distance from a given point (i.e. parks to be within 400m of 95 percent of dwellings); and
- an area size (i.e. 8 ha minimum for local active open space; 25-30 ha for regional active open space).

Qualitative standards expressed in the State Government Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP) and the Precinct Structure Planning Guidelines are expressed as factors that reflect appropriateness for the intended function. (For example, land for active open space should be:

- suitably dimensioned and designed to provide for the intended use etc
- located on flat land (which can be cost effectively graded)
- located with access to, or making provision for, sustainable water supply etc)

While there are some exemptions, these open space standards prescribe the 'minimum provisions' to be applied on a state-wide basis through the Victorian Planning Scheme.

The Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas contains provision standards, ratios and benchmarks developed in conjunction with growth area councils to assist in the planning of a wide range of community facilities (including open space) to address the needs of residents in new developments. These standards are applicable to all settlement types as a guide for sustainable and viable provision levels.

Relevant VPP Clauses relating to distribution, access and connectivity of local parks and active open spaces include the following;

Distribution:

- Provide new parkland in growth areas and in areas that have an undersupply of parkland (VPP 11.03-1 – Open space planning objectives and strategies)
- Public open space should be provided along foreshores, streams and permanent water bodies. (Standard C13 - VPP-56.05-2 Public Open Space Provision objectives)

Provide a network of well-distributed neighbourhood public open space that includes;

- Local parks within 400 metres safe walking distance of at least 95 percent of all dwellings.
- Additional small local parks or public squares in activity centres and higher density residential areas.
- Active open space of at least 8 hectares in area within 1 kilometre of 95 percent of all dwellings.
- Linear parks and trails along waterways, vegetation corridors and road reserves within 1 kilometre of 95 percent of all dwellings. (Standard C13 - VPP-56.05-2 Public Open Space Provision Objectives)

Based on these provisions, the following catchments have been mapped for the Campaspe Shire Open Space Strategy:

1. Mapping 400 metre catchments around open space in key townships
2. Mapping 1000 metre catchments around active open space (sporting facilities)
3. Mapping 1000 metre catchments around linear parks and trails along waterways and vegetation corridors.
4. Coverage of 95 percent of the population under these catchments should be achieved and will be noted where non compliance is apparent.

2.3 Classification System for Open Space

A classification system for open space provides the necessary structure and decision making framework to guide the development and management of specific parcels of open space.

The Campaspe Open Space Strategy applies a dual classification process based on;

1. The Primary Use of an open space, where an open space is defined by its most common or fundamental use, even where it may be used for a secondary purpose and,
2. The Hierarchy of open space where an open space is defined by the size of the space, service levels within the space and the extent to which a typical visitor will travel to access the open space.

These two classifications are defined in more detail on the opposite page.

This dual classification system provides a basis from which to assess the distribution and diversity of open space across Campaspe Shire. It provides a basis for potential redevelopment of specific open spaces based on distribution and quality of open spaces.

The classification system has been used to further assess open space broadly across the municipality in the following chapter.

Primary use of open space

Parkland and/or formal garden
Definition – a managed open space primarily for the passive use of the local or regional community.
Sports and Recreation Reserve
Definition – a space primarily for the undertaking of organised sport and recreation activities. May include playing fields, courts, competition tracks and similar facilities.
Natural Reserve
Definition – an area of land set aside primarily for the protection of natural assets and values – this includes river side forest and bushland areas.
Linear Reserve, Trail or Corridor
Definition – relatively narrow when compared to its overall length – primarily for connecting origin to destination with pathways or connecting areas of natural values (bio-link).
Drainage or Wetland Reserve
Definition – a space that is set aside primarily for the purpose of controlling flooding and water quality.
Urban Space
An open space in an urban environment that is used for aesthetic, event or pedestrian purposes.

Hierarchy of open space

Regional/Municipal
Open space that provides the entire municipality with benefit and value, is used by members of the whole municipality and beyond (e.g. state, national and international). Contains assets and attractions that are of the highest level in the Municipality. Patrons are likely to have this space as a destination of travel and may travel by car from their community to enjoy the space. Most patrons will arrive by car and only those who live close by will access by bike or by foot. People will access the space regardless of barriers such as major roads, rail lines etc.
Town /District
Provides assets, opportunities and activities for a portion of the municipality or the major part of a local town. The assets and opportunities are provided to a cluster of neighbourhoods and will accommodate a range of activities and interests. These spaces generally attract users from outside the immediate local community. Patrons may visit by car, by bike and by foot. A major barrier such as highway may influence the use patterns by the patrons.
Small Town
Open space that provides opportunities and assets used by the local community in Campaspe's smaller towns. These spaces are accessible to all residents in the small town easily by bike or on foot without crossing a major road or other barrier
Neighbourhood
Typically a small open space that serves the immediate local community and does not attract users from beyond the immediate catchment. Users typically access these spaces by bike or on foot and they are within comfortable walking or cycling distance without the need to cross a major road or other barrier.
Specific Purpose
An open space where the sole purpose of the assets and the space's existence is to provide a single opportunity and other recreation or social opportunities are not possible due to the configuration or conflict that may occur.

2.4 Existing Open Space Mapping

The open spaces being considered under this Open Space Strategy have been mapped and identified in the following pages.



Gunbower

- 93. Gunbower Recreation Reserve
- 94. Gunbower Race Course



Lockington

- 18. Shakespeare Crescent
- 19. Lockington Recreation Reserve
- 20. Lockington Apex Park
- 21. Lockington Common
- 22. Lucas Crescent Park



Echuca - West

- 23. Heygarth Street Gardens
- 24. The Onion Patch
- 25. Aquatic Reserve
- 26. East Reserve
- 27. Central Park
- 28. Echuca South Recreation Reserve & Playground

- 30. Echuca Scenic Drive Victoria Park
- 31. Victoria Park Boat Ramp
- 32. Victoria Park Recreation Reserve
- 33. River Boat Dock
- 34. Hopwood Gardens
- 35. River Reserve
- 37. Murrumbidgee Drive Playground

- 39. Alton Reserve
- 76. Victoria Park Bushland
- 77. Wharparilla Flora Reserve
- 79. Future use
- 80. Future use



Legend

Open Space Class

- Regional / Municipal
- Town District
- Small Town
- Neighbourhood
- Specific Purpose

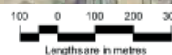
Open Space Type

- Sports or Recreation
- Park or Formal Garden
- Natural Reserve
- Linear Trail or Corridor
- Drainage or Wetland
- Street reserve Landscape

Echuca - East

- 40. Apex Park
- 41. Garden Crescent
- 42. Blind Creek Reserve
- 43. Towle Court Reserve
- 44. Wilson Court Park
- 45. Westwood Park

- 82. Rotary Steam Park
- 88. Wearne Road Reserve





Legend

Open Space Class

- Regional / Municipal
- Town District
- Small Town
- Neighbourhood
- Specific Purpose

Open Space Type

- Sports or Recreation
- Park or Formal Garden
- Natural Reserve
- Linear Trail or Corridor
- Drainage or Wetland
- Street reserve Landscape

Kyabram

- 46. Kyabram Memorial Gardens
- 47. Kyabram Recreation Reserve
- 48. Kyabram Trotting Track Golf Course (not Council owned/managed)
- 49. Northern Reserve
- 50. John Pilley Reserve (not Council owned/managed, except park area)
- 51. Kyabram Memorial Walkway

- 52. Poplar Street Reserve
- 53. Prunus Court Reserve
- 54. Glass Court Reserve
- 55. Crow Court Reserve
- 56. Banyule Court Reserve
- 57. Waratah Street Reserve
- 58. Kyabram Fauna Park
- 59. Jaycees Play Space Skatepark

- 60. Edis Park
- 83. Kyabram Showgrounds (not Council owned/managed)
- 85. Fredrick Street Reserve
- 85a. Community Garden
- 85b. Tennis Courts



Rochester

- 1. Apex Park
- 2. Rankin Street Reserve
- 3. Rochester Golf Course & Tennis Courts
- 4. Rotunda Park
- 5. Lions Park
- 6. Campaspe Park River Reserve
- 7. Rochester Recreation Reserve (not Council owned/ managed)
- 8. Memorial RSL Gardens
- 9. Roxy Bridge Reserve
- 10. Roxy Hall Skate Park
- 11. River Path
- 12. Highway Reserve South





Rushworth

- 99. Rushworth Recreation Reserve
- 100. Growlers Sanctuary
- 101. Rushworth Rail Reserve West
- 102. High Street Landscape
- 103. Geyle Reserve

- 104. Rushworth Lions Club Federation Park
- 105. Rushworth Rail Reserve East



Stanhope

- 71. McEwan Place
- 72. Stanhope Apex Park
- 73. Stanhope Lions Park

- 74. Stanhope Recreation Reserve
- 75. Stanhope VicTrack Land





Tongala

- 13. R.K. Brose Reserve (owned by Bowls Club)
- 14. Lions Park
- 15. Mangan Street Henderson Street

- 16. Centennial Park
- 17. Potts Village Reserve



Tooleen

- 95. Tooleen Recreation Reserve

Legend

Open Space Class

- Regional / Municipal
- Town District
- Small Town
- Neighbourhood
- Specific Purpose

Open Space Type

- Sports or Recreation
- Park or Formal Garden
- Natural Reserve
- Linear Trail or Corridor
- Drainage or Wetland
- Street reserve Landscape



3. Defining Open Space Issues and Opportunities

Based on the research, site visits and consultation undertaken, a series of broad open space issues and opportunities have been developed.

1. The population of Campaspe is growing slowly however the population is shifting toward older age groups. Older adults tend to participate in walking and cycling and other low impact, activities that can occur at any time. This trend will need to be considered and consistently reviewed with regard to types of open space provision.
2. The population of many smaller townships is declining, with an ageing population. The flexibility and multi-use nature of open space will be important in these communities in order to deliver efficiencies in maintenance and open space quality.
3. Council has recently amended the Campaspe Planning Scheme (Amendment C086) to provide more support for the development of quality, connected open spaces with an emphasis on active communities. Council have also set regulations for contributions toward open space as part of any new development (Schedule to Clause 52.01)
4. Spatial mapping of open space has indicated that based on ratios of open space within 400 metres of residents, Echuca East is undersupplied. This assessment method is less useful in smaller townships given the low populations often show that one open space would be deemed "over servicing" of areas, which is not reasonable.
5. Household survey respondents indicated that walking (either for recreation or to reach a destination) is the most common activity undertaken in open spaces with active sport, jogging and cycling also achieving high numbers of responses.
6. The emphasis on walking would indicate that Council should focus on trail connections, reduction in pedestrian barriers and footpaths as part of open space development and connectivity.
7. Further progress on larger trail developments, namely rail trails was also highlighted, with the intent of creating open space assets that benefit both local users and local economic activity through increase tourism.
8. Connecting walking loops through key neighbourhoods and smaller townships was also highlighted.
9. A selection of accessible bush trail loops for use by wheelchairs and prams was requested and the Playground

Strategy also noted the lack of any accessible play space in the Shire.

10. The Campaspe River Trail was frequently highlighted as a valued and significant trail for walking and also noted as an opportunity to continue to improve and extend.
11. The development of the river as an open space was also highlighted, with the introduction of fishing platforms in key locations. Echuca was noted as the first priority, with Rochester also noted as an opportunity to develop an accessible fishing platform.
12. Opportunities exist to develop partnerships with other authorities and land managers to improve access, amenity and environmental integrity of some areas. Banyule Forest (DEPI) and water frontage area (CMA) are two priorities.
13. Creating a sense of place and local character through town entrances and streetscapes was emphasised as important through community consultation as was the creation of shady urban areas in general.
14. Based on community feedback, more collaboration between Council and smaller communities, committees of management and other volunteer groups is encouraged.
15. A number of specific open spaces of Municipal importance have been highlighted as requiring master plans. Victoria Park, Aquatic Reserve, Warren Street Flood Plain and Echuca East Reserve were priorities. Banyule Forest was also noted although this is not an area under Council control.
16. Other key open space areas that are not controlled by Council were highlighted as an opportunity for Council to have an advocacy and liaison role. Priority spaces included Lake Cooper, Banyule Forest and Kows Swamp.

4. Open Space Strategies

Based on the key issues and opportunities noted in the previous chapter, a series of strategies have been developed that are applicable across the entire municipality. Each key strategy has a series of recommended actions that are supported by the evidence and feedback we have received and collated. They also reflect upon the Vision, Principles and the Key Direction Statements of the Open Space Strategy taking into consideration;

- the level of authority and control Council has over specific areas of open space management;
- demographic drivers and influence;
- the statutory planning and regulatory framework of the Council;
- Council's resources and capacity; and
- the feedback expressed by community and other key stakeholders.

The Strategies are detailed further below and are structured to provide a broad strategy, a series of recommendations relating to the strategy and a list of actions to achieve the recommendations (as illustrated in the diagram below).



There are four strategies, with related recommendations and actions for the Shire. These are:

Strategy 1

Developing Effective Policy and Planning Mechanisms

Strategy 2

Improving the Quality of and Access to Open Space

Strategy 3

Developing a Sustainable Open Space System

Strategy 4

Promoting Open Space and Activity Within Open Space

These strategies and related recommendations and actions are detailed on the following pages.



4.1 Strategy 1: Developing Effective Policy & Planning Mechanisms

Develop an internal Open Space Planning Mechanism

Open space planning is a whole of Council responsibility and a whole of community interest and concern. Open space, along with the community within the Campaspe Shire is distributed across a number of towns effectively making Council management of all open space beyond capacity and resources. The relationship between Council and local volunteers who may manage open space either on behalf of Council (S.86 committees) or directly through the Crown (DEPI appointed committees) is crucial and Council is dependent on the efforts and goodwill of local committees in delivering and managing open spaces.

Council has a role in listening to community, providing opportunity for this community conversation to occur and undertaking an advocacy role on behalf of community with other land managers, where appropriate.

In planning future open space development and ongoing management, Council should also have an ongoing community engagement plan and process that provides collaboration with community and aims to manage open space in way that is reflective of community needs.

In addition, a coordinated, internal Council approach to open space management is important in ensuring that decision making on new projects, open space acquisition or rationalisation and other management issues are processed through an efficient, formalised process that promotes input from a range of Council services.

Recommendation #1

Council will work collaboratively, across disciplines and across our community, to ensure that open space planning integrates a whole of community and whole of Council approach.

Ensure the Planning Scheme reflects Open Space requirements

The Planning Scheme is the principle regulatory mechanism Council utilises to actively negotiate and seek to acquire and develop open space as areas of residential development expand.

Council has recently amended the Campaspe Shire Planning Scheme (Amendment C086) to include further emphasis on open space development and design guidelines within the MSS (Clause 21.04-1 Settlement) and the clear requirement for contribution by land developers toward open space (Schedule to Clause 52.01). These inclusions are strongly supported by the Campaspe Open Space Strategy.

	Action	Priority
1.1	<p>Adopt an integrated approach to the planning and management of open space within Council, through the development of an Integrated Open Space Management Group (IOSMG) that is representative of relevant areas of Council including; Planning, Recreation, Events, Parks maintenance etc.</p> <p>The IOSMG will develop terms of reference for its operation, to include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging the community in the management and development of open space • Serving as the key internal reference group for review and sanction of all internal open space design, master plans and strategy related matters • Providing functional expert advice for developer's landscape and open space plans. • Reviewing and developing with other's Developer Contribution Plans and providing oversight to the distribution and allocation of the Recreation Fund Reserve • Placing high emphasis on the strategic planning of physical linkages between both Council and public open space. • Considering opportunity and facilitating negotiation of asset swaps where appropriate. 	HIGH

Recommendation #2

That the changes to the Campaspe Shire Planning Scheme under Amendment C086 be noted and supported as being complementary to the intent of the Campaspe Open Space Strategy.

Standards for both catchments and amount of open space used in the Open Space Strategy are sourced from the Victorian Planning Provisions (VPP) and by benchmarking a range of other Councils with lower growth rates.

In considering the catchments and frequency of open space provision, Standard C13 from the VPP is utilised which provides the following:

The provision of public open space should:

- Implement any relevant objective, policy, strategy or plan (including any growth area precinct structure plan) for open space set out in this scheme.
- Provide a network of well-distributed neighbourhood public open space that includes:
 - o Local parks within 400 metres safe walking distance of at least 95 percent of all dwellings. Where not designed to include active open space, local parks should be generally 1 hectare in area and suitably dimensioned and designed to provide for their intended use and to allow easy adaptation in response to changing community preferences.
 - o Additional small local parks or public squares in activity centres and higher density residential areas.
 - o Active open space of a least 8 hectares in area within 1 kilometre of 95 percent of all dwellings.
 - o Linear Parks and trails along waterways, vegetation corridors and road reserves within 1 kilometre of 95 percent of all dwellings.

In regard to the percentage allocation of open space provided as part of any new subdivision or development, a range of Councils were considered that are established urban areas with low levels of growth in population. (see table below)

Council	Population increase over 15 years (2011-2026)	Percentage of land acquired through subdivision approval
Yarra	25 percent	4.5 percent
Moreland	18 percent	2.5-6.8 percent
Darebin	16 percent	2.0 – 5.0 percent
Port Phillip	16 percent	5.0 percent
Maroondah	13 percent	2.0 – 5.0 percent
Stonnington	13 percent	2.0 – 5.0 percent
Knox	11 percent	5.0 -8.0 percent
Manningham	11 percent	5.0 percent
Monash	6 percent	2.0 – 5.0 percent
Whitehorse	4 percent	4.0 percent

In the Shire of Campaspe, population growth rates are expected to be low and commensurate with those municipalities listed in the table above. In this sense, an urban open space contribution rate of 5 percent is consistent with rates used by municipalities in the established metropolitan urban areas. Given larger lot sizes and more access to private open spaces, a lower rate of 2.5 percent contribution for rural subdivisions is also consistent with the lower rates described in those municipalities listed in the table.

The Campaspe Open Space Strategy supports the adoption of the residential contribution rate of 5 percent and the rural contribution rate of 2.5 percent of land or land value.

	Action	Priority
2.1	That Council ensure the use of Clause 21.04-1 with regard to open space principles as part of any new land development.	HIGH
2.2	Note that the Municipal Strategic Statement includes reference to open space under the Liveability section that reflect the Campaspe Open Space vision and principles.	HIGH
2.3	That Council enact the Schedule to Clause 51.02 of the Planning Scheme, requiring 5 percent contribution of land value to open space development in residential zones other than low density and 2.5 percent of land value in low density residential zones.	HIGH

Ongoing Research & Review

To assist with planning open space over time and ensure the relevance of the open space strategy, a number of actions are recommended with regard to reviewing the Open Space Strategy outcomes, updating Council's GIS over time, reviewing demographic data and considering completion or relevance of the Open Space Strategy recommendations over time.

Recommendation #3

Council will work toward building its body of data regarding open space in the municipality and undertake regular internal reviews of key factors impacting on provision of open space such as population shifts and age profile of community.

