



# Congupna Community Plan



GREATER  
SHEPPARTON



## Acknowledgements

Greater Shepparton City Council would like to gratefully acknowledge the following community members for their contribution in developing the Congupna Community Plan.

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We would like to thank the following community groups, organisations and businesses have also contributed to the development of the plan.

- Congupna Football / Netball Club
- Congupna / Tallygaroopna Landcare
- Country Women's Association (CWA) Congupna Branch
- Congupna Primary School
- Congupna General Store and Post Office
- Incitec Pivot

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the Congupna residents who contributed to the initial consultation stage, through completing a survey, attending a consultation session and encouraging friends and neighbours to get involved. Thank you.

## Contents

Acknowledgements.....	2
Executive Summary.....	4
What is our Community Plan? .....	5
Developing the Community Plan .....	5
Literature Review .....	5
Community Surveys .....	6
Coffee & Conversation at the Congupna General Store .....	6
Key Stakeholder Meetings .....	6
Have Your Say Congupna – Youth Consultation .....	6
Priority Setting Forum & Primary School Art Exhibition .....	7
Literature Review.....	9
Some History of Congupna .....	10
Who Lives in Congupna?.....	11
Our Assets – What do we love about Congupna? .....	13
Our Challenges .....	16
Our Vision for Congupna.....	16
Our Priority Actions.....	16
CONGUPNA Action Plan.....	17
Implementing the Community Plan.....	21
Literature review.....	23
Demographic analysis .....	27
Community Consultation Data.....	29

## Executive Summary

The Congupna Community Plan was developed after extensive consultation with the local community and sets the vision, as well as priorities and actions to achieve this vision.

As residents of Congupna we love:

- The community spirit
- Our small community
- The proximity, but distance, to Shepparton
- Housing block size
- Parks, bush and natural surrounds
- Our active community groups, organisations and local businesses
- Our sporting facilities and organisations.

The vision for our local community is:

**Congupna is an attractive rural district with a vibrant, friendly and active community. We aim to maintain what we love but improve and beautify our village and services for future generations**

The goals that we have identified to achieve this vision are:

- Construct walking / cycling track
- Advocate for drainage, both new initiatives and maintenance
- To increase safe access to the Primary School
- Install art murals
- Advocate for services, natural gas, sewerage and broadband
- Advocate for road and footpath upgrades to the township
- Improve Recreation Reserve facilities
- Improve aesthetics and function of Congupna Main Road
- Expand the Pony Paddock to develop into a meeting place
- Automatic defibrillator
- Clean up areas along railway near Wallace Street and beautification
- For public toilet facilities to be accessible and appropriate for the needs of the community
- Consider parking outside the General Store
- Construct BMX or Skatepark
- Farrell Park upgrade
- Advocate for increased safety, particularly in regards to speeding vehicles
- Advocate for access to public transport
- Increase small business opportunities
- Develop additional community events for people of all ages
- Advocate for the bypass to be completed
- To advocate for a CFA Shed
- Seek funding for infrastructure (i.e. a drop down film screen) for movie nights.
- Investigate opportunities for early childhood facilities
- Develop district map
- Advocate for mobile library

## What is our Community Plan?

The Congupna Community Plan is a written document that identifies our vision for the future and the priorities and actions we have identified to achieve this vision. The Community Plan will be a guide for future projects and activities over the next five years. Achievement of the priorities identified within the plan will require ongoing community support.

The Community Plan can be used to seek support from a range of organisations and government bodies for the implementation of the actions identified within the plan. It is a community document and its implementation will be driven by our local Congupna residents. Greater Shepparton City Council will assist the community with its implementation where possible.

It is acknowledged it is essential that the Community Plan priorities and actions are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the priorities remain reflective of the emerging needs of the community.

## Developing the Community Plan

A Community Project Team was established to oversee and assist in the development of our Congupna Community Plan. The Project Team is strategic in nature, ensuring that local people guide the development of the plan and provide local expertise. Expressions of Interest to join this project team commenced in October 2012, however the project was put on hold. The process recommenced in July 2013 where another Expression of Interest to join the Community Project Team was distributed, which saw the return of the initial community members who raised interest as well as identification of new community members interested in being part of the project team.

Extensive community consultation was undertaken as part of the development of the plan to ensure that as many people as possible had an opportunity to contribute. This included targeted consultations with children, young people and the aged.

The initial consultation period with the community occurred over August and September 2013.

The community consultation process included:

- Literature Review
- Community Surveys
- Coffee and Conversation
- Key stakeholder meetings
- Have Your Say Congupna – Youth night
- Priority Setting Forum and Art Exhibition

### Literature Review

A total of four relevant documents and plans were reviewed to develop an understanding of existing strategies and policies that need to be considered as part of the community planning process and any impact on future developments. These documents include:

- Greater Shepparton City Council Plan 2013 – 2017

- Greater Shepparton Housing Strategy
- Sport 2050 Strategic Plan
- Greater Shepparton City Council – Cycling Strategy

### Community Surveys

Surveys were distributed to every resident in Congupna through mail distribution at the Congupna General Store. Surveys were also available for collection at the Congupna Primary School and the store. The surveys were used as base questions for all one on one meetings and community consultation sessions. At the end of the formal consultation period, 52 surveys were submitted. However 126 people had their say through the survey, given that respondents were asked to identify whether they were completing the survey as an individual or on behalf of themselves and others. 126 respondents is 20.1% of the Congupna population.

### Coffee & Conversation at the Congupna General Store

On three consecutive Fridays an Ideas Wall was posted outside the Congupna General Store. Residents spoke with Council Officers and wrote their responses to the survey questions on the ideas wall. These sessions raised awareness of the Community Plan process and upcoming consultation activities and the wall (with ideas recorded) stimulated conversation with community members visiting the store.

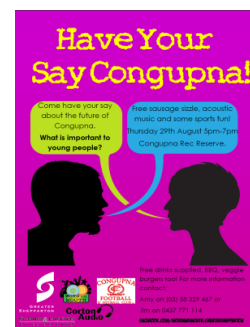


### Key Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings were held with six key stakeholders throughout the initial consultation period, which represented local community based clubs and organisations.

### Have Your Say Congupna - Youth Consultation

The community, with support from Council, Word and Mouth (youth organisation) and Congupna Football Netball Club hosted the 'Have Your Say Congupna Youth Consultation'. This event provided young people in the local community the opportunity to come together to have their say about what was important to them in their community. Local young people played music and a BBQ was provided. Approximately 40 people attended.

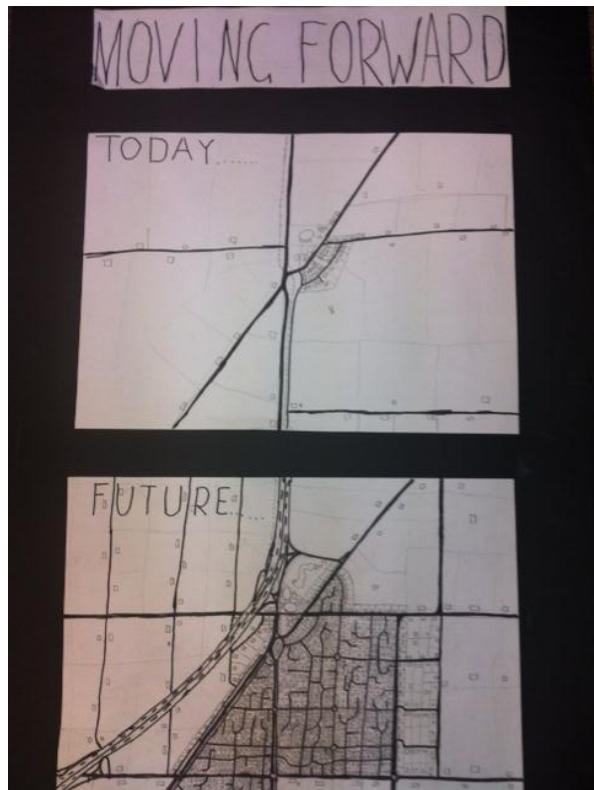


### Priority Setting Forum & Primary School Art Exhibition

Children at the Congupna Primary School developed art work to depict 'their vision for Congupna for the future'. 61 pieces of art were created and were presented to the community through an Art Exhibition. Each piece of art was analysed to identify key ideas for the future.

Local residents were invited to attend the Art Exhibition / Priority Setting forum to view the students art work, see themed responses from the community consultations and survey, view a list of Council work and activities undertaken in Congupna over the past two years and vote for their priorities from their key themes identified. Over 40 people attended this event.







