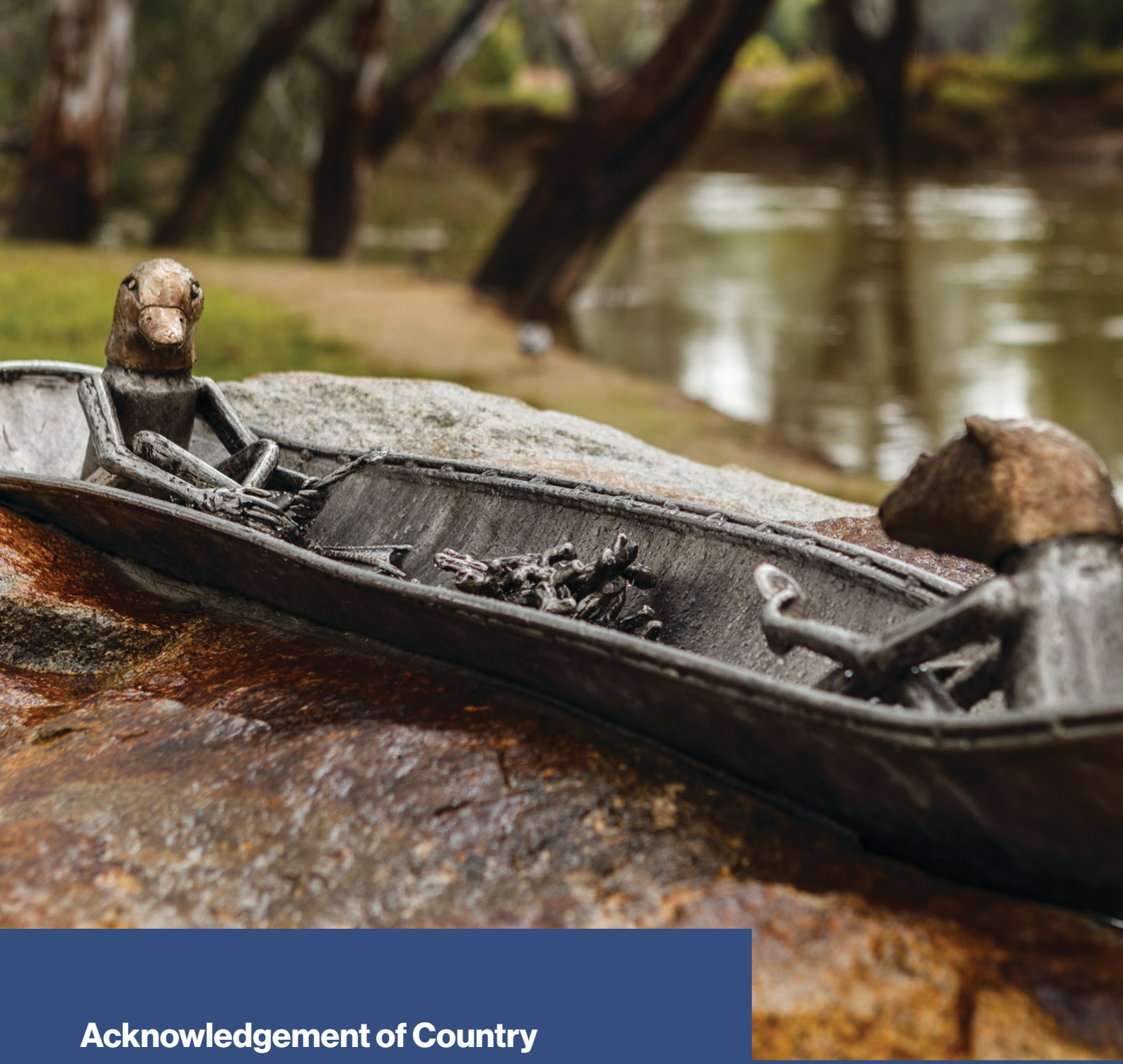


Rural City of Wangaratta

Community Vision 2033



Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands of the Rural City of Wangaratta and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging



This is our community vision. It is our 12 year plan for the Rural City of Wangaratta.

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Thankyou



Ensuring the Rural City of Wangaratta has a vision that reflects our community's aspirations have been Council's sole focus in developing this document. In our Community Vision, I believe we have achieved this.

The success of this vision largely depends on having a community with ownership and understanding of our vision.

In developing our vision Council has actively engaged a wide range of community members to discover what they would like their home to look like in 2033. What we discovered was a community with diverse views, but who also continually touched on common themes.

We also heard from an extremely conscientious community. While we want our community to be aspirational, we discovered that the Rural City of Wangaratta is equally concerned for aspects of our future, and pleasingly, extremely pragmatic about the path ahead.