	Action	Priority
3.1	Ensure that Council's GIS system to include the classifications of open space in order to more fully inform open space planning and management.	MEDIUM
3.2	That Council undertake or commission research into the extent of use and satisfaction with open space across the municipality at least every 5-10 years.	MEDIUM

4.2 Strategy 2: Improving the Quality of and Access to Open Space

Equitable Access

Research and consultation has highlighted that there are some neighbourhoods in Campaspe towns that have fewer opportunities to access open space compared to others. The equitable distribution of and access to a diversity of open space is an important priority. Echuca East and some small areas of the developing Echuca West area are an immediate focus.

The other important aspect of improving open space in Campaspe is in developing flexible open spaces for smaller townships that can be used for a range of local purposes as well as enhance opportunities for events and increased economic activity.

Recommendation # 4

Council will work on developing master infrastructure plans for key open spaces as highlighted by the community as well as working with smaller townships on how best to develop open space for flexible uses and to enhance economic activity.

	Action	Priority
4.1	Prepare and annually review priority candidate public open space development lists for projects of a) Shire-wide benefit, b) town specific benefit and c) public land.	HIGH
4.2	Prepare infrastructure plans for priority candidate public open space development projects of both Shire-wide and specific town benefit.	HIGH
4.3	Work with other government land management and planning agencies, including DEPI, PV and VRFish to advocate an progress prioty candidate open space development and access projects on public land.	HIGH
4.4	Undertake a median strip and town entry planting program to improve aesthetic and sense of place.	MEDIUM
4.5	Establish a long term plan for development and management of flood plain land to the south of Warren Street (Echuca) focussing on the area as a key gateway/entry given the development of a second bridge crossing.	

Supporting walking and cycling in open space

Research has indicated that walking for recreation or to reach a destination are the most common activities undertaken in open space within the Campaspe Shire. Walking and cycling involve little or no expense, improves individual health and wellbeing outcomes, can be undertaken with friends or family as a social activity and is potentially accessible for all.

It is important that Council focus on creating a coordinated network of footpaths, shared paths and off-road trails that link key destinations and create viable walking loops to increase opportunity and propensity to walk.

Trails were also highlighted as a way to create tourism activity through the introduction of Rail Trails and local walking loops, connecting areas of interest within a township.

A series of wheelchair or pram accessible bush trails was also prioritised as part of a suite of open space facilities with a walking/cycling focus.

Recommendation #5

Council will work to enhance the connectivity of our open space network and its connection to other community destinations through completing trail connections, improving the footpath, shared path and off road networks and network and continuing work on Rail Trails.

	Action	Priority
5.1	Where practical, Council will look to link open spaces and other destinations along waterways, easements, footpaths and available public land to provide off road alternatives for walkers and cyclists. This should include existing as well as new residential areas.	HIGH
5.2	Develop a priority action plan of projects to complete local township connections between open space, schools and activity centres as a means to support incidental activity through walking and cycling.	HIGH
5.3	Continue to work toward attracting funding and feasibility analysis for proposed Rail Trails, specifically Elmore to Rochester and Echuca as well as Rushworth to Murchison.	HIGH
5.4	Where priority connections are identified, Council will initiate discussions with relevant authorities to scope opportunities to extend linear corridors through currently encumbered land.	MEDIUM
5.5	Improve wheelchair and pram access to selected bush tracks to provide more equitable access.	MEDIUM

4.3 Strategy 3: Developing a Sustainable Open Space System

Economically Sustainable Open Space

This strategy provides a focus on ensuring Council develops an open space network that is within the capacity of Council, and its partners to maintain as well as referring to managing open space in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Council needs to consider open space infrastructure development in light of both capital and recurrent costs to maintain. Often, state government funding is available for initial capital works however maintenance and other recurrent costs may fall to Council. Working with community as partners will also be an important consideration in reducing staff resourcing required to maintain open spaces.

Recommendation #6

Council will resource open space development in a sustainable manner, utilising community partnerships, a structured hierarchy system and other appropriate.

	Action	Priority
6.1	The Recreation Reserve Fund resources will be directed to areas where equity of access needs to be addressed, with priority given to funding District or Neighbourhood projects or land acquisition that improve local resident access.	ONGOING
6.2	Unless responding to identified risk, Capital works (including State and Federal grants) will be directed to Regional, Municipal or District level open spaces.	ONGOING
6.3	Council will work with local communities and facilitate funding submission development and other partnership opportunities to support local committees of management that manage open space for or on behalf of Council.	ONGOING
6.4	The Open Space Strategy Principles will be used to guide decision making for funding of future projects considered as part of any new open space development.	ONGOING
6.5	Review the Urban Style Manual to ensure signage styles and material are included. This approach will create improved economies of scale and create recognizable branding of Council open spaces.	ONGOING

Environmentally Sustainable Open Space

The Shire of Campaspe has some of the most unique open space environments of any municipality on the Loddon Mallee region. Access to rivers, water bodies and bush land is highly valued by residents and tourists alike. Council's responsibility is to ensure that human activity is provided for without destroying the environmental values of these key areas.

Council also has a broader ongoing responsibility to ensure that urban open space responds to its surrounding environment in a sustainable way, improving environmental outcomes in areas such as water re-use, creation of shaded areas, reduction in pollution and greening of hard, urban landscapes.

Recommendation #7

Council will manage open space in an environmentally sustainable manner, considering appropriate levels of human activity and how open spaces can contribute to the sustainability of the surrounding environment.

	Action	Priority
7.1	Council will develop a water sensitive and appropriate planting program across all open space landscapes.	MEDIUM
7.2	Council will develop and observe limits on levels of human activities and events and ensure that environmental sustainability is protected in natural environments.	ONGOING
7.3	Council will incorporate environmental design elements in all public open space development projects	ONGOING

4.4 Strategy 4: Promoting Open Space System and Activities within Open Space

The researched benefits of open space are highlighted in the introduction of the Open Space Strategy. In brief, they include;

1. Increased opportunity for physical activity, linked to improved physical health outcomes.
2. Improved mental health, relaxation, reduction in stress.
3. Improved social connection through creating meeting spaces.
4. Improved economic outcomes through improving liveability and creating spaces for outdoor activities and events.
5. Protection of natural environment, with positive impacts on pollution abatement, global warming, flora and fauna diversity and protection.

It is important for Council to not simply supply open space but actively be involved in engaging and informing residents regarding its availability and the activities and events that are connected to or occurring within it.

Recommendation #8

Develop a seasonal and recurrent program of communication strategies to promote the benefits of open space, use of open space and the assets that exist within the Campaspe region.

	Action	Priority
8.1	Council will work with communities to promote local events occurring in open spaces across the municipality.	HIGH
8.2	Council will support a series of open space themed promotions related to activities such as a "Summer In The Parks" program or "Spring In The Bush" or "30 minute walks in your neighborhood" in order to link activity and open spaces to residents.	HIGH
8.3	Council will publish and distribute a poster or brochure (online and/or hard copy) series promoting the physical and mental benefits of engaging in activity in open space.	MEDIUM
8.4	Council will provide an avenue for clubs and community groups to promote their activities and events through dedicated website space and brochure development.	MEDIUM

5. Conclusions

Undertaking the Campaspe Open Space Strategy has highlighted the importance of public open space to our communities.

Utilising open space for events or to experience unique natural assets was emphasised by many smaller communities as crucial to ongoing economic activity and visitation to these rural locations. Rail Trails that linked townships and created a potential tourism benefit were also noted as important assets that could encourage higher levels of economic benefit for some smaller communities.

Open space also plays an important role at a local level in connecting people with one another through shared interests and shared recreation activities.

Communities emphasised the use of open space as an urban aesthetic – creating a sense of place or arrival through beautification of town entries, median strips, village squares or parks and gardens. One of the key ways in which people indicated pride and connection in the place where they live was linked to areas of open space within the public realm.

Equity of access to open space and a diverse range of open spaces was also highlighted by communities. Many specific spaces where Council may not own or manage any assets were noted as needing improvement or requiring advocacy from Council to influence a third party with regard to management. Respondents generally recognised that Council may not be the authority that could initiate change but did have an expectation that Council would advocate on behalf of community for changes or improvements to management of key open spaces.

To a large extent the Campaspe Open Space Strategy has been driven then by the significant feedback from community, and, ultimately the development of the principles and strategies outlined in this report have been developed based on this input.

Community input helped define the following key principles to ensure that open space in Campaspe will:

- Reflect “whole of community” values
- Provide flexible & multipurpose settings
- Be accessible, connected and distributed to allow access for the whole community
- Provide diverse opportunities
- Be environmentally sustainable
- Maximise community benefit
- Focus upon partnerships and working together

Based on these principles, four broad strategies were developed to assist in focusing Council's efforts in delivering an open space network by:

1. Developing Effective Policy and Planning Mechanisms through:

- Working collaboratively within Council across disciplines and departments,
- Ensuring that sections of the planning scheme relating to open space principles (namely Clause 21.04-1) are

considered as part of the assessment of any new land development proposal, and

- Continuing to review and build data that assists in decision making regarding provision of open space such as population, economic and community profiles.

2. Improving the quality of and access to open space through:

- Developing infrastructure plans for key open spaces highlighted by the community,
- Working with smaller townships on how best to develop open space for flexible uses and to enhance economic activity, and
- Planning and completing trail connections, improving the footpath, shared path and off road trail networks and continuing work on Rail Trails.

3. Developing a sustainable open space network through:

- Utilising partnerships with community and government that create meaningful input from other stakeholders in open space management and development,
- Utilising a hierarchy system to ensure that levels of resourcing are targeted appropriately and efficiently, and
- Managing open space with an emphasis on environmental sustainability, limiting human use and access where appropriate.

4. Promoting open space and activity within open space through:

- Developing seasonal and recurrent communication strategies that promote the benefits of open space and local events that occur in open space (e.g. “Summer In The Parks” or “Spring in the Bush”)
- Providing an avenue for clubs and community groups to promote their activities and events.

These strategies provide a significant set of key directions for Council and other stakeholders to ensure that Campaspe Shire provides a diverse, accessible and quality open space network that values all communities within the municipality and reflects Council's vision of creating a vibrant place to live, grow and visit, with a thriving, diverse and healthy lifestyle.



Schedule 1

Community Initiatives and Interests



Schedule 1 - Community Initiatives and Interests

Campaspe Open Space Strategy

The Campaspe Open Space Strategy Community Initiatives provide a series of township specific projects to be considered for further action over time. The Community Initiatives provide more specific projects that may not be driven by Council but are linked to the vision and principles outlined in the Open Space Strategy.

To summarise, the **vision and principles** provide a framework for considering and testing projects and actions either driven by Council or proposed by community.

The **strategies and recommendations** provide a set of Council driven strategic directions and actions to achieve the vision and principles.

The **community driven initiatives** provide an opportunity for community to potentially work with Council and other stakeholders on delivering township specific developments, linked to improved open spaces.

The Vision

We will work together to build our open space system in ways that celebrate our strengths, supports biodiversity and improves health and wellbeing for our community now, and in the future.

We value the unique nature of our open space including rivers, trails, pristine bushland, parks and sporting spaces

The Principles

Open Space in Campaspe Shire will:

1. Reflect “whole of community” values

Ensuring open space provides essential social, health, economic, environmental benefit for the whole of our community.

2. Provide flexible & multipurpose settings

We will support initiatives that optimise community benefit through flexible design and innovation.

3. Be accessible, connected and distributed to allow access for the whole community

We will encourage and require initiatives that can measurably improve the accessibility of open space within the community.

4. Provide diverse opportunities

Our open space provision and management should meet the diversity of need and demand.

5. Be environmentally sustainable spaces

We will manage our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.

6. Will maximise community benefit

We will maximise the social, health, environmental and economic benefits derived from open space.

7. Focus upon partnerships and working together

Together with government, local committees of management and community organisations we will jointly influence the range, quality and distribution of open space.

The Strategies And Recommendations

Strategy 1: Developing Effective Policy and Planning Mechanisms

Recommendation 1.

That Council will work collaboratively, across disciplines and across our community, to ensure that open space planning integrates a whole of community and whole of Council approach.

Recommendation 2.

That the changes to the Campaspe Shire Planning Scheme under Amendment C086 be noted and supported as being complementary to the intent and principles of the Campaspe Open Space Strategy.

Recommendation 3.

That Council will work toward building its body of data regarding open space in the municipality and undertake regular internal reviews of key factors impacting on provision of open space such as population shifts and age profile of community

Strategy 2: Improving the Quality of and Access to Open Space

Recommendation 4.

Council will work on developing infrastructure plans for key open spaces as highlighted by the community as well as working with smaller townships on how best to develop open space for flexible uses and to enhance economic activity.

Recommendation 5.

Council will work to enhance the connectivity of our open space network and its connection to other community destinations through completing trail connections, improving the footpath, shared path and off road networks and continuing work on Rail Trails.

Strategy 3: Developing a Sustainable Open Space System

Recommendation 6.

Council will resource open space development in a sustainable manner, utilising community partnerships, a structured hierarchy system and other appropriate tools to ensure funding is provided in an efficient and targeted approach.

Recommendation 7.

Council will manage open space in an environmentally sustainable manner, considering appropriate levels of human activity and how open spaces can contribute to the sustainability of the surrounding environment.

Strategy 4: Promoting Open Space and Activity Within Open Space

Recommendation 8.

Develop a seasonal and recurrent program of communication strategies to promote the benefits of open space, use of open space and the assets that exist

Community Driven Initiatives and Interests

The following pages provide town specific developments that reflect community input.

The projects noted are based on a series of workshops and other engagement exercises that have helped deliver targeted responses aimed at achieving some practical, on the ground developments across the many townships within the municipality.

Every effort has been made to achieve a practical approach to this list, however it should be noted that these are a guide only, given the variable nature of funding opportunities, future competition for finite resources and changes in policy, staff and government that may occur.

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Echuca

Initiative	Principles Addressed
<p>Initiative 1: Develop Master Plan for Echuca East Recreation Reserve taking into account the following initial suggestions for development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Off lead dog park — Community Hub/Neighbourhood House — Community Garden — Accommodate current users — Running/Walking path (within and to reserve) — Links to central Echuca — Improved playground 	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit.</p>
<p>Initiative 2: Master Plan for Victoria Park</p>	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit.</p>
<p>Initiative 3: Advocate to Parks Victoria and NCCMA regarding a master plan and funding to reclaim and re-vegetate Banyule Forest for pedestrian and passive activity.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 4: Develop a Master Plan for Aquatic Reserve considering the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Upgrade the area to between the river and the levy bank. Consider removal of levy bank. — Wheelchair and pram access — Further picnic areas to allow sitting beside the river — Further toilets, power etc. to provide for larger events 	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p>
<p>Initiative 5: Review the Walking and Cycling Strategy outcomes for Echuca. Specific trail projects that were discussed as part of this research and consultation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Railway land from Bendigo-Murchison Road through town towards Moona — Access across railway line between Echuca East and other areas (e.g. Eyre Street crossing priority) 	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values</p> <p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>

Initiative	Principles Addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Trails and improved entry into Banyule Park — Track between Ogilvie Avenue and Warren Street to be renovated — Extension of Campaspe Walking Trail to the south — Ogilvie Avenue south through Rotary park, linking into town — Overall, greater linkage of existing network — Walking trail from Echuca Information Centre to Shinbone Alley loop, with historic interpretation — Improvement of walking/fitness trails along Scenic Trail (removal of cars) — Linkages within housing estates 	
<p>Initiative 6: Investigate the feasibility of developing Fishing Platforms along the river considering funding opportunities, location, accessibility for fishing enthusiasts with a disability, and opportunity for partnering with NCCMA and VRFish.</p>	<p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 7: Develop plans for upgraded town entrances, streetscapes, prioritising indigenous plantings.</p>	<p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 5: Managing our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.</p>
<p>Initiative 8: Consider funding of further open space in Echuca East to create additional local, connected parkland. Funding should be considered as part of the Open Space Development Fund.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p>
<p>Initiative 9: Advocate the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council proposal to create a National Park.</p>	<p>Principle 5: Managing our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 10: Investigate purchase of Warren Street flood plain through funds derived from sale of other land parcels. Develop a long term plan for development of the Warren Street flood plain given its location and the use of Warren Street as a future gateway for Echuca.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p>

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Kyabram

Initiative	Principles Addressed
<p>Initiative 1: Complete Kyabram Walking Loop Track</p>	Principle 3: Improve access to open space
<p>Initiative 2: Works outlined in the Northern Oval Master Plan, particular priorities are ground lighting, shared pathway through reserve (consider loop around oval perimeter area) and the redevelopment of the oval to accommodate more sporting opportunities (i.e. football, cricket and soccer).</p>	<p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 3: Fitness stations as part of any loop pathway within Northern Oval complex.</p>	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values.</p> <p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p>
<p>Initiative 4: Undertake an analysis of small playground sites located in Fredrick Street and Glass Court. Consider plan for development of an improved community open space in this area or areas. Only consider closure and sale of smaller parcels if a new space can be developed that provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Better access for community — Larger space — More alternatives for use: open space, garden, playground etc. — Safer connections for parents and children <p>Northern Oval should be considered for improvements as part of this analysis.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p>
<p>Initiative 5: Undertake an analysis of use of Dawes Road Reserve – mainly used as a car park, and possibility of rezoning for this purpose. Should be retained for parking for school and overflow sporting events</p>	<p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Rochester

Initiative	Principles Addressed
<p>Initiative 1: Develop Campaspe River path with extensions to the south. Consider some works to create more distinct trail entry and destination points along with signage for distances and way finding.</p>	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values</p> <p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 2: Link Campaspe River path to an accessible fishing platform. Utilise CMA and VRFish as potential partners to attract or advocate for funding.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 3: Review use and value of Apex Park</p>	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p>
<p>Initiative 4: Improve skate park surrounds with shade, seating and grassed areas.</p>	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p>
<p>Initiative 5: Improve walking/cycling connection and local signage to Rochester Racecourse Recreation Reserve and formalise loop walking path.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 6: Develop Moore Street Road Reserve.</p>	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p>

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Colbinabbin

Initiative

Principles Addressed

Initiative 1:

Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve Infrastructure Plan

Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values

Principle 3: Improve access to open space

Principle 6: Maximise community benefit

Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Girgarre

Initiative

Principles Addressed

Initiative 1:

Engage Girgarre Development Committee to discuss and consider areas of ongoing support such as promotion of events, advocacy for the Girgarre Botanical Gardens, sourcing and informing community of relevant funding opportunities.

Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values

Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.

Principle 6: Maximise community benefit

Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.

Initiative 2:

Rail Trail feasibility analysis to consider the benefits and cost of a Girgarre connection to Stanhope and Rushworth.

Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.