## Literature Review

### **Greater Shepparton City Council Plan 2013 – 2017**

It is a statutory requirement of the *Local Government Act 1989* that all Council's develop a Council Plan. This plan outlines the strategic objectives and directions over the life of an elected Council. The current Council Plan identifies:

Goal 1: Active and Engaged Communities (Social)

- Continue to work with our communities to implement their Community Plans
- Ensure our 10 year capital works program is linked with the Community and Neighbourhood Plans

### **Greater Shepparton Housing Strategy 2011**

The Greater Shepparton Housing Strategy 2011 was developed to guide the future long term identification and provision of residential land within the municipality. The strategy will inform and guide decision making and land owners, Greater Shepparton City Council, service authorities and the general community about residential land and the housing needs and locations.

### **Sport 2050 Strategic Plan**

The Greater Shepparton Sport 2050 Strategic Plan outlines the proposed future development of sports facilities within the municipality. The strategy outlines the strategic direction in relation to the Congupna Recreation Reserve "...to continue to develop the reserve to service the Congupna and district community and future expected northern corridor residential growth. Provide land area to accommodate a post 2050 replacement for Deakin Reserve".

### **Greater Shepparton City Council – Cycling Strategy 2013 – 2017**

Greater Shepparton City Council recently endorsed the Cycling Strategy 2013 -2017. The strategy sets the direction for cycling in Greater Shepparton for the next five years and incorporates the vision of the next 10 years. The development of complete and continuous commuter and recreational bicycle networks within each of the townships that are within Greater Shepparton is part of the long term goal.

## Some History of Congupna

Congupna, known also by the name Koongoopna, was first established about 8km north of its present location<sup>1</sup>. The name 'Congupna' comes from the Aboriginal word meaning 'big fish'<sup>2</sup>. While there is no evidence of fish abounding in the area now, it is quite likely that long ago in rainy seasons the creeks flooded and fish were plentiful not far from the site of the Congupna township.

State School Congupna, No 2164 Congupna Township was the first school to open in the area. In July 1877 residents petitioned for a school in the Congupna parish, with an estimated enrolment of 15 students. The site consisted of nearly five acres approximately 10miles north east of Shepparton. Congupna Primary School was re-opened in 1905 with the new name of Congupna and is still currently operational. In the early days children either walked or rode ponies to Congupna Primary School. In 1922 provision was made next to the school to house student's ponies during school hours. By 1934 some of the larger families came to school by horse and gig. The ponies were left in the Pony Paddock with feed and water and harnessed up again after school.<sup>i3</sup>

Congupna's railway station opened (and was named Congupna Road Railway Station) at the same time as the railway from Shepparton to Numurkah on 1 September 1881. The platform was on the west side of the line, with the dirt mound remaining today.

Congupna Post Office opened on 1 December 1881, was renamed Congupna Township around 1909 and closed in 1953. Congupna Road Post Office opened on 17 October 1881 shortly after the railway station of the same name. They were both renamed Congupna in 1968.<sup>4</sup>



**FIRST SCHOOL (1902) AND SHELTER SHED (1921)  
AT CONGUPNA ROAD**

ii

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<sup>1</sup> Rootsweb, Shepparton

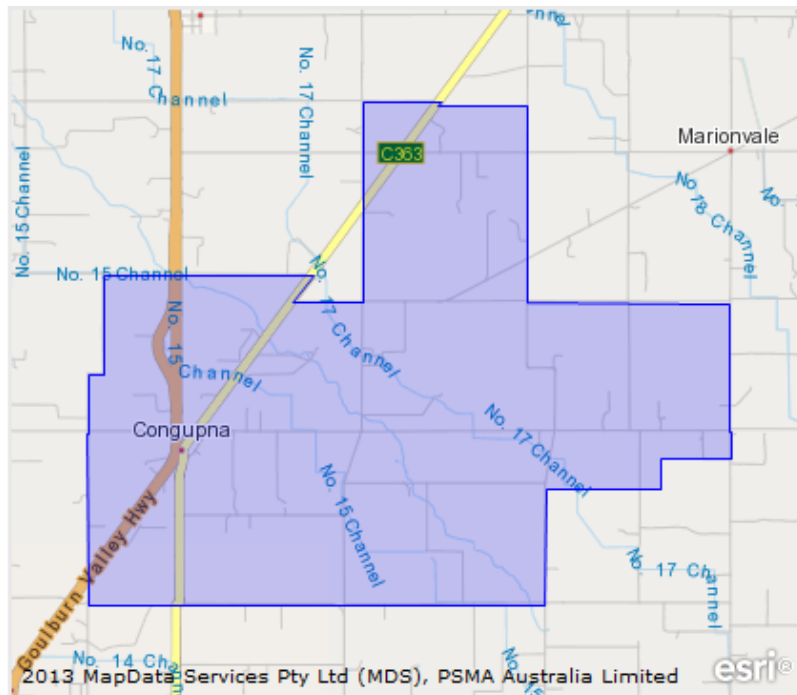
<sup>2</sup> The Centenary of Congupna Schools and District 1884 - 1984

<sup>3</sup> The Centenary of Congupna Schools and District 1884 - 1984

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.premierpostal.com/cgi-bin/wsProd.sh/Viewpocdwrapper.p?SortBy=VIC&country=>

## Who Lives in Congupna?

Congupna is located 10 kilometres north of Shepparton and 203 kilometres north of Melbourne within the Greater Shepparton Local Government Area. The area of Congupna is viewed to be 54.1 square kilometres.



## Our People

Based on the 2011 Australia Bureau of Statistics Census, Congupna has a population of 628 people. 52.7% (331) of these are male and 47.3% (297) are female. Children aged 0 - 14 years make up 22.7% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 8.6% of the population.

## Our Households

In Congupna, of all households, 81.9% are family households, 16.3% are single person households and 1.9% are group households.

Of the families, 51.9% were couple families with children, 38.7% were couple families without children and 7.7% were one parent families. The average number of children per household is 2.1.

## Our Language and Culture

Approximately 92.3% of Congupna residents were born in Australia compared with the national figure of 69.8%. 2.2% of the population are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared with the national figure of 2.5%. The most common countries of birth are Italy 1.4%, New Zealand 1.0%, India 0.5%, Netherlands 0.5% and Northern Ireland 0.5%.

According to the 2011 ABS Census 95.7% of people only spoke English at home. The only other responses for language spoken at home were Italian 0.6%, Greek 0.5% and Marathi 0.5%.

## **Our Employment**

There were 347 people who reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night in Congupna. Of these 59.1% were employed full time, 33.7% were employed part-time and 3.2% were unemployed.

Of those employed, 11.9% worked 1 to 15 hours, 13.1% worked 16 to 24 hours and 45.1% worked 40 hours or more.

The most common occupations included Professional 17.9%, Clerical and Administrative workers 16.7%, Managers 15.8%, Technicians and Trades workers 13.7% and Labourers 11.6%. 8.7% worked in School Education. Other major industries of employment included Hospitals 7.8%, Department Stores 4.5%, Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming 4.2% and Building Installation Services 4.2%.

## **Our Income**

The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in Congupna was \$558. For couple families with two incomes, the median income for those with children was \$1,567 and those without children was \$1,700.

## **Our Transport**

In Congupna, on the day of the Census, the methods of travel to work for employed people were Car, as driver 71.1%, Car, as passenger 4.8% and Bicycle 1.5%. Other common responses were Truck 1.2% and Other 1.2%. On the day, 1.5% of employed people travelled to work on public transport and 76.0% by car (either as driver or as passenger).

In Congupna, 17.7% of occupied private dwellings had one registered motor vehicle garaged or parked at their address, 45.1% had two registered motor vehicles and 33.0% had three or more registered motor vehicles.

## **Our Future Growth**

Greater Shepparton is expected to grow at a rate of 1.29% per annum between 2013 and 2031. The Rural North East (of which Congupna is based) has a projected annual average growth of 0.10% between 2006 and 2021. The number of people aged under 15 is forecast to decrease by 71 (-10.3%), representing a decline in the proportion of the population to 18.9%. The number of people aged over 65 is expected to increase by 185 (51.0%), and represent 16.9% of the population by 2021. The age group which is forecast to have the largest proportional increase (relative to its population size) by 2021 is 70-74 year olds, who are forecast to increase by 96.5% to 167 persons.



## **Our Assets – What do we love about Congupna?**

### **Community Spirit**

It was prevalent through many of the consultation activities that the sense of community spirit, the local people and the friendships were what many valued about living in Congupna. Some of the survey responses included *'I love the friendly and genuine people'* and *'it has great community spirit'* and *'everybody knows everybody'*.

### **Small Community**

For many, the reason they love living in Congupna is because it is seen as a small country town and it has a rural feel. Residents appreciate the quiet lifestyle and the feeling of a 'safe community'.

### **Housing**

Residents identified that an asset Congupna has is the large residential blocks within the town that creates rural lifestyle living. People enjoy the space that the large house blocks provide, providing residents with *'plenty of room to move'*.

### **Proximity to Shepparton**

Many mentioned that the proximity to Shepparton, yet the distance is what they love about Congupna: *"it's close enough to Shepparton but still far enough away to be a quiet uncongested town"*. Residents are able to utilise Shepparton as they need to but it is far enough away to feel removed.