Consultation for our vision involved:

- 1104 residents completed the Shape Your Community Survey
- 216 of these were primary school aged children
- We held 12 pop-up engagement sessions
- We held 3 face to face engagement sessions at local primary schools

Development of our Vision has been heavily driven by the Shape Wangaratta community panel. This panel was formed after an open call for nominations from members of our community. We were astounded to receive 126

applications – and we accepted them all.

Having a community filled with people willing to put their hands up and help out is what gives me the confidence this vision will come to fruition.

The panel have participated in 5 online engagement sessions and one in person session, working together to whittle down the survey responses and develop the key themes and focus areas that are now in this vision document.

The key themes we now have as a result of the work of the Shape Wangaratta Panel are:

1. *Leadership*
2. *Wellbeing*
3. *Environment*
4. *Economy*
5. *Lifestyle*
6. *Growth*

Under each of these themes are the focus areas we can really hone in on to achieve our Vision over the next 12 years.

My favourite part of this plan is the "What we can all do to help" sections underneath each theme. Council plays the leading role in achieving the vision, but there are practical things each of us can do in our daily lives to live in a community we can be proud of.

Ultimately it is our community who will make the changes and adaptations needed to bring this vision to fruition.

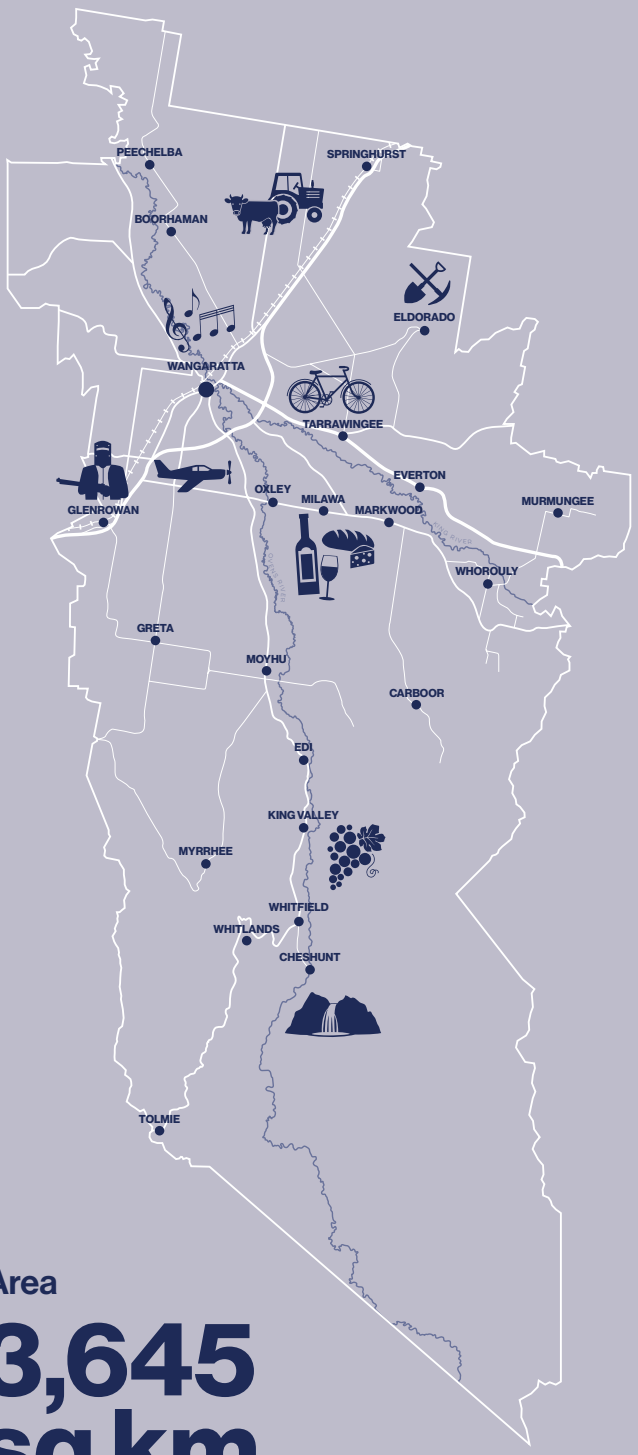
Dean Rees
Mayor

"Council plays the leading role in achieving the vision, but there are practical things each of us can do in our daily lives to live in a community we can be proud of.

Ultimately it is our community who will make the changes and adaptations needed to bring this vision to fruition."



