TOWNSHIP MASTER PLANS

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

In early 2017 King Island Council successfully applied for funding to develop Master Plans for each of the island's three main townships – Currie, Grassy and Naracoopa. These funds were used to engage Beacon Town Planning to conduct stakeholder consultation, desktop reviews, and site visits to inform the drafting of a document to advise Council's investment over the coming years.

The final report was received by Council staff in November 2017 and included high level objectives for each of the three townships. During the community consultation sessions conducted by Beacon Town Planning and in Council's communication with the community it was stated that the final report would be released to the community for review and comment.

The document produced by Beacon Town Planning was published on the King Island Council website in February 2018 and promoted on the King Island Council and Community Noticeboard Facebook pages. Hard copies of the document were made available at Council offices and in local cafes to facilitate residents' review of the contents and engage in discussion.

Face to face consultation sessions were hosted in each of the three townships during February with residents invited to provide input on which projects to prioritise or specific ways to achieve the high-level objectives reflected in the Master Plans. A written survey was provided online (SurveyMonkey) and in hardcopy for members of the community who are unable or prefer not to provide their feedback at the face-to-face consultation sessions. Providing a period for the community to review plans before inviting face to face and written feedback was an effective method of positive engagement.

In total over 150 individuals provided feedback on the plans and shared their ideas and priorities for the future of our Island's townships.

This document provides a summary of the feedback and ideas received from the 150+ members of the community who engaged in this process. From this Council staff will create a short list of potential improvement projects, including "quick wins" for inclusion in the FY2018-19 budget, longer-term infrastructure projects (including those potentially requiring funding from other sources), and actions to lobby other parties to complete.

An initial implementation plan will be presented to Council at its May 2018 ordinary general meeting, with the findings of this consultation to be considered in the development of Council's 10 year Strategic Plan, Asset Management Plan, and Long Term Financial Management Plan.

SUMMARY AND KEY THEMES

Two face-to-face consultation sessions were held in Currie, one being an evening drop-in session at the King Island Club, and the other involving three members of Council staff engaging with members of the public in the Post Office foyer. It is estimated that a total of 50 individuals shared their views over these two sessions, with a further 31 providing written responses to the survey.

As can be seen in the following pages, one key theme that emerged in the Currie consultation was accessibility for pedestrians and vehicles and how those two groups could best be accommodated. It is safe to say that most respondents mentioned the angle parking in the main street, with strong support for parking to remain available in the main street, and similarly strong opposition to the angle of the parking and the yellow bollards. Suggestions provided by respondents included changing the angle of the parking, effectively increasing the width of the road and improving visibility for drivers reversing out. The general consensus was that the parking spaces were too narrow for the type of vehicles seen on King Island and that parking needed to stay close to the shopping centre.

Improvement to the roundabout was mentioned by a number of respondents, although there were many different views on what "improvement" would look like. While some respondents advocated for installation of a piece of public art or sculpture that could capture the essence of King Island, others stressed the importance of large vehicles being able to drive over the roundabout to easily access businesses on the main street.

