

Draft

Robertson Village Place Plan

– POST EXHIBITION REPORT –



We're with you

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wingecarribee Shire Council acknowledges the Gundungurra and Tharawal people as the Traditional custodians of this place we now call the Wingecarribee Shire.

Wingecarribee Shire Council recognises the continuous and deep connection to their Ngurra (Country) and that this is of great cultural significance to Aboriginal people, both locally and in the region.

For Gundungurra and Tharawal people, Ngurra (Country) means everything, it's physical, cultural and spiritual, it's belonging.

We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations people.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

The Draft Robertson Village Place Plan (Draft Place Plan) has been developed in partnership with the community and stakeholders and is a holistic place-based plan that addresses the housing, economic, social and cultural needs of the Robertson community, both now and into the future. The Draft Robertson Village Place Plan supports Council's transition to a better place-based planning framework for our towns and villages and additionally responds to actions identified within the adopted Wingecarribee Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) and Local Housing Strategy (LHS), specifically –

LSPS:

- 6.1 (i). Adopt a place-based approach to planning in local towns and villages to ensure that their special character is preserved.
- 6.1 (v). Develop place-based urban design development controls for our satellite centres of Bundanoon and Robertson to ensure that new development is in keeping with the desired future character of these areas.

LHS:

- Planning Priority 1 – Promote infill development and increased densities in appropriate locations and facilitate a greater mix of housing types to ensure our housing stock is reflective of the needs of our community.



Following an extensive consultation process which commenced back in late 2021, the Draft Place Plan was prepared and formally exhibited for a period of six (6) weeks from 4 September to 16 October 2023. During this time, further targeted consultation occurred with both the community and stakeholders through a range of face-to-face and online engagement opportunities. This report provides a comprehensive overview of outcomes from the exhibition period.

1.2 About the Place Plan

As the intention to develop a community-led Place Plan was recognised at the outset of the project, community and stakeholder engagement opportunities were conducted at various stages to ensure that local residents and visitors to Robertson assisted in shaping the vision and future direction of the village centre. The engagement workshops and activities were, therefore, targeted at understanding existing constraints and opportunities, identifying the unique character of the village and the initial testing of Place Principles and Interventions. This was achieved through a range of face-to-face community and stakeholder engagement sessions and online interactive activities, such the character photo competition, SWOT analysis and place audit, online surveys, visioning exercise, world-café style workshop and discussion forums. The feedback received during this time directly informed the development of the exhibited Draft Place Plan, which is believed to reflect a shared vision and strategic direction for the Robertson village centre.

Informed by community and stakeholder engagement, the framework of the Draft Place Plan is centred around the vision and five (5) key themes, including Environment and Sustainability, Movement, Economy, Housing and Community and Place. Each theme is accompanied by Place Principles and a set of Place Interventions that aim to guide the delivery of the overarching vision. The Draft Place Plan is intended to reflect a shared responsibility between Council, the community and other relevant stakeholders to achieve the community vision, therefore, Place Partners have been identified under each proposed intervention. In addition, impact and timeframe scales have been identified to assist with delivery of the interventions.

Overall, this robust framework aspires to provide an innovative roadmap to achieving a sustainable, safe, accessible and active centre that is reflective of the existing character of Robertson and establishes a unique sense of place.