Rural City of Wangaratta
Fast Facts



Area

3,645 sq km

Current Population

29,660

Projected population in 2036

32,160

8.7%
of population were born overseas

1.3%
are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent

Median age
45 years

Unemployment rate
3.7%

51.2%
do not meet fruit and vegetable guidelines

3,900
jobs need to be created by 2027 to cater to expected population growth and keep unemployment rate low

Family violence
is the top criminal offence committed in RCoW and has been on the increase

12.9%
of adults experience high/very high levels of psychological distress

Community Vision
Wangaratta 2033

“We are an inclusive, courageous and compassionate community, that has built our future on a respectful balance between the urban and the rural. We are known for our natural beauty, access to opportunities and innovation, our resilience, and our community strength. We have a mature and healthy landscape that supports our wellbeing and forms a strong part of our identity. We are the place where everyone has the ability to engage, to prosper, to be supported, and to grow.”

The Rural City of Wangaratta Community Vision 2033 is a plan that captures the hopes and aspirations of the whole community, and ensures we are planning for a bright future for all.

The Community Vision was developed through consultation with our Shape Wangaratta Panel, council staff and our wider community members.

Continuing to build strong partnerships with community members, groups, businesses, organisations and State and Federal Government, will be essential to successfully achieving our Community Vision.



Our Community Vision informs the long-term strategic direction for the Rural City of Wangaratta.

Our Community Vision incorporates community feedback and sets key directions and priorities to define our roadmap for the future.

The Community Vision 2033 is a long-term plan for the community, by the community. It paints a picture of what we want the future to look like and outlines strategies on how we are going to get there.

The purpose of the Vision is to identify the community's priorities and aspirations for the future, and plan strategies to achieve them. These strategies take into consideration the issues and pressures that may affect the community and the level of resources that will realistically be available.

The Community Vision 2033 was developed through consultation with our Shape Wangaratta Panel, Council staff and our wider community members.

While the Rural City of Wangaratta has a custodial role in initiating, preparing, and maintaining the Community Vision on behalf of the local government area, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation. Other partners, such as state agencies and community groups may also be engaged in delivering the long-term objectives of the plan.

The Community Vision is a document that has the potential to greatly influence our community; and will influence the Rural City of Wangaratta's Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan), Strategic Plan and Budget.

This document will also be used by local businesses, community clubs and organisations when planning for the future.

Ultimately, everyone who lives in the Rural City of Wangaratta has an opportunity and responsibility to work towards achieving our vision for the future.





Challenges

As a large agriculture region, the Rural City of Wangaratta is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Issues include increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, such as prolonged heatwaves, floods, bushfires, and indirectly worsening air quality, food availability and risks to food safety and drinking water quality1. The need to address climate change is imperative, as is implementing frameworks that address climate risks.

Providing affordable, equitable and sustainable housing is an ongoing challenge. The balance between what exists now and planned future development means that a sustained effort must be made to consider how and where new developments will occur.

Recovery from COVID-19 was recognised as a challenge to the Rural City of Wangaratta as we work towards re-establishing our local tourism industry, increasing employment opportunities, promoting business growth and recovery; whilst attracting new businesses to the region. At present, there are 3,156 businesses across the municipality.

A thriving local economy ensures vibrant, liveable communities and local businesses. We will need to generate another 3,900 jobs in our region by 2027 to cater to the expected population growth and keep the unemployment rate low. Our future prosperity as a region depends on industry diversity, business and employment growth.

1. Victorian Government, Department of Fairness, Families and Housing, Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023.

Opportunities

Our municipality is surrounded by green landscapes, beautiful mountains and waterways. Our natural environment is important to our identity. Therefore, maintaining and conserving our environment and keeping it free from pollution in light of an increasing population is vital.

Within the Rural City of Wangaratta, we have access to water, transport, health, education and community infrastructure worth billions of dollars. Investing in infrastructure to meet the diverse needs of our growing community will ensure we serve the next generation who live here.

We are lucky to have access to vibrant arts and cultural facilities and we recognise that there is an opportunity for our local tourism industry to grow and expand; making the Rural City of Wangaratta the place to visit.

The people within the Rural City of Wangaratta are our strength. Our welcoming and family-friendly environment is one of our municipality's best features.

Themes and Focus Areas

The people of the Rural City of Wangaratta have told us what they love and value most within our municipality. The themes and focus areas of the Community Vision 2033 respond to these ideas and values.