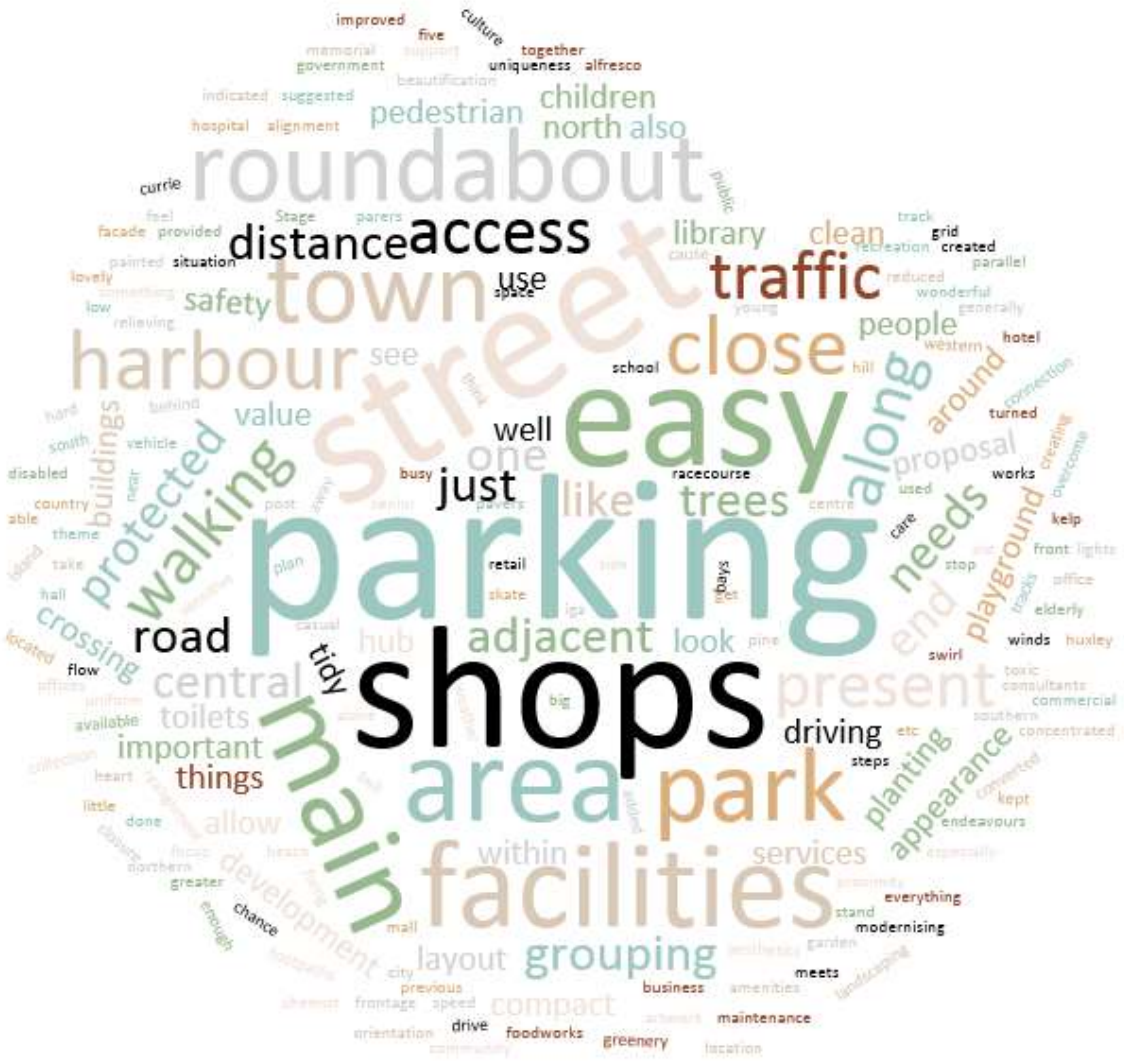
The risk caused by and to pedestrians crossing along the length of the main street was noted by many respondents, with zebra crossings suggested at both ends of the main drag. There was some notable support for a pedestrianised area of the main street, either by stopping through traffic altogether, or creating a one-way road with parking on one side and a widened pedestrian footpath or mall on the other.

As the Beacon Town Planning document included a potential future "look" for the Currie main street, a large proportion of the respondents provided their thoughts – both positive and negative – on that specific proposal. For example, most respondents agreed that more greenery in the main street would improve the look and appeal of the town, but there was concern that there is insufficient space to add plants to the centre of the road, that the vegetation proposed would not survive well in King Island's environment, and that using such plants would not highlight the differences that make Currie and King Island special. Alternatives proposed included planter boxes filled with natives such as saltbush that could be easily swapped out when the plants started to age, and hanging plants from the shop fronts, rather than planting in the road or pavement areas.

Away from the main street, feedback focussed on ease of access for pedestrians, with the quality of footpaths being mentioned as an impediment to use by individuals who are not steady on their feet and for those using prams, pushchairs or wheelchairs. It was also noted that a number of roads immediately around the centre of town do not have footpaths at all, such as Main St alongside the Memorial Park and Hickmott St, both of which are used by a number of children walking to and from school and kindergarten. The poor standard and lack of maintenance of walking trails provided between the harbour and the main street was mentioned by some respondents as being a missed opportunity for tourists and locals, with a suggestion made that providing a connection to these trails from the centre of town would improve accessibility of the harbour area and promote greater use of the trails overall.

Finally, the idea of a central hub was largely supported, with respondents referring to the lack of a tourist information presence in the middle of town. Individual feedback given included the benefit of a space to promote conversation and community in the main street, easier accessibility to services such as the online access centre and ServiceTas, and provision of a parent and baby area that would allow for more comfortable nappy changes and feeding than is currently provided for public use.

WHAT FIVE THINGS DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT THE LAYOUT AND FACILITIES?