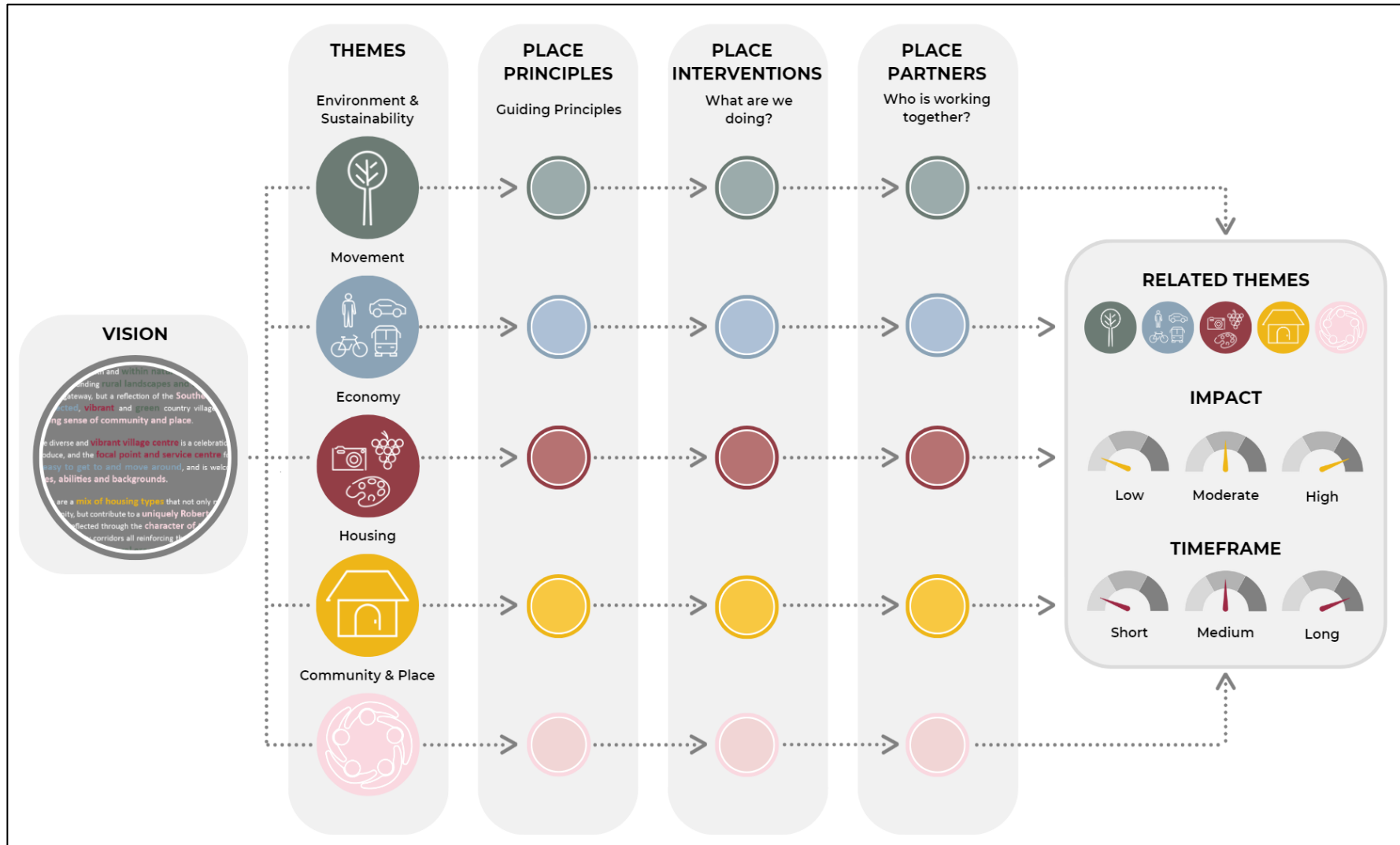


Figure 1 How to use the Draft Place Plan?

2. PUBLIC EXHIBITION

The Draft Robertson Village Place Plan was placed on public exhibition for a period of six (6) weeks from 4 September to 16 October 2023. During the exhibition period, the Draft Place Plan was available to be viewed via the 'Document Library' on Your Say Wingecarribee and hard copies were also available at Customer Service at Council's Civic Centre, Moss Vale Library, Mittagong Library, Bowral Library, WSC Mobile Library and the CTC Robertson. In addition, a number of face to face and online engagement activities were run throughout this time and a summary of the outcomes from each consultation opportunity is detailed below. All feedback received during the public exhibition period has directly informed the post-exhibition review of the Draft Place Plan.

2.1 Community Drop-In Session

A community drop-in session was held on Tuesday 5 September 2023 between 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the CTC Robertson. The purpose of the drop-in session was to encourage participants to stop by and partake in a self-paced activity, which allowed the community to provide comments in response to the overall Draft Place Plan or proposed Place Interventions. A summary of the feedback that was received during the drop-in session is provided below.



Table 1 – CTC Robertson Drop-In Session Feedback

Theme 1 – Environment and Sustainability	
Community Feedback	Staff Response
Improved / better waste collection services. Living out of town we have to pay for our own collection and there is no option for recycling other than taking it to the tip ourselves. We also get no hard rubbish day pick up and no tip passes to compensate. The difference in rates doesn't sit equal between town and rural.	Noted. Council acknowledges that parts of Robertson are serviced for waste collection, however some areas of the village are challenging to access thus limiting the ability for this service to be provided. Council is currently exploring opportunities to expand this service within Robertson.
All new buildings in Shire should be mandated at a high energy efficiency.	Energy use, thermal performance and water are all assessed against the BASIX standards for all new residential developments, including renovations and pools and spas over 40,000 litres. This falls under the State Environmental Planning Policy for Sustainable Buildings 2022. Council requires a BASIX certificate for any new development application, above a certain threshold.
How about we have mixed recycling drop of in town for residents outside of town?	Currently Council has the mobile Community recycling centre which rotates throughout the villages and communities of the Shire on a weekly basis. This provides the opportunity to dispose of problem waste and recyclable goods. The 2024 Collection Schedule is available on the Council website. A review surrounding additional waste facilities in Robertson is also underway.
Shire needs to improve the very outdated residential water regs ie. Grey water must be used for flushing toilets etc.	Development Assessment within the Shire for new dwellings or alterations and additions, requires a BASIX certificate, as prescribed in State Environmental Planning Policy for Sustainable Buildings 2022. This tool is a standard for water (including grey water), energy use and thermal performance for new residential developments and renovations. Council utilises this in assessing development applications.

Theme 2 - Movement	
Community Feedback	Staff Response
Would love to see more foot and bike paths leading further out of town. E-bikes are a great idea but there isn't currently the space to use them. We live out of town and are land locked by railway and the highway. We cannot safely leave our house other than by car.	<p>Noted. Several initiatives are striving to achieve an active transport environment in the Village Centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place Intervention 2.1.3 - Proposed to provide through block links, upgrade existing pedestrian and vehicular access. • Place Intervention 2.1.4 - Proposed to investigate the opportunity for the completion of unformed road corridors. • Place Intervention 2.2.2 - Active transport loops.
Transport is a huge problem for many. There is an urgent need for upgrades. More daily services - there is no return service from Bowral only 1/4 to 10am Bus with no return - please explain what is available daily?	Noted. Bus services within and around Robertson fall under the responsibility of Transport for NSW, thus Council is unable to implement improvements to current bus services provided. In saying this, Place Intervention 2.1.1 is working to develop short- and long-term upgrade plans for better connection to Robertson which is aiming to ease the current transportation challenges faced.
Community transport has been changed and is expensive and is not in the best interest of the many who were using this facility previously, it's hard to navigate, book and more.	Noted. Community Transport throughout the Southern Highlands is accessible via Southern Highlands Community Transport. Council does not directly provide this service but do contribute to supporting the service by providing two serviced buses and wheelchair accessible and hoist fitted vehicles.
Getting a footpath on the northern side of Hoddle Street is crucial to the town being more accessible for all! Also an extra crossing near CTC.	Noted. The Draft Place Plan identifies the need for enhanced accessibility throughout the Village Centre through proposed initiatives 2.1.2, 2.1.3 and 2.2.4. These Place Interventions aim to implement traffic calming, crossing opportunities, pedestrian accessibility, and a shared path, in particular, along Hoddle Street.
Not opening of unmade streets for safety in an emergency, fires, accident etc. This should be a duty of care for council to the residents	Noted. Place Interventions 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 propose to review the upgrade of laneways for pedestrian and vehicular access and well as investigate the completion of unformed road corridors.