Wellbeing

- Protection of our own, and each other's mental health
- Accessible and equitable services, spaces, and facilities
- Increased sense of inclusivity and connectedness
- Healthy behaviours and lifestyles
- Prevention of all forms of violence
- A community that is safe, protected and supported

Leadership

- An engaged and connected community
- An efficient and effective Council
- Partnerships that bring benefit and opportunities to our community
- Strong and consistent leadership that addresses our needs and priorities

Environment

- Build environmentally sustainable communities
- Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery
- Actively combat the causes and impacts of climate change
- Healthy and protected waterways and access to water

Community Vision
Wangaratta 2033

Economy

- A valued and vibrant tourism industry
- Support employment through business growth, development and recovery
- Education for everyone
- Vibrant and engaging places

Lifestyle

- Accessible and sustainable transport management
- Cultural heritage that is recognised and celebrated
- Equitable telecommunications services
- A community that is safe and welcoming for pedestrians and cyclists
- Diverse arts and cultural experiences
- Engaging events that celebrate and enhance our community
- Beautiful and accessible parks, gardens and open spaces

Growth

- The right growth in the right areas
- Sustainable infrastructure that supports new growth
- Communities that are safe and protected
- Recognition as a modern rural city to drive community and economic growth
- New communities and neighbourhoods that are strong, connected and engaged

Leadership

We are a responsible and compassionate community, committed to working together to build a future based on our collective needs and priorities. We use our local experiences and wisdom to drive strategic decision making, support our leaders and make sure the things that are important to us happen.

We value transparent and meaningful communication – we discuss the difficult and uncomfortable, whilst also celebrating our good.

We prioritise building strong relationships with each other, and with the organisations and groups that will help us ensure we have access to the resources and services we need. As a community we recognise that we are stronger, and more sustainable when we work together.



An engaged and connected community

OBJECTIVES

A1 Provide open and transparent communication to the community to build trust, respect and understanding

A2 Commit to the delivery of thorough and responsible community engagement practices

A3 Serve the community by providing a great customer experience



Partnerships that bring benefit and opportunities to our community

OBJECTIVES

D1 Ensure our partners and community share the responsibilities and benefits of putting plans into practice

D2 Engage in meaningful dialogue with the community and demonstrate how community participation is being used to inform decisions



An effective and efficient Council

OBJECTIVES

C1 Ensure Council's financial sustainability through transparent and accountable financial management

C3 Provide reliable and secure information technology services across Council



Strong and consistent leadership that addresses our needs and priorities

OBJECTIVES

E1 When required, advocate on behalf of our community about matters that affect them

E2 Support leadership development and training opportunities

Measuring our progress

- Governance, consultation and service delivery.
- Participation in community engagement.
- Effective utilisation of communication mediums.
- Number of grants received.
- Number of community grants provided by Council.
- Council's compliance with relevant statutory reporting requirements within designated timeframes.
- Number of decisions made in Ordinary and Closed Council Meetings.
- Council maintains a strong financial position and can deliver services and facilities.
- Community satisfaction with Council as a whole.

How we can all help

- Join a local community group or club.
- Attend training/ education opportunities that enhance leadership skills.
- Speak up on issues that are important.
- Participate in a community engagement activity.
- Attend a Council meeting.
- Tell us what you think.
- Vote in elections.
- Talk to your local Council and Councillors.
- Keep up to date on what's going on in your area.
- "Like" or follow us on the Council Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages.
- Visit the Council website.
- Participate in surveys.
- Promote positive youth role models.



From our community

"A rural city that listens to its community and acts on behalf of them, with their best interests at heart, and not that of the political agenda of Council people."

"To live and work cohesively with transparency, equality and trust in the community and Council collectively."

"To really listen to the people and deliver what they need, including the surrounding areas - not just Wangaratta. To become approachable and solution focused."

Wellbeing

Our people are our biggest asset, and everyone, at every age is an important and valued member of our community. We are committed to strengthening and creating opportunities for connection, creativity, and inclusion. We will open the door for everyone to local sporting, community and cultural initiatives that strengthen our collective sense of self and improve our wellbeing.

The mental and physical health of everyone underpins how we build our communities, how we make decisions, and how we plan for our future. We protect ourselves and each other to ensure our homes and our connections allow us to become our best. We will work together to solve our own challenges, to support those in need, and to make our community safe.



Protection of our own, and each other's mental health

OBJECTIVES

F1 Ensure our community has a strong focus on community links for those impacted by suicide and mental health issues

F2 Continue to support the mental health needs of our young people



Increased sense of inclusivity and connectedness

OBJECTIVES

H1 Build an increased understanding and acceptance of diversity within the community

H2 Facilitate and support strong, accessible, and sustainable community groups that add vibrancy to our community

H3 Increase opportunities for people to connect to their community and each other

H4 Provide quality and accessible community facilities based on community needs



Prevention of all forms of violence

OBJECTIVES

J1 Implement strategies to build a respectful, equitable and inclusive workplace culture

J2 Raise awareness of the services and resources that are available for individuals and families who may experience violence and abuse

J3 Partner to create a community environment that is safe and minimises harm.