Easy access to shops and other amenities

Wonderful walking tracks behind Huxley St and Bell Hill

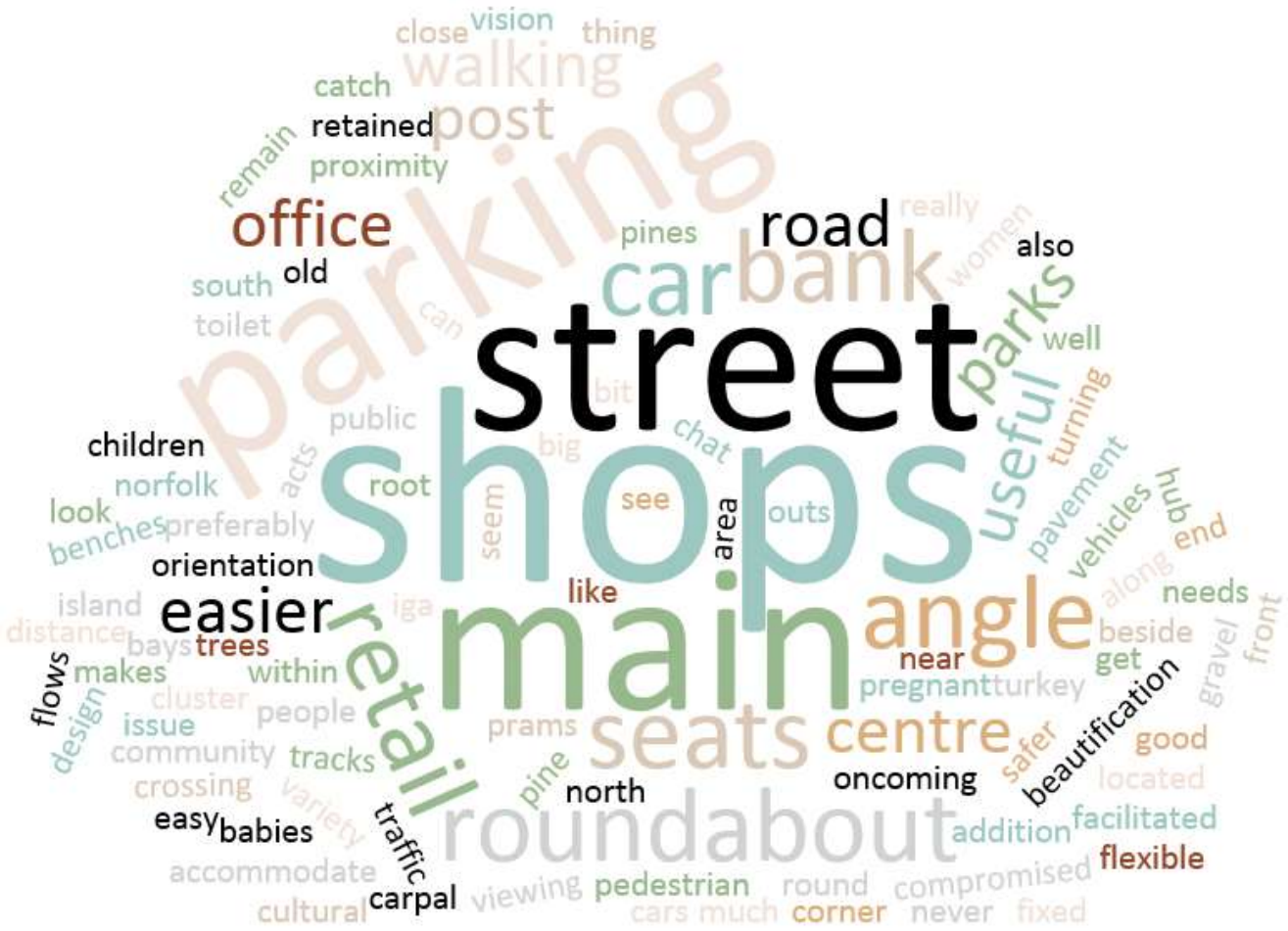
Parking close to facilities

I value the proximity to the harbour

Everything is in one street

You can take children to the skate park and then the shops and it is all in walking distance

WHAT WORKS PARTICULARLY WELL NOW THAT YOU WANT RETAINED IN THE FUTURE?



Proximity of parking to shops

People shopping who chat and catch up in the Main Street

Walking tracks and viewing seats

Post Office and bank in the Main Street

The roundabout and turning thing at the other end of the Main Street

WHAT DOESN'T WORK WELL NOW THAT SHOULD BE IMPROVED OR REMOVED?

The slope of angle parking and car park size

Footpaths and walkways need to be universal design – accessible for people with mobility issues and for parents with prams

Yellow parking stoppers in car parks

Reversing out form angle parking

The overall streetscape of the Main Street

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MISSING FROM CURRIE TODAY?

A tourist information centre

Seating to make [the main street] more community oriented

A community centre – housing Service Tas, KIRDO, community hall, community gym, meeting rooms for hire, library, youth centre

More shaded / sheltered seating

Cultural places such as the library and Cultural Centre are not [on the Main Street] and there is no signage to them

WHICH WORDS BEST DESCRIBE CURRIE?

Respondents were given a list of 30 words and asked to choose up to five that they felt best described the township. The full list of words and the number of respondents who selected them is shown below.

Word Choice	Respondents
Safe	16
Sustainable	13
Tourist	12
Accessible	12
Friendly	12
Vibrant	7
Engaging	7
Creative	7
Relaxed	6
Recreation	6
Open	5
Diverse	5
Retail	5
Historical	4
Interesting	4

Word Choice	Respondents
Potential	3
Business	3
Inclusive	3
Interactive	3
Adaptable	3
Quiet	2
Rural	2
Young	2
Multicultural	2
Innovative	2
Purpose-built	2
Commercial	1
Serene	1
Industrial	0
Exclusive	0

WHICH IMAGES SHOW THE TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN CURRIE

3

9

15

7

6

17

9

26

6

9

SUMMARY AND KEY THEMES

One face to face session was held in Grassy with an estimated 40 people in attendance. It should be noted that this session fell in the same week that Council had approved a development application for a water treatment building in the centre of Grassy, and up to half of the attendees expressed a particular interest in that decision, more than in the Township Master Plan. A further 20 individuals provided their views on development in Grassy in the survey.

