

Greater Bendigo

2036

*Liveable
Productive
Sustainable*

*Voices
from
the
Future*

Overview

We are very proud to present the Greater Bendigo +25 Community Plan: Greater Bendigo 2036.

As the future unfolds so do our many challenges. Successfully embracing our changing environment, developing a strong economy and encouraging healthy lifestyles is the pathway we choose to shape a positive outlook.

Drawing from our community's own views and aspirations, Greater Bendigo 2036 introduces the themes of Liveability, Productivity and Sustainability.

Instead of a fixed plan or exclusive Council document, our community plan is a collective Vision, with its success measured by how its content engages the people and agencies working towards an enriching future.



Liveable Productive Sustainable



Living in Greater Bendigo Today

Located in the geographic heart of Victoria, within 90-minute drive time of Melbourne, Greater Bendigo is a municipality on the move. Historically, its location is the traditional home to the Jaara people and the Dja Dja Wurrung language.

Greater Bendigo offers a broad range of employment opportunities, providing a solid foundation for continued growth and economic prosperity. Current population projections reveal that within 25 years, Greater Bendigo may experience a 50 per cent increase in population, adding a further 50,000 people to its thriving community.

This prediction emphasises the importance of strong planning, intended to strike the right balance between safeguarding our heritage, natural features and resources and providing a contemporary setting where new residents and businesses can settle. The need for a community planning process during this period is also unmatched in our time.



Creating Greater Bendigo 2036

The first Greater Bendigo +25 Community Plan was prepared in 2005. An integral part of the implementation of this plan was the establishment of the Bendigo +25 Community Reference Group (CRG). This Group has worked to provide a link between the nine +25 Community Action Groups and ensured the objectives of the Greater Bendigo +25 Community Plan were met.

In November 2009, the CRG convened a +25 Futures Thinking Forum involving 30 diverse stakeholders from Greater Bendigo. The participants were invited to begin building a vision for Greater Bendigo in 2036; they identified three main goal areas: Liveability, Productivity and Sustainability. The CRG identified key indicators to articulate these goals, and these ideas, formed the basis for the development of resources for community discussion and surveys. During a two-month period, discussions were held with children, youth and adults from across the municipality using existing networks and groups as well as specially convened meetings. Many other people took part by completing a survey. Aiming to build a renewed vision, participants conveyed their ideas about developing medium and long-term strategies for the productivity, liveability and sustainability of Greater Bendigo.

Greater Bendigo 2036 is the result of the largest and most diverse form of community engagement undertaken across Greater Bendigo in 2010. We have a great deal to gain by drawing on the wisdom and ideas from its community.

Structure of the Plan

The document is organised around three Priority themes::

Liveability

Liveability relates to the wellbeing of a community and represents the characteristics that make a place where people want to live now and in the future. Research has linked the concept of liveability to a range of factors such as quality of life, health, sense of safety, access to services, cost of living, comfortable living standards, mobility and transport, air quality and social participation. Greater Bendigo residents expressed priorities about their ability to get around, feel welcomed and safe and to access all forms of entertainment.

Productivity

Relating to innovation in education and opportunity in employment, this discussion encompassed topics such as how to retain young people locally and how to create the best access to well-paid employment in Greater Bendigo. People strongly identified with the need for creativity in new suburban developments, which also aligned with planet-friendly principles.

Sustainability

In 2005 the World Health Organization acknowledged that potentially, human-induced changes to the climate will threaten ecological sustainability, economic development and social and political stability, and consequently human health. Sustainability action is the range of measures taken to ensure the future viability of these systems.

Responses from Greater Bendigo residents included items that relate to reducing the consumption of resources, especially carbon fuels, reducing waste and generating and celebrating new industries which create positive outcomes from climate change conditions.

Putting the plan into action

In the tables that follow the detail for each Priority is expressed in a series of Directions and presented in a table format, and there are direct quotes from the participants to illustrate community members' commitment to the topic. The full copy of Greater Bendigo 2036 provides a great deal more detail, including a number of broad actions relating to each direction included here and also some shorter term suggestions provided by the participants.

Priority: Liveability

Priority 1: Strengthen connections across our communities

- 1.1 Use a range of approaches, especially with Indigenous and cultural minority groups, to foster community inclusiveness
- 1.2 Continue to use a range of approaches that support volunteerism
- 1.3 Plan strategically to foster community inclusiveness
- 1.4 Provide opportunities for people to come together and have fun
- 1.5 Value and take advantage of the community's knowledge and insight this is able to be accessed free of charge

'We need public officials who listen to the people, so people feel they are listened to and have a sense of control over planning matters that affect them...

'Community development should be inclusive across Bendigo - cultural diversity, people with disabilities, older people, people with mental illnesses, young people; diversity needs to be encouraged and demonstrated.'

Priority 2: Foster the practical use of open spaces

- 2.1 Priority action for cycle and walking infrastructure
- 2.2 Foster informal social activities in open spaces
- 2.3 Use evidence to ensure accurate perceptions of risk about open spaces
- 2.4 Work in partnership across agencies to foster the uptake and continuation of incidental physical activity
- 2.5 Encourage workplaces to support their staff to take part in walking and cycling
- 2.6 Develop recreational facilities that are in line with current usage trends

"Play areas should be family friendly and provide a range of facilities - they should be meeting places."