Principle 6: Maximise community benefit

Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Gunbower

Initiative	Principles Addressed
<p>Initiative 1: Advocate for the protection of areas such as Kow Swamp from livestock activity.</p>	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values</p> <p>Principle 5: Managing our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 2: Gunbower Recreation Reserve Infrastructure Plan (considering fishing platform and canoe trail)</p>	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values</p> <p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p>
<p>Initiative 3: Gunbower Lions Park Infrastructure Plan</p>	<p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 4: Interpretive signage and/or brochure to promote the unique indigenous cultural heritage, flora and fauna of the region.</p>	<p>Principle 5: Managing our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Lockington

Initiative	Principles Addressed
<p>Initiative 1: Renewal of playground equipment at Lions Park with Community Plan Working Group and wider community.</p>	<p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Rushworth

Initiative	Principles Addressed
Initiative 1: Highlight walking trail connections and loops that need completion and or renovation. Use the 2007 Walking and Cycling Strategy as a basis for discussion.	Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values Principle 3: Improve access to open space Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.
Initiative 2: Rushworth to Murchison/Girgarre Rail Trail	Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision. Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.
Initiative 3: Upgrades to High Street streetscape, with a focus on local events and improved economic activity.	Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.
Initiative 4: Minor improvements at Rushworth skate park, rail reserve and Lions Park.	Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values Principle 6: Maximise community benefit

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Stanhope

Initiative	Principles Addressed
Initiative 1: Stanhope Recreation Reserve Infrastructure Plan	Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.
Initiative 2: Review the Walking and Cycling Strategy, Stanhope Plan and consider the option of a Stanhope connection as part of any Rail Trail Feasibility analysis.	Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision. Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Tongala

Initiative	Principles Addressed
<p>Initiative 1: Review the watering program for the town centre green spaces.</p>	<p>Principle 5: Managing our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 2: Review the legal and risk management requirements regarding the walking path on VicTrack land and future connection to the school, recreation reserve, pool and retail hub.</p>	<p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 3: Centenary Park Infrastructure Plan</p>	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values</p> <p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 4: Relocation of the playground adjoining the supermarket to combine with the existing open space that provides the sound shell and public toilets.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p>

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Bamawm/Bamawm Extension

Initiative	Principles Addressed
Initiative 1: Minor improvements to Bamawm Recreation Reserve	Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision. Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Corop

Initiative	Principles Addressed
Initiative 1: Plan a loop walking track route.	Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values Principle 3: Improve access to open space Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.
Initiative 2: Discussions with Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) to consider; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Involvement in Green Lake Management Plan b. Water levels at Lake Cooper 	Principle 5: Managing our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage. Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.
Initiative 3: Consider the future use or redevelopment of community hall and tennis courts.	Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together

Township Specific Community Initiatives and Interests

Koyuga

Initiative	Principles Addressed
Initiative 1: Consider future use of tennis court area	Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.

Township Specific Actions

Nanneella

Initiative	Principles Addressed
Initiative 1: Footpath upgrade priorities for connecting open spaces and key local facilities.	Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values Principle 3: Improve access to open space Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.
Initiative 2: Consider future of tennis courts.	Principle 6: Maximise community benefit Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.

Public Land Actions

Advocating to or working with partners on public land projects (These are also noted in specific township actions)

Initiative	Principles Addressed
<p>Initiative 1: Work with other government land management and planning agencies, including DEPI, PV and VRFish to advocate and progress priority candidate open space development and access projects on public land.</p>	<p>Principle 2: Provision of flexible and multi purpose settings.</p> <p>Principle 3: Accessible spaces across several land managers.</p> <p>Principle 4: Provision of diverse opportunity and differing experiences.</p> <p>Principle 7: Partnerships and working together with other open space stakeholders</p>
<p>Initiative 2: Advocate to Parks Victoria and CMA regarding a master plan and funding to reclaim and re-vegetate Banyule Forest for pedestrian and passive activity.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Improve access to open space</p> <p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 3: Advocate for the protection of areas such as Kow Swamp from livestock activity.</p>	<p>Principle 1: Reflect whole of community values</p> <p>Principle 5: Managing our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 4: Review the legal and risk management requirements regarding the walking path on VicTrack land and future connection to the school, recreation reserve, pool and retail hub.</p>	<p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 5: Discussions with Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) to consider;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Involvement in Green Lake Management Plan. d. Water levels at Lake Cooper 	<p>Principle 5: Managing our open space system to maintain ecological processes and protect our natural heritage.</p> <p>Principle 6: Maximise community benefit</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>

Initiative	Principles Addressed
<p>Initiative 6: Investigate the feasibility of developing Fishing Platforms along the river considering funding opportunities, location, accessibility for fishing enthusiasts with a disability, and opportunity for partnering with CMA and VRFish.</p>	<p>Principle 4: Provide diverse opportunities through open space provision.</p> <p>Principle 7: Focussed on partnerships and working together.</p>
<p>Initiative 7: Initiate discussions with relevant authorities to scope opportunities to extend linear corridors through currently encumbered land.</p>	<p>Principle 3: Open Space will be connected and accessible for all community.</p> <p>Principle 7: Partnerships and working together with other open space stakeholders.</p>

The background is a solid dark green color. At the top left, there is a light green shape that tapers to the right. At the bottom right, there is a light green shape that tapers to the left. These shapes create a sense of depth and movement.

Schedule 2

Background and Discussion



Schedule 2 - Background and Discussion

Premise for Preparation of Open Space Strategy

A principal aim of any local government is to improve the health and wellbeing offered to residents and visitors within a sustainable environment. Public open space plays a key role in influencing health and wellbeing in the Campaspe Shire. Its rivers (and river frontage), sports facilities, parks, bush reserves and trail systems provide a space for events, physical activity, cultural expression, and community engagement. It provides an important aesthetic role, providing places that are a pleasure to be in purely to enjoy the natural environment.

It supports and protects areas of high heritage and ecological value and provides opportunities for events and attractions that can provide valuable economic activity for small towns as well as promoting a "tree change" lifestyle opportunity. It supports a diverse mix of sport and recreation activity, and in doing so, provides a means for all people to be physically active, strengthen social connections and to engage in community life.

The Campaspe Shire Council is a key stakeholder, owner, developer and manager of publicly accessible open spaces. The Campaspe Open Space Strategy focuses upon publicly accessible land that is either controlled or owned by Council. This recognises that there are many other areas of open space also exist that are owned by other areas of government, where Council may play an advocacy role but exerts no actual authority.

The Campaspe Open Space Strategy outlines the strategic priorities and activities that are necessary to continue to create, protect and enhance quality open space across the municipality over the next 10-15 years.

The directions outlined are diverse and span many areas of Council. They have been developed based on the feedback from community and other stakeholders in addition to physical site inspections and spatial mapping analysis and research.

What Does the Campaspe Open Space Strategy do?

An open space strategy is a long term planning document that provides the policy and strategy to enable Council to make decisions about how we use, develop and manage open space across the municipality. It will reflect the broad directions of the Campaspe Shire Council Plan and the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan, as well as provide the planning context and direction for open space related plans, such as Council's Playground Strategy, individual Park Master Plans and Council's Recreation Strategy and Trail network planning.

The Campaspe Shire Open Space Strategy provides a framework for open space management and development that recognises the social, economic and environmental benefits of open space, as well as defining:

- the quantity, quality and role of existing open space across the

Shire;

- the characteristics of demand for open space;
- the resource capacities of all stakeholders that influence open space in the Shire; and
- the identification of how we can protect and enhance the Campaspe Shire open space system to reflect community needs and aspirations within the context of resourcing capacities, planning mechanisms and partnerships with others.

With this in mind, the aims of the Campaspe Open Space Strategy are to:

1. Define and describe the role of open space across the Campaspe Shire.
2. Establish Council's policy direction to guide the planning, management and development of open space, including vision, principles, strategies and actions.
3. Build a strategic planning framework from which Council can partner with other land managers and support the range of community and environmental interests in open space.
4. Directly inform service standards relative to the resourcing and support of open space across the Shire.
5. Inform and provide evidentiary support to the Campaspe Planning Scheme for the protection of existing open space and the provision for future needs through statutory planning processes and requirements.
6. Inform Council's long term Financial Plan to guide decision making to sustain and enhance the Campaspe open space system.
7. Provide a clear link between the strategic planning for open space and the practical, operational delivery and management of Council managed parks, trails and reserves.

What are the Benefits of Public Open Space

Public Open Space can appear to be a very broad and difficult to define area in which to create strategy, however there is significant research which supports the management and development of open spaces within human populations as an essential ingredient to individual and community health and wellbeing.

Studies have shown that open space provides:

- Places for people to play, rest, walk and cycle, such as sports facilities, walking trails and parklands.
- Places for us to strengthen our connection with others through events, celebrations and public meeting spaces.
- Natural settings that support environmental quality and

biodiversity.

- Areas that deliver key services and functions for communities
- Places that provide amenity and aesthetic to our environment.

A number of local and international studies support these statements. A number of research papers have provided significant data indicating that provision and management of quality open space and green space had a positive effect on physical, social and environmental health factors.

Improved safety

An American study showed that, in a public housing development, there were dramatically fewer occurrences of crime against both people and property in apartment buildings surrounded by trees and green space than in nearby identical apartments that were not surrounded by open space. In fact, compared with buildings that had little or no green areas nearby, buildings with high levels of open space had 48 percent fewer property crimes and 56 percent fewer violent crimes.

The study showed that open space and park areas lowers crime through several mechanisms. Firstly, green space helped people to relax, reducing stress and aggression. Secondly, open spaces brought people together outdoors, increasing surveillance and discouraging criminal activity. Thirdly, well managed open spaces improved the appearance of housing and acted as a cue to criminals that owners and residents care about a property and watch over it and each other¹.

Improved social connection

An observational study indicated that highly vegetated areas with trees and grass contained on average 90 percent more people than hard spaces. Additionally the study showed that 83 percent more people were involved in social activities in green spaces versus equivalent hard spaces².

Improved opportunity for physical activity

In 2009 The University of South Australia worked closely with the National Heart Foundation and Department of Planning and Local Government to develop a report that categorically connected proximity to open space with higher propensity to undertake physical activity. The report highlighted a study that showed that people who use public open spaces are three times more likely to achieve recommended levels of physical activity than those who do not use the spaces. Users and potential users prefer nearby, attractive, and larger parks and open spaces³.

The report also indicated that

“While the literature is unanimous in setting a low spatial threshold as a key determinant in promoting physical activity in public open space, it must be noted that proximity does not solely determine usage. Indeed, persons already prone to undertake physical activity display a heightened awareness of public open space facilities. Barriers exist to the uptake of physical activity in public open space that effective policy making and urban design alone cannot overcome. It is important that public awareness of public open spaces be heightened and the benefits of physical activity be promoted. Thus, the management of open space facilities and the coordination of physical activities within them is a critical factor in improving community participation in physical activity.”⁴

Improved mental health

Numerous research studies have shown positive correlation between access to open spaces and:

- better perceived general health,⁵
- reduced stress levels ⁶ and
- a reduction in depression and depressive episodes⁷

There is also a substantial body of evidence demonstrating that increased walking improves physical and mental health, with proximity of open space having been noted as a contributing factor to the propensity to be physically active⁸.

1- Kuo, F.E., & Sullivan, W.C. (2010). “Environment and crime in the inner city: Does vegetation reduce crime?” *Environment and Behavior*, 33(3), 343-367.

2- Sullivan WC, Kuo FE, DePooter Sf. 2004. The fruit of urban nature: Vital neighborhood spaces. *Environment and Behavior* 36(5):678-700.

3- Wolf, Kathleen L., 2008, ‘City Trees, Nature and Physical Activity: A Research Review’, *Arborist News*, Vol.17, No. 1. Viewed on 26 February 2014, www.nature-within.info

7- Morita, E., Fukuda, S., Nagano, J., Hamajima, N., Yamamoto, H., Iwai, Y., Nakashima, T., Ohira, H, and Shirakawa, T., 2007, ‘Psychological Effects of Forest Environments on Healthy Adults: Shinrin-Yoku (Forest-Air Bathing, Walking) as a Possible Method of Stress Reduction’. *Public Health*, Vol.121, pp.54-63.

8- Fritz, T., Wandell, P., Aberg, H., et al, 2006, Walking for Exercise - Does Three Times per Week Influence Risk Factors In Type 2 Diabetes?’ *Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice* Vol.71, pp.21-27.

A LACK OF PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVE LEISURE ACCOUNTED FOR:

- **21.5 % of heart disease**
- **16 % of colon cancer**
- **14% percent of diabetes**
- **11% percent of stroke**
- **10% percent of breast cancer**

“Quantification of Health Risks Global and Regional Burden of Disease Attributable to Selected Major Risk Factors, (WHO 2009)

A CLASSIC STUDY DEMONSTRATED THAT PATIENTS WITH VIEWS OF TREES VS. VIEWS OF A BRICK WALL HAD SHORTER HOSPITALISATIONS, LESS PAINKILLERS AND FEWER NEGATIVE COMMENTS IN NURSES NOTES.

View through a window may influence recovery from Surgery, Ulrich RS, 1984

CHILDREN PERFORMING ACTIVITIES IN GREEN SETTINGS HAVE SHOWN REDUCED ADHD SYMPTOMS, FURTHERMORE THE “GREENER” A CHILDS PLAY AREA, THE LESS SEVERE HIS OR HER ADHD SYMPTOMS.

Coping with ADD: The surprising connection to green play settings. Faber A, Kuo F, Sullivan W, 2001

Community and Stakeholder Engagement Outcomes

Introduction

An extensive series of community and stakeholder engagement activities have been undertaken in order to listen to the opinions, ideas and values of the community. Every attempt has been made to provide multiple points of contact accessible at a variety of times throughout the course of the project.

Engagement Activities Undertaken

Specific engagement activities have included the following:

- Interviews with key stakeholder groups including government departments, Council staff and committees of management.
- Site visits across the municipality, with opportunities to discuss outcomes.
- Workshops and forums across the municipality.
- Online survey opportunity
- Feedback through a dedicated project website

Through these processes more than 1000 individual comments were received in addition to 208 surveys being completed.

Engagement Outcomes for the Shire

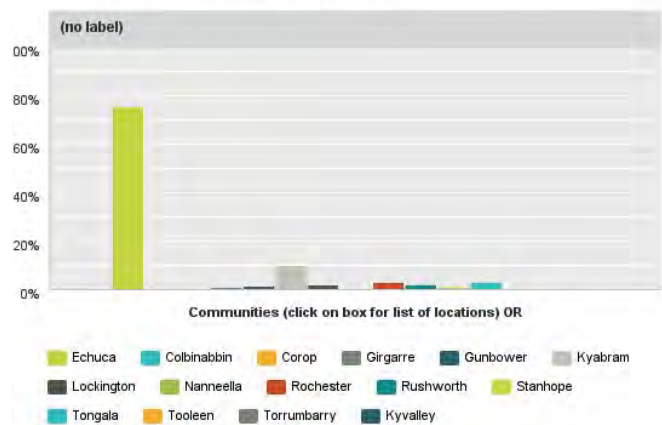
be noted that a range of site or township specific feedback has been received that may be included in the township specific section of this strategy.

Household survey outcomes

Residents, located mainly in Echuca and Kyabram, completed the Household Survey. Broadly, 75 percent of all respondents came from Echuca, with a further 10 percent from Kyabram (see Graph 6 below). This geographical overemphasis potentially skews results, however it should be noted that the survey findings form just a small part of the overall input from community.

Q1 Please tell us the community in which you live. Just click on the box for a menu of locations.

Answered: 188 Skipped: 23



Graph 1

Open Space Values

Survey responses indicated that, with regard to the value of open space, community sentiment focused on the health and wellbeing outcomes. From a series of predetermined statements regarding the value of open space, the top four were:

1. A place for health and physical activity
2. A place for children to play
3. A place for organised sport
4. A place that improves our township landscapes

Township landscapes and township entrances was also a value of open space that was repeatedly noted both in the survey results and other consultation results as being a priority.

Also valued highly was the use of open space for relaxation and reflection and meeting family and friends. This reflects the importance of open space as a social connection point and as an important part of mental health.

The lowest values attributed to open space were as a way to get from one place to another (i.e. using trails as a form of transport) and as a place of refuge for native plants and animals.

Use of Open Space

Respondents were asked how they used open space and how often they used it for a particular activity.

"Walking by myself or with others for recreation" scored most highly and was most consistent across all frequency ratings. This is indicative of national trends that show walking as a low cost, easily accessed activity that can be done when people have the time.

"Walking by myself or with others to get to a destination" also scored well and, if combined with walking for recreation, the two areas would account for around 65 percent of all respondents participating at least once per week. Again, this is almost identical to national trends for walking as the most common activity undertaken in open spaces.

Participating in organised sport also rated highly, however the level of participation was only high in the once a week or more often categories of frequency. This reflects the nature of sport as an organised activity with group training and competition at regular, established times.

The more passive and reflective activity of "Enjoying the natural environment" was also noted as popular, again reinforcing the importance of open spaces and natural environment as being attractive to people, improving propensity to be active and have opportunity for social and community connection.

Favourite Open Spaces

The focus of respondents in Echuca meant that spaces in Echuca were the focus of this response. By far the most common result (31 percent of all responses) was Victoria Park.

Other high frequency spaces included:

- Campaspe River Trail
- Aquatic Reserve
- Kyabram Football Oval (Northern Oval)
- Kyabram Memorial Gardens
- Areas of forest and bush land
- River frontage

What Needs Improvement

Survey respondents were also asked what they would like to see improved at their favourite open spaces.

The most common response was new facilities and upgrades at Victoria Park (17 percent), again reflecting the Echuca and sport centred nature of survey responses.

The development of a new oval at both Victoria Park and Northern Oval (Kyabram) were highlighted. These additional ovals were noted by respondents as important so that "more can play when they want to, e.g. Saturday" (7 percent)

Further parks, playgrounds and a skate park with an emphasis on children were also highlighted. (7 percent)

Safe off lead dog park area, based at Echuca East Oval complex was also noted several times, with a general emphasis on improving conditions at this reserve. (5 percent)

Further riverside picnic facilities and also the continuation of work on river trails were noted. (5 percent)

Completing trail connections received a level of interest with an emphasis on completing connections rather than necessarily developing complete new trails. (5 percent)

Public toilets were noted as needing review and repair or upgrade. (3 percent)

The introduction of more trees for shade in streetscapes, town entrances and parks and playgrounds were commented upon. (3 percent)

Several broader comments were also made regarding a lack of consultation and cooperation with communities with regard to support in the ongoing management of open space. Such comments were diverse and difficult to measure by percentage however two comments are provided below as examples.

"More attention should be paid to the needs and wants of the smaller communities within the Shire"

"The lack of consultation and cooperation with community prevent open spaces being fully utilised by community."

Input from Community and Stakeholder Workshops

As noted previously, more than 1000 individual comments were recorded as part of the workshop and forum process undertaken. The outline of input provided here will focus on shire wide issues and requests regarding project that may have municipal or regional impact. More township specific feedback is included in Chapter 7, covering township specific outcomes of the Open Space Strategy.