### **Parks, Bush and Natural Surrounds**

People identified that the natural surrounds and 'bush' contributes to what they love about Congupna. Many mentioned their appreciation for the 'Pony Paddock'. The Pony Paddock is the area where students of the Congupna Primary School left their ponies whilst they attended school, the use of this area for that purpose ceased in 1976. In 2000 the Congupna / Tallygaroopna Landcare group undertook a project where they cleared and cleaned this area of all noxious weeds and set about transforming the area into a native park. To this day, this area is still maintained by the Congupna / Tallygaroopna Landcare group.

Farrell Park has also been identified by the local community as an asset. Farrell Park runs between Congupna Main Road and Wallace Street. The park has playground equipment with swings, slide and monkey bars and a picnic table and chairs. Farrell Park was named in 2006 after the Farrell family who moved to the area in 1889 and have continued to be significantly involved in the Congupna community since.

### **Active Community Groups, Organisations and Businesses**

There are a range of active community groups and organisations located within the community that provide an avenue for residents to contribute to their community. These include:

- Congupna Football / Netball Club

The Congupna Football / Netball Club established in 1956. Currently playing in the Murray league they have two junior and two senior football teams and three junior and four senior netball teams. The club membership base is over 500 members in addition to many regular followers.

- Congupna / Tallygaroopna Landcare

Congupna / Tallygaroopna Landcare was formed in 1997 and since this time they have planted thousands of trees and undertaken a wide variety of projects and events. Their long term projects include the Pony Paddock Park and Congupna Bushland Reserve (corner of Congupna East and Lemnos North Roads).

- Congupna Recreation Reserve and Community Centre Committee of Management

The Congupna Recreation Reserve and Community Centre is managed by a Committee of Management. This committee continue to manage this facility.

- Country Women's Association (CWA) Congupna Branch

The CWA of Australia aims to improve the conditions for women and children and make life better for families, especially those living in rural and remote Australia. The Congupna Branch was formed in 1950 and recently celebrated their 63rd anniversary. The first meeting of the CWA was held in the Shelter Shed of the Congupna Primary School. The Congupna branch currently has 19 active members who meet on a regular basis and hold a range of events and activities.

- Congupna Primary School

The Congupna Primary School is a Foundation (Prep) to grade 6 school. In 2013 the Congupna Primary School has approximately 61 students enrolled with three classroom teachers and one teaching principal on staff. The school is growing with an anticipated 20 extra enrolments for the 2014 school year; given the growing numbers a fourth classroom teacher will join the school. Congupna Primary attracts local children as well as children from Shepparton and surrounding districts. The school also has a playgroup that operates fortnightly on a Friday morning.

- Congupna General Store and Post Office

'Our shop', the Congupna General Store and Post Office and other local traders have been identified as assets within the town.



## Sports facilities and organisations

Congupna has a number of sporting groups that utilise the Recreation Reserve facilities. The clubs attracts local members as well as residents from Shepparton and surrounding districts. They include:

- Congupna Social Tennis
- Dookie Cricket Club
- Congupna Football Club
- Congupna Netball Club

The infrastructure available at the Congupna Recreation Reserve includes:

- One sports oval with training lights, scoreboard, time keepers box and corporate box
- Two netball courts with synthetic surfaces and lighting
- Four tennis courts
- Two cricket practice nets
- Change room facilities
- Tennis Clubhouse
- Netball/Cricket Clubhouse
- Playground with play equipment
- Toilet facilities
- Grandstand area

The Community Hall can seat up to 250 people comfortably and has a fully equipped kitchen and bar facility. The hall has a stage and a meeting room.



## Our Challenges

### Transport

School buses are available to transport secondary school students to Shepparton. However there is no other public transport available to the town. There are no V/Line bus services that stop or travel through Congupna. V/Line services travel along the Goulburn Valley Highway south towards Shepparton or north towards Numurkah. Access to public transport was viewed as an issue for the town.

## Our Vision for Congupna

Congupna is an attractive rural district with a vibrant, friendly and active community. We aim to maintain what we love but improve and beautify our village and services for future generations.

## Our Priority Actions

The following priorities have been developed by our Community Plan Steering Committee based on information gathered from community consultations and key stakeholder interviews. Greater Shepparton City Council's Neighbourhoods Department will provide ongoing support and assistance to the Steering Committee where possible, particularly in regards to advice on funding opportunities from a range of sources and connections with relevant Council Officers to further progress the priorities that have been identified within this Community Plan.

Please note that not all of the ideas raised during the consultation have been included within the Action Plan. This is due to resource issues and lack of demonstrated community support for initiatives at the initial consultation stage. However details of all ideas are included within the appendix for further discussion should the priority for these initiatives increase.





## CONGUPNA Action Plan

Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Timeframes / Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Construct walking / cycling tracks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Linking Congupna to Shepparton</li> <li>- Around Congupna</li> </ul>	Identify potential route for walking tracks Initiate discussions with Council including Strategic Planning department to seek support for walking tracks Network with other small towns interested development of walking / cycling tracks. Consider development of Friends of the Walking trail to assist with basic maintenance of the track.	Congupna Community Plan Steering Committee (CCPSC) Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) VicRoads	High Commence 2013 / 2014	Not commenced	Social
To advocate for drainage, both new initiatives and maintenance	Liaise with Council's Projects and Works teams regarding updates to drainages works.	CCPSC GSCC	High Commence 2013 / 2014	Not commenced	Built
To increase safe access to the Primary School. Advocate for parking to be addressed and a safe turning lane to enter and exit the school	Initiate discussions with DEECD regarding a potential partnership project.	CCPSC Congupna Primary School Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) VicRoads	High Commence 2013 / 2014	Not commenced	Advocacy
Install art murals within the town	Identify potential site and subsequent approvals from the land owners for the mural Identify possible artist to undertake the work Seek advice from SAM if required Apply for funds.	CCPSC GSCC SAM (Shepparton Art Museum)	High Commence 2013 / 2014	Not commenced	Social
Advocate for services natural gas, sewerage and broadband	Identify a range of advocacy measures to lobby with relevant government departments and utility companies Explore options to provide connections	CCPSC	High	Not commenced	Advocacy

Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Timeframes / Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Advocate for road and footpath upgrades to the township. Road upgrades: Turning lanes at Congupna East Road into Hall and Rec Reserve Old Grahamvale Road Footpath improvements: Grahamvale Road (between Katamatite Rd & Wallace Street) Katamatite Rd onto Congupna East Rd to continue	Conduct audit of footpaths and road maintenance and repairs required. Meet with Council's Works department to identify process to progress road and footpath audit in accordance with Council policy	CCPSC GSCC	High	Not commenced	Built
Improve Recreation Reserve facilities including: Consideration for toilets within the Hall to be refurbished Electronic signage Goal post safety net New change rooms Small room to be renovated into community meeting room.	Identify priorities for improvements Meet with Recreation Reserve Committee to discuss partnership possibilities. Seek funding opportunities	Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Congupna Football Netball Club CPPSC GSCC	High	Not commenced	Built Social
Improve the aesthetics and function of Congupna Main Road including landscaping, beautification, town entry signage, parking, curbing, rubbish bin, area to sit, particularly on the west side of the street.	Develop scope / proposal for what they would like to see in this area. Apply for inclusion to Council's town entry signage program Identify potential partners to become involved in this project.	CCPSC Vic Roads GSCC Pivot	High	Not commenced	Built
Expand the Pony Paddock to develop into a meeting place enhancing the natural vegetation (BBQ, seating area)	Seek support from required partners (including land owner). Develop a proposal of how they would like to develop the area which will assist in the seeking of funding	Congupna – Tallygaroopna Landcare DEECD CPPSC	Medium	Not commenced	Environment
Availability of an automatic defibrillator for use at the Recreation Reserve.	Obtain support from Recreation Reserve user groups and identify potential leverage funds from Hall users. Seek funding opportunities possibly through St John's Ambulance	Recreation Reserve Committee of Management CCPSC Recreation Reserve user groups	Medium	Not commenced	Social

Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Timeframes / Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Clean up area along railway near Wallace Street and beautification	Identify scope of beautification of the area. Liaise with land owner about proposed clean up and works.	CCPSC VicTrack	Medium	Not commenced	Environment
For public toilet facilities to be accessible and appropriate for the needs of the community.	Liaise with Council to obtain signage directing visitors to the location of the current toilets Liaise with Council regarding the maintenance schedule Advocate for funding new toilets including consideration of location.	CCPSC GSCC	Medium	Not commenced	Built
Consider parking outside the Congupna General Store on the east and west side of the road.	Meet GSCC staff to discuss possibility to address parking in this area.	CCPSC GSCC Vic Roads Congupna General Store	Medium	Not commenced	Built
Construct BMX jumps / track or Skate park in Congupna	Consider development of a working group to explore preference for BMX track and skate park. Work with young people to identify appropriate site.	CCPSC GSCC Young people	Medium	Not commenced	Built Social
Farrell Park upgrade	Identify preferred scope of works Work with Council's Recreation and Parks regarding upgrade options	CCPSC GSCC	Medium	Not commenced	Built Environment
Advocate for increased safety, particularly in regards to speeding vehicles entering Congupna from the north (from Katamatite)	Advocate with Highway Patrol from Victoria Police and Vic Roads regarding enforcement of the current speed limit Advocate with Vic Roads regarding permanent reduction of speed limit	CCPSC Vic Roads Victoria Police	Medium	Not commenced	Advocacy
Advocate for access to public transport to be available for Congupna. I.e. V/Line or Shepparton Transit services	Identify a mechanism to advocate for access to public transport.	CCPSC Shepparton Transit V/Line DOT	Medium	Not commenced	Advocacy