In reviewing the feedback from the survey and the face to face consultation, there was a definite feeling of push back to the idea of Grassy being "industrial". In fact, the top three words selected to describe Grassy were *tourist*, *recreation* and *sustainable*. *Business* and *industrial* were not selected at all, and *commercial* was only selected by one respondent. Looking at the word clouds created for the "What do you value most" and "What works well" questions, the views across the ocean, the well-defined entrance to the town, and the facilities on offer within the town were highlighted. The areas for improvement identified in the survey, and reinforced in the face to face feedback, included poor quality of footpaths, the small population compared to the town's past, and a lack of civic pride demonstrated by absent land owners and the Council.

Specific feedback was given by many respondents to improve Grassy's aesthetic and amenity. Some of this was quite basic, such as providing footpaths that were usable by those unsteady on their feet or those pushing prams and pushchairs. Other suggestions looked to provide positive points of difference for Grassy which would build the town's sense of community and pride. For example, a number of respondents referred to the town's history and suggested ways to highlight this to visitors and locals alike. One example of this was the idea of laying printed paving stones through the town, as "stepping stones through history". There were also calls to upgrade the memorial at the mine, and to provide signage next to the sculpture of the miner and his dog to tell their story.

It was suggested that Council could provide incentives to landowners to improve the appearance of their blocks, such as the removal of dilapidated asbestos housing, and introducing better landscaping in front of businesses and community facilities (e.g. the swimming pool). Respondents were not just looking to Council and business to address these issues, but to their community as well. One respondent suggested a community garden near the barbecue shelter, such as that coordinated by Phoenix House in Currie, and another queried if the Lions Club might consider assisting with a project in Grassy. Another idea which would be relatively easy to complete would be the reinstatement of the town's Community Notice Board.

Signage was mentioned by many respondents as a "quick win" for the township, with a number of comments about the lack of signage at the junction of Grassy Road and Grassy Harbour Road. Specifically, it was noted that there was nothing at that junction to indicate the facilities available in Grassy itself, including fuel, food and drink, BBQ area, children's playground, scenic lookouts, wildlife and historical sites. Similarly, there was no signage provided to make visitors aware of the café, penguin viewing opportunities, fishing spots or walking trail available around the harbour.

Finally, safety of pedestrians was raised by a number of respondents as being an area of significant concern. It was noted that the speed limit coming into town was quite high and the drop to the 50km residential area limit quite sudden. This could be rectified by implementing a staged reduction in speed similar to that seen on the Grassy Road and North Road entrances to Currie. When discussing this issue with one group of respondents, it was pointed out that students from the Ballarat & Clarendon campus needed to cross that road to get to the retail area of Grassy. With no official crossing point provided, students would cross at various places along the street, not always considering the likelihood of vehicles coming around corners without sufficient opportunity to stop before hitting them. Most people will do the right thing, when the right thing is easily identifiable, so providing a zebra crossing a suitable point on the main road into Grassy would mitigate most of this risk.

WHAT FIVE THINGS DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT THE LAYOUT AND FACILITIES?

Grassy sign is striking. Potential for grand entrance to town on grassy knoll.

Magnificent views. Wide main street.

Beautiful views and beaches

Port access, recreation facilities, children's play equipment, mine history / memorial

WHAT WORKS PARTICULARLY WELL NOW THAT YOU WANT RETAINED IN THE FUTURE?