Key points noted as part of consultation include:

1. The need for more coordinated and collaborative management approaches between Council and communities, including committees of management. There was a mixed response here with some groups very happy with Council involvement however there were also many comments regarding the need for more connection, assistance with grant applications and opportunities to be heard.
2. Walking trails across the municipality were raised as a common opportunity to complete networks "internally" within townships as well as several larger opportunities for inter town linkages. The concept of town loops was raised as an option that would allow people to do a 20-30 minute walk and end up back at a vehicle or near their home.
3. Linked to trails was the opportunity to develop Rail Trails, namely the
4. For most smaller townships, the emphasis of creating open spaces that could be used for key events and economic activity was highlighted. Most smaller towns very clearly understand the position of population decline and open spaces represent an opportunity to host large events that might attract visitation and economic activity to their township.
5. Following on from this was the need to consider what an open space can achieve through minor upgrades (such as shade, power, parking, etc.) to support events, increase economic activity and enhance local use as population decreases over time.
6. A number of master planning tasks were requested for open spaces. These were generally small scale plans, with some more significant requests that were focused on key areas such as Aquatic Reserve, Victoria Park, Echuca East Reserve and Banyule Forest.
7. Township entrances, main streetscapes and town squares were frequently raised as being opportunities for improvement and important as place making exercises for many of the smaller towns. This is covered in more detail in the specific township sections of Chapter 7.
8. Council is seen as playing an advocacy role with other land managers on behalf of community to ensure that community

activity is considered as part of open space and water body management.

9. Access was raised as an issue where crossing major roads, rail or rivers was seen as a key barrier for some residents and a deterrent to accessing key facilities.
10. Space in new development areas of Echuca was noted as being an issue, where drainage reserves or flood mitigation reserves were often taken as recreation spaces, but were not appropriate for use. Integrated planning within Council and changes to the planning scheme to eliminate this type of outcome were suggested.
11. The Murray and Campaspe rivers were highlighted as open space assets with particular emphasis on trails and the introduction of fishing platforms as key assets to develop to further generate community access and visitation for small towns.
12. Undertake long term planning for the development of the flood plain south of Warren Street given the bridge upgrades that will create a key entry point to Echuca along this road as well as the large size of the space and it's link to trail networks.

These points represent discussions and notes that were made as part of the community workshops that potentially have a municipal impact. Township specific comments are noted in Chapter 7 under township headings.

Research and Literature Review, The Open Space Strategic Context

Council has undertaken substantial strategic work that informs the Campaspe Open Space Strategy. It is important that the strategic context of the Campaspe Open Space Strategy be fully understood and that a number of Council plans and policies be considered with regard to their implications on the Campaspe Open Space Strategy.

The Open Space Strategy will be informed by the Council Plan, Health and Wellbeing Plan, Access and Inclusion Plan and the Campaspe Shire Planning Scheme and Municipal Strategic Statement. Importantly, outcomes of the Open Space Strategy may consequently inform later versions or recommend modifications to these plans.

The Campaspe Open Space Strategy will, in turn, inform lower level strategy and plans including trail studies, reserve master plans, precinct structure plans and other similar development plans. (see Figure X)

As part of this review of a strategic context for the Campaspe Open Space Strategy, a number of key Council documents are discussed. A range of other policy and framework documents were also reviewed but are not included here as several have limited impact.



Council Plan 2013-2017

Council has adopted the vision of “A vibrant place to live, grow and visit with a thriving, diverse and healthy lifestyle.” This reflects strongly on providing a high quality, accessible and diverse suite of open spaces to deliver a healthy lifestyle and a vibrant urban environment.

The Council Plan specifically highlights some key areas related to open space.

The following areas are prioritised in the Council Plan:

Council Plan	Implication in Open Space Strategy
Prosperity Campaspe is a desired tourist destination.	Campaspe's open space has unique features such a river frontage and large water bodies, that attract tourists. The management and protection of these areas benefits both local residents and economic activity for the area.
Place Community infrastructure contributes to our long term social and economic fabric.	Open space has been highlighted as a key area for local townships to run events or provides spaces where people can camp overnight, increasing economic activity in areas experiencing population decline.
Towns are attractive, with future requirements and unique features clearly understood by Council.	Town entrances, streetscapes and town squares or parkland can all be highlighted as creating sense of place or character within individual townships and the Strategy should address community opinions in this area.
People Communities are vibrant, happy and proud with strong arts, culture and heritage.	Open space can provide a sense of place, economic activity and also a place for social and community activity. These spaces are important areas for experiencing culture and heritage.
Council services support our communities health and wellbeing	Council services should be focussed on supporting communities to manage and develop open space in a collaborative way that reflects community ideas.

Campaspe Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017

The Health and Wellbeing Plan is strongly aligned with the Council Plan and highlights 8 priority areas that Council has assessed as most important.

Importantly, on the first page, the plan explicitly states that:

"A number of developments have impacted on the way governments and communities are seeking to influence health. Whilst we enjoy one of the best health systems in the world, we are increasingly aware of the impact lifestyle has on health through the increasing prevalence of preventable chronic diseases. In particular, an increase in people being overweight or obese is linked to increasing trends in cardiovascular disease, diabetes, osteoarthritis and some cancers.

We can significantly reduce chronic disease by working together to promote healthy lifestyles and improving the environments, in which people live, learn, work and play."

This provides a direct connection to quality open space environments that deliver opportunity for playing, socialising and undertaking physical activity.

Access and Inclusion Plan 2011-2013

The Plan seeks to identify priorities for works to ensure compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 2006 (DDA), communication and advocacy for better inclusion and access across the Shire.

The Plan identifies four key objectives:

- Objective 1 – Services for the Community – to ensure that all people with a disability have equal access to all community services and infrastructure that is accessible for all.
- Objective 2 – Council Employment Services- to ensure non-discriminatory practices are followed at all times with current staff and when employing new staff.
- Objective 3 – Inclusion and participation in the Community – to ensure the community is able to have inclusion and participation to any event in the Shire.
- Objective 4 – Planning for attitudinal change in the community – to ensure that all Council publications, activities and services are "Accessible for All"

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- Objective 3 – Inclusion and participation in the Community – to ensure the community is able to have inclusion and participation to any event in the Shire.
- Objective 4 – Planning for attitudinal change in the community – to ensure that all Council publications, activities and services are "Accessible for All"

Open Space Implications - Access to open space is a fundamental part of health and well being. Access to both passive and active open spaces are vital for continued improvement in mental and physical health.

Accessibility to Open Space needs to be considered carefully and areas such as bush tracks or water frontage always present a challenge in terms of disability access. This has been noted and addressed in the Open Space Strategy. Just as importantly, the Open Space Strategy considers access with regard to connections to open spaces. How easy is open space to get to, what are the barriers to access and how do we overcome or reduce those barriers were important questions to ask during analysis.

Campaspe Planning Scheme and MSS

The Local Planning Policy Framework and Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) provide the key legally recognised opportunity for Council to shape development of the Shire through policy. As such it has great influence in the acquisition and development of new open space areas.

The MSS provides the broad local policy basis for making decisions under a planning scheme. Acting as a planning authority or responsible authority, Council must aim to achieve the objectives and follow the strategies set out in the MSS.

Clause 21.04- Settlement of the Campaspe Planning Scheme (the MSS) provides some important commentary regarding the Shires land uses, with specific regard to Settlement and Liveability. The Municipal Strategic Statement specifically notes the following strategies to improve liveability in area of human settlement:

- Improve urban environments by developing open space networks to encourage community well being and better health of residents.
- Implement the Campaspe Urban Design Guidelines 2012.
- Promote mobility and physical activity by enhancing the amenity, connectivity and liveability of the built environment.
- Improve the access, mobility and safety of users for the Shire's paths, trails and bikeways.
- Create accessible, attractive and connected neighbourhoods and open spaces.
- Ensure that residential areas are provided with a comprehensive range of health, education, recreation, cultural and entertainment facilities and services that meet the needs of all age and gender groups.

Schedule to Clause 52.01 of the Campaspe Planning Scheme is also important in considering open space acquisition as it clearly sets out a percentage of contribution toward open space for both residential and low residential zones. These are:

- All land within a residential zone, (other than the low density residential zone): 5 percent of the value of the land
- All land within a low density residential zone: 2.5 percent of the value of the land.

Clause 56.05 of the Campaspe Planning Scheme requires open space to be provided to meet specific objectives and to provide a minimum standard of open space in new communities. These are generally

- a local park within 95% of all dwellings
- an active open space within 1000m of 95% of all dwellings.
- Linear trails and parks along waterways, vegetation corridors etc within 1000m of 95% of all dwellings.

For more specific additional requirements refer to the Campaspe Planning Scheme.

Open Space Implications - Highlighting the value of open space and the importance of promoting physical activity in the liveability section of the MSS and the prescriptive and clear nature of the Schedule to Clause 52.01 is an excellent feature of the Local Planning Policy Framework. It is particularly applicable to the acquisition of open space as Echuca develops and is supported by the Campaspe Urban Design Guidelines (2012), which are reviewed below.

Campaspe Urban Design Guidelines 2012

These guidelines outline simple, clear principles of acceptable and unacceptable development in the areas of:

- Connectivity
- Public open space
- Landscaping
- Water sensitive urban design

The guidelines are noted in Council's MSS and can therefore be used to ensure a level of quality urban design and open space development.

Open Space Implications - The Design Guidelines provide an easy to understand set of concepts for developers and Council to follow when developing or redeveloping urban spaces. Connectivity and quality open space are promoted and the inclusion of the guidelines in the MSS is positive. The guidelines are fully supported by the Open Space Strategy.

Public Open Space Strategy – Spatial Network Plan 2006

This provides a graphic plan showing the existing and proposed extensions to the open space network in Echuca. There is a graphic depiction of the land parcels, connections and proposals for the longer term development of Echuca's open space network.

Open Space Implications - The plan is currently still relevant and recent planning and development work in Echuca West among other areas demonstrates the value of documents such as these in maintaining the concept of open space as a **NETWORK** rather than as a series of isolated assets/opportunities. The Open Space Strategy provides further support to the concepts provided in this plan. The Spatial Network Plan is specific to Echuca only.

Environment Strategy 2012-2015

The Campaspe Environment Strategy seeks to identify and provide recommendations for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment of the Shire.

The plan addresses four key strategic directions for the natural environment in the Shire:

- Protect our biodiversity and land
- Respond to climate change
- Improve water quality and conservation
- Minimise waste to landfill

Open Space Implications - The Environment Plan highlights the link between open space and environmental benefit. It is unlikely that the Environment Plan will be a primary driver for the OSS or its recommendations, however the two strategies will have complementary recommendations and principles regarding protection of biodiversity and environmental sustainability.

Echuca Housing Strategy 2011

The Echuca Housing Strategy addresses the need to accommodate a projected increase in the population of Echuca.

The Strategy identifies a dual approach to residential development, being the expansion of the urban area and an increased reliance on infill housing. The town boundary extension is effectively Echuca West.

The identified areas for greater infill focus on 4 key precincts in the existing urban area of Echuca. These key parcels are investigated to provide guidance and a framework for any future planning and design.

In all scenarios the Strategy identifies desired design outcomes including better connectivity and access to existing services.

Open Space Implications - The Echuca Housing Strategy is a significant document when considering open space as it outlines the future of Echuca's residential development. The changes in residential character and development through out the town will change the needs and demands on open space. The Open Space Strategy will need to provide clear recommendations regarding land requirements in new residential areas as well as considering linkages in other areas within Echuca.

The Echuca Housing Strategy is only relevant to Echuca and has no impact on open space in other towns or settlements in the Shire.

Council Contribution to Recreation Reserves Maintenance

A policy to establish the maintenance and contribution by the Shire to ensure a determined level of service provision is achieved.

The policy seeks to define and provide an equitable process for the funding of maintenance for recreation reserves. It defines 24 Recreation Reserves within the municipality and confirms the classification of each of these reserves, determining the community contribution based on a percentage of exclusive use and reserve classification. The policy defines the requirements for grants from Council to the Committees of Management and the grant/payment timing.

The attachment to the Policy include a definitive classification of Regional Reserve, District Reserve, Town Reserve, Sub District/small town reserve. These classifications are significant and will aid the preparation of the OSS.

Open Space Implications - The attachments defining the Reserve classifications are of particular importance. The Open Space Strategy reflects this classification system across all types of open space.

Campaspe Walking and Cycling Strategy 2007

The Campaspe Walking and Cycling Strategy provides a range of recommendations regarding the development of open space linkages, utilising riverside frontages, disused and active railway corridors and local township connections.

The key highlights of the report include:

- the development of shared trails that connect people to key local facilities,
- the development of township loops, that connect a series of possible destinations or areas of interest, and
- Rail Trails including:
 - Rushworth to Murchison Rail Trail
 - Colbinabbin to Rushworth Rail Trail
 - Gunbower to Elmore Rail Trail

The principles of the strategy include:

- Access and Equity
- Diversity
- Best Value
- Innovation
- Integration
- Sustainability
- Environment and Historical consideration
- Promotion

Open Space Implications - In terms of creating a connected, accessible open space network, the development of a trail and footpath network is crucial. The development of local walking loops, interconnection of townships, connecting destinations and considering tourist focused trails should all be again tested and reviewed as part of the Open Space Strategy.

The principles outlined in the Walking and Cycling Strategy also provide relevance and should be considered in the development of principles for the Open Space Strategy. Many of the principles inherent in the Cycling and Walking Strategy and its recommendations have also been adopted and/or reinforced by the Open Space Strategy.

Campaspe Playground Strategy (2007) – reviewed 2014

The Playground Strategy provides specific recommendations regarding the provision, quality and supply of playgrounds, across the municipality. The initial report was completed in 2007, with a Council review taking place in 2014.

Key findings include:

- using the ratio of 1 playground per 705 people (average regional supply), Echuca is undersupplied and most small
- townships are oversupplied, even though many smaller townships have only one or two playgrounds,
- no universally accessible playground exists within the municipality.
- school playgrounds in Echuca are not taken into account and there is potential for greater partnership with schools to increase public use, and
- recommended closures of playgrounds in Kyabram, specifically Clare Avenue, Frederick Street, Crow Court and Glass Court based on low usage, poor location, block size, limited visibility and access. The review specifically recommends that these spaces not be retained as open space, that they be sold and funds be used to upgrade other spaces.

Open Space Implications - The use of ratios or spatial boundaries within small townships has been applied in the Playground Strategy. The relevance of oversupply of play spaces in small townships is minimal and may not be practical for many smaller, low population towns. This is an important learning regarding the application of these tools with regard to open space in small townships.

The possible rationalisation of open space through the removal of playgrounds and sale of land has been reviewed as part of the Open Space Strategy, given the potential value of open spaces in communities where access to space for physical activity and mental health may be important.

The lack of a universally accessible playground needs to be addressed in Campaspe Shire. The Open Space Strategy will make broad recommendations regarding an appropriate location that is accessible to parents and families.

Master Plans and other policies

A variety of master plans and other policy statements have been reviewed as part of the Open Space Strategy. These provide specific sets of actions which although not informing the Open Space Strategy, provide background and context to the report. A review of these documents is not included in the body of this report, given the numerous plans and policies researched that may have limited relevance to broader open space outcomes.

The Campaspe Community and Open Space

Introduction

Campaspe Shire has some unique geographical and demographic qualities and it is important to consider these and the implications they have on open space and the need for open space development and management across the Shire.

Key elements of the Shire that need to be considered broadly include the following:

- Based on 2006-2011 ABS data, Campaspe has a stable but ageing population. Some smaller townships that are in states of more rapid population decline.
- Diverse set of river and water frontage open spaces that provide unique settings
- A range of significant open spaces on and around the Murray River that are significant enough to draw visitation from much of the state and interstate.
- These factors are important to consider in the context of open space and they are more thoroughly analysed in the following sections.

Demographic Profile for the Shire Community

Overall, the population of the entire municipality of Campaspe has remained relatively stable between 2006 and 2011, based upon ABS Census data.

Population has remained stable between 2006 and 2011, with an increase of just 155 people from 36,209 to 36,364.

The population within age cohorts and within townships has, however, not remained stable.

- Compared to Regional Victoria, as a whole, Campaspe has a significantly larger proportion of people in the older age cohorts. The Shire of Campaspe therefore is trending toward an older and ageing population faster than the Regional Victoria average.

Population Variations Within Age Cohorts - Shire wide

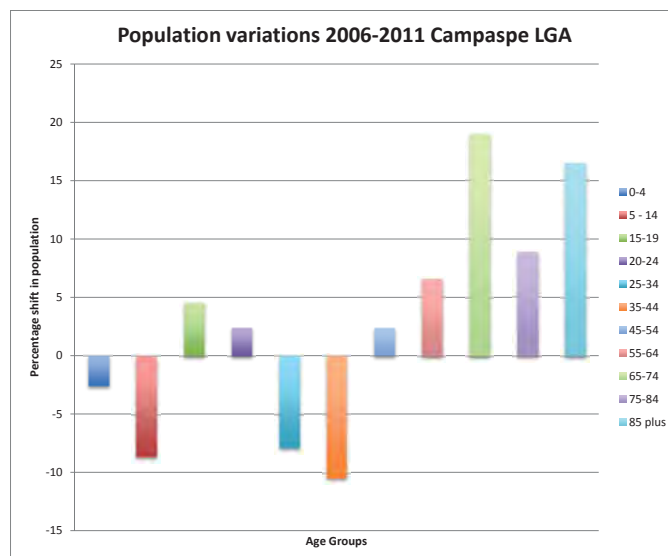
Population variations across the municipality, within age cohorts showed that:

- A decrease occurred in the 0 to 14 and 25 to 44 age cohorts between 2006-2011
- Between 2006 and 2011 a shift occurred in the most populous age cohort from 5-14 (5,501 to 5,026) to 45-54 (5,108 to 5,227).
- Between 2006 and 2011, the 0-19 year old cohort moved from 10,166 to 9,741 and the 45-64 year old cohort moved from 9,646 to 10,062.
- A key family (parent) and employment demographic of 25-

44 year olds has reduced significantly between 2006-2011, declining from 8,589 to 7,782.

This demographic profile indicates a real turning point in the municipality in terms of a younger demographic moving from the largest proportion of the population, being replaced by a much older cohort. As noted in Graph 1 below, there has been significant population decline in the key age groups of 0-14 and 25-44 year olds. This has been coupled with increases in older age cohorts.

This represents a trend of young families moving out of the municipality and a trend toward residents ageing in place as well as further older adults moving into the municipality.