Goal	Actions	Partnerships	Timeframes / Priority	Status	Strategic Goals (i.e Council pillar)
Increase small business opportunities	Work in partnership with Council's Investment Attraction branch to identify any potential businesses willing to relocate or start up in Congupna	CCPSC GSCC	Medium	Not commenced	Economic
Develop additional community events for people of all ages.	Meet with Council Events department to seek assistance in additional events coming to Congupna Consider development a subcommittee to plan local events such as movie nights or seniors nights.	CCPSC GSCC Congupna Football Netball Club	Medium	Not commenced	Social
Advocate for the bypass to be completed.	Identify a mechanism to advocate for the completion of these works.	CCPSC Vic Roads	Low	Not commenced	Advocacy
To advocate for a CFA Shed to be located in Congupna	Identify a mechanism to advocate for this facility	CCPSC CFA GSCC	Low	Not commenced	Advocacy
Seek funding for infrastructure (i.e. a drop down film screen) for movie nights.	Liaise with wider community regarding support for this goal. Seek funding for this project, possibly through Council's Community Matching Grants.	CCPSC Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Recreation Reserve users Funding bodies. Young people	Low	Not commenced	Social
Investigate opportunities for early childhood facilities	Work with Council's Children and Youth department to identify possibilities to increase or raise awareness of accessible early childhood facilities.	CCPSC GSCC	Low	Not commenced	Social
Develop district map for visitors and locals	Identify information to be included within the map and potential site.	CCPSC GSCC	Low	Not commenced	Social
Advocate for the mobile library to visit Congupna	Gauge community interest through petition or list of interested parties Apply to the Goulburn Valley Regional Library to take Congupna into consideration as they review the current timetable pending interest	CCPSC Goulburn Valley Regional Library Corporation	Low	Not commenced	Social

## **Implementing the Community Plan**

The Congupna Community Plan has been developed by our local community for our local community. The community need to work together in order to implement the plan.

To meet the priorities and actions identified within the Congupna Community Plan a strong Community Plan Steering Committee needs to be established.

Building on the existing strengths and skills of members of our local community, the Steering Committee can be formed to include any community member passionate about achieving the vision of the Community Plan. Representatives may include local community based groups, service clubs, education settings and local businesses. Committees are encouraged to seek broad representation of the local community (young people, families, aged, etc.). Sub committees and working groups may also be established to work on a specific priority action. The structure of the Congupna committees and / or working groups will ultimately be determined by the community themselves.

It is recommended the Steering Committee meet on a regular basis to implement the Community Plan.

All of the listed priorities will require further research, planning, design and potential fundraising by the community in order to progress these actions further.

Council Officers will support the Steering Committee to implement their Community Plan by acting as a conduit between the Steering Committee and Council. Council Officers will attend committee meetings where possible, work with the committee to develop expressions of interest and project proposals to seek funding, liaise with internal and external stakeholders where required and provide information about existing Council policies or strategic directions. This collaborative approach will assist in the development of mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships resulting in improved outcomes for both parties.

It is essential that the Community Plan is regularly reviewed and monitored to ensure that the priorities and actions are relevant and up to date.

# Appendix

## Literature review

A total of four relevant documents and plans were reviewed to develop an understanding of existing strategies and policies that need to be considered as part of the community planning process and any impact on future developments. These documents include:

### Greater Shepparton City Council Plan 2013 – 2017

It is a statutory requirement of the *Local Government Act 1989* that all Council's develop a Council Plan. This plan outlines the strategic objectives and directions over the life of an elected Council. The current Council Plan identifies:

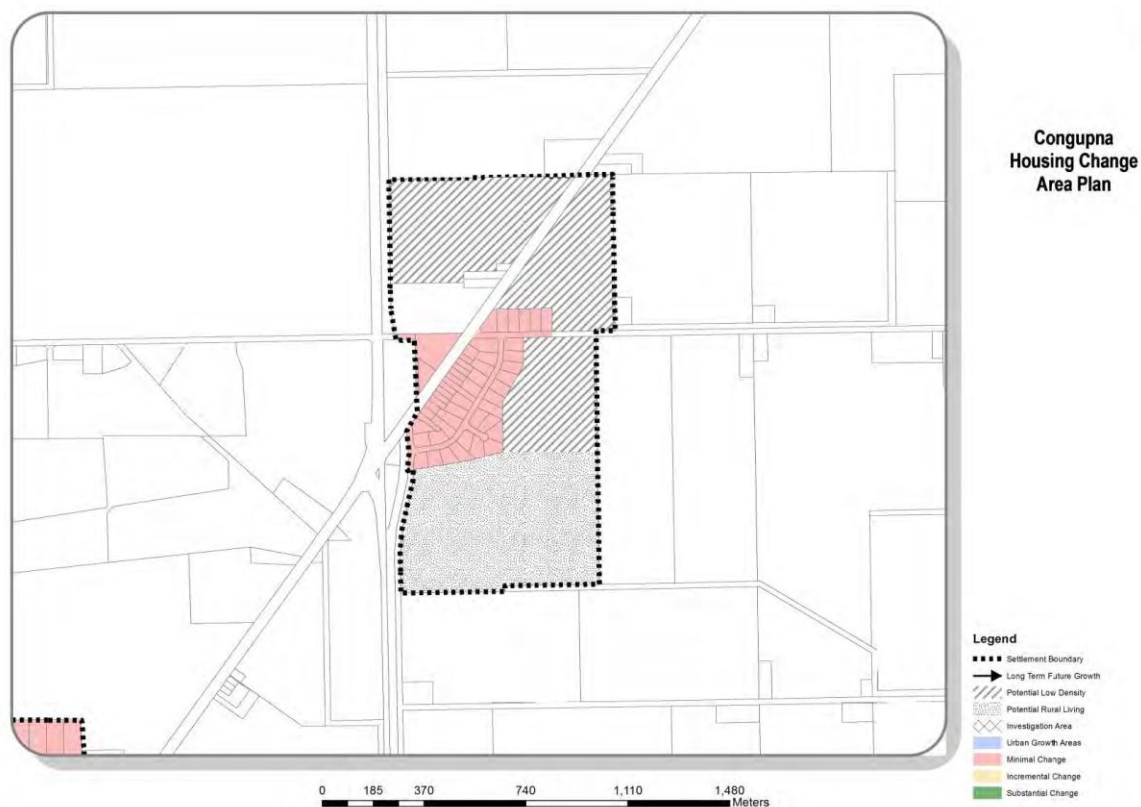
#### Goal 1: Active and Engaged Communities (Social)

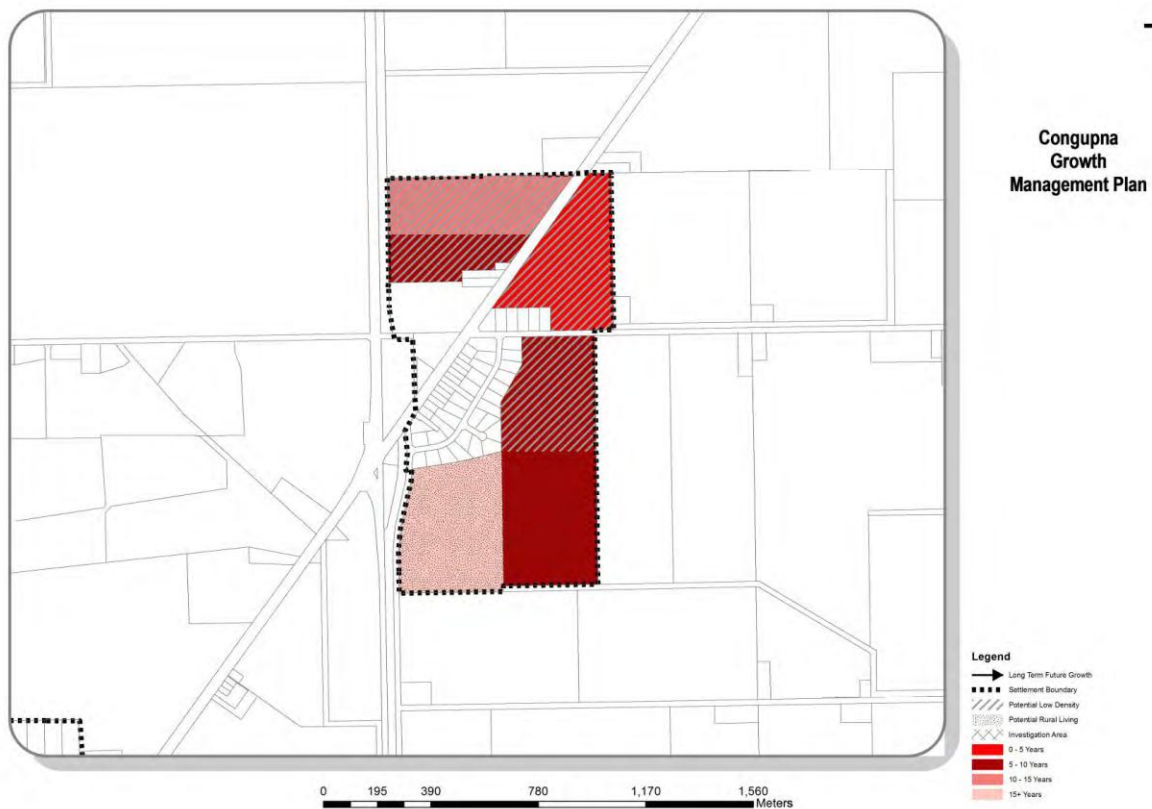
- Continue to work with our communities to implement their Community Plans
- Ensure our 10 year capital works program is linked with the Community and Neighbourhood Plans