"If they work for children, the aged, the disabled, then it will work for all."

Priority 3: Continue to Create Child-Friendly Places

- 3.1 Enshrine child-friendly place development in planning requirements
- 3.2 Plan strategically for future schools' developments
- 3.3 Foster connections between the generations

"There should be ongoing funding for school gardens and cooking programs; there's lots of wisdom and good programs. We need to draw on what is working well."

"If we make the city work for children then it will work for all - this doesn't mean wrapping kids in cotton wool, it means making them more resilient, more able to make decisions, more adventurous - I would like to see a city where every kid could confidently walk or ride their bike anywhere in the city by themselves - now that would be the envy of other places."

"Community involvement is encouraged - it takes a village to bring up a child; these children will not grow up to be aggressive adults."

Theme: Productivity

Priority 4: Overcome the barriers preventing people's full participation in community and professional life

- 4.1 Structural Barriers: Continue to reduce the barriers to full participation in employment and social life for Indigenous Australians and cultural minority groups
- 4.2 Transport: Develop and use appropriate evidence to inform future transport infrastructure needs across Greater Bendigo and in connections to external areas and markets
- 4.3 Continually upgrade public transport infrastructure to make it the best and most accessible option of travel for the whole community
- 4.4 Communication: Foster a range of communication links for commercial and social purposes
- 4.5 Valuing the wisdom of elders: Develop and support strategies that give recognition to the wisdom and value of older people in our communities, and plan for their continued vitality

'Do not centralise services into less sites - make sure communities outside the centre still have services and facilities.'

'To be happy one needs to feel secure.'

'Have plenty of training for our youth to choose from, also further on the job training for older citizens, with funding made available to help pay for education, Create more interaction with the Public, We all need to support our town Bendigo.'

Priority 5: Foster the development of local expertise to meet our evolving needs

- 5.1 Facilitate access to education for all potential students
- 5.2 Value and celebrate lifelong learning
- 5.3 Maintain strong links between education and employment sectors
- 5.4 Use a range of approaches to foster innovation and development locally, without harbouring dependence

'If development in the local tertiary education sector could make it the first choice for students as a preference, there would be opportunity to grow students into professionals from within the country rather than importing experts from overseas.'

'Have plenty of training for our youth to choose from, also further on the job training for older citizens, with funding made available to help pay for education, Create more interaction with the Public, We all need to support our town Bendigo.'

Priority 6: Be a leader in 'sustainable industries' development

- 6.1 Local Government has a strategic role in fostering sustainable industry development
- 6.2 Foster a range of approaches that match regional educational offerings with employment needs
- 6.3 Make better use of the natural assets of Greater Bendigo
- 6.4 Advocate for stronger local planning guidelines that enshrine sustainability principles in new residential and commercial development
- 6.5 Showcase local expertise

'We should promote community belief in our identity as a national leader in sustainable community.'

Words from the students' forum

'By 2015 all new housing will be required to be built for sustainable living. Old housing will be adapted to new technologies for sustainable living beginning around 2030.'

'There will be TAFE courses developed for training relevant personnel in implementation, installation and servicing of new sustainable technologies.'

'Start small; when you rent, build or buy a house it has to have a solar panel.'

Priority 7: Be renowned for our sustainability practices

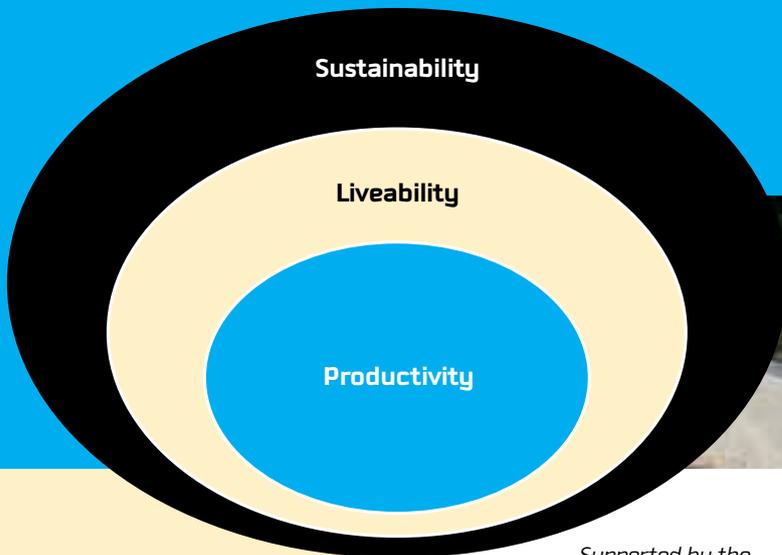
- 7.1 Local Government has a key role in community education and role-modelling sustainability practices
- 7.2 Protect existing environmental assets
- 7.3 Reduce waste to landfill
- 7.4 Promote the use of alternative technologies to reduce resource consumption

'Water; make this a plastic water bottle-free town'

'Weigh rubbish bins and charge people according to the weight.'

Words from the Student's forum

'Bendigo has become a world leader in the production and use of alternative energies (improving on solar and wind energy) and in 2035 it hosts the world expo on alternative energies'



Supported by the



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