<p>and visitors to Robertson - Its also a traffic burden to residents in the event of closures.</p>	<p>Place Intervention 1.2.3 additionally aims to educate the community for preparedness in emergency responses, informing safest methods of response.</p>
<p>Hope proper footpaths are a high priority. Don't see any timelines.</p>	<p>Noted. Footpaths are proposed along Hoddle Street up into Meryla Street as a priority in the Draft Place Plan. This is identified as a high impact intervention with a short timeframe, ensuring that it is prioritised following the adoption of the Draft Robertson Village Place Plan.</p>
<p>Unformed road reserves M1: Agree these need to be completed. Needs to be more medium timeframe. - M3: While a priority, fraught with danger as it may take away from parking in main street if it becomes too improved. If no parking in main street, then where?</p>	<p>Noted. Movement Place Intervention 2.1.3. proposes to explore Development Control Plan provisions regarding the investigation of through block links and upgrades to existing laneways. This does not propose removing main street parking, rather encourages the enhanced accessibility for vehicles and pedestrians, encouraging walkability in Robertson which would increase parking available.</p>
<p>(M4) - Vitally important as described should be done before east-west connection. M1 and M5 should be done before east + west.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
<p>Not sure about E-bikes.</p>	<p>The trial e-bike scheme proposed in Place Intervention 2.2.1 provides an opportunity for local workers in the Village to commute to work utilising active transport, while also addressing the need for car-parking by reducing the demand in the Village Centre.</p>
<p>Definitely path along front of Hampden Park - wide enough for disabled electric scooter - short timeframe.</p>	<p>Noted. The prioritisation of a shared path along Hoddle Street in front of Hampden Park extending up Meryla Street (Place Intervention 2.2.4) will aim to provide accessibility for all residents of Robertson.</p>
<p>Meaning of "improved access" needs clarification. Only path mentioned is 2.2.4 (in front of Hampden Park). No mention of other paths. - Suggest a strategy to plan out a definite timeline and funding allocation with a specific footpath plan to be commenced by a date. The community needs to see something happening.</p>	<p>The Draft Place Plan suggests the implementation of an active transport loop in Place Intervention 2.2.2 which will aim to investigate paths for both cycling and walking.</p> <p>The purpose of the Draft Place Plan is to enhance the existing village centre by establishing new opportunities that</p>

	contribute to a long-term vision. Funding will be allocated following the adoption of the Draft Place Plan, providing a basis of a funding application to State and Federal agencies.
(Linking of Streets) Need more than one way around village by vehicles available to many streets + lane. No interlinking - this is and hasn't changed in -60years plus. How backward for the community + safety issue if there is an emergency fire or more in a street.	Accessibility around Robertson Village was explored throughout the movement theme, primarily through Interventions 2.1.3 and 2.2.2. These Place Interventions both propose to provide through-block links and upgrade existing laneways for pedestrian and vehicle access as well as create an active transport loop. Emergency preparation and education is also explored in Place Intervention 1.2.3.
Economy	
Community Feedback	Staff Response
Council is not at grass roots with viability of keeping all continuing to work and live in our towns.	Council has recently introduced new or amended the focus for roles within the organisation, including a Place Liaison Officer and Economic Development Coordinator (now located within the Strategic Outcomes team). Both of these roles are intended to work closely with community members and businesses to ensure the viability of the Shire's towns and villages.
Marketing + branding of Southern Highlands espec. Robertson could help to establish us as a tourism destination. How do we attract tourism + hotel rooms?	<p>Council recently launched a campaign in Winter to attract visitors to the Southern Highlands. This campaign was successful, and Council will continue to pursue and promote the Southern Highlands as a tourist destination. Opportunities to work in collaboration with local business groups will also be sought, although this does not prevent the local business chamber from also pursuing these opportunities.</p> <p>The Draft Place Plan establishes several interventions that aim to inspire new businesses and present Robertson as a destination in its own right. Place Interventions 3.1.3 and 3.2.3 will work to promote economic activity and opportunities for local businesses, supported by the proposed place branding strategy (5.1.3) and enhanced entrances into the village (5.1.1).</p>

	These initiatives aim to promote and welcome visitors into Robertson as a destination and develop the available amenities Robertson has to offer residents and visitors.
A+ for agritourism ideas. Southern Highlands should be highlighted as a "farm to plate" destination. Restaurants are a major draw card for destination tourism.	Noted and agreed. Council will support and promote these opportunities through the Tourism and Economic Development functions. Place Intervention 3.2.3 of the Draft Place Plan is identified to support local businesses in establishing local network.
What is the tourist trail in Robbo? What would keep me here for the weekend? Or what would keep me here for a week? If we can't identify that then focus on growing the weekend trade as an economic driver for Robertson. I know locals have asked for 7 day trading opportunities but the customer base is too small.	<p>The Draft Place Plan (via Place Principle 3.1 and subsequent Place Interventions) identifies that to grow the local economy, Council can encourage more people to live, work and visit Robertson to generate more local activity, and secondly to ensure that the planning controls provide the right environment for existing businesses to grow and for new businesses to thrive.</p> <p>Place Intervention 3.2.3 proposes the creation of a food and adventure trail network, enhancing Robertson's role as a destination. In doing so, tourism can be expected to increase, contributing to the economy of Robertson. In addition, as a result of housing Place Interventions increasing residential density, economic activity is expected to further increase and grow. This will enhance the current customer base and will encourage a 7-day-a-week economy in Robertson.</p>
Housing	
Community Feedback	Staff Response
(H 4.1) This is vitally important for all reasons described but must be short term goal. Too many young and aged leaving Robbo because no viable housing for them. Housing must fit in with Robertson.	Housing Place Intervention 4.1.4 is proposed to encourage infill residential development. This brings action to the Local Housing Strategy which identifies a 50:50 split between infill and greenfield housing provision to meet the housing needs of the Shire.