### Greater Shepparton Housing Strategy

The Greater Shepparton Housing Strategy 2011 was developed to guide the future long term identification and provision of residential land within the municipality. The strategy will inform and guide decision making and land owners, the Greater Shepparton City Council, service authorities and the general community about residential land and the housing needs and locations.

The following tables demonstrate the Congupna Housing Change Area Plan and Growth Management Plan.





### Sport 2050 Strategic Plan

The Greater Shepparton Sport 2050 Strategic Plan outlines the proposed future development of sports facilities within the municipality. The strategy outlines the strategic direction in relation to the Congupna Recreation Reserve which is:

Continue to develop Congupna Recreation Reserve to service the Congupna and district community and future expected northern corridor residential growth. Provide land area to accommodate a post 2050 replacement for Deakin Reserve.

The long term performance indicators include:

By 2022		By 2032		After 2032	
Performance Indicator	Probable Costs	Performance Indicator	Probable Costs	Performance Indicator	Probable Costs
Purchase land north of Congupna Recreation Reserve to provide capacity to construct additional sports fields and the future replacement of Deakin Reserve.	\$250,000	Develop new premier sports field with match quality lighting	\$1,000,000	Construct a main grandstand with a new multi use facility providing; 2,500 under cover seats, media and coaches boxes, male and female change rooms, office and meeting space, catering facilities and netball court complex.	\$7,000,000
		Construct a multi-purpose sports pavilion and community centre that can accommodate two ARF clubs.	\$1,500,000		



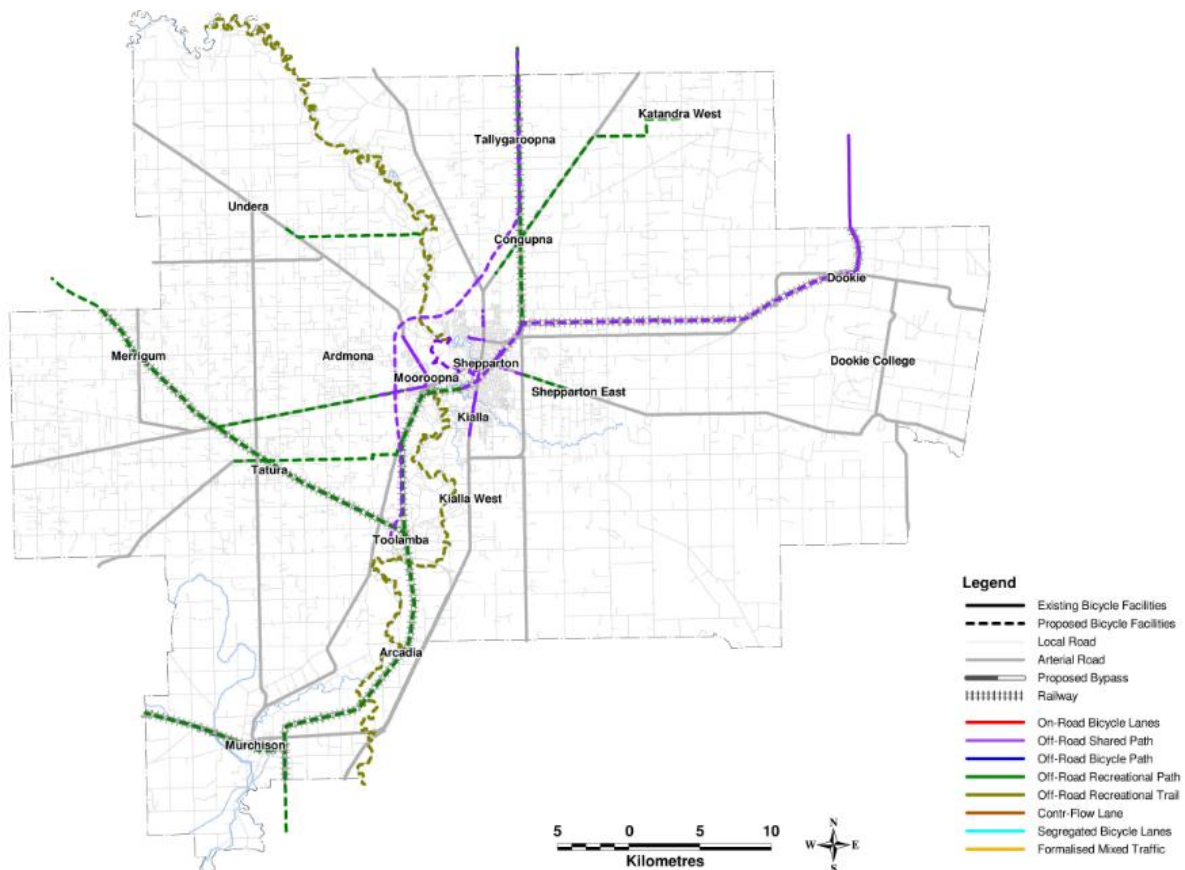
## Greater Shepparton City Council – Cycling Strategy 2013 - 2017

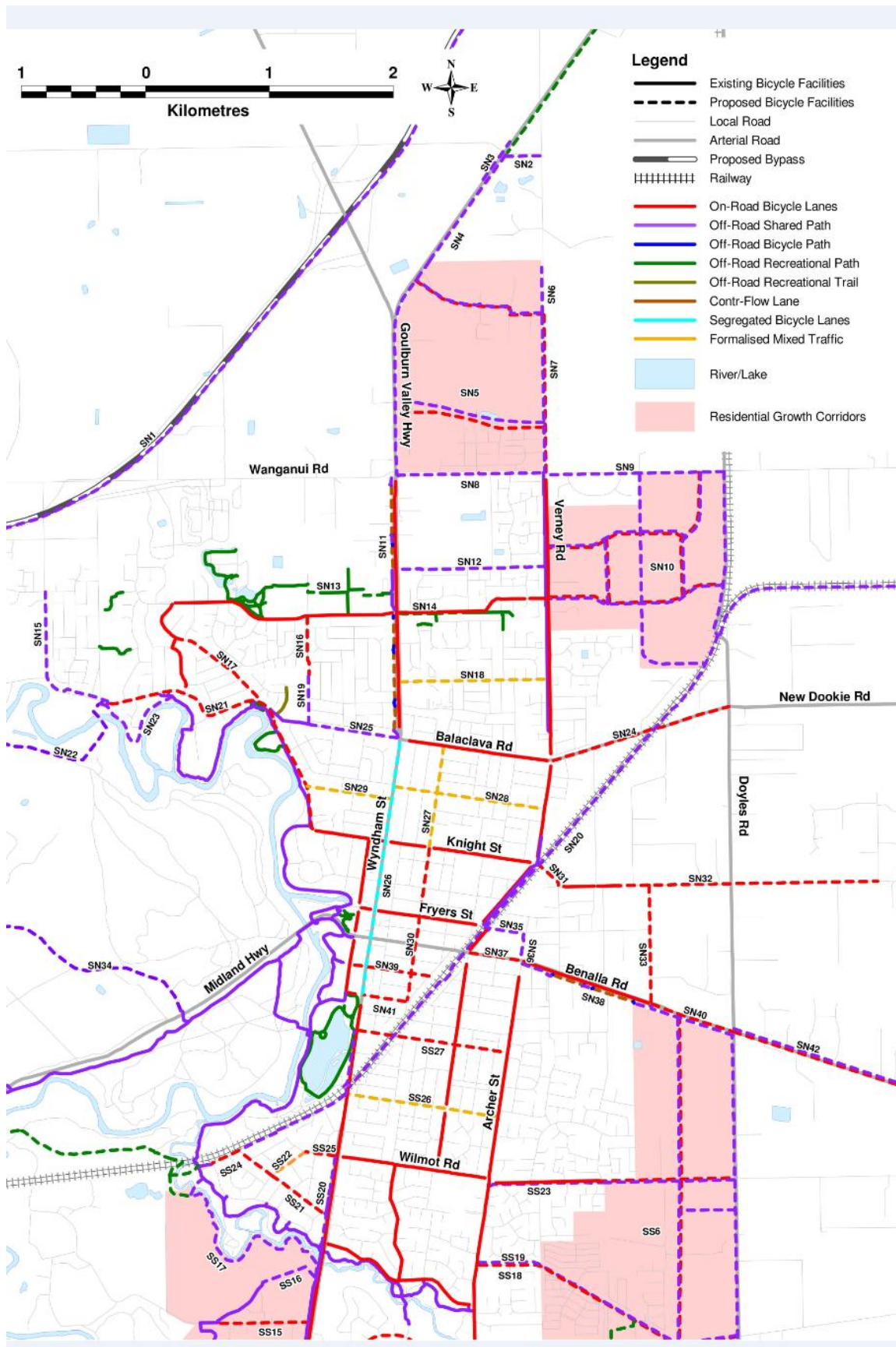
Greater Shepparton City Council Cycling Strategy 2013 -2017 sets the direction for cycling in Greater Shepparton for the next five years and incorporates the vision of the next 10 years. The development of complete and continuous commuter and recreational bicycle networks within each of the townships that are within Greater Shepparton is part of the long term goal.