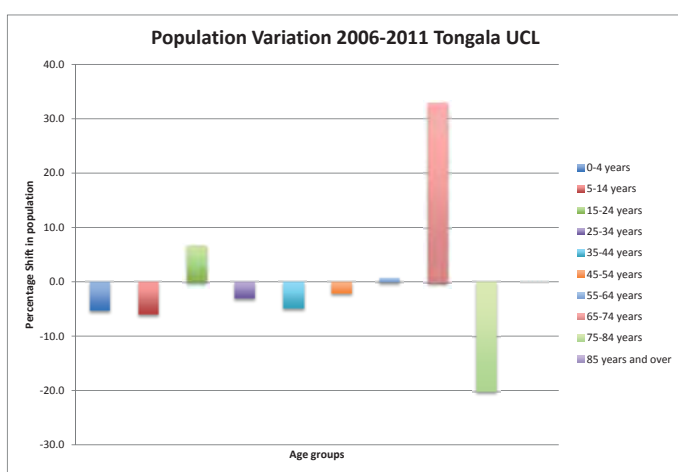


Graph 2

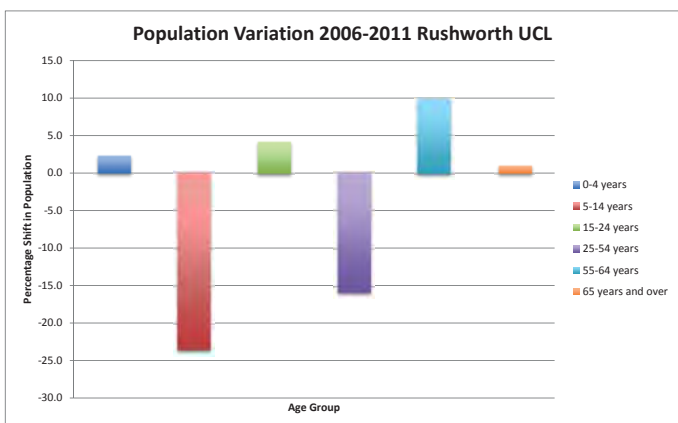
Population Variations between Townships

Further to this, there are significant variations in how the population has varied over time between the many individual townships in the Campaspe Shire.

Most of the smaller townships are declining in population and are trending toward an ageing population, with a decrease or static level in the number of children and increases in the number of older adults within these communities. As an example of this, Graph 2 and Graph 3 shows population variations recorded in ABS Census data between 2006 and 2011 for the townships of Tongala and Rushworth.



Graph 3

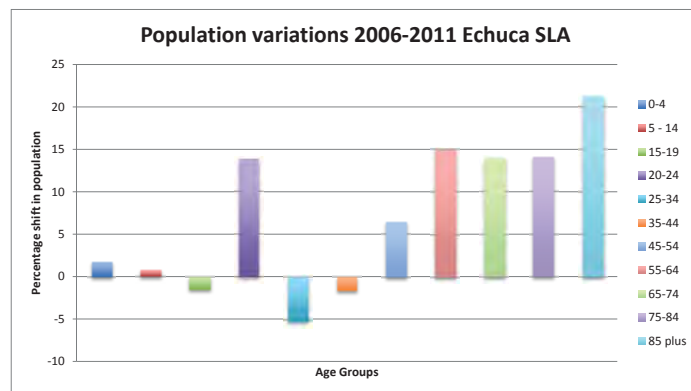


Graph 4

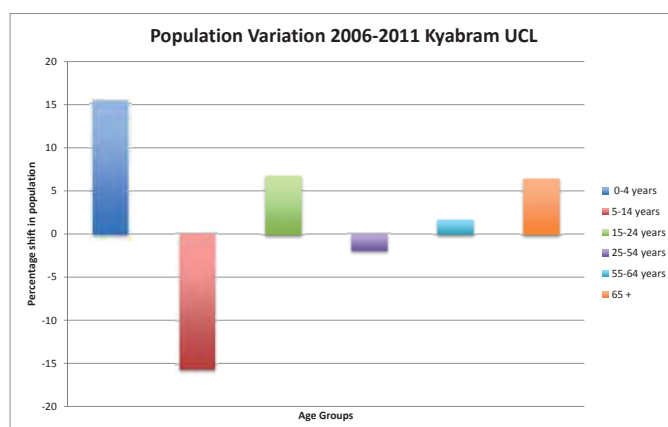
Echuca and Kyabram remain the only two towns where an overall population increase was experienced. The population increases between 2006 and 2011 were 624 people over 5 years for Echuca and 28 people for Kyabram.

However, similar trends of an ageing population and static levels of younger age groups were also evident (refer Graph 4 and 5 below).

Population did increase in the younger age groups between 2006 and 2011 for Echuca and Kyabram however, as a proportion of the population, the 0-14 age group made up less of the total population.



Graph 5



Graph 6

Implications of Demographic Profile on Open Space Provision

It is clear that although overall the population of the Campaspe Shire has remained relatively static throughout the 2006-2011 period, the makeup of that population has begun to shift toward an ageing population profile.

This ageing trend should not however be over emphasised as the numbers of young people in many areas has remained the same with dramatic decline only evident in a few isolated townships.

An ageing population influences how open spaces might be used with a typically lower demand on spaces for organised sport and higher demand for spaces that can accommodate un-organised, low impact activities such as walking, cycling and jogging. It is important that the infrastructure and amenity to support these activities is a priority for Council given that they represent some of the only activities that attract high levels of participation across all age groups.

The 0-14 year old population is broadly experiencing a level of minor decline or is static. Numbers in this population cohort have increased marginally in Echuca only. Younger age groups are more likely to participate in organised sport and create demand for organised sports spaces such as football ovals, tennis courts, soccer pitches and netball courts, etc.

Given there is no anticipation of growth and a probable expectation of no change or gradual decline in the younger age groups, the demographics suggest a steady or declining long term demand for organised sport spaces into the future.

It appears reasonable to expect there to be little measurable need to immediately develop any further organised sporting spaces. Upgrades of sporting spaces may be required based on maintenance requirements or to increase opportunities for flexibility of use (e.g. lighting for night practice or games or to allow multiple field formats for combined soccer/Cricket/AFL) but without growth in participation levels or a shift in current population trends, no urgent need for additional development is immediately apparent.

The Statutory Planning Framework

Council recently amended the Campaspe Planning Scheme (Amendment C086) to incorporate specific open space contribution and design requirements. These included:

Clause 21.04-1 Settlement of the Campaspe Planning Scheme (the MSS) provides some important commentary regarding the Shires land uses, with specific regard to Settlement and Liveability. The Municipal Strategic Statement specifically notes the following strategies to improve liveability in area of human settlement:

- Improve urban environments by developing open space networks to encourage community well being and better

health of residents.

- Implement the Campaspe Urban Design Guidelines 2012.
- Promote mobility and physical activity by enhancing the amenity, connectivity and liveability of the built environment.
- Improve the access, mobility and safety of users for the Shire's paths, trails and bikeways.
- Create accessible, attractive and connected neighbourhoods and open spaces.
- Ensure that residential areas are provided with a comprehensive range of health, education, recreation, cultural and entertainment facilities and services that meet the needs of all age and gender groups.

Schedule to Clause 52.01 of the Campaspe Planning Scheme is also important in considering open space acquisition as it clearly sets out a percentage of contribution toward open space for both residential and low residential zones. These are:

- All land within a residential zone, (other than the low density residential zone): 5 percent of the value of the land
- All land within a low density residential zone: 2.5 percent of the value of the land.

The Open Space Strategy supports and endorses the contents of Amendment C086 and recommends the enactment of these areas of the planning scheme with an understanding of the recommendations contained within the Campaspe Open Space Strategy.

Open Space Provision across the Shire

The Shire of Campaspe has a widely varying distribution of open space across its geographical area.

Key features of the provision of open space within the municipality include:

- A large proportion of open space that is not owned, managed or significantly influenced by Council, namely crown land in the form of State Forest and National Park or waterways and foreshores along the Loddon, Murray and Campaspe River network. This has not been mapped as the mapping of these spaces confuses the intent of the Open Space Strategy, which is specifically focussed on the Council sphere of influence.
- Although no definitive quantity or area was available for these open spaces owned or managed by other, it is estimated that between 50-60 percent of all open space in the municipality is provided and managed by parties other than Council.
- Council has a diverse mix of open spaces across the municipality, however most diversity is found within the more highly populated towns of the region, namely Echuca, Kyabram and Rochester.
- Smaller townships across the Shire logically provide fewer choices in the various categories of open space. Use of the standard catchment area of open space within 400 metres of

95 percent of residents indicates that these smaller townships have adequate open space supply or are oversupplied. "Oversupply" in these cases is relative given the low population and small size of many of these townships and any consideration of rationalisation of open space should not be based on catchment area assessment alone. More detail on each town is provided in the specific township assessments.

Key areas of the municipality provide some level of open space undersupply and over supply. Based on the mapping undertaken and calculations using the 400 metre and 1000 metre catchment modelling, it is clear that:

1. There is an oversupply of open space in some northern areas of Kyabram. This is highlighted by the development of similar park and play spaces within these neighbourhoods to the north of Kyabram. There may be several opportunities for land sales, with the intent of further developing existing open space to provide higher quality and more diverse opportunities for an open space experience for residents.
2. In the south of Kyabram, there are a small number of residents that fall outside the 400 metre catchment however this is not a case of undersupply as the requirement to reach 95 percent of residents within 400 metres is still achieved.
3. There is an undersupply of open space in both Echuca East and Echuca West. The area to the west is not a major issue as this represents currently undeveloped land that should be provided for as subdivision and land development occurs. The area in Echuca East should be considered as more significant given the following factors;
4. The area has poor access to other spaces within Echuca given the barriers of the adjoining railway line, major roads and industrial development.
5. The Echuca East area is well established and further acquisition of land will be difficult and may mean reclaiming developed land.
6. Echuca East is broadly an area of relative economic disadvantage and the provision of open space for physical and mental wellbeing is particularly important.
7. Echuca East also has areas of open space that are currently underdeveloped or in poor condition that could improve with planning and investment and be considered of District level importance. These include the Echuca East Recreation Reserve and Banyule Forest. Master planning for these two areas is encouraged (even though Council is not the manager or owner of Banyule Forest) with an emphasis

on consideration of what is required to improve pedestrian connection to these open spaces.

8. There is a small area of undersupply in the south of Echuca, however this would not impact on the 95 percent coverage of open space within 400 metres. The area also contains larger house blocks where individualised private open space is also available. Linking trails in this area would be encouraged, to ensure connection to other areas and open spaces within central Echuca.
9. Echuca West is generally well supplied although there are some open spaces which have a primary purpose of acting as drainage reserves and retention basins, providing little opportunity for quality passive or active open space opportunities. Another factor for consideration in Echuca West is the impediment to open space access in other areas created by the Northern Highway which dissects more recent residential development on a north-south axis.
10. Rochester has an oversupply of open space, particularly within the central area of Rochester where areas such as the market square/skatepark, Rotary Park, Rotunda Park and Lions Park all provide open space access within a 400 metre radius. Importantly, these spaces do provide very different opportunities and functions. For example, the Lions Park delivers a quality playspace, BBQ and public toilets whereas Rotunda Park provides local urban amenity, streetscape and town centre character. Both are important and diverse functions. In this context, Rotary Park is highlighted as an area that replicates toilets and play space, that is also provided by the Lions Park on the other side of the railway line. A review of Rotary Park with the intent of rationalising public toilets and possibly considering partial sale or reuse of the land is encouraged.
11. There is a small number of houses in Rochester West that are outside the 400m radius of supply however these are large blocks and consideration of good footpath links into existing open spaces should be encouraged rather than the acquisition of additional open space. If further growth to the west occurred, further acquisition of open space should be considered as part of any expected development.
12. Most other smaller townships have a "technical" oversupply of open space given smaller populations and township boundaries. However, when this is considered in the context of relative isolation from other more diverse open space options and quality and choice of open space, the technical exercise of mapping and geographically testing open space provision becomes less useful.

Analysis of Specific Township Open Space Provision

Open Space Provision in Colbinabbin

Colbinabbin is well serviced with open space for a small rural township. The central location of the Gardens at the Memorial Hall allows the entire town to be within 400m of some open space. The Township and surrounding areas is also within the 1000m catchment of the Recreation Reserve which hosts a number of community, sporting and other activities.

No changes to the distribution of open space in Colbinabbin is required.



Colbinabbin

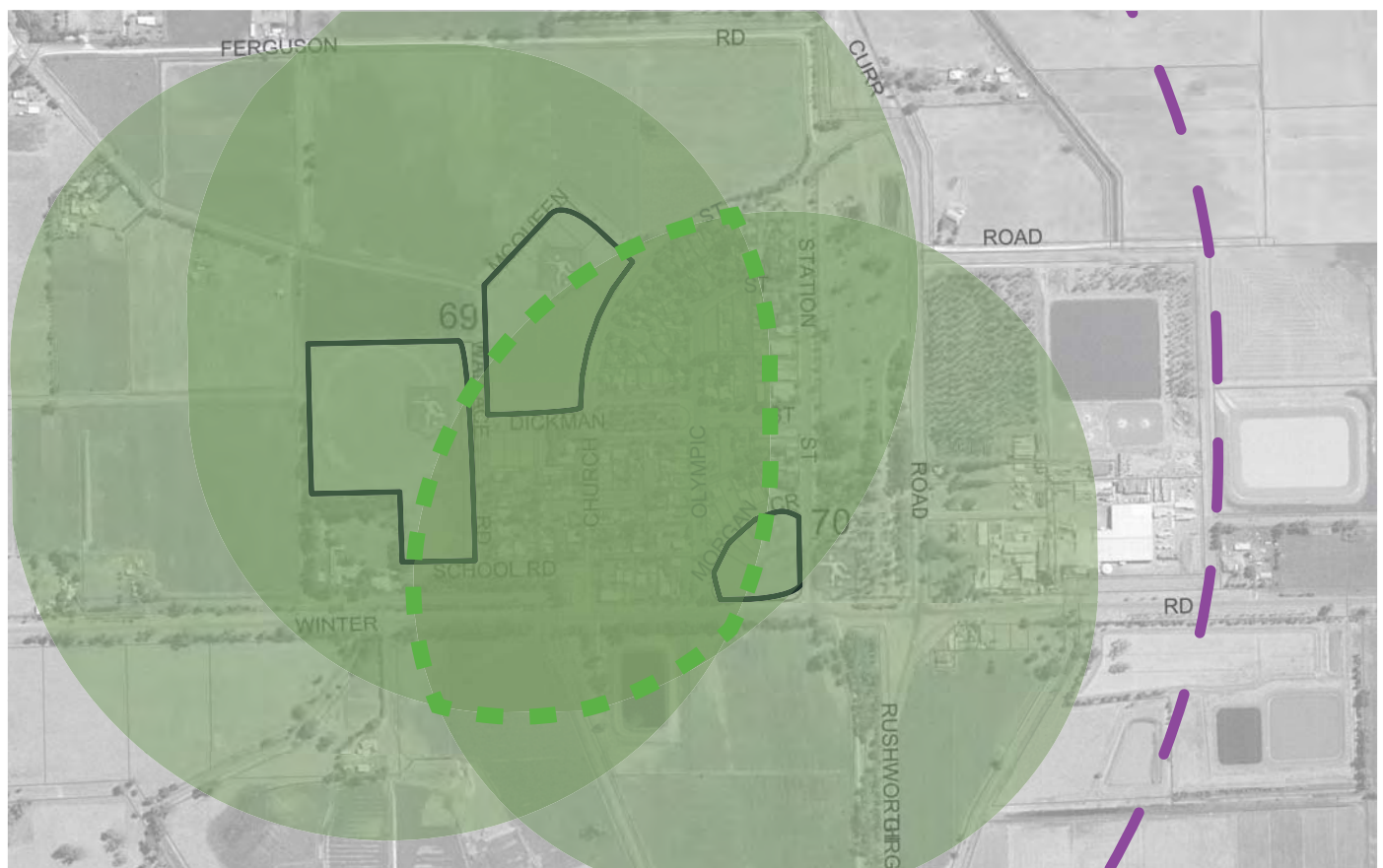
LEGEND

- - - Barrier to access
- - - 1000m catchment from Active Open Space Reserve
- - - Section of township over-served by open space
- 400m catchment from council managed Open Space
- Section of township outside > 400m from Open Space

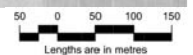
Open Space Provision in Girgarre

Girgarre is well serviced with open space for a small rural township. The central location of the small play ground and park on Winter Rd, combined with the recreation reserves and the additional non-Council managed space occupied by the rail reserve allows the entire town to be within 400m of some open space. The Township and surrounding areas is also within the 1000m catchment of the Recreation Reserves which hosts a number of community, sporting and other activities. The centre of Girgarre is within 400m of 3 or more open space areas and is considered to be over-served with open space.

With changes to the demographics and changes in community structure, the demand for significant open space in Girgarre is not likely to increase - meaning that future rationalisation should be considered.



Girgarre



LEGEND

- - - Barrier to access
- - - 1000m catchment from Active Open Space Reserve
- - - Section of township over-served by open space
- 400m catchment from council managed Open Space
- Section of township outside > 400m from Open Space

Open Space Provision in Echuca

The mapping and distribution analysis of Echuca shows that most of Echuca is well served with local open space, access to active open space and access to areas of Bush land and reserve that are not Council Managed (e.g. Banyule Forest and other Murray River forests). Catchment mapping indicates that Echuca has some specific areas of under-supply and a small area of over supply. The areas of under-supply are in the established area of Echuca East and the developing area of Echuca West.

Echuca West has an area of potential under-supply which is not yet developed and it is recommended that appropriate areas of passive open space be acquired that provide for this area as development and subdivision occurs.

Development of quality, well connected open space in Echuca West is crucial given that some open spaces that have been previously acquired have a primary purpose of acting as drainage reserves and retention basins, providing little opportunity for quality passive or active open space opportunities.

Another factor for consideration in Echuca West is the impediment to open space access in other areas created by the Northern Highway which dissects more recent residential development on a north-south axis.

The flood plain south of Warren Street also needs to be considered as part of long term planning given Council and State Government ownership and the opportunity to:

- link with the Campaspe Trail
- link to Echuca Secondary College
- create an entry feature along Warren Street
- benefit from the large size of the site and the potential to purchase further land.

Echuca East has an area of undersupply that is exacerbated by the fact that;

- the area has poor access to other spaces within Echuca given the barriers of the adjoining railway line, major roads and industrial development.
- The area is well established and further acquisition of land will be difficult and may mean reclaiming developed land.
- Echuca East is broadly an area of relative economic disadvantage and the provision of open space for physical and mental wellbeing is particularly important.

Echuca East also has areas of open space that are currently underdeveloped or in poor condition that could improve with planning and investment and be considered of District level importance. These include the Echuca East Recreation Reserve and Banyule Forest. Master planning for these two areas is encouraged (even though Council is not the manager or owner of Banyule Forest) with an

emphasis on consideration of what is required to improve pedestrian connection to these open spaces.