<p>I love the large blocks, but I would also like to see tasteful medium density in particular areas. If walkable to the shopping square, would have economic advantages.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Place Intervention 4.1.4 proposes the review of planning framework to allow higher density residential in the village core and a gradual decrease in density going towards the outskirts of the village.</p>
<p>Not just one group or age group of people within a village/town. Housing people within the village is an urgent necessity to keep a working village - of all walks of people - we need everyone, cleaners, tradies, childcare.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. By implementing Place Interventions 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 to investigate alternate housing types and review current planning framework to overcome barriers surrounding higher density residential development, the demographic of residents of Robertson can be diverse.</p>
<p>Childcare/preschools - need to be upgraded to go with the time of working mums and dads.</p>	<p>Existing E1- Local Centre and R2- Low Density Residential zones allow for a childcare centre within Robertson. This matter falls within the business industry to lead and is not affiliated with Council. Further, because childcare is a private business, Council is unable to mandate operation times.</p>
<p>Housing is at a 50 year urgency and Council have known about this urgency for 20 years at least but nothing has been done at all to provide ROBERTSON with affordable housing for the young - old.</p>	<p>Housing Place Intervention 4.1.3 is proposed to establish any new residential development and alternations to existing development to allow infill housing as a short-term response to the current housing situation. This brings action to the Local Housing Strategy which is a 20-year plan for the Shire.</p>
<p>With housing at an all time high purchasing is from \$800k-\$2.5m - therefore rates have quadrupled with 3 years - thus pushing many out of the area - for buying, renting living - families many who wish to retain living can't.</p>	<p>Noted. Property prices are dictated by the current market. Council is unable to regulate housing costs. However, Place Interventions 4.1.1 and 4.1.4 look to investigating alternate housing typologies and enable infill residential development in the village centre, which will provide additional housing in the area.</p>
<p>Rezoning - Council promised the community at meeting after meeting to bring the zoning back to 1/4 acre after rezoning but nothing has been put in place to help stop McMansions being built on large blocks which long-term is not sustainable for maintenance, heating and cooling todays 21st century living.</p>	<p>Following the adoption of the Draft Place Plan, a separate body of work will follow which will investigate housing further, extending to explore current minimum lot sizes and the potential for infill housing via the review of our planning framework.</p>
<p>Important in view of state government's push to dramatically increase housing. DCP needs urgent review to make it more friendly</p>	<p>A separate body of work has been identified to follow the adoption of the Draft Place Plan (4.1.4), which is intended to</p>

<p>to who is proposed in the Place Plan. Current DCP allows various interpretation and allows approve development also important for business - combined commercial + residential - workers in town need a place to live.</p>	<p>focus on the review of our planning framework (e.g. infill residential development, minimum lot sizes, character controls, etc).</p>
<p>Rezoning people working to pay high mortgages, high food, high utilities. People young - old and everyone in between - its not sustainable to have huge blocks with an assortment of sizing of blocks - which thus become affordable to everyone of all ages, disabilities and more.</p>	<p>Property prices are dictated by the current market. Council is unable to regulate housing costs. However, Place Interventions 4.1.1 and 4.1.4 look to investigating alternate housing typologies and enable infill residential development in the village centre, which will provide additional housing in the area.</p>
<p>Council need to work better with Tafes + schools, builders, electricians, plumbers to make/encourage more jobs for the younger and encourage apprentices + trainees for short term - we need affordable housing but without housing we will never have the wide socio-mix of all walks of life. We need everyone + without tradies we will have no housing.</p>	<p>Council is supportive of younger residents, apprentices, and trainees. A Careers at Council Expo was held in August 2023, supported by Regional Industry Educational Partnerships, TAFE and the University of Wollongong Southern Highlands to provide insight into career options, practical training opportunities and academic pathways. This also provided information on avenues for traineeships and cadetships. Place Intervention 4.1.3 supports this by promoting the review of the planning framework to identify infill housing for a diverse resident population.</p>
<p>Theme 5 - Community and Place</p>	
<p>Community Feedback</p>	<p>Staff Response</p>
<p>Long day care is an urgent facility within the village/town. Hours have not changed in 30years for a council owned preschool which is a minimum of 20 minutes from another nearest childcare facilities</p>	<p>Noted. Existing zones within Robertson allow for a centre-based childcare centre. As these are privately owned areas, it will be up to the business industry to lead the provision of childcare centres. Further, as the existing childcare services provided in Robertson are a private business, Council is unable to mandate operation times.</p>
<p>5.1.3 UGH Branding strategy?? Nothing could be less charming.</p>	<p>Noted. The purpose of a branding strategy is to ensure that when development occurs that it is consistent with the character of Robertson and establishes a real sense of place for both residents and visitors. This is intended to be developed in partnership with the community and industry to ensure that it</p>