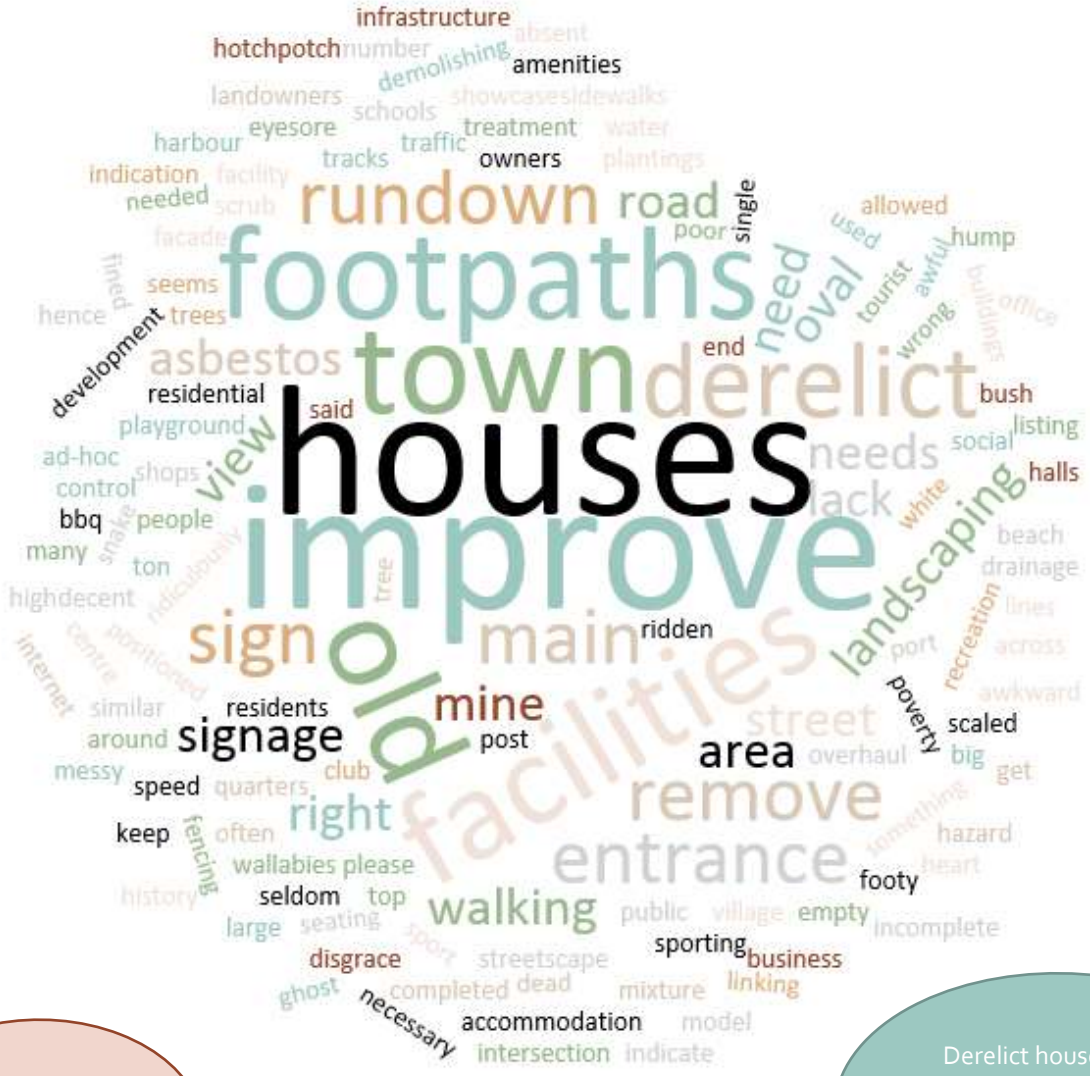
Footy oval and swimming pool

Marie's nod to historical Grassy in black and white photographs

Oval and bus shelter, public toilets, op shop and entrance sign

The resilience of the township's connection with the ocean

WHAT DOESN'T WORK WELL NOW THAT SHOULD BE IMPROVED OR REMOVED?