The strategy does not incorporate specific actions for Congupna; however it does highlight the overall objective of linking townships with path networks. A recreation path is proposed from North Shepparton (Grace Rd) to Congupna. Specific scoping of the potential facilities has not been undertaken as part of the strategy, nor allocated budgets to implement.

It is recommended within the strategy that bicycle facilities between townships should be segregated from the traffic as the roads connecting the townships in Greater Shepparton have high speeds.

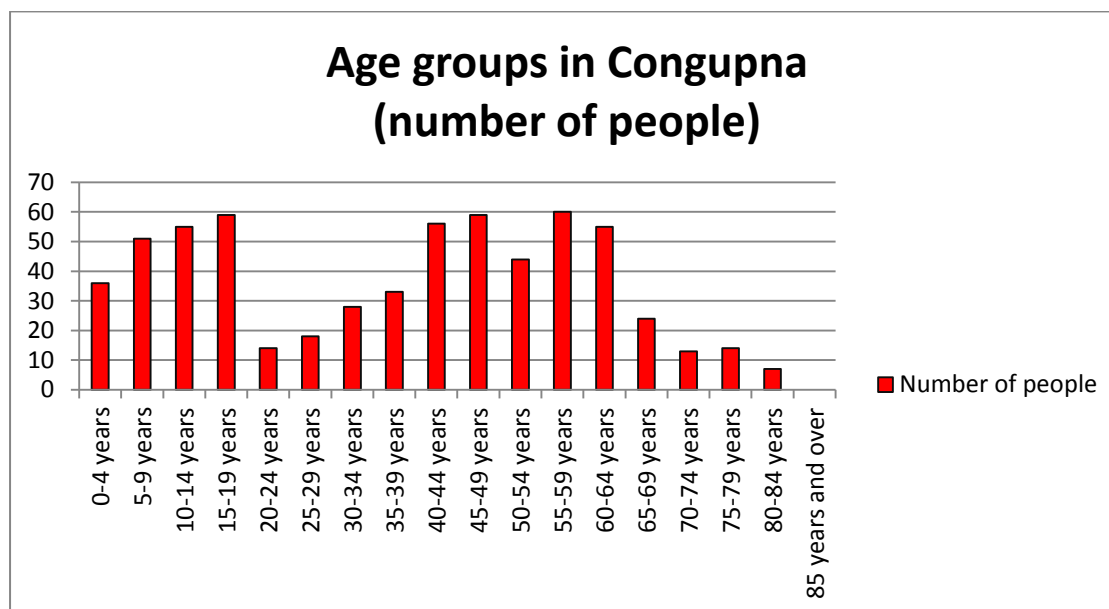
The following two plans contained within the strategy acknowledge potential links between Congupna to North Shepparton.





## Demographic analysis

Based on the 2011 Australia Bureau of Statistics Census, Congupna has a population of 628 people. 52.7% (331) of these are male and 47.3% (297) are female. The median age of residents is 41 years of age. Children aged 0 - 14 years made up 22.7% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 8.6% of the population.



Of the families in Congupna (State Suburbs), 51.9% were couple families with children, 38.7% were couple families without children and 7.7% were one parent families.

92.3% of residents were born in Australia, compared with the national figure of 69.8% and 2.2% of the population are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people compared with the national figure of 2.5%. The most common countries of birth are Italy 1.4%, New Zealand 1.0%, India 0.5%, Netherlands 0.5% and Northern Ireland 0.5%.

In Congupna (State Suburbs) 95.7% of people only spoke English at home. The only other responses for language spoken at home were Italian 0.6%, Greek 0.5% and Marathi 0.5%. In Congupna (State Suburbs) 30.7% of people were attending an educational institution. Of these, 35.9% were in primary school, 32.8% in secondary school and 10.9% in a tertiary or technical institution.

In the year before the Census, 28.4% of people did voluntary work through an organisation or a group.

There were 347 people who reported being in the labour force in the week before Census night in Congupna (State Suburbs). Of these 59.1% were employed full time, 33.7% were employed part-time and 3.2% were unemployed.

Of employed people in Congupna (State Suburbs), 11.9% worked 1 to 15 hours, 13.1% worked 16 to 24 hours and 45.1% worked 40 hours or more.

The most common occupations in Congupna included Professional 17.9%, Clerical and Administrative workers 16.7%, Managers 15.8%, Technicians and Trades workers 13.7% and Labourers 11.6%

Of the employed people in Congupna (State Suburbs), 8.7% worked in School Education. Other major industries of employment included Hospitals 7.8%, Department Stores 4.5%, Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming 4.2% and Building Installation Services 4.2%.

The median weekly personal income for people aged 15 years and over in Congupna (State Suburbs) was \$558. In Congupna (State Suburbs), for couple families with two incomes, the median income for those with children was \$1,567 and those without children was \$1,700.

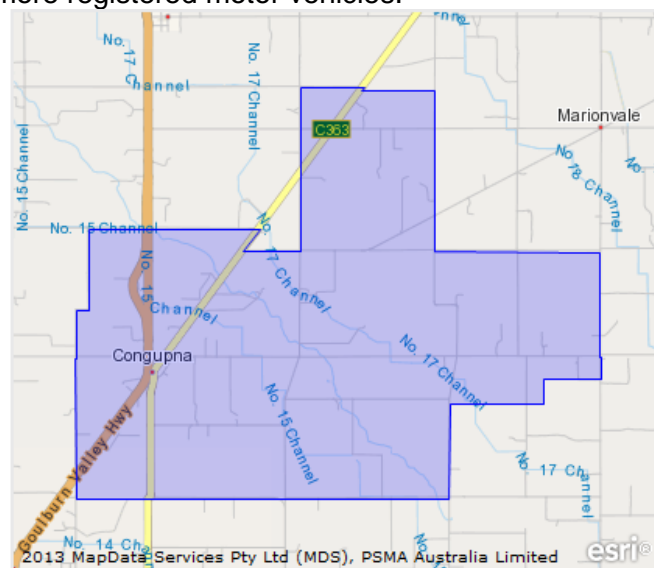
In Congupna (State Suburbs), of couple families, 25.3% had both partners employed full-time, 5.6% had both employed part-time and 31.5% had one employed full-time and the other part-time.

In Congupna (State Suburbs), on the day of the Census, the methods of travel to work for employed people were Car, as driver 71.1%, Car, as passenger 4.8% and Bicycle 1.5%. Other common responses were Truck 1.2% and Other 1.2%. On the day, 1.5% of employed people travelled to work on public transport and 76.0% by car (either as driver or as passenger).

Of occupied private dwellings in Congupna (State Suburbs), 39.4% were owned outright, 43.5% were owned with a mortgage and 13.4% were rented.

In Congupna (State Suburbs), of all households, 81.9% were family households, 16.3% were single person households and 1.9% were group households.

In Congupna (State Suburbs), 17.7% of occupied private dwellings had one registered motor vehicle garaged or parked at their address, 45.1% had two registered motor vehicles and 33.0% had three or more registered motor vehicles.