	is in keeping with the expectations of the community and is reflective of the desired future character of the village centre (Place Intervention 5.1.3).
I disagree – branding is the key to growing the town (and with it infrastructure, investment etc)	Noted and agreed.
Consideration for young families needing to work. There is one day care centre with opening hours that barely allow you to get to nearby towns for work and it closes during school holidays.	Noted. A centre-based childcare centre is currently permissible with consent within the existing E1 Local Centre and R2 Low Density Residential zones. This is an industry opportunity. Similarly, as childcare is a private business within industry, Council cannot mandate operation hours.
No long day care - facilities are antiquated / out dated - only a preschool. No long day care for working mums and dads. It's ludicrous in @ 21st century.	Noted. Refer to previous staff comment.
Any chance the community centre could be rebuilt?	The recently adopted Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy identifies the Robertson Community Centre as a key opportunity. The Strategy can provide further specific information regarding the site.
I agree - Robbo has lots of community interest, groups clamouring for space. Multipurpose + public.	Noted and agreed.
It would be great to get access to the vacant block next to the CTC for community purposes. Many groups have tried for years to get this land for community buildings but State Gov. (Police) won't budge.	Noted and agreed. Place Interventions 3.1.2 and 5.2.7 have been proposed to utilise this site for a potential community square (5.2.7) or multi-purpose hub (3.1.2).

2.2 Robertson Country Markets

Council held a stall at the Robertson Country Markets on Sunday 10 September 2023, to promote the public exhibition of the Draft Place Plan and to seek valuable feedback from the community. This was an opportunity to increase awareness of the work that has been undertaken, encourage the community to ask questions and to further engage with the community to seek their local and visitor knowledge which has helped inform the review of the Draft Place Plan.

2.3 Online Survey

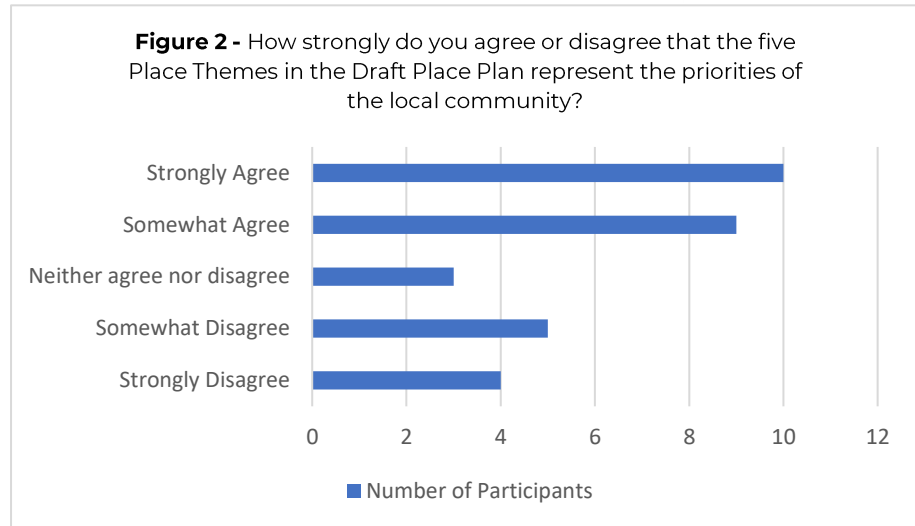
Participants were encouraged to complete a short survey on Your Say Wingecarribee, which was tailored to capture local feedback on the overall Draft Place Plan framework and the proposed Place Interventions under each of the five (5) themes. Thirty-two (32) survey submissions were received during the exhibition period and a summary of the comments that were received is provided below.

2.3.1 Overview of General Survey Feedback

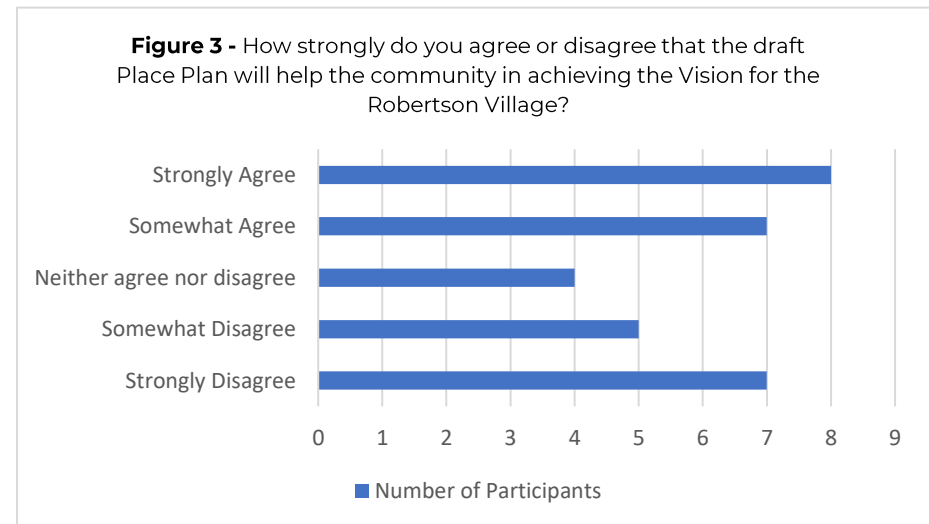
- a. Of the participants who completed the survey 52% identified that they had previously attended one of the community consultation sessions conducted by Council for the preparation of the Draft Place Plan, with 48% responding that they did not attend.

Following this, the 52% of participants who had indicated that they had previously attended a consultation session were asked to indicate whether or not they believed that the feedback received through the various community engagement opportunities was well reflected in the Draft Place Plan. From this, it was recognised that 44% of participants nominated that they considered that community feedback directly informed the Draft Place Plan and is well reflected, with 44% of participants being of the opinion that the community feedback was not well reflected and 12% selected other.