Accessible and equitable services, spaces, and facilities

OBJECTIVES

G1 Strengthen Council's approach to designing and supporting inclusive and liveable communities

G2 Support our older community members

G3 Ensure young people are engaged, recognised, and supported within the community

G4 Support all our community members to be healthy and well, especially our most vulnerable



Healthy behaviours and lifestyles

OBJECTIVES

I1 Deliver and support programs that increase participation in physical activity

I2 Provide facilities and infrastructure that give opportunities for physical activity and active living

I3 Facilitate improved access to healthy food and beverages

I4 Take action to address food security challenges within our community

I5 Combat harm from tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

I6 Reduce rates of gambling amongst the community.



A community that is safe, protected and supported

OBJECTIVES

K1 Ensure we are prepared for emergency response and recovery

K2 Ensure our community understands and meets the requirements of safety legislation and compliance

Measuring our progress

- Participation in sport, recreation and community life.
- Social equality and community wellbeing.
- Connections to community and perceptions of safety.
- Access to transport, walking and cycling.
- Community satisfaction with Council's response to issues impacting the community's wellbeing and harmony.
- Community perception of safety at home.
- Community perception of safety in public places.
- Reduction in domestic violence, assaults, property crime.
- Reduction in alcohol and other drug related harms.
- Community values cultural diversity.
- Satisfaction with access to buildings for people with a disability.
- Satisfaction with leisure activities.
- Number of Council run programs to promote and encourage healthy lifestyle choices.
- Level of satisfaction of Council facilities including bike paths, foot paths, outdoor exercise equipment.
- Greater number of people walking and cycling.

How we can all help

- Get to know your neighbour.
- Find out if you can lend a hand and volunteer.
- Help others in need.
- Share your excess seasonal garden produce with a friend.
- Welcome and support new members to your club or team.
- Support your favourite local sporting team.
- Leave your car at home – Jump on your bicycle or walk to the shops, school or work.
- Be part of a community garden.
- Get out and about.
- Connect with or become a member of your local faith community
- Join a sporting club.
- Try a new class at the gym, or walk with a friend.
- Utilise public places and spaces.
- Embrace a healthy lifestyle.
- Join the Good Sports Program.
- Support community safety programs.
- Know what to do in an emergency.
- Walk your dog.



From our community

"A community founded on environmental sustainability and the health and wellbeing of all members."

"Becoming a more inclusive, diverse and sustainable community focusing on the happiness of ALL community members equally."

"A progressive and diverse population living a healthy, sustainable and comfortable life."

"A safe, welcoming space for people of all genders, all abilities and all backgrounds - where everyone can access all of the services they need."

Environment

Our natural environment is part of our identity, our appeal, and our livelihood. Protecting and enhancing our natural assets are a critical part of what we value as a community, and we recognise that we need to work hard and courageously for our future. We know that ongoing education and strong environmental leadership are key to ensuring our positive impact.

We have a collective responsibility to play a role in conservation, protection, and remediation of our environment. We prioritise minimising waste, champion renewable energy, actively respond to the impacts of climate change, and will enable the preservation of our surroundings. We will make decisions and take action to ensure the health and sustainability of our waterways, wildlife, vegetation, and landscapes. We know that what we do now, will ensure the strength of our environment for generations to come.



Build environmentally sustainable communities

OBJECTIVES

L1 Collaborate with external stakeholders on community-based environment and sustainability initiatives

L2 Facilitate design and development that creates environmentally supportive impacts

L3 Enhance our natural environment



Actively combat the causes and impacts of climate change

OBJECTIVES

N1 Reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water use

N2 Increase the capacity of the community to mitigate and adapt to climate change



Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery

OBJECTIVES

M1 Service our community by managing our waste and recycling streams

M2 Strengthen positive behaviours throughout the community to minimise the negative impact of waste

M3 Reduce waste and waste generation from Council operations

M4 Establish our community as leaders in the organics waste processing and associated resource recovery



Healthy and protected waterways and access to water

OBJECTIVES

O1 Ensure access to quality water supply and resources for health, livelihood and environment, now and into the future

O2 Look after our rivers and waterways

Measuring our progress

- Conservation and protection of natural areas.
- Environmental sustainability and human impacts.
- Seek grant funding for mitigation measures for natural disasters.
- Implementation of Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
- Satisfaction with environmental programs and education.
- Satisfaction with the protection of the natural environment and provision of a liveable built environment.
- Active management and promotion of biodiversity.
- Satisfaction with weed control.
- Increase in renewable energy uptake.

How we can all help

- Reduce, reuse recycle.
- Use water thoughtfully.
- Drink tap water instead of bottled water.
- Bring your own bag and reusable cups.
- Keep our environment clean.
- Go for a bushwalk.
- Know what to do in an emergency.
- Become involved in Bushcare/ Landcare in your local area.
- Reduce your use of plastics.
- Reuse by giving your unwanted clothing or goods to local charity groups.
- Recycle everything you can!
- Don't litter – put it in the bin or take it home.
- Join a local group that cares for the environment.



From our community

"We are leaders in sustainability, producers of products and services that are sustainably produced and directly reduce carbon pollution."

"Be a leader in addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation."

"Becoming an example of a local government area which takes sustainability seriously and shows this can be done whilst growing our economy."

"Taking a leading role in providing new, sustainable, environmentally friendly technology, training and business opportunities and providing support and incentives to individuals/groups/businesses that also look to the future."

Economy

We are a growing region with an expanding sense of opportunity, and we will capitalise on those possibilities for the benefit of all. Strategic economic development, revitalising key locations, establishing new industry partnerships and renewing our commitment to education and employment for young people are just the starting points. These initiatives, and others like them, will create new opportunities for local employment, create new social enterprises and facilitate a culture of innovation that will bring new people and businesses to the region.

We value an economy that blends the rural with the urban. Our point of difference is how well we have done this. Our CBD is vibrant, interesting, and active and our rural communities are all uniquely prosperous and protected. We have a strong and sustainable future.



A valued and vibrant tourism industry

OBJECTIVES

P1 Work closely with partners and tourism operators to understand and support our unique tourism product

P2 Build on domestic travel trends to maximise benefits for our region

P3 Drive visitation by generating awareness and consideration of RCOW as an attractive regional tourist destination



Education for everyone

OBJECTIVES

R1 Education that supports growth in skills and employment opportunities

R2 Broaden local education and learning pathways, linking industry with Universities, TAFE and other training providers



Support employment through business growth, development and recovery

OBJECTIVES

Q1 We encourage considered investment in the development of new businesses and industries.

Q2 We encourage and support responsible growth of our existing businesses and industries

Q3 Support the development of small and medium enterprises

Q4 Foster innovation and partnerships to develop local entrepreneurs and support start-ups

Q5 Support agricultural sustainability projects and initiatives to facilitate a resilient and vibrant farming sector

Q6 Support economic recovery following emergencies



Vibrant and engaging places

OBJECTIVES

S1 Establish Wangaratta's CBD as a regional business, commercial service and retail centre

S2 Enhance the activity in our rural townships

Measuring our progress

- Local economic growth and employment.
- Education, skills and knowledge.
- Satisfaction with the variety of retail options.
- Increased population/number of visitors.
- Satisfaction with promotion of the Rural City of Wangaratta as a tourism destination.
- Increased number of non-residential building approvals.
- Partnerships with education providers.
- Satisfaction with support provided by Council for small business, developers, generating local employment opportunities.

How we can all help

- Visit your local farmer's market.
- Be a local tourist.
- Shop local.
- Support social enterprises.
- Support young people in skills development.
- Pursue and promote learning opportunities.
- Be a mentor.
- Volunteer.
- Learn a new skill.
- Create opportunities for apprentices, trainees and work experience.
- Undertake education and vocational training.



From our community

"Further investment in education facilities and health/hospital facilities, will lead to better services and additional employment opportunities for professionals."

"Community voice, connection and thoughtful growth towards an economic, environmental and socially sustainable future for generations to come."

"Attracting businesses to Wangaratta that will help create a "circular economy" out of waste. I would also like to see the Organic Waste Facility begin to generate income for RCoW."

"Given the location – to be a central community and commercial hub for regional, rural and alpine areas."

Lifestyle

For us, creating a liveable community means having the right balance. We love the feeling of being a country town, but highly value our ability to access services, events and opportunities that enhance our quality of life and bring us closer together. Together we are activating public spaces, increasing access to green spaces, and delivering a range of safe and welcoming amenities – like walking and cycling routes, that promote healthy living and enjoyment of the natural world. Reliable public transport is key to keeping our growing population mobile, so we are focused on improving the commuter experience. We will continue to acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture that shapes our community and celebrate our diverse community through a range of cultural experiences.



Accessible and sustainable transport management

OBJECTIVES

T1 Advocate for the provision of accessible public transport

T2 Explore and facilitate innovative transport solutions

T3 Plan for the development of safe and sustainable transport routes



Equitable telecommunications services

OBJECTIVES

V1 Ensure equity of access to technology throughout our community



Diverse arts and cultural experiences

OBJECTIVES

X1 Increase the exposure and experience of art for our community and visitors

X2 Provide an engaging and welcoming Performing Arts and Convention Centre

X3 A future that plans for evolving cultural needs and aspirations of our community

X4 Position the Wangaratta Library as a community hub for learning, networking and leisure



Cultural heritage that is recognised and celebrated

OBJECTIVES

U1 We celebrate our diverse cultural heritage, and the history of our place and people

U2 Recognise and celebrate our social and cultural diversity.



A community that is safe and welcoming for pedestrians and cyclists

OBJECTIVES

W1 Design and deliver pedestrian and cycling infrastructure that meet the needs of all community members



Engaging events that celebrate and enhance our community

OBJECTIVES

Y1 Provide a range of Council run events to engage and celebrate the local community

Y2 Support the delivery of events throughout the municipality that provide social, cultural and economic benefits



Beautiful and accessible parks, gardens and open spaces

OBJECTIVES

Z1 We maintain our parks and gardens, reserves, and open spaces to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our people, and the protection of our spaces

Z2 Activate spaces and places to compliment activity around the municipality

Measuring our progress

- Community values cultural diversity.
- Satisfaction with entertainment, art and cultural activities.
- Satisfaction with the presentation of parks, gardens, reserves and open spaces.
- Participation in Council ran events and activities.

How we can all help

- Participate in, volunteer at, or attend community events.
- Get to know your neighbour.
- Check out what's on at the Performing Arts Centre and Art Gallery.
- Borrow a book from the Library.
- Utilise public places and spaces.
- Use public transport.
- Participate in tourism events.
- Enjoy local entertainment options.



From our community

"Creative industry is attracted by innovative and engaging arts."

"Prioritise sustainable movement and mobility, through funding active transport projects and advocating for improved public transport."

"To be a safe and inclusive community where people have access to all they need, whether it be services or sport and fitness or shops or art or entertainment."

"A welcoming, self-determined community that provides anyone wanting to live here with the infrastructure, services, culture and connections they need to thrive and belong."

Growth

We know that our community is attractive and appealing to many people. We are accessible, affordable, inclusive, safe, and engaging and we have made it our priority to ensure we offer this to our new community members. Our planning puts people, families and community at the forefront of decision making and you can see that in the way our neighbourhoods, services and facilities have grown. We have welcomed new people, and they have become valued and integral members of our community.



The right growth in the right areas

OBJECTIVES

AA1 Facilitate attractive long-term residential growth opportunities

AA2 Ensure a range of housing options to meet the needs of the community, including affordable housing



Communities that are safe and protected

OBJECTIVES

CC1 Ensure decision making upholds a balance between environmental sustainability, the need for development and acknowledges risks to the landscape



New communities and neighbourhoods that are strong, connected and engaged

OBJECTIVES

EE1 New communities that are engaged in their own development

EE2 New and existing residents have access to the services and resources they need



Sustainable infrastructure that supports new growth

OBJECTIVES

BB1 Ensure new development is facilitated and does not conflict with existing land uses

BB2 Provide an efficient and effective permit system



Recognition as a modern rural city to drive community and economic growth

OBJECTIVES

DD1 Ensure information and opportunities are available and promoted for people considering a move

DD2 Target and attract new residents and businesses

Measuring our progress

- Housing affordability, diversity and choice.
- Number of residential building approvals.
- Number of residential lots available from approved subdivisions.
- Satisfaction with maintenance of sealed/ unsealed roads.
- Length of shared pathways constructed.
- Satisfaction with appearance of town entrances.
- Number of new residents.

How we can all help

- Shop locally.
- Use local and regional service providers.
- Report damaged property.
- Use Council facilities.
- Be active in commenting on new development.
- Get to know your neighbour.
- Invite new residents to existing community groups/events.
- Look out for each other.



From our community

"Facilitate the development of more retail centres as housing estates spread further from the centre of town to prevent gridlock in the CBD."

"The focus of attracting young families to the region with the provision of adequate infrastructure of housing, services, including health, career and recreation opportunities."

"Ensure new housing development compliments the existing parks and trail networks and not becomes bland featureless estates."

"Ensure the sustainability of the growth is considered. Pursue quality growth, as opposed to quantity growth."


Jack Henry

Community Engagement

Community engagement for the development of the Community Vision was undertaken from the 4th of February 2021 until the 14th of April 2021. The purpose of the engagement was to obtain feedback on what Council has previously delivered and to determine the priorities for the next 12 years.

A range of engagement methods were used to ensure that a maximum number of community members had the opportunity to be heard. These included:

- Establishment of the 'Shape Wangaratta' Community Panel
- Presentations and discussions with community groups
- Presentations and discussions with school groups.
- Listening Posts
- 'Storytelling' opportunities
- Discussions with our Youth Council
- Shape Your Community Survey
- Child-friendly version of the Shape Your Community Survey
- Community newsletter

To represent and refine the engagement information, the Shape Wangaratta Panel workshopped the data gathered from the Shape Your Community survey into a series of themes and priorities that would provide the framework for the Community Vision 2033.