Sources: ABS 2011 Census Quick Stats: Congupna (State Suburb)

[http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC20327?opendocument&navpos=220](http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC20327?opendocument&navpos=220)

## Community Consultation Data

### Survey Responses

Surveys were distributed to every resident in Congupna through mail distribution at the Congupna General Store. Surveys were also available for collection at the Congupna Primary School and the Store. The surveys were used as base questions for all one on one meetings and community consultations sessions. At the end of the formal consultation period, 52 surveys were submitted. However 126 people had their say through the survey, given that respondents were asked to identify whether they were completing the survey as an individual or on behalf of themselves and others. 126 respondents is 20.1% of the Congupna population.

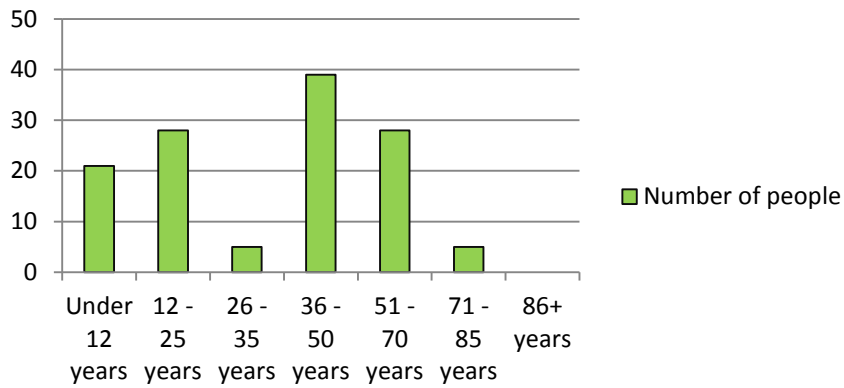
What do you love about Congupna?

- Community Spirit (20)
- Small Community (20)
- Housing (5)
- Proximity to Shepparton (11)
- Parks, Bush and Natural Surrounds (7)
- Active Community Groups, Organisations and Businesses (12)
- Sports facilities and organisations (11)
- Potential for growth and development (1)

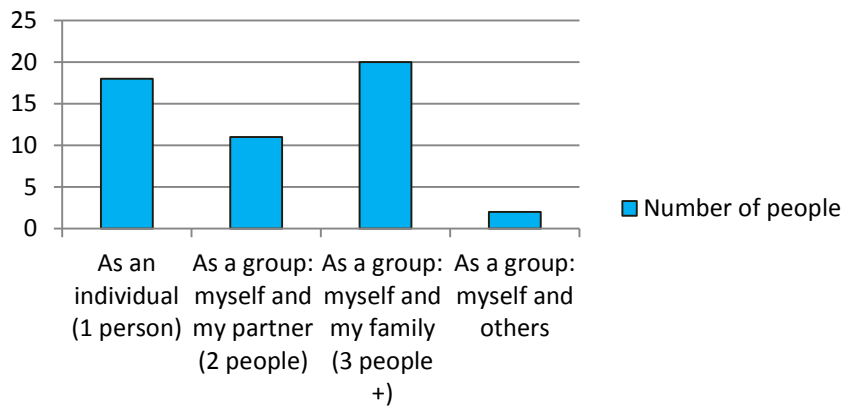
What is your vision for Congupna?

- Remain a vibrant & active community (6)
- Retain smaller community feel (4)
- Retain country feel but improved services (4)
- Development of town / expansion (12)
  - Services: water, sewerage, natural gas (2)
  - Rural rezoning (1)
  - More housing (1)
  - Access to public transport (2)
- Increase small business opportunities (2)
- Enable children to have sense of belonging and safe environment (3)
- Maintain identity separate from Shepparton (1)
- Improve / beautify the town (3)
- To be proud of our surroundings (2)
- Minimise flood risk (8)
- Long term vision for the area (1)

### Q5: Which category indicates your age? (Number of people)



### Q4: Are you completing this survey:



<b>Top Ideas</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Drainage	12
Footpath improvements Old Grahamvale Rd (5) Shop to Wallace Street (2) Katamatite Rd onto Congupna East Rd (3)	
Parking outside Congupna General Store	4
Improve aesthetics of Congupna Main Rd – landscaping, beautification, signage, parking, curbing, bin, seats	9
Community gatherings (1) Movie night (1) Seniors (1)	
Early childhood facilities	3
District map board / noticeboard	1
Art murals	1
Walking / Cycling Tracks - Congupna to Shepparton (14) - Around Congupna (3)	
Enhance natural vegetation with park life seating	1
Farrell Park upgrade	3
Raw water scheme for garden use	1
Pub / Tavern	5
Increase small business opportunities	2
Indoor adventure / rock climbing / ice-skating / paintball	2
Exploration of museum of fruits, orchards and dairy	2
Parking at Congupna Primary School	4
Safe turning lane to enter and exit the Congupna Primary School	4
Increased safety – speeding vehicles entering Congupna	1
Public transport - town bus or V/Line service	4
Bypass to be completed	5
Advocate extra land for the school to expand	1
Town entrance and beautification	4
Skatepark	2
Better footy club rooms and facilities (12) Trees at eastern end of show court (1) Toilets in Hall to be refurbished (1) New change rooms / club rooms (1)	7
Recreation Reserve 1 Small room renovated to be community meeting room (3)	
Public Toilets Signage directing public to toilets (3)	
Road upgrades 1 Turning lanes into Hall and Rec Reserve (2) Old Grahamvale Road (4)	
Clean up area along Railway near Wallace Street	2
Advocate for services: natural gas, sewerage and broadband	13
Encourage growth of the town	1

## Ideas Wall

Responses in this section include the three consecutive Coffee & Conversation events at the Congupna General Store and attendance at the Congupna FNC Meals night.

What do you love about Congupna?

- Community Spirit (4)
- Small Community (1)
- Proximity to Shepparton (3)
- Active Community Groups, Organisations and Businesses (5)
- Parks, Bush and Natural Surrounds (2)
- Sporting facilities and organisations (3)

What is your vision?

- Remain a vibrant & active community (1)
- Retain country feel but improved services (1)
- Development of town / expansion (4)
  - Services: water, sewerage, natural gas (2)
- Increase small business opportunities (1)
- Enable children to have sense of belonging and safe environment (1)
- Improve / beautify the town (2)
- To be proud of our surroundings (1)
- Minimise flood risk(4)

Top Ideas	Numbers
Parking outside the Congupna Store	1
Swimming Pool	2
Improve aesthetics of Congupna Main Rd (landscaping, beautification, signage, parking)	2
Town entrance / beautification project	1
BMX track / jumps	2
Skate park	3
Public toilets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintenance (1)</li> <li>- Upgrade toilets at the Hall (1)</li> <li>- Roadside toilets (1)</li> </ul>	
Advocate for services, natural gas, sewerage and broadband.	4
Community gatherings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Movie nights/ outdoor cinema (2)</li> <li>- Pilates / yoga (1)</li> </ul>	
District Map Board	1
Art murals	1
Walking / Cycling tracks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Linking Congupna to Shepparton (7)</li> <li>- Fitness track (1)</li> </ul>	
Farrell Park upgrade	1
Expand Pony Paddock to develop into Meeting place	1
Pub / Tavern	2



Café	1
Parking at Congupna Primary School	2
CFA Shed	1
Public Transport – town bus or V/Line services	1
Drainage New (1) Maintenance (1)	
KFC, Subway, McDonald's	2
Better football rooms and facilities	2
Kids play area	1
Lake	1
Moooving Art Cow	1

## Have Your Say Congupna

Greater Shepparton City Council partnered with Word and Mouth (youth organisation) and Congupna Football Netball Club to host the 'Have Your Say Congupna Youth Consultation'. This event provided young people in the local community to come together to have their say about what was important to them in their community. Local young people played music and a BBQ was provided. Approximately 40 people attended.

Survey responses included:

What do you love about Congupna?

- Congupna Football / Netball Club (3)
- Congupna General Store (1)
- People (1)

What is your vision?

- To be proud of your surroundings (1)

Top Ideas	Numbers
Adventure Based Activities (ice skating, rock climbing, man-made beach, paintball, laser tag)	6
Improved football / netball facilities	3
Walking / Cycling Paths	2
Business (hospitality)	2
Electronic score board	1
Swimming Pool	1
Goal post safety net (west end)	1
Drop down film screen for movie nights	1
Automatic defibrillator	1
Cricket club	1
Skatepark	1
Veggie patch	1

## Artwork Priorities

Top ideas that were raised by the Congupna Primary School students included town expansion with many drawing high rise buildings or expanded township, establishment of new businesses to the area (many retail, fast food and hospitality based). Other infrastructure ideas included a swimming pool, playgrounds, attractions for locals and visitors and BMX tracks. One student wanted to see a library established. Please note that it was difficult to ascertain themes from some of the artwork.