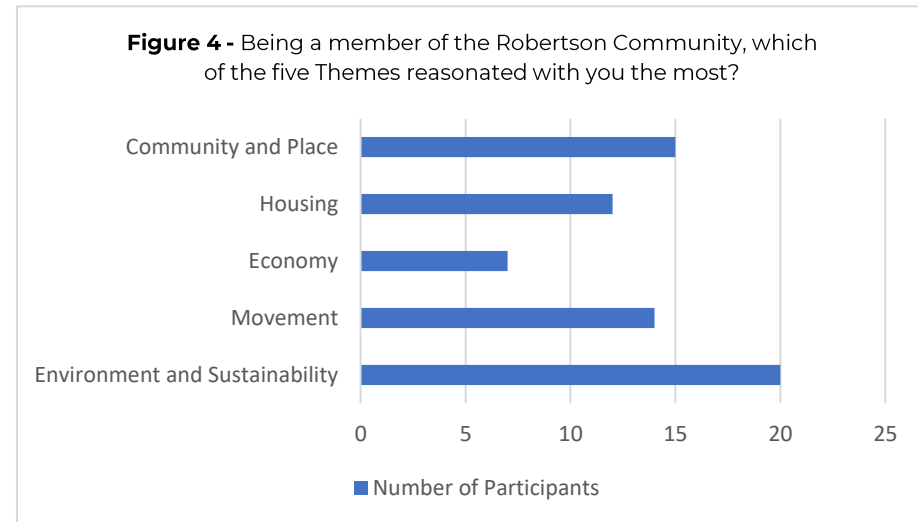
b. Participants were asked how strongly they agree or disagree that the five (5) Place Themes in the Draft Place Plan represent the priorities of the local community. Figure 2 demonstrates the range of rankings received in response to this question. The majority of responses indicate that participants strongly or somewhat agreed that the Draft Place Plan best represents the key priorities of the local community.



c. The survey encouraged participants to indicate how strongly they agree or disagree that the Draft Place Plan will help with the community in achieving the overarching Vision of the Draft Place Plan. Figure 3 presents the responses received during the exhibition. The data illustrates a wide range of responses, with eight (8) participants indicating that they strongly agreed and for both the 'Somewhat Agree' and 'Strongly Disagree', seven (7) responses were received.



d. Participants were asked to identify which of the five Themes they resonated with the most, with the option to select multiple answers. Participants were able to select multiple answers. Figure 4 identifies the rankings in response to this. The data collected demonstrates that Environment and Sustainability resonated with the greatest number of participants (20) and Economy resonated the least number (7).



e. Participants were asked to identify what was represented well in the Draft Place Plan and made them say ‘WOW’. A number of short answer responses were received, and these ranged from participants identify that “Overall, the entire Plan was well considered...” to other comments expressing their concern that the Draft Place Plan “considers VERY little of the community...”. The following table details a summary of the responses received in regards to the initiatives and/or elements of the Draft Place Plan that made the participants say ‘WOW’.

Table 2 – Survey Responses to what was represented well in the Draft Place Plan.

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The idea of opening up the creek area. The idea of supporting a hub in the centre and the community square. • The vision for the Main street. • The desire to review and resolve the housing crisis in Robertson. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing unfortunately. A lot of it considers VERY little of the community and I can tell that this 'plan' was developed with little consultation from the community. • Nothing. It was made by blow ins who just want to make this place the next place to make money. • The impertinence of it all made me shake my head

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Sustainability - However I emphasise 1. Many more wildlife signs and reduced speed limits (at peak wildlife times) to address roadkill 2. Only Native trees/bushes/grasses planted on public land. • Environment • The suggestion of improving public access to the creek as a walking trail. • Access along Caalong creek. • Economy • Facilitating Caalong Creek public pathways. Great idea! • The walkway such a good idea. Improve streetscape. • Overall, the entire plan was well considered and appears to reflect a broad range of opinions in a fairly reasonable way. • Environment and Movement. • Designated town centre and housing diversity on smaller blocks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept of land acquisitions / easements, but not necessarily in an impressed context. • The fear of the possibility of walking tracks alongside existing homes and a decrease in security of those homes • Looks like a shiny document. • The printing. However I did conclude it is boring. There is no future vision or innovation which is inspiring to me.
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f. In order to determine what components of the Draft Place Plan could be strengthened, the survey encouraged participants to identify what improvements could be made. The feedback that was captured from the participants provided an insight into a range of suggested improvements in order to enhance the Draft Place Plan, such as improving the explanation of the impact and timeframe scales that sit alongside each Place Intervention, the enhancement of Robertson's climate change response, the connection between existing strategies and the Draft Place Plan and further enabling housing diversity. The below table provides some excerpts from the submissions received and identifies which theme they relate to within the Draft Place Plan.

Table 3 – Survey Responses to what improvements could be made to the Draft Place Plan.

Community Submission	Related Theme
Bigger focus on reducing individual carbon footprints.	Environment and Sustainability
Footpaths, housing density.	Movement & Housing
Only create walking tracks in areas where they already exist.	Movement & Environment and Sustainability
Community and Place - Skate Park priority	Community and Place
More information on how we will attract business.	Economy
Marriage between the existing strategies, plans, and studies already completed such as the flood studies, heritage, Bush fire Risk, Community Safety, Park strategy, Positive Ageing Action Plan, just to name a few.	Overall Draft Place Plan Comment
Impact and timeframes.	Overall Draft Place Plan Comment
The facts (eg population statistics), the substance, some actual timeframes, less jargon.	Overall Draft Place Plan Comment

2.3.2 Overview of Survey Feedback Per Theme

(The following summary reflects the feedback that was received from the online survey and is grouped by theme in order to assist with the review of the Draft Place Plan during the post exhibition period.)

Theme One – Environment and Sustainability

- a. The table below provides a snapshot of the comments received in response to the following question - ‘Do you think the Place Interventions will deliver Place Principles 1.1 and 1.2 for the Environment and Sustainability Theme?’

Table 4 – Survey Responses to Place Principles 1.1 and 1.2 for the Environment and Sustainability Theme.

Strengths/Opportunities	Weaknesses/Other
We have some wonderful natural resources within our village (creek area, remnant rainforest) and nearby (the waterfalls etc). I agree those in the village should be made much more accessible for public usage and recreation and preservation.	My concern is that by opening up walking tracks behind existing properties the safety and security of those residents will be diminished.
Bike and walking tracks intersect and provide a way for residents to access all parts of the village, it would have a positive impact.	How would council ever obtain the land fronting the creek for public use?
Native trees, plants and landscaping should be used exclusively in public areas because they are beautiful, unique and better suited to climate now and in the future	Nothing in this benefits a large portion of the community which backs onto the creek.
More signs (many more signs) and targeted speed limit reductions.	I believe that the homeowners whose properties back onto Caalong creek will strongly resist allowing access to the creek to other residents.
Engagement and supporting education opportunities and seek First Nations cultural knowledge is always going to be a benefit.	The Environment and Sustainability section of the Robertson Place Plan does not adequately consider the risks and adaptation needed to factor in climate change.
Potential for restoring patches of TEC's in reserves and riparian corridors of Caalong Creek and Hampden Park.	Does not focus enough on the critical importance of carbon emissions footprints over all else.
Creating public access to the central waterways is critical. When we moved here we were amazed at how access along the creek was not public. Robertson is a very difficult village to move around in, unless you're using the main street.	The priority should be improve the current facilities eg, provide footpaths on the main street (Illawarra Highway) and major secondary roads within the village and maintain playgrounds, skate park, toilets, etc.
We need to respect existing flora and fauna and protect it for now and future generations.	

b. Figure 5 indicates the responses received in regards to the question - ‘Do you think that the proposed impact scales are a good reflection of how the interventions will have a positive effect in the village?’

Following this question, a ‘Please explain your answer’ field was triggered to expand on the responses received. An overview of some of these responses is provided below:

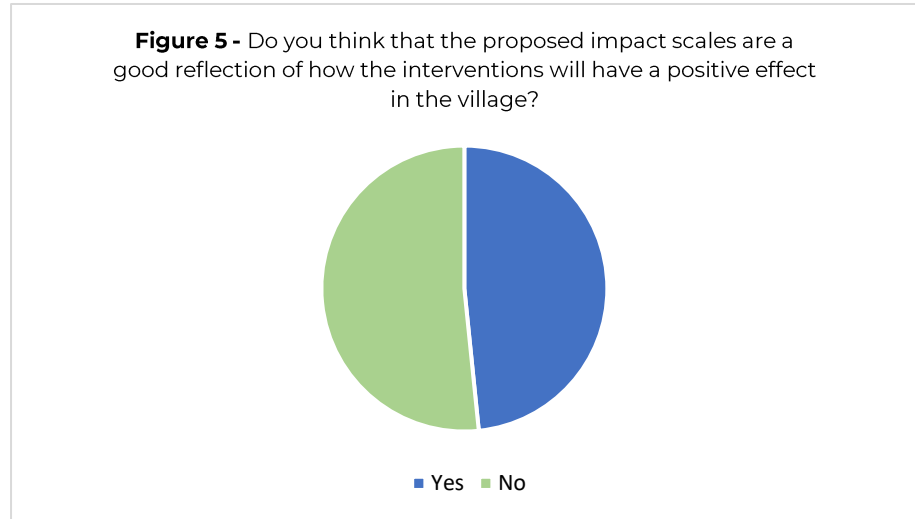


Table 5 – Survey responses to whether impact scales reflect the effect of the interventions for Environment & Sustainability.

Examples of ‘Yes’ Responses	Examples of ‘No’ Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a good starting point to create impetus to expand and progress. • The impact scales appear to be reasonable, especially on the invasive weeds front. • Access to the village is important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access is critical. It will take time, but it should be a priority. Other environmental considerations will then need to be considered. • Wrong priorities, we need foot paths to use, a supermarket you can afford to use and transport. We have none of these. • The colour scheme for each theme should not be brought over to the impact and time frame scales as it is confusing.

c. Figure 6 indicates the number of participants who identified whether or not they considered the proposed timeframe scales were an appropriate estimate for the delivery of the draft Place Interventions for the Environment and Sustainability Theme.

In addition to the yes or no responses to the above question, participants were asked to explain their answer. A snapshot of some of the responses received is provided below:

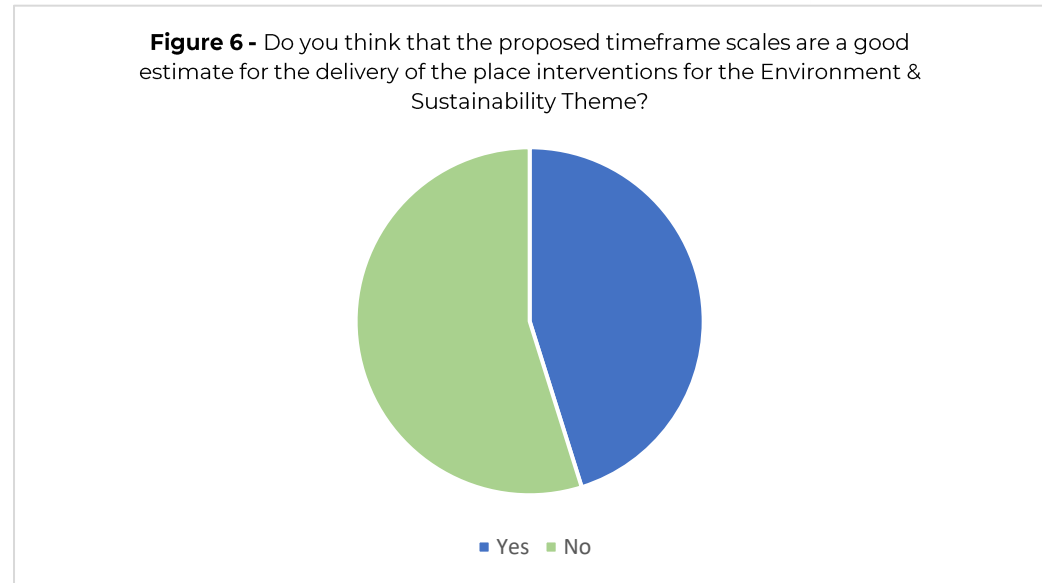


Table 6 – Survey Responses to estimates of delivery of place interventions for Environment & Sustainability.