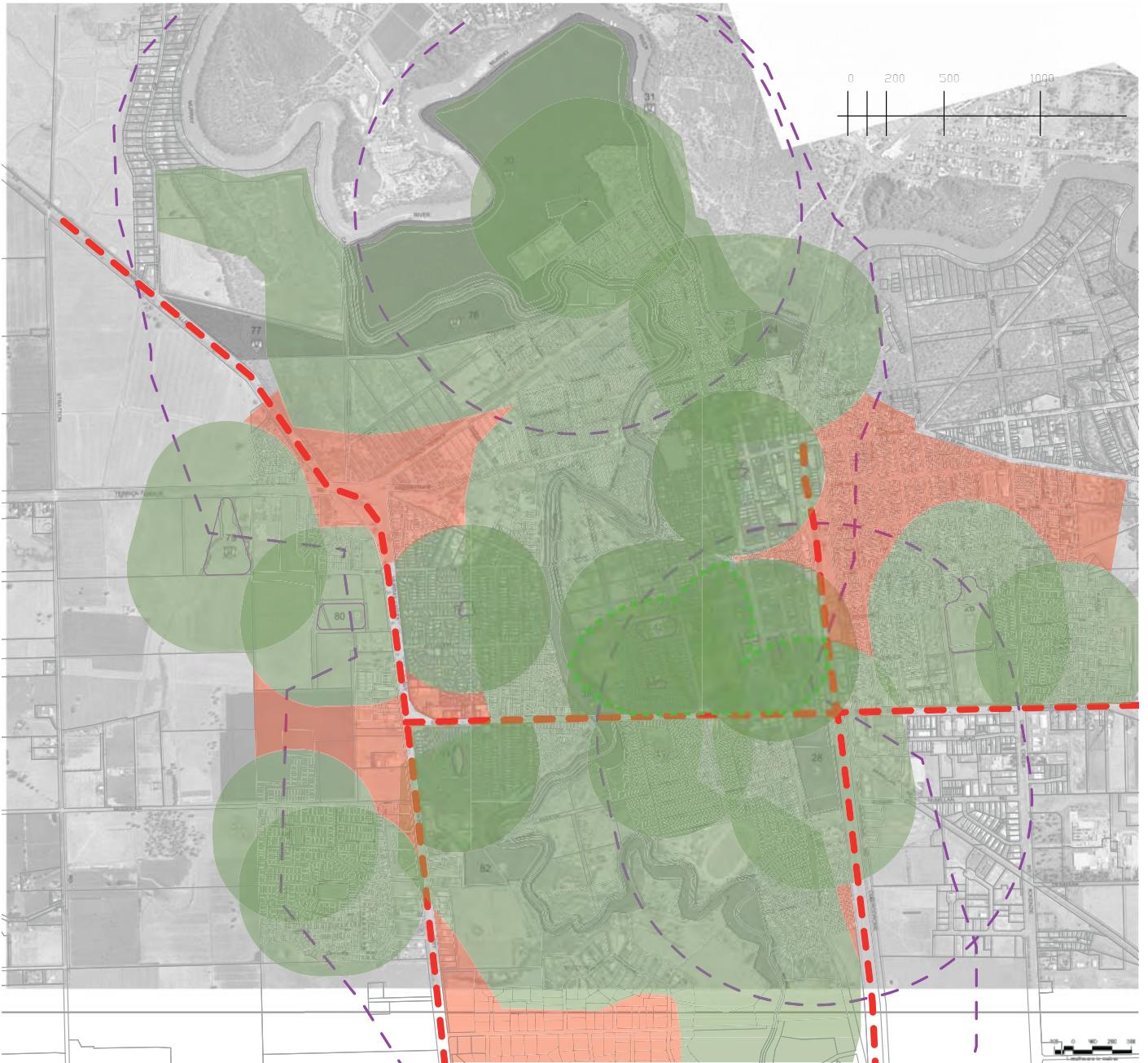
A small number of households within Echuca South fall outside the 400m radius catchment however this does not impact on the 95 percent coverage of open space requirement. It is also noted that these households have large blocks, with some capacity for substantial private open space and it is recommended that connection to a trail network to provide open space access to more central locations within Echuca is a reasonable outcome for this area.

The small area of over supply occurs north of Ogilvy Ave (Murray Valley Highway) between High St and the Campaspe River. While the mapping analysis suggests that there is a portion of the community in this area that is closer than 400m to 3 or more open space areas - it is clear that these different open spaces offer different recreation and open space opportunities (some natural reserves with a drainage and water quality/drainage function, small play grounds, and the nearby South Echuca Recreation Reserve. The demographics of the Echuca community suggest that population growth is likely. For these reasons - the existing identified over service area should be allowed to remain.

As the major township within the Campaspe Shire, Echuca has a number of key open spaces that are of municipal and regional significance. These include areas such as:

- Aquatic Reserve: Major river frontage and passive reserve available for events that would have a regional and wider catchment.
- Victoria Park: Premier sporting reserve for high profile outdoor sporting events.
- Campaspe Trail: Important river trail that is valued and regularly used by a large cross section of the community.

Potential for connection to a municipal rail trail network, such an open space asset would have regional significance.



Echuca

LEGEND

- - - Barrier to access
- - - 1000m catchment from Active Open Space Reserve
- - - Section of township over-served by open space
- 400m catchment from council managed Open Space
- Section of township outside > 400m from Open Space

Open Space Provision in Gunbower

Gunbower is well serviced with public open space with key facilities such as Gunbower Recreation Reserve, the Lions Park/Playground and a walking path along the river foreshore. It is also home to internationally recognised wetlands (such as Kow Swamp) and the Gunbower National Park. These assets, although not owned or managed by Council, provide a unique set of open space attributes for Gunbower, with an emphasis on the environmental and indigenous cultural value as well as the simple, natural beauty of the area.



Gunbower

LEGEND

- - - Barrier to access
- - - 1000m catchment from Active Open Space Reserve
- - - - - Section of township over-served by open space
- 400m catchment from council managed Open Space
- Section of township outside > 400m from Open Space

Open Space Provision in Lockington

Lockington is well serviced with open space for a small rural township. The central location of the Hopetoun St Reserve and the Singer Rd open space, combined with the recreation reserve and the additional non-Council managed space occupied by the rail reserve allows the entire town to be within 400m of some open space. The Township and surrounding areas is also within the 1000m catchment of the

Recreation Reserves which hosts a number of community, sporting and other activities. The centre of Lockington is within 400m of 3 or more open space areas and is considered to be over-served with open space.

With changes to the demographics and changes in community structure, the demand for significant open space in Lockington is not likely to increase - meaning that future rationalisation should be considered.



Lockington

LEGEND

- - - Barrier to access
- - - 1000m catchment from Active Open Space Reserve
- - - Section of township over-served by open space
- 400m catchment from council managed Open Space
- Section of township outside > 400m from Open Space

Open Space Provision in Kyabram

The distribution of open space in Kyabram provides relatively even cover with only a very small amount of households not within 400m of some open space asset, easily providing for more than 95 percent of all households.

There are some areas where replication of open space within small areas has resulted in oversupply.

This is particularly obvious in the north and north east of Kyabram. The north eastern area has three open spaces within an approximate 400 metre radius. These are:

- Kyabram Recreation Reserve (and Memorial Gardens)
- Earl Court (effectively a car park for the local primary school)
- Cedar Court/Prunus Court (playground/park)
- Banyule Court (park playground)

It is expected that Earl Court could potentially be sold given the current use as an overflow car park.

In the north east there is a similar situation with three small playgrounds within a 400 metre radius. All three of the playgrounds are in very small parks that are located at the end of sealed court bowls and are generally not easily accessible except to those living directly in the street. The playgrounds include:

- Frederick Street
- Glass Court
- Crow Crescent

This situation is more complex given that, although the three playgrounds may not all be geographically required, there is no other accessible open space in the neighbourhood as Northern Oval is located across Tisdall Road, which is not easily crossed and Northern Oval does not have a playground. It is also the site of many traffic movements with training for various sports occurring most nights of the week and competition games occurring on weekends. The three playgrounds are also in an area of relative social disadvantage and the removal of what little open space is available is questionable. The three spaces are less than ideal in delivering accessible, quality open space that meets the defined principles of the Open Space Strategy however the sale of any or all parcels should be predicated with the purchase and or development of a larger parcel in the area to accommodate local need for playground space.

Essentially the urban design and road layout in the area does not lend itself to connected, accessible open space, with several roads having a series of isolated, disconnected court bowls stemming from them. The development of footpaths and wayfinding signage will be important in establishing greater connection to the open spaces in this area however they remain poorly located, with low levels of passive surveillance and low levels of service provision.

If a safe crossing across Tisdall Road to Northern Oval could be developed, and Northern Oval be developed with safe playground

facilities, there is then potential to possibly remove Frederick Street.

Major accessibility barriers also exist in Kyabram with Allan Street (Echuca-Kyabram Road C351) creating a North-South division and the railway line cutting across the town in a north easterly direction. Better pedestrian connection across these should be supported however neither of these transport assets is controlled by Council.

The Kyabram South Shared Pathway loop is a significant walking and cycling open space asset however it currently ends at the railway line near Breen Street. The extension of this back into the town centre, with an appropriate rail crossing should also be pursued.

Open Space Provision in Rochester

The mapping and spatial analysis of Rochester shows a good supply of open space with most of the dwellings being within 400m of local space and 1000m of active or river side open space. There is a collection of small open space areas in the centre of Rochester. These spaces provide for a variety of functions including:

Rotunda Park: Urban centre green space, streetscape, town character and sense of place, civic event space.

Rotary Park: Playground and public toilets, some streetscape with continuation of palm tree theme

Lions Park: Playground, BBQ and public toilets

Market Square: Outdoor Market area, local skate park.

RSL Memorial Garden: Landscape at front of RSL hall, civic event space.

Although each of these spaces is unique and provides quite different open space opportunities, it is recommended that rationalisation be considered. The most isolated and least functional of these spaces is Rotary Park. This space should be considered for either outright sale - or subdivision and sale. Justification for this include;

its similarity to Lions Park with replication of playground and public toilets

relative poor amenity and age of infrastructure

lack of easy access and proximity to major traffic and truck movement

its role in providing some streetscape character with the use of palm trees - palm trees can be transplanted with relative ease to Rotunda Park to aid and add to the urban design and town ship character provided by the existing palms

There has also been much discussion regarding a community driven master plan for the Moore Street road reserve however this is not deemed to be a usable community open space and the development of further open space in this area is not a priority. Development in open space in Rochester should occur close to the centre of town in order to provide a range of opportunities for both locals and visitors to stop and enjoy the town, while using both the commercial and community facilities. Development of the Moore St Reserve will encourage travellers to stop in an area that will not benefit local businesses or support the local community. There is no measurable data supporting the perception that Moore Street would be a better rest stop than the Lions Park or Rotunda Park.

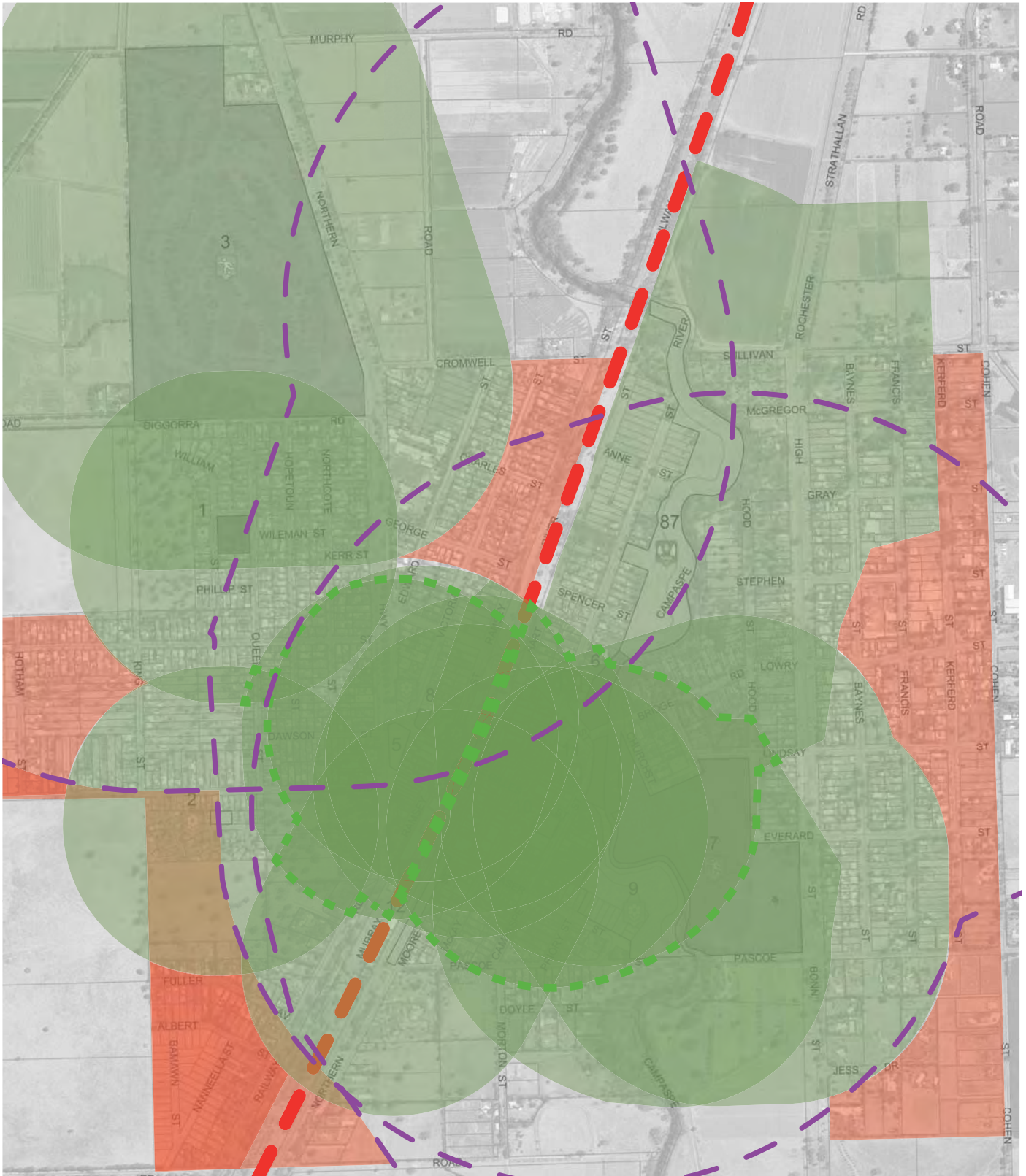
Rochester is also well served with a significant walking trail along the Campaspe River and the local golf club which is also well used by community as a walking area.

The local recreation reserve and showgrounds are combined and provide a substantial and consolidated open space on the western side of the river.

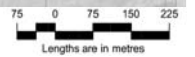
Some residents on the western side of the river would appear to be undersupplied with open space based on the 400m catchments

however the 1000m catchment prescribed for both walking paths (along the river) and active sporting reserves captures all these residents. It is recommended that no further open space is required given current development however the introduction of a path or trail to provide easy connection to the sporting facilities and walking trail would be beneficial.

If further housing growth occurs to the west or east, acquisition of additional land for open space should be considered as part of Council's planning process.



Rochester



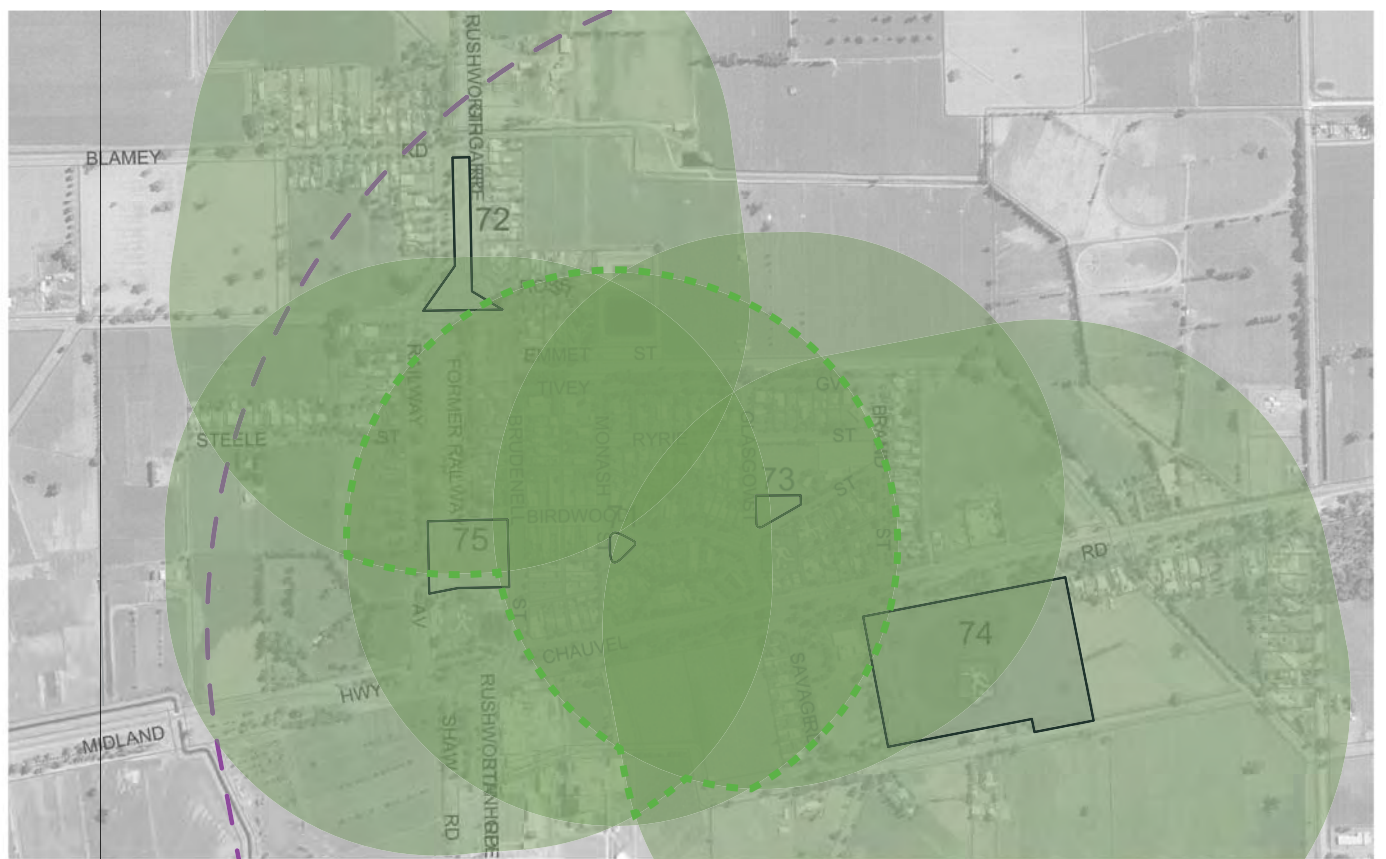
LEGEND

- - - Barrier to access
- - - 1000m catchment from Active Open Space Reserve
- - - Section of township over-served by open space
- 400m catchment from council managed Open Space
- Section of township outside > 400m from Open Space

Open Space Provision in Stanhope

Stanhope is well serviced with open space for a small rural township. The central location of the reserve on McEwan Place, Lions Park (Birdwood Ave) and Apex Park (adjacent to Channel), combined with the recreation reserve and the additional non-Council managed space occupied by the rail reserve allows the entire town to be within 400m of some open space. The Township and surrounding areas is also within the 1000m catchment of the Recreation Reserves which hosts a number of community, sporting and other activities. The centre of Stanhope is within 400m of 3 or more open space areas and is considered to be over-served with open space.