The themes raised from the students artwork includes:

<b>Vision for Congupna for the future</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
Town expansion (more houses)	12
Business development (variety of retail stores and pub)	11
Swimming pool & water park	8
Fast food outlets	6
Welcoming town (welcome to Congupna)	4
Playground	4
Attractions (go carts, cinema)	4
High school	2
Development of Congupna lake	2
BMX track	1
Library	1
Sporting facilities	1

## Stakeholder Consultations

Consultations occurred with the following local businesses, organisations and community groups.

- Congupna Country Women's Association
- Congupna Football Netball Club
- Congupna Primary School Playgroup
- Congupna / Tallygaroopna Landcare
- Four Corners Motel and Caravan Park
- Pivot

Questions	Comments
Assets within the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great community</li> <li>• Community groups have contributed to financial and in kind to community projects in the past.</li> <li>• Growing school enrolments</li> </ul>
Opportunities for improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns with the public toilets at the Recreation Reserve as they need to be updated</li> <li>• More signage to identify the public toilets available at the Recreation Reserve (2)</li> <li>• Old supper room at the Recreation Reserve needs to be updated and could be utilised as a community meeting room.</li> <li>• Investigate mobile Library to service Congupna</li> <li>• Would like to see walking / cycling tracks linking Congupna to Shepparton</li> <li>• Bike loop around town as the roads are quite busy and parents are reluctant for children to be close to the roads.</li> <li>• With growing school enrolments, infrastructure to support these enrolments is required, including entry to the school (via car) and car parking at the school.</li> <li>• Lots of rubbish on Congupna Main Road (west side) every day. There used to be a rubbish bin provided, but now this has been removed.</li> <li>• West side of Congupna Main Road (road reserve west side) as it currently floods in winter or is a dusty in summer, need to provide seats as many stop and park in the area (including trucks)</li> <li>• Local business may explore a partnership to beautify the area.</li> <li>• Signage to indicate the town would be a good ideas</li> <li>• Old dam between Pivot and Congupna Primary (been removed) planted trees in the area</li> <li>• Old Railway station location (raised area) could be an opportunity to develop.</li> <li>• Mooving Art Cow</li> </ul>

## Priority Setting Forum

Residents attended the Primary School Art Exhibition launch and Priority Setting forum to view the children's art work and to select key priorities for the ideas raised in the consultation process thus far. Residents were given three dots each to identify what they thought the priorities should be within the plan. There were a total number of 128 dots 'spent' meaning that 43 people contributed their views on what the priorities in the plan should be.

Priority	Dots
Construct walking / cycling tracks: - Linking Congupna to Shepparton (26) - Around Congupna (12)	38
To advocate for drainage, both new initiatives and maintenance	17
Advocate for services: natural gas, sewerage and broadband	14
To advocate for parking to be addressed at the Primary school. To incorporate a safe turning lane to enter and exit the school	13
To advocate for footpath improvements - Old Grahamvale Rod (between Katamatite Rd & Wallace Street) - Shop to Wallace Street - Katamatite Rd onto Congupna East Rd to continue	8
Expand the Pony Paddock to develop into a meeting place, it could include a BBQ and / or rotunda.	6
Improved Recreation Reserve facilities - Toilets within the Hall to be refurbished (2) - Electronic signage (2) - Goal post safety net (1) - New change rooms (1)	6
Road upgrades: Turning lanes at Congupna East Road into Hall and Rec Reserve (2) Old Grahamvale Road (2) Clean up area along Railway near Wallace Street and beautification (2)	6
Recreation Reserve – purchase of an automatic defibrillator	5
Public toilets – signage directing people to toilet facilities	4
Consider parking outside the Congupna General Store on the east and west side of the road.	3
Construct BMX jumps / track within the town.	2
Improve the aesthetics of Congupna Main Road including landscaping, beautification, signage, parking, curbing, rubbish bin, area to sit.	2
To advocate for a CFA Shed to be located in Congupna	2
Advocate for increased safety, particularly in regards to speeding vehicles entering Congupna from the north (from Katamatite)	1
Advocate for access to public transport to be available for Congupna. I.e. V/Line or Shepparton Transit services	1

## Collation of Priorities

Ideas were collected through a range of consultation mechanisms (survey, key stakeholder interviews, ideas wall, youth consultation, artwork and the priority setting forum). The table below has been developed to pull all of the ideas together and to identify the sources from which the ideas were obtained. Some of these ideas have been discounted for various reasons and reasoning has been provided in the last column. This table has been developed as a base.

Idea	Relevant Strategic Documents	Surveys	Key Stakeholder interviews	Ideas Wall	Have Your Say Congupna	Artwork	Priority Setting Forum (Dots)	Total	Priority
Construct walking / cycling tracks: - Linking Congupna to Shepparton - Around Congupna		17	2	8	2		38	67	High
Advocate for services: natural gas, sewerage and broadband		14		4			14	32	High
To advocate for drainage, both new initiatives and maintenance		12		2			17	31	High
Improved Recreation Reserve facilities - Toilets within the Hall to be refurbished - Electronic signage - Goal post safety net - New change rooms		15		2	5	1	6	29	High
To advocate for parking to be addressed at the primary school. To incorporate a safe turning lane to enter and exit the school		8	2	2			13	25	High
To advocate for footpath improvements - Old Grahamvale Rod (between Katamatite Rd & Wallace Street)		10					8	18	High

Idea	Relevant Strategic Documents	Surveys	Key Stakeholder interviews	Ideas Wall	Have Your Say Congupna	Artwork	Priority Setting Forum (Dots)	Total	Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shop to Wallace Street</li> <li>- Katamatite Rd onto Congupna East Rd to continue</li> </ul>									
Improve the aesthetics of Congupna Main Road including landscaping, beautification, signage, parking, curbing, rubbish bin, area to sit.		9	2	2			2	15	High
Road upgrades: Turning lanes at Congupna East Road into Hall and Rec Reserve Old Grahamvale Road		7					6	13	High
Increase small business opportunities		2				11		13	Medium
Adventure Based activities - Indoor adventure / rock climbing / ice-skating / paintball		2			6	4		12	N/A (private sector responsibility)
Town expansion (more houses)						12		12	N/A (covered in other areas)
Swimming Pool				2	1	8		11	N/A (insufficient population to be viable)
Town entrance and beautification		4	1	1		4		10	Medium
Public toilets – signage directing people to toilet facilities		3	2				4	9	Medium
KFC, Subway, McDonald's				2		6		8	N/A (private sector)

Idea	Relevant Strategic Documents	Surveys	Key Stakeholder interviews	Ideas Wall	Have Your Say Congupna	Artwork	Priority Setting Forum (Dots)	Total	Priority
									responsibility)
Pub / Tavern		5		2	1			8	N/A (private sector responsibility)
Consider parking outside the Congupna General Store on the east and west side of the road.		4		1			3	8	Medium
Expand the Pony Paddock to develop into a meeting place; it could include a BBQ and / or rotunda.				1			6	7	Medium
Recreation Reserve – purchase of an automatic defibrillator					1		5	6	Medium
Advocate for access to public transport to be available for Congupna. I.e. V/Line or Shepparton Transit services		4		1			1	6	Medium
Community gatherings Movie night Seniors		3		3				6	Medium
Skate park		2		3	1			6	Medium
Recreation Reserve Small room renovated to be community meeting room		4	1					5	Medium
Kids play area				1		4		5	Low
Advocate for bypass to be completed		5						5	Low



Idea	Relevant Strategic Documents	Surveys	Key Stakeholder interviews	Ideas Wall	Have Your Say Congupna	Artwork	Priority Setting Forum (Dots)	Total	Priority
Construct BMX jumps / track within the town.				2		1	2	5	Medium
Clean up area along Railway near Wallace Street and beautification		2					2	4	Medium
Farrell Park upgrade		3		1				4	Medium
Public toilets – Maintenance and new toilet facilities			1	3				4	Medium
Early childhood facilities		3						3	Low
Development of Congupna Lake				1		2		3	N/A
To advocate for a CFA Shed to be located in Congupna				1			2	3	Low
Advocate for increased safety, particularly in regards to speeding vehicles entering Congupna from the north (from Katamatite)		1					1	2	Medium (safety concern)
District map board / noticeboard		1		1				2	Low
High School						2		2	N/A (DEECD responsibility)
Advocate for mobile library			1			1		2	Low
Art murals		1		1				2	Low
Enhance natural vegetation with park life seating		1						1	Low
Raw water scheme for garden use		1						1	Low
Exploration of museum of fruits,		1						1	N/A (Not high

Idea	Relevant Strategic Documents	Surveys	Key Stakeholder interviews	Ideas Wall	Have Your Say Congupna	Artwork	Priority Setting Forum (Dots)	Total	Priority
orchards and dairy									priority at this point)
Advocate extra land for the school to expand		1						1	N/A (DEECD responsibility)
Cafe				1				1	N/A (private sector responsibility)
Drop down film screen for movie nights					1			1	Low
Cricket club					1			1	N/A
Veggie patch					1			1	Low
Develop location of old Railway station			1					1	Low
Mooving Art Cow			1	1				2	Completed

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