Examples of 'Yes' Responses	Examples of 'No' Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeframes generally in this plan are conservative. • Actions need to keep to schedule. • While the timescales are a little vague, they do represent a reasonable look at what can be done over time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think all of the identified items should be made more urgent. • Need more urgent definite deadlines, with committed budgets. • “You can’t manage what you can’t measure”. What is the scale of the timeframes?

Theme Two – Movement

a. The below table provides a snapshot of some of the comments received in response to the following question - ‘Do you think the Place Interventions will deliver Place Principles 2.1 and 2.2 for the Movement theme?’

Table 7 – Survey Responses to Place Principles 2.1 and 2.2 for the Movement theme.

Strengths/Opportunities	Weaknesses/Other
Crossings on Hoddle St and traffic calming is key to invigorate a community hub/High St feel to Hoddle St.	Roads and traffic on Hoddle street could be improved but stay away from Caalang Creek.
Yes, connecting roads, lanes, bike and footpaths across the village is vital for connecting the village and reducing vehicle movements for local activities.	Please ensure LED lights are a warm light and comply with the International Dark-Sky Association recommendations of 3000K.
Decent footpaths aids movement, aids welcoming atmosphere for visitors.	Trial an e-bike scheme. This seems highly unrealistic.
At the very least, we need proper footpaths along Hoddle St on both sides and as a high priority, the bog in front of the public toilets brought up to a standard worthy of the Gateway to the Southern Highlands.	Since the PAMPS study (2004?) outlined exactly the same need and strategy for improved pedestrian access in the village and the situation has remained unchanged.
There are a lot of elderly people and making it safe for our elders is paramount.	It is already a 50 zone, on a significant transport corridor. Slowing vehicles is just going to make it more difficult to cross the road and pull out from the grid intersections when traffic is even more congested.
There are many good elements in this section of the Plan.	The through links are redundant. Each is proposed in a very close proximity already to a road to the main street (western one is going nowhere who is that benefiting? People coming off the train (once a month), might save two seconds...

Greater footpath accessibility around town is essential.	One question is about pedestrian traffic (currently appalling lack of infrastructure), the other is about vehicular traffic, which everyone wants to cut down on. Very confusing question.
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b. Figure 7 indicates the responses received in regards to the question - 'Do you think that the proposed impact scales are a good reflection of how the interventions will have a positive effect in the village?'

In addition to the provision of a yes or no response to the above question, participants were asked to explain their answer. A snapshot of some of the responses received is provided below:

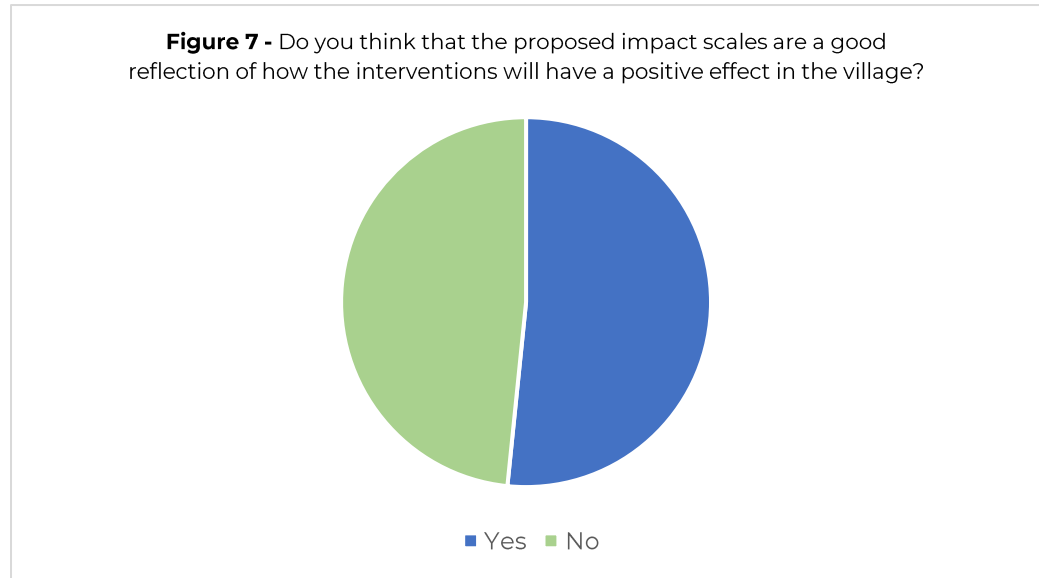


Table 8 – Survey responses to whether impact scales reflect the effect of the interventions for Movement.

Examples of 'Yes' Responses	Examples of 'No' Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very important and high priority. • It's a good start... • They are realistic based on limited funding and what can and can't be done readily. • Yes - creates a sense of belonging. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too complex. • The impact scale focus is not helpful. • I don't understand impact scales. • Would have preferred a "Not sure" option.

c. Figure 8 indicates the number of participants who identified whether or not they considered the proposed timeframe scales were an appropriate estimate for the delivery of the Draft Place Interventions for the Movement Theme.

Participants were asked to explain their answer to the above question and the following table provides an overview of some of the responses that were captured during the exhibition period.