Speed hump or similar at entrance to town

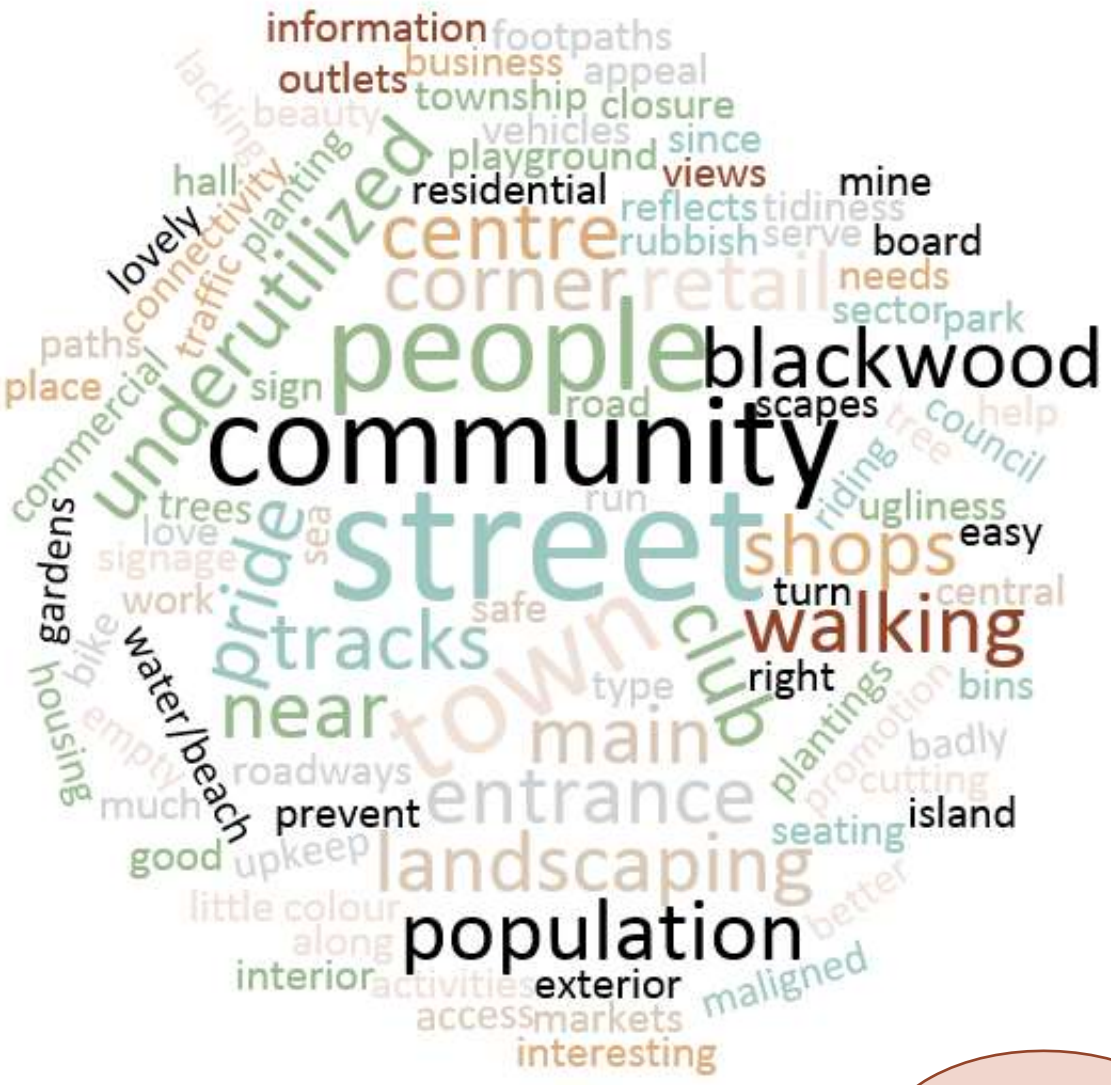
Derelict houses are a disgrace. Owners should be fined if allowed to keep so messy

There is no indication at top end of Grassy Harbour Road to indicate that town is to the right and listing amenities

Footpaths need improving

Old houses need doing up or demolishing

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MISSING FROM GRASSY TODAY?



People

Love from the Council

Tree-scapes along roadways, plantings at entrance near sign and information board

Easy access to the water / beach

It's a lovely little town, much maligned since mine closure.

WHICH WORDS BEST DESCRIBE GRASSY?

Respondents were given a list of 30 words and asked to choose up to five that they felt best described the township. The list of words and the number of respondents who selected them is shown below.

Word Choice	Respondents
Tourist	8
Recreation	8
Sustainable	8
Safe	7
Friendly	7
Quiet	6
Historical	6
Vibrant	5
Potential	5
Creative	4
Inclusive	3
Relaxed	2
Serene	2
Accessible	2
Interesting	2

Word Choice	Respondents
Engaging	2
Purpose-built	2
Commercial	1
Young	1
Diverse	1
Multicultural	1
Open	-
Industrial	-
Rural	-
Business	-
Exclusive	-
Interactive	-
Innovative	-
Open	-
Industrial	-

WHICH IMAGES SHOW THE TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN GRASSY

8

4

2

6

15

5

6

13

2

12

SUMMARY AND KEY THEMES

A face to face consultation session was held at Baudins in Naracoopa with 12 residents actively participating, and a further 10 written responses to the survey received. It should be noted that the Naracoopa Progress Association had met separately to discuss the Beacon Town Planning document – the feedback from that group was shared by a representative at the Council-led consultation.

As can be seen in the word clouds on the following pages, the jetty is held in high esteem by Naracoopa residents, and the ongoing use of and access to this facility is seen as key for residents and visitors alike. Questions were raised both at the face to face consultation and in the survey responses about the funds Council received from Government when they took ownership of the jetty, the perception seeming to be that the money had been spent on other items. Council may wish to address this matter by publishing details of those funds received, how they have been expended and what funds now remain.