With changes to the demographics and changes in community structure, the demand for significant open space in Stanhope is not likely to increase - meaning that future rationalisation or limits on open space development should be considered.



Stanhope

LEGEND

- - - Barrier to access
- - - 1000m catchment from Active Open Space Reserve
- - - Section of township over-served by open space
- 400m catchment from council managed Open Space
- Section of township outside > 400m from Open Space

Open Space Provision in Tongala

Tongala is well supplied with a range of walking paths, recreation reserves, parkland and an open space in the town centre.

Coverage of the residential population with open space provision is good with all areas adequately serviced and the areas in the centre of town being over-serviced (within 400m of 3 or more open space areas)

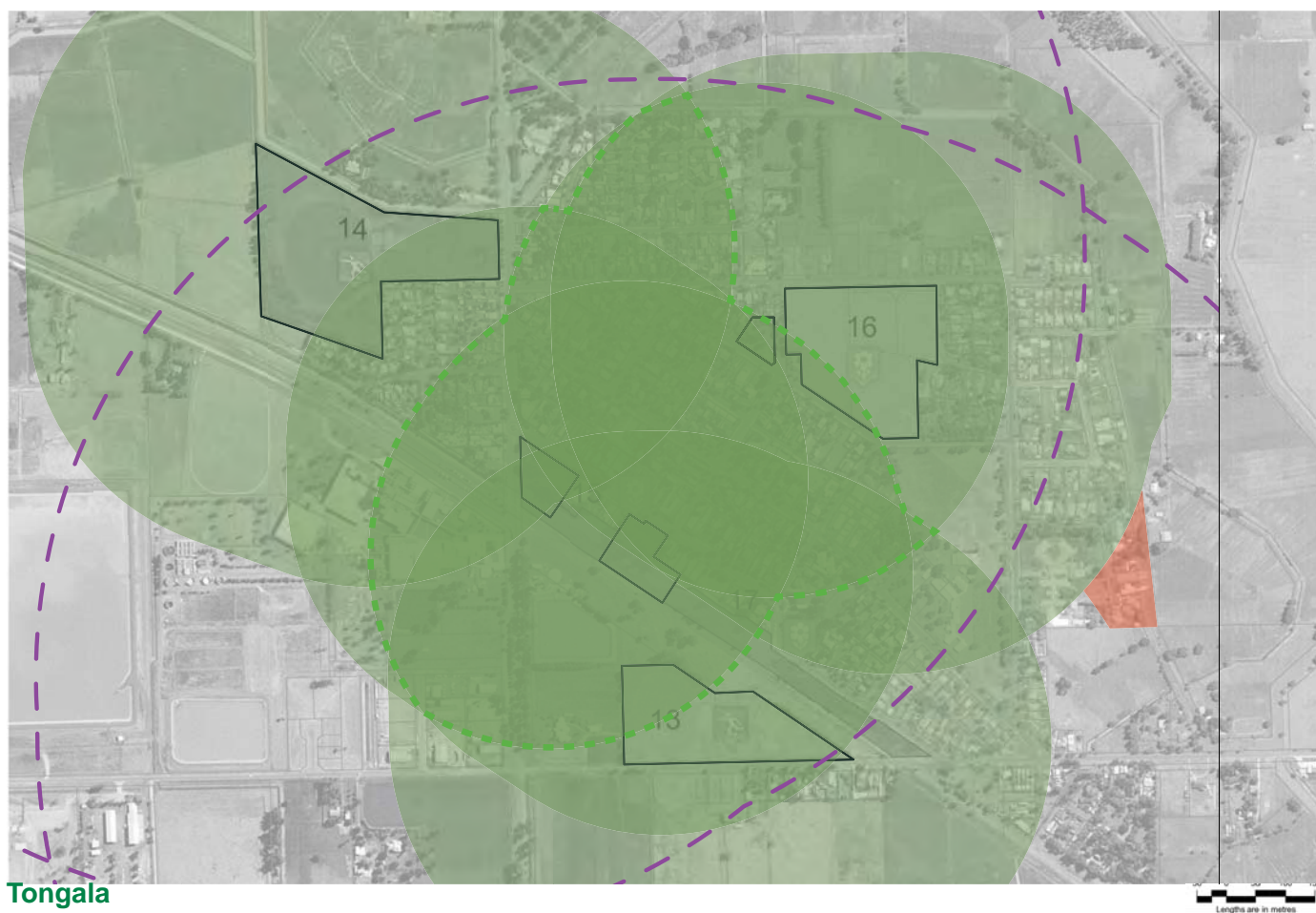
Two key issues have been noted as part of the analysis of open space in Tongala, These are:

- The existing walking trail is developed partially on VicTrack land which, although inactive at the time of development, has recently been reactivated for some irregular train services. No agreement has been entered into with VicTrack for the development of the walking path and this represents a risk management issue for both Council and the community.

Council should not undertake any further planning or work on an extension of this trail until a written agreement with VicTrack is in place.

- The existing civic green space, public toilets and sound shell open space is separated from a playground by a supermarket development. When the playground reaches end of life, consideration should be given to relocating the playground to the other side of the supermarket and consolidating these assets on one combined site.

In relation to the efficiency and management of open space in Tongala, there is little evidence to support the consistent use need for both the open spaces on either side of St James St - Centennial Park and St James Park. Given that Centennial Park is identified as Land Subject to Inundation - the possibility that this land can be used for purposes other than open space is limited. St James Park is not effected by planning or flooding restrictions and should be considered for sale.



Tongala

LEGEND

- Barrier to access
- - - 1000m catchment from Active Open Space Reserve
- Section of township over-serviced by open space
- 400m catchment from council managed Open Space
- Section of township outside > 400m from Open Space

Open Space Provision in Tolleen

Tolleen is well serviced with open space for a small rural location. The central location of the Recreation Reserve allows the entire area to be within 400m of some open space. The locality and surrounding areas is also within the 1000m catchment of the Recreation Reserve.



Tolleen

LEGEND

- - - Barrier to access
- - - 1000m catchment from Active Open Space Reserve
- - - - - Section of township over-served by open space
- 400m catchment from council managed Open Space
- Section of township outside > 400m from Open Space

Community Initiatives and Interests

The Campaspe Open Space Strategy is a whole of Council strategy and the previous chapter provides 35 clear actions that can provide impact across the municipality or at reserves which have municipal significance.

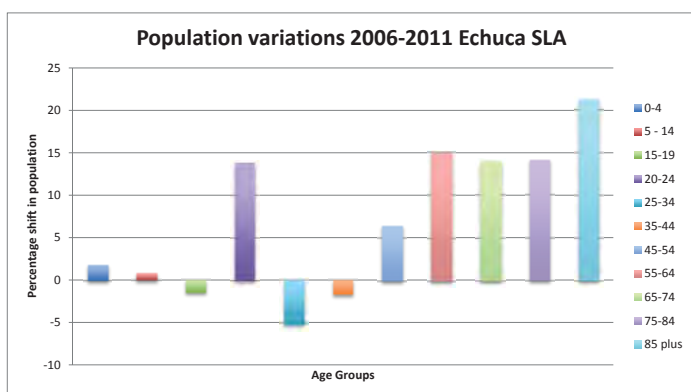
Given the fragmented nature of the population within the Campaspe Shire, it is also important to consider some recommendations and actions for each township.

Echuca

Community Profile

Echuca has the largest population of any township in the Campaspe Shire. Between 2006 and 2011, Echuca grew in population by 624 people, growing from 12,358 to 12,982.

Echuca has an ageing population, with all age groups from 45 up to 85 plus growing significantly in comparison to the 0-19 and 25-44 age groups, which are static or declining.



Graph 7

Existing Open Space

Key open space areas within Echuca include:

- Victoria Park Sports and Recreation Reserve
- Aquatic Reserve (river front reserve)
- Campaspe Trail
- Echuca East Reserve (large undeveloped site)
- Banyule Forest

Open Space Analysis

There is an undersupply of open space in both Echuca East and Echuca West. The area to the west is not a major issue as this represents currently undeveloped land that should be provided for as subdivision and land development occurs. The area in Echuca East should be considered as more significant given the following factors;

- the area has poor access to other spaces within Echuca given the barriers of the adjoining railway line, major roads and industrial development,
- the area is well established and further acquisition of land will

be difficult and may mean reclaiming developed land, and

- Echuca East is broadly an area of relative economic disadvantage and the provision of open space for physical and mental wellbeing is particularly important.

Echuca East also has areas of open space that are currently underdeveloped or in poor condition that could improve with planning and investment and be considered of District level importance. These include the Echuca East Recreation Reserve and Banyule Forest. Master planning for these two areas is encouraged (even though Council is not the manager or owner of Banyule Forest) with an emphasis on consideration of what is required to improve pedestrian connection to these open spaces.

There is a small area of undersupply in the south of Echuca, however this would not impact on the 95 percent coverage of open space within 400 metres. The area also contains larger house blocks where individualised private open space is also available. Linking trails in this area would be encouraged, to ensure connection to other areas and open spaces within central Echuca.

Echuca West is generally well supplied although there are some open spaces that have a primary purpose of acting as drainage reserves and retention basins, providing little opportunity for quality passive or active open space opportunities. Another factor for consideration in Echuca West is the impediment to open space access in other areas created by the Northern Highway which dissects more recent residential development on a north-south axis

What We Heard from Community

1. Master Plans and development required for Victoria Park, Echuca East Recreation Reserve, Banyule Forest and Aquatic Reserve.
2. Extension and upgrade to Campaspe Trail, as a valued walking trail and network.
3. Better access from Echuca East over to other areas of Echuca.
4. Town entrances need a lot of work and upgrades.
5. Greater linkage of walking and cycling paths across the town.
6. Proposal to develop a Recreation Vehicle Park with sewerage dump point at Rotary Park.
7. NCCMA could contribute toward weed management, plantings, signage and trails along rivers throughout Echuca.
8. Need more neighbourhood parks and linkages/connections in housing estates

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

Develop Master Plan for Echuca East Recreation Reserve taking into account the following initial suggestions for development:

- Off lead dog park
- Community Hub/Neighbourhood House
- Community Garden
- Accommodate current users
- Running/Walking path (within and to reserve)
- Links to central Echuca
- Improved playground

Initiative 2:

Develop a Master Plan addressing the Development and Management for Victoria Park taking into account both the sporting and natural reserve areas.

Initiative 3:

Advocate to Parks Victoria and NCCMA regarding a master plan and funding to reclaim and re-vegetate Banyule Forest for pedestrian and passive activity.

Initiative 4:

Undertake a Master Plan for Aquatic Reserve considering the following components:

- Upgrade the area to between the river and the levy bank. Is the levy bank still required?
- Wheelchair and pram access
- Further picnic areas to allow sitting beside the river
- Further toilets, power etc. to provide for larger events

Initiative 5:

Review the Walking and Cycling Strategy outcomes for Echuca. Specific trail projects that were discussed as part of this research and consultation included:

- Railway land from Bendigo-Murchison Road through town towards Moona
- Access across railway line between Echuca East and other areas
- Trails and improved entry into Banyule Park
- Track between Ogilvie Avenue and Warren Street to be renovated
- Eyre Street crossing over railway line
- Extension of Campaspe Walking Trail
- Ogilvie Avenue south through Rotary park, linking into town
- Overall, greater linkage of existing network
- Walking trail from Echuca Information Centre to Shinbone

Alley loop, with historic interpretation

- Improvement of walking/fitness trails along Scenic Drive
- Linkages within housing estates

Initiative 6:

Investigate the feasibility of developing Fishing Platforms along the river considering funding opportunities, location, accessibility for fishing enthusiasts with a disability, and opportunity for partnering with NCCMA and VRFish. Also investigate the potential to gain funding from the NSW Fisheries in a similar manner to the successful funding gained by Moira Shire for platforms in the Murray at Cobram.

Initiative 7:

Develop plans for upgraded town entrances, streetscapes, prioritising indigenous plantings.

Initiative 8:

Consider funding of further open space in Echuca East to create an additional local, connected parkland. Funding should be considered as part of the Open Space Development Fund.

Initiative 9:

Advocate the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council proposal to create a National park..

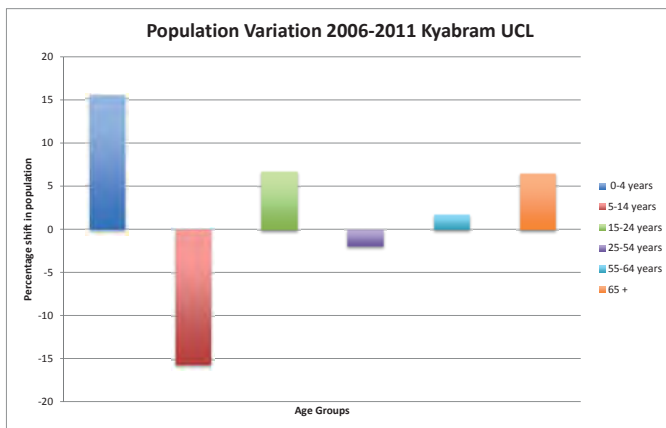
Initiative 10:

Investigate purchase of Warren Street flood plain through funds derived from sale of other land parcels. Develop a long term plan for development of the Warren Street flood plain given its location and the use of Warren Street as a future gateway for Echuca.

Kyabram

Community Profile

Kyabram (as an ABS defined urban centre locality) has a total population of approximately 5643 people. Between 2006 and 2011 Kyabram UCL grew by 28 people. The 0-14 population age group declined over this period whilst the 65 plus age cohort increased, indicating a gradually ageing population trend (refer graph below).



Graph 8

Existing Open Space

- Northern Oval
- Kyabram Memorial Gardens
- Kyabram Loop Shared Pathway
- Kyabram Railway Gardens
- Kyabram Skate Park/Community Hub gardens

Open Space Analysis

There is an oversupply of open space in some northern areas of Kyabram. This is highlighted by the development of similar park and play spaces within these neighbourhoods to the north of Kyabram. There may be several opportunities for land sales, with the intent of further developing existing open space to provide higher quality and more diverse opportunities for an open space experience for residents.

There is a small area of undersupply in the southern area of Kyabram however this does not impact on the requirement of delivering open space within 400 metres to 95 percent of residents

What We Heard from Community

- Complete Kyabram Loop Walking Track into Kyabram town centre. Currently finishes at railway line on Breen Avenue.
- Need another oval for junior sport.
- Master Plan required for Kyabram Recreation Reserve.
- Walking Tracks needed in Northern Oval complex- well

utilised by all age groups throughout the day.

- Consider Water Park recreation area in addition to the swimming pool
- Upgrade Frederick Street Playground as it has only one swing set and is still used by families.
- Town entrances need renovation.
- Council needs to work on shared facilities with school and showgrounds.
- More communication and advice to CoM's

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

Complete Kyabram Walking Loop Track

Initiative 2:

Complete works outlined in the Northern Oval Master Plan, particular priorities are ground lighting, shared pathway through reserve (consider loop around oval perimeter area) and the redevelopment of the oval to accommodate more sporting opportunities (i.e. football, cricket and soccer).

Initiative 3:

Consider fitness stations as part of any loop pathway within Northern Oval complex.

Initiative 4:

Undertake an analysis of small playground sites located in Fredrick Street and Glass Court. Consider plan for development of an improved community open space in this area or areas. Only consider closure and sale of smaller parcels if a new space can be developed that provides:

- Better access for community
- Larger space
- More alternatives for use: open space, garden, playground etc.
- Safer connections for parents and children

Northern Oval should be considered for improvements as part of this analysis.

Initiative 5:

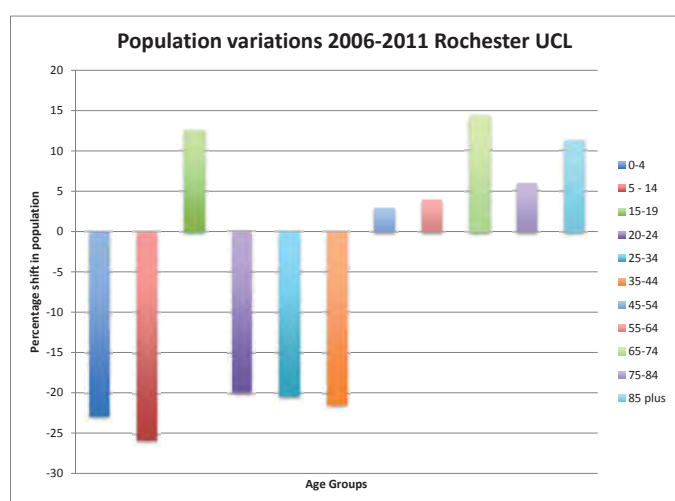
Undertake an analysis of use of Dawes Road Reserve – mainly used as a car park, and possibility of rezoning for this purpose. Should be retained for parking for school and overflow sporting events

Rochester

Community Profile

The Rochester population has declined from 2,828 to 2,652 between 2006 and 2011. It should be noted that during the 2011 census collection, some areas of Rochester may have been affected by flooding, modifying results.

Overall, Rochester population data indicates a steep decline in children (0-14 years) and the 20-44 year old cohort. All age groups from 45 upwards have increased in number. This indicates a more rapidly ageing population, which is also declining in overall size.



Graph 9

Existing Open Space

- Rochester Recreation Reserve (Sports Ground)
- Rochester Racecourse Recreation Reserve
- Campaspe Park River Reserve
- Campaspe River Trail
- Rochester Hall and Skate Park (and Market Square)
- Lions Park
- Apex Park
- Rotary Park
- Rotunda Park
- RSL Garden
- Streetscapes

Open Space Analysis

Rochester is well supplied with open space given two ovals exist for sporting purposes along with upgraded facilities as part of sporting and showground facilities. The Rochester Racecourse Recreation Reserve is a substantial parcel of land with an accessible 9 hole golf course and tennis courts. This space is used extensively for walking loops. In addition, a number neighbourhood parks and playgrounds exist,

including a skate park and a partially developed river trail with potential for expansion and additional facilities.

The main streetscape and Northern Highway town entrance is one of the most striking in Campaspe Shire with good examples of creating a sense of arrival and place with street scape planting, palm tree theme and the inclusion of Rotunda Park and Rotary Park on two corners of the main crossroad of Rochester.

What We Heard from Community

- In Rochester, the Parks and Gardens team do a great job to maintain our open spaces.
- The area around the river and the Campaspe Walk are particularly important assets.
- Consider downgrading Rotary Park toilets to one unisex toilet for children to use at the playground.
- Is there a need for another playground in the east as there only one small one at the recreation reserve?
- Apex Park- large space with little shade or grass and limited play equipment- sell some off and improve/maintain smaller block?
- Rotary Park- tired and difficult for locals to access due to traffic.
- Lions Park- good local asset, supported by toilets and BBQ.
- Make skate park a real park with inclusion of grass, shade, trees so all can use.
- Build fishing platform to give access to river
- Upgrade Campaspe River path and extend

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

Develop Campaspe River path with extensions to the south. Consider some works to create more distinct trail entry and destination points along with signage for distances and way finding. Also provide links and signage from town centre to the River.

Initiative 2:

Consider linking Campaspe River path to an accessible fishing platform. Utilise NCCMA and VRFish as potential partners to attract or advocate for funding.

Initiative 3:

Review use and value of Apex Park.

Initiative 4:

Improve skate park surrounds with shade, seating and grassed areas.

Initiative 5:

Improve walking/cycling connection and local signage to Rochester Racecourse Recreation Reserve and formalise loop walking path.

Initiative 6:

Develop Moore Street Road Reserve.

Colbinabbin

Community Profile

Colbinabbin is a small township with a population noted at 293 based on 2011 ABS Census data. Given the change in boundaries between 2006 and 2011 Census data, there is no easily comparative data. 2011 census data takes into account a much larger area including some of the surrounding regions such as Myola East, Wanalta and Moora.

Existing Open Space

Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve (local Committee of Management)

Memorial Hall Gardens

Open Space Analysis

There is a technical "oversupply" of open space in Colbinabbin however the area is not well connected to open space in other regions and therefore requires a reasonable mix of open spaces. Some consideration of the recreation reserve as a walking destination should be considered to improve flexibility of use of this open space for both active and passive recreation.

What We Heard from Community

- The Recreation Reserve Committee want to consider a second oval, believing there is enough demand for it.
- There is a need to consider consolidation of the three existing pavilions at the Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve as they approach end of life. Funds to replace all three with duplication of facilities will not be available.
- The Recreation Reserve Committee of Management is somewhat frustrated with Council and there is a perceived lack of collaboration with Council.
- Walking access to the reserve could be improved.
- A 2008 Master Plan exists for the site however this shows three pavilions remaining on the site.

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

Review the 2008 Master Plan for the Colbinabbin Recreation Reserve, in collaboration with the local community.

Girgarre

Community Profile

ABS data for Girgarre provides a population for the region in and around the township of 593 people (2011 Census). This takes into account an area north toward Mount Scobie, south toward Stanhope, east toward Kyabram and west toward Greens Lake and Corop.

Existing Open Space

- Girgarre Recreation Reserve (tennis, cricket, football, netball)
- Market Area, Playground and parkland
- Girgarre Hall and RV camping point
- Girgarre Botanical Gardens (project in planning with 20 acres of open space available)

Open Space Analysis

Girgarre is well served with open space, and has a range of active and passive spaces that are utilised for local sport as well other activities that attract economic activity for the town such as the local market and other music events.

The open spaces have been modified over time with infrastructure to allow these events with much larger attendances to occur.

What We Heard from Community

- The Girgarre community and Girgarre Development Committee are very proactive regarding the development of open spaces.
- Community would like to see more collaboration and support from Council- partnership when scoping projects, assistance in finding funding opportunities, more focus on small communities.
- Would like assistance in scoping the Girgarre-Stanhope-Rushworth Rail Trail concept.
- The Girgarre Botanical Gardens concept is a major project and, although community are heavily involved and committed, more support and engagement from Council would be appreciated.

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

Council will actively engage with the Girgarre Development Committee to discuss and consider areas of ongoing support such as promotion of events, advocacy for the Girgarre Botanical Gardens, sourcing and informing community of relevant funding opportunities.

Initiative 2:

Rail Trail feasibility analysis to consider the benefits and cost of a Girgarre connection to Stanhope and Rushworth.

Gunbower

Community Profile

Gunbower has an ABS derived population of 264 people. This has been relatively static since 2006. Population variations show growth in both the very young and older adult populations whilst there has been a decline in the number of older children, adolescents and young adults between 2006 and 2011 (refer graph below).

Existing Open Space

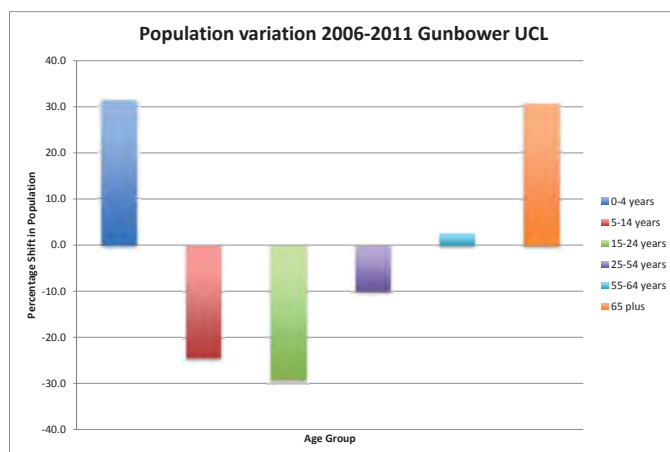
- Gunbower Recreation Reserve
- Lions Park
- Kow Swamp
- Gunbower National Park
- Gunbower Island

Open Space Analysis

Gunbower is well serviced with the Gunbower Recreation Reserve and is on the doorstep of the Gunbower National Park. Gunbower has some unique open space attributes, with an emphasis on the environmental value and beauty of the space around the township.

What We Heard from Community

- The Gunbower community and Gunbower Development Group are very active and engaged in protecting and promoting the cultural and environmental value of much of the open space around Gunbower.
- There was a strong community recognition of the indigenous cultural values of the area such as Kow Swamp and Gunbower National Park.
- Protection of areas such as Kow Swamp from stock is a priority.
- Eco Tourism has strong potential in the area given the unique



Graph 10

and quality environment in the area. Of particular note is the indigenous heritage and unique bird life.

- A long term plan is required for the Lions Park
- A long term plan is required for the development of Gunbower Recreation Reserve- this could be a good location for an RV camping and dump point.

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

Council will work with community to advocate for the protection of areas such as Kow Swamp from livestock activity.

Initiative 2:

Gunbower Recreation Reserve Infrastructure Plan (consider fishing platform and canoe trail).

Initiative 3:

In consultation, with community undertake a Development Plan for the Lions Park.

Initiative 4:

Facilitate work on interpretive signage and/or brochure to promote the unique indigenous cultural heritage, flora and fauna of the region.

Lockington

Community Profile

Lockington has an overall population of 376 people (2011 ABS Data), declining from 421 in 2006.

Population is declining slowly in most age groups, with the most pronounced decline in the 0-4 age group (20 children in the age bracket at 2011).

Existing Open Space

- Lockington Recreation Reserve (football)
- Lions Park
- Kotta Walking Track
- Open Space Analysis

Although not a large variety of open space exists, the spaces do include a sports ground and park land. The Lockington community is small and will need to consider ways of increasing the flexible use of spaces such as the sports ground for other uses such as walking or jogging.

What We Heard from Community

- Investigate renewal of playground equipment at Lions Park
- Upgrades required at recreation reserve

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

Discuss the potential renewal of playground equipment at Lions Park with Community Plan Working Group and wider community.

Rushworth

Community Profile

The population of Rushworth declined between 2006 and 2011, from 1040 to 982 people.

The age cohorts remained relatively stable, with the decline focused in the 5-14 and 25-54 age brackets.

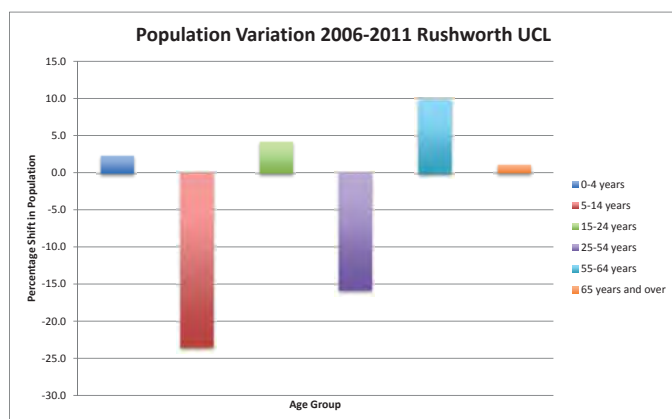
Existing Open Space

- Rushworth Skate Park
- Walking Trails (Railway Reserve)
- Lions Park
- Rushworth Recreation Reserve (football, cricket, netball)
- Geyle Reserve
- Rushworth High Street streetscape

Open Space Analysis

Rushworth is well serviced with a diverse mix of formal parkland open space and bushland spaces as well as a reasonable level of walking trails, including areas of railway reserve that could have potential as a Rail Trail development.

Unique areas include the skate park and the High Street streetscape,



Graph 11

with a substantial, central green space providing opportunity to create a "village square" for local cultural events.

What We Heard from Community

- Walking trails need to be renovated and connections made to complete some loops and destinations
- Grass area around the skate park need more maintenance and this area could be further developed with seating etc.
- Historic Panel interpretation could provide opportunity for historical and indigenous heritage trail/walk around town and bush land.
- Continue developing and maintenance at Lions Park
- Rail Trail potential from Rushworth to Murchison/Girgarre.
- An area for RV's and caravans to stay overnight would be valuable as nowhere to stop at the moment.
- Upgrades to power outlets in High Street would provide more opportunity to develop events in town. High Street is central to Rushworth character.
- VicTrack land- community want to use this and Council to advocate for this on behalf of community.

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

Undertake planning with community to highlight walking trail connections and loops that need completion and or renovation. Use the 2007 Walking and Cycling Strategy as a basis for discussion.

Initiative 2:

Further explore feasibility and funding options for the Rushworth to Murchison/Girgarre Rail Trail

Initiative 3:

Undertake a community planning process to consider upgrades to High Street streetscape, with a focus on local events and improved economic activity.

Initiative 4:

Work with community on planning further minor improvements at Rushworth skate park, Rail Reserve and Lions Park.

Stanhope

Community Profile

The population of Stanhope declined between 2006 and 2011, from 518 to 484, with decreases mainly noted in the 5-14 year age bracket and increases in the older population from 55 years onward.

Existing Open Space

- McEwan Place Reserve
- Lions Park
- Stanhope Recreation Reserve
- Apex Park

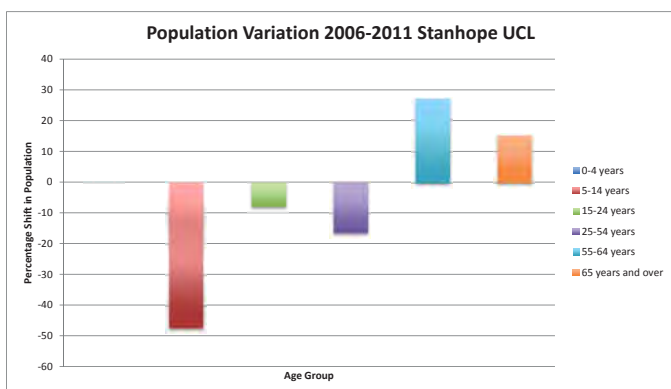
Open Space Analysis

Stanhope is well serviced with open space for a small rural township. The central location of the reserve on McEwan Place, Lions Park (Birdwood Ave) and Apex Park (adjacent to Channel), combined with the recreation reserve and the additional non-Council managed space occupied by the rail reserve allows the entire town to be within 400m of some open space. The Township and surrounding areas is also within the 1000m catchment of the Recreation Reserve, which hosts a number of community, sporting and other activities. The centre of Stanhope is within 400m of 3 or more open space areas and is considered to be over-serviced with open space.

With static or decreasing population trends and an ageing population, the demand for significant open space in Stanhope is not likely to increase, indicating that future rationalisation or limits on open space development should be considered.

What We Heard from Community

- The disused railway line offers potential for a Rail Trail: Stanhop-Girgarre-Rushworth
- Recreation Reserve needs more Council support as this is a CoM direct to the Crown. Same people every year and have shortage of volunteers.
- More seating around Stanhope Football Oval to cater for older patrons.
- Need long term plan for Stanhope Recreation Reserve, linked to funding.



Graph 12

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

Undertake a development plan, involving community, for the Stanhope Recreation Reserve. Ensure volunteer shortages are addressed along with any physical improvement plan.

Initiative 2:

Review the Walking and Cycling Strategy, Stanhope Plan and consider the option of a Stanhope connection as part of any Rail Trail Feasibility analysis.

Tongala

Community Profile

The Tongala population has remained relatively static between 2006 and 2011 with a decline from 1256 to 1243 people recorded.

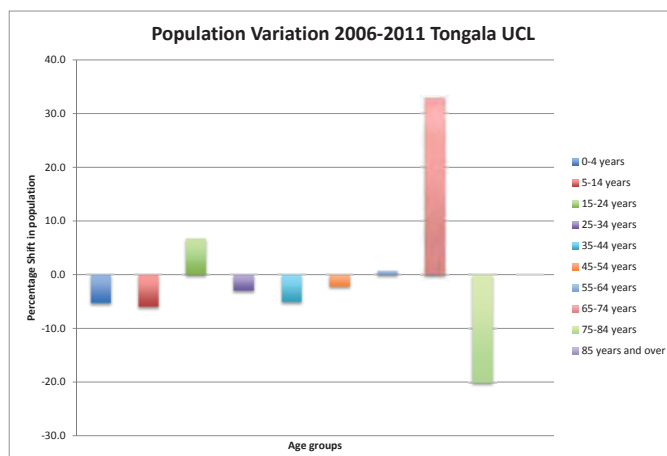
The age profile is interesting showing a generally ageing population mainly concentrated in the 65-75 year age bracket. Most other age groups showed minor decline.

Existing Open Space

- Centennial Park
- Lions Park and Recreation Reserve
- Apex Park
- Brose Reserve
- St. James Park
- Village Green

Open Space Analysis

Tongala is well supplied with a diverse range of parks, sports grounds, town centre green spaces and walking paths.



Graph 13

What We Heard from Community

- Improve watering program for village green and town centre lawn areas.
- Centenary Park needs to be reviewed with possible development of walking path, seating and more trees.
- Seating required in parks and in town (Apex, Lions, Brose Reserve) for those who cannot walk long distances.
- St. James park requires an improved surface on walking track and stage 2 should be established.
- Further walking tracks and a town map showing routes would be beneficial.
- Parking for caravans is needed.
- Signage on the walking track and further extension and upgrade.

Specific Initiatives and Interests

Initiative 1:

In collaboration with key community members, Council will review the watering program for the town centre green spaces.

Initiative 2:

In collaboration with community, Council will review the legal and risk management requirements regarding the walking path on VicTrack land. If a written agreement can be entered into, then consider the completion of the walking path identified in the Campaspe Walking and Cycling Strategy (2007), which details opportunity to connect the school, recreation reserve, pool and retail hub.

Initiative 3:

Council will work with the community and Committee of Management on a review of Centenary Park, providing a Development Plan for future improvements.

Initiative 4:

Consideration will be given at end of life for the relocation of the playground adjoining the supermarket to combine with the existing open space that provides the sound shell and public toilets.

Bamawm/Bamawm Extension

ABS data provides a 2011 population in the Bamawm region of 527 people. Bamawm provides a sports and recreation reserve as the key open space for residents on the area. This provides a local hall, passive open space and a cricket ground, home to the Bamawm-Lockington United Cricket Club.

Bamawm Extension also provides a recreation reserve used, in part for Pony Club activities and also as open space.

Community requests for open space improvements in Bamawm

included:

- Better Signage for entrance
- Street signs directing people to reserve
- Public Toilets
- Adequate funding to maintain the reserve

Recommended actions for open space in Bamawm include:

- Work with community to undertake minor improvements to Bamawm Recreation Reserve- consider funding opportunities through small grant schemes.
- Review maintenance funding for recreation reserve, in discussion with community.

Corop

ABS data provides a 2011 population in the Corop region of 269 people.

Corop is home to two major water bodies Green Lake and Lake Cooper which, although not owned or managed by Council, provide opportunity for public access and act as passive open space. Corop also has a local community centre with adjoining open space. There are several wetland areas which are considered environmentally significant.

The Corop Community Action Group has worked over the last decade to develop a walking track around Lake Cooper however water levels are managed by Goulburn Murray Water and this has resulted in many years where the lake has no water.

Green Lake is also an important asset with swimming, camping, picnics and walking all noted as common activities. The Corop community has been working with Goulburn Murray Water on a management plan for the Green Lake area to consider improvements such as toilets, safe swimming areas, shade and play areas etc. Green Lake has been anecdotally known to attract up to 3000 people for major public holidays such as New Years Eve.

Community requests for open space improvements in Corop included:

- Additional town loop walking track
- Some picnic areas
- Involvement from Council in Green Lake Management Plan- how can Council assist in improvements for community?
- Assistance from Council in advocating for consistent water levels at Lake Cooper.
- Other uses for tennis area and community hall should be considered.

Recommended actions for open space in Corop include:

- Council to work with community on planning a loop walking track route. Council and community to consider funding options for this project, giving priority to funding partners and grant scheme opportunities.
- Council to establish discussions with Goulburn Murray Water

(GMW) to consider;

- Involvement in Green Lake Management Plan- what can Council facilitate? e.g. grant applications, data to support development, letters of support, minor grants funding.
- Water levels at Lake Cooper- to gain an understanding of management of water levels and communicate community desire for more consistent water levels to GMW.
- Council to facilitate community discussion regarding the future use or redevelopment of community hall and tennis courts.

Koyuga

ABS data provides a 2011 population in the Koyuga region of 327 people.

Koyuga has a recreation reserve that includes passive open space, an oval, tennis courts (in relatively poor condition) and a community hall.

Recommended actions for open space in Koyuga include:

- Consult with community regarding future use of tennis court area and work toward resurfacing if usage and demand justifies works.

Nanneella

ABS data provides a 2011 population in the Nanneella region of 405 people.

Nanneella has a large parcel of open space adjacent to the local primary school. The open space contains an oval, tennis courts, clubrooms and community hall. Nanneella also has a bush land reserve, which is frequently used by community and school for passive recreation.

Community requests for open space improvements in Nanneella included:

- Better footpath access between key community facilities such as community hall to recreation reserve, local store and school.
- Walking track around the oval.
- Improve access from school to tennis courts.
- Improve tennis court surface condition.
- Water supply is an issue.
- Bush land reserve is regularly used by the local school and would benefit from a walking track.

Recommended actions for open space in Nanneella include:

- Work with community regarding footpath upgrade priorities for connecting open spaces and key local facilities.
- Discuss tennis court upgrade needs with Nanneella and District Tennis Club.

