

3.5 COMMUNITY VISION 2040 REFRESH - WHAT WE HEARD POST-CONSULTATION UPDATE

File Number:

Author: Tamara Thorsen, Coordinator Active Ageing and Inclusion

Authoriser: Lynnere Gray, Director Corporate Services

Attachments: 1. **Community Engagement Summary Report - Community Vision 2040 Refresh**

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note that the community engagement for the Community Vision 2040 Refresh project has now concluded.
2. Review the attached What We Heard Engagement Summary Report and adopt recommended changes to update the Community Vision 2040 document.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

From January to March 2024, community members were invited to provide feedback on the Community Vision 2040.

Officers have captured the outcomes of the engagement in a Community Engagement Summary report (attachment 1).

Through the engagement, only minor changes were recommended with most respondents believing the Community Vision 2040 still reflects the needs and aspirations of Golden Plains Shire community.

BACKGROUND

Between January and March 2024, Council invited community to provide feedback on the existing Community Vision 2040 document. Council sought to understand if the Community Vision 2040 continues to resonate with the community following its endorsement in 2020.

Through the engagement, we heard from more than 400 residents via survey responses, outreach at pop up events, targeted engagement with community groups, and community workshops held in Smythesdale, Bannockburn, and Dereel. Most respondents (85%) did not contribute to the development of the Community Vision in 2019/2020. This highlights the positive new reach of this engagement project.

The key findings concluded that only minor changes to the Vision are recommended, with most respondents highlighting ideas that related to the themes and priorities that are already identified in the Community Vision 2040.

A range of valuable feedback was received that focused on issues and ideas not aligned to the Community Vision 2040 document. This feedback has been captured and where appropriate, it has been responded to and shared with relevant stakeholders.

DISCUSSION

A Thematic Analysis process was followed to review data captured in this engagement. Thematic analysis includes: 1) familiarization; 2) coding; 3) generating themes; 4) reviewing themes; 5) defining and naming themes; and 6) reporting (Braun & Clarke, 2008).

Based on analysis, the following 4 recommendations (with options) are presented for Councillors to consider as amendments to the Community Vision 2040 document.

1. That the 'Developing the Vision' page in the existing document is updated to include a brief summary on the refresh conducted in 2024.
 - Option A: Make no changes to this section
 - Option B: (preferred) Reduce the current information and add a summary on the 2024 refresh
2. One amendment made to the Themes and Vision priorities page to include the word Events as a Liveability priority.
 - Option A: Make no changes to this section
 - Option B: Add Events to the fifth priority to read 'Services, Facilities, Activities and Events'
 - Option C: (preferred) Split the current priority 'Services, Facilities and Activities' to be two priorities; 'Services and Facilities' and 'Activities and Events'
3. Amendments made to the vision statement pages to be used as an opportunity to condense the pages and incorporate one vision statement that community voted to be used in the document.
 - Option A: Make no changes to this section
 - Option B: Reduce to two pages with one vision statement under each and remove individual statements as they are shown in the Community Engagement Summary
 - Option C: Remove quotes throughout and put existing statements across two pages
4. Council received a formal submission on 29 March 2024 from the Victorian Pride Lobby with a recommendation that Council amend the Vision statement under the Community theme that currently states, "We want to be inclusive and value all people and opinions" to "We want to be inclusive and value all people, including women, LGBTIQA+ people, young people, and culturally and linguistically diverse people".

This request was supported by 2.9% of respondents to the engagement who believed that 'target groups particularly older adults and young people to be specified'.

Option A: If option B from recommendation 3 is adopted, this recommendation is no longer relevant.

Option B: If the current vision statements remain as presented in the original document, the recommendation is updated to "We want to be inclusive and value all people and opinions" to "We want to be inclusive and value all people, including women, LGBTIQA+ people, young people, and culturally and linguistically diverse people". Officers recommend the addition of 'older adults' to this statement to reflect other engagement respondent's feedback.

REPORTING AND COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS

Local Government Act 2020 (LGA 2020)

Implications	Applicable to this Report
Governance Principles (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Policy/Relevant Law (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Environmental/Sustainability Implications (Consideration of the Governance Principles under s.9 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No

Community Engagement (Consideration of Community Engagement Principles under s.56 LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Public Transparency (Consideration of Public Transparency Principles under s.58 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Strategies and Plans (Consideration of Strategic Planning Principles under s.89 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Financial Management (Consideration of Financial Management Principles under s.101 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Service Performance (Consideration of Service Performance Principles under s.106 of LGA 2020)	Yes/No
Risk Assessment	Yes/No
Communication	Yes/No
Human Rights Charter	Yes/No
Gender Equality (Gender Impact Assessment required by s.9 of Gender Equality Act 2020)	Yes/No

POLICY/RELEVANT LAW

Section 88 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires that Council must review the Community Vision in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Community Vision by 31 October in the year following a general election. Council passed a Notice of Motion at the 27 June 2023 Council Meeting to update and refresh the existing Community Vision 2040.

As per the Local Government Act, the adoption to update the Community Vision will enable the embedding of the community's future aspirations for addressing in the development of the Council Plan and other strategic documents, which are also requirements of the Act.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement principles listed under s.56 of the *Local Government Act 2020*, were followed in the refresh consultation of the Community Vision.

STRATEGIES/PLANS

Section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is to ensure the municipal community is engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making. This is further defined by the Strategic Planning principles under section 89 of the Act, which are required to be applied in developing the Community Vision, Council Plan, and other strategic plans.

COMMUNICATION

The Community Engagement Summary/What We Heard, will be published on Council's website for community viewing in May 2024. Adopted recommendations to the Vision document will be communicated to community once endorsed at Council in September 2024.

GENDER EQUALITY

A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been conducted and there are no identified gender inequality implications.

OPTIONS

Option 1 – Adopt the recommended updates to the 2040 Community Vision document

This option is recommended by Council Officers to update the current Vision to reflect the proposed recommendations in line with feedback provided from community.

Option 2 – Adopt some of the recommended updates to the 2040 Community Vision document

This option is not recommended by Council Officers as the most appropriate path forward is to include all recommendations provided as part of the Council Vision refresh.

Option 3 – Do not adopt the recommended changes to the 2040 Community Vision document

This is not recommended by Council Officers as Council is legislated to review the Council Vision every four years and reflect community feedback.

CONCLUSION

Community feedback gathered during this engagement has been used to form recommendations on the existing Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040.

Officers will present the refreshed Community Vision 2040 document, with any endorsed changes by September 2024.

Officers will communicate outcomes with all people who participated in the Community Vision 2040 Refresh and publish updates on the Golden Plains Shire Council Website Have Your Say page

Council will continue to conduct a refresh of the Community Vision 2040 every four years, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*.