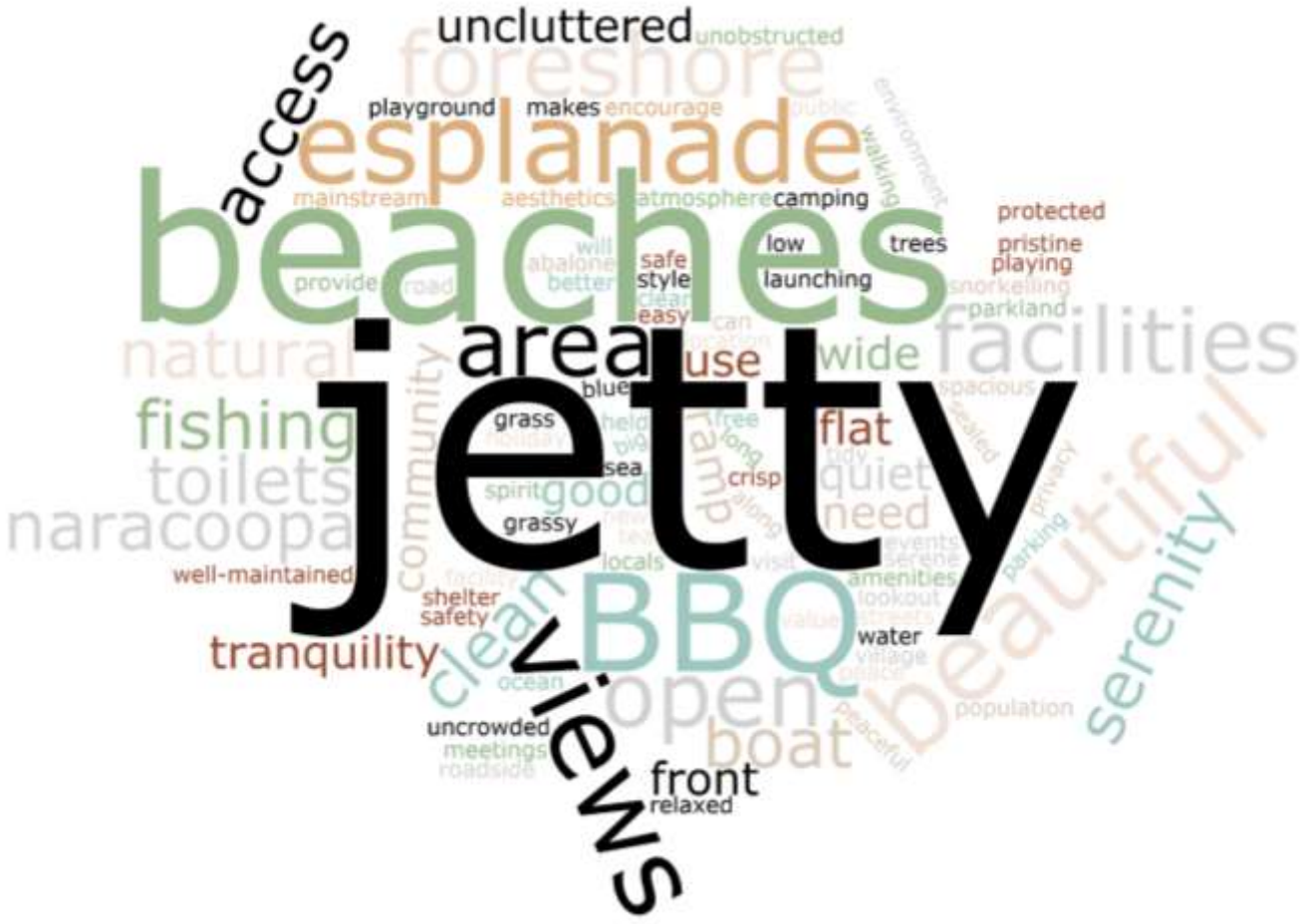
The esplanade and beach access are held in similarly high regard, with a number of respondents expressing concern at erosion of the sand dunes at the edge of the esplanade. Suggestions to mitigate this included limiting the number of entry points to the beach and installing wooden walkways or steps at designated points.

The Naracoopa Progress Association were also quite vocal about the cost to their organisation of the pay-to-use BBQ installed at the picnic shelter. While it may not be Council's place to take on this expense, there is potential for it to play a role in advocating for other community groups and organisations, e.g. TasHydro or Lions Club, to share the operating costs of this facility.

A lack of appropriate parking for boat trailers in the vicinity of the boat ramp was mentioned as an ongoing issue, with many recreational boaters parking on privately owned vacant land directly across from the ramp. Further to this, any parking on the Esplanade in winter is problematic because of the soft verges. There are a number of spots along the Esplanade where people tend to park, for example adjacent to the public toilets and playground, opposite Baudins. The addition of parking could also be used to address another issue raised at the face to face consultation, being a requirement for traffic calming.

While respondents were proud of the visual amenity offered in and around Naracoopa, it was felt that a lack of signage meant visitors were not aware of the scenic lookouts available. A quick win for the township may be the introduction of wayfinding signage, perhaps at the public toilets and picnic area, to encourage visitors to travel to those lookouts. This signage could also offer some context of the view from the Esplanade, such as the location of and wildlife found on Councillor Island, the migration route of whales and dolphins through the bay.

WHAT FIVE THINGS DO YOU VALUE MOST ABOUT THE LAYOUT AND FACILITIES?



The jetty

The grassy area along the esplanade

The natural beauty of the beach, the foreshore, the tea trees

Open long esplanade of parkland

WHAT WORKS PARTICULARLY WELL NOW THAT YOU WANT RETAINED IN THE FUTURE?