1,104
responses from the Shape Your Community survey



12
pop-up engagement sessions



3
face-to-face workshops at local primary schools



216
of survey responses came from children under 12 years



126
community members in the Shape Wangaratta Panel



2000
ideas and opinions to help guide the development of the Community Vision 2033



Shape Wangaratta Panel

Council has established a community panel called 'Shape Wangaratta' to support Council with the discovery of new ideas, projects and solutions, and to ensure broader representation of the community in decision making. The panel is a diverse group of 126 people of all ages and backgrounds. They will provide insight into the community needs and priorities to help inform Council's plans, strategies and budgets.

The panel will give members the opportunity to share their views on specific topics by participating in activities like surveys, focus groups, workshops or interviews. Each member can decide how much they participate and what they share their thoughts and opinions about.

The Shape Wangaratta panel has formed a vital part of the development of the Community Vision, Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) and Budget.

As a group of people who are experts in their own community, the panel's contribution has given Council valuable depth and insights into key issues, challenges and solutions, as well as helped us to develop key strategies within our focus areas for the next 12 years.




JOEY

Understanding Integrated Planning and Reporting

The key elements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework are:

Community Vision

The Community Vision describes the community's main priorities and aspirations over the next 10+ years.

Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan)

The Council Plan (incorporating the MPHWP) is a key medium-term strategic plan that describes the strategic objectives, actions to achieve the objectives, indicators for measuring progress and the resources required to implement the plan for at least four years.

Financial Plan

The Financial Plan defines the broad fiscal boundaries for the Council Plan, Asset Plan, other subordinate policies and strategies and budget processes over a 10-year period.

Asset Plan

The Asset Plan provides a long-term (10+ years) strategic and financial plan of how the Council proposes to manage the full portfolio of assets that it owns and controls.

Budget

The Budget outlines Council's income and revenue and how these resources will be allocated across the four-year Council Plan, including initiatives, programs, services, and capital works, as well as financing and debt redemption/servicing.

Revenue and Rating Plan

The Revenue and Rating Plan outlines how Council will generate income to deliver on the Council Plan, program and services and capital works commitments over four-year period.

Workforce Plan

The Workforce Plan is an internal document that describes the organisational structure of the Council and specifies projected staffing requirements for a period of at least four years.

Annual Report

The Annual Report outlines the Council's performance for the year as measured against the Council Plan and Budget.

Alignment with State and Regional Priorities

Objective	VIC Government Budget Priorities 2020-2021	Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023	Victoria's Climate Change Framework	Victorian Government Gender Equality Act 2020	VIC State Infrastructure Plan	Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023
An engaged and connected community		x				
Strong and accountable governance					x	
An effective and efficient organisation					x	
Partnerships that bring benefit and opportunities to our community		x		x		x
Strong and consistent leadership that addresses our needs and priorities			x			
Protection of our own, and each other's mental health	x	x	x			
Accessible and equitable services, spaces, and facilities	x	x		x	x	x
Increased sense of inclusivity and connectedness	x	x		x		x
Healthy behaviours and lifestyles	x	x			x	x
Prevention of all forms of violence	x	x		x	x	x
A community that is safe, protected and supported	x			x	x	x
Build sustainable communities		x	x		x	
Reduce waste and enhance resource recovery		x	x		x	
Actively combat the impacts of climate change		x	x		x	
Healthy and protected waterways and access to water		x	x		x	
A valued and vibrant tourism industry					x	

Objective	VIC Government Budget Priorities 2020-2021	Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023	Victoria's Climate Change Framework	Victorian Government Gender Equality Act 2020	VIC State Infrastructure Plan	Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023
Support employment through business growth, development and recovery	x				x	
Education for everyone	x				x	x
Vibrant and engaging places					x	
Accessible and sustainable transport management	x	x	x		x	
Cultural heritage that is recognised and celebrated				x	x	x
Equitable telecommunications services					x	
A community that is safe and welcoming for pedestrians		x			x	
Diverse arts and cultural experiences					x	x
Engaging events that celebrate and enhance our community		x		x	x	x
Beautiful and accessible parks, gardens and open spaces		x	x		x	
The right growth in the right areas	x		x		x	
Infrastructure that supports new growth	x				x	
Communities that are safe and protected			x	x		x
Recognition as a modern rural city to drive community and economic growth	x				x	
New communities and neighbourhoods that are strong, connected and engaged	x	x	x		x	





We would like to thank

Shape Wangaratta Panel

Rural City of Wangaratta Councillors

Groups and organisations:

- That have shared their insights
- Assisted with pop up locations
- Provided valuable local data

Community members who participated in:

- Hard copy or online survey
- Pop up events
- Social media
- Story telling sessions

Council staff

Including our Corporate Management Team and Senior Management Team, the Council Plan and Community Vision Working Group and all the staff who assisted with the community engagement activities.

The locally based talents of:

- Emma Phillips: Graphic Design / Merge Studio www.mergestudio.com.au
- John Russell: Photographer