The grassy esplanade

Jetty

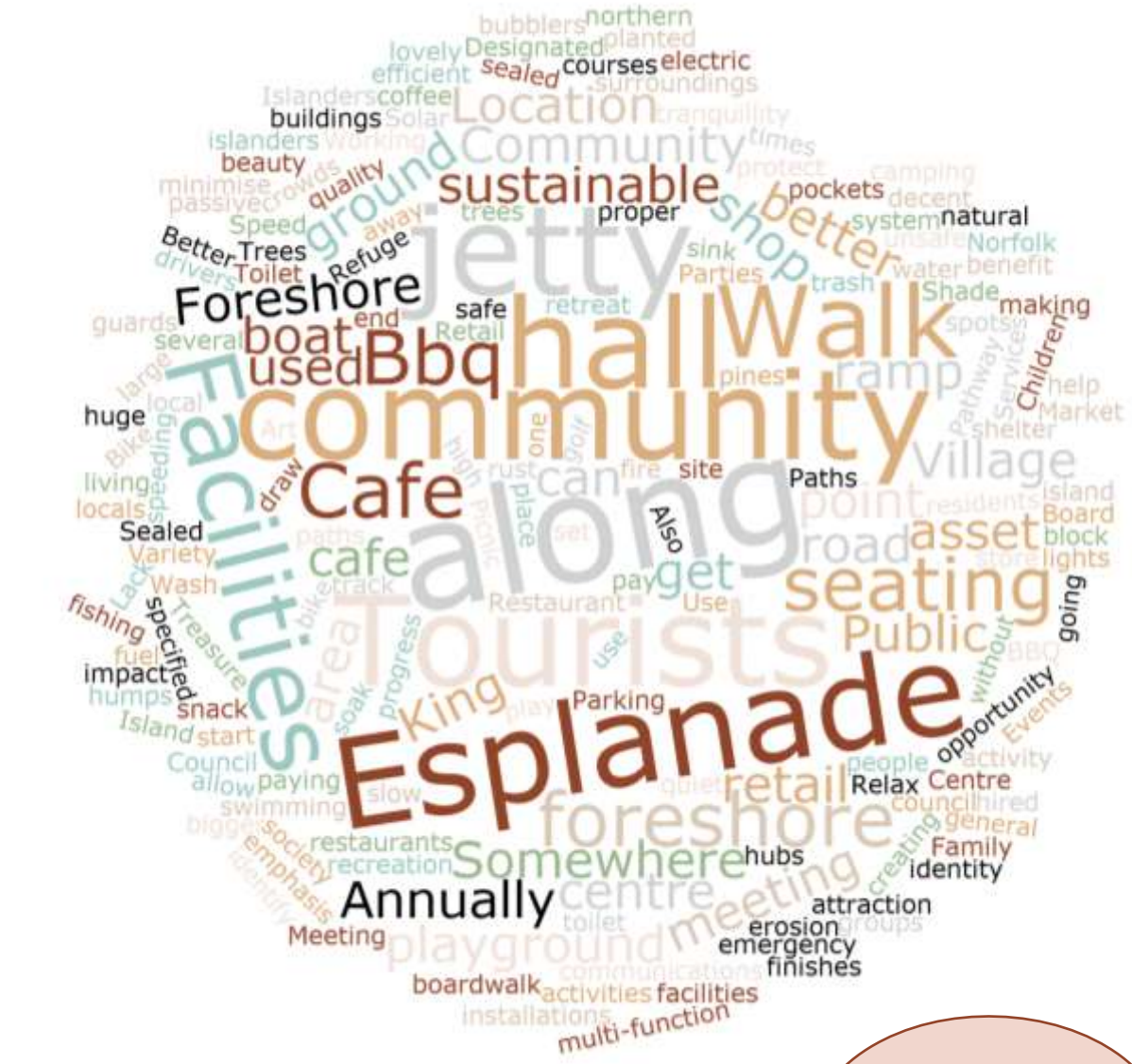
The sleepy beachside town character

Seaside village atmosphere

No industrial noise, trucks, etc.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK WELL NOW THAT SHOULD BE IMPROVED OR REMOVED?

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MISSING FROM NARACOOPA TODAY?



WHICH WORDS BEST DESCRIBE NARACOOPA?

Respondents were given a list of 30 words and asked to choose up to five that they felt best described the township. The list of words and the number of respondents who selected them is shown below.

Word Choice	Respondents
Recreation	16
Relaxed	14
Tourist	13
Safe	11
Friendly	10
Serene	8
Quiet	8
Sustainable	6
Accessible	5
Historical	4
Interesting	4
Retail	4
Engaging	3
Open	3
Vibrant	2

Word Choice	Respondents
Exclusive	2
Diverse	2
Creative	2
Rural	1
Business	1
Young	1
Inclusive	1
Interactive	1
Innovative	1
Purpose-built	1
Adaptable	1
Commercial	-
Industrial	-
Potential	-
Multicultural	-

WHICH IMAGES SHOW THE TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN NARACOOPA

4

8

22

7

7

10

2

16

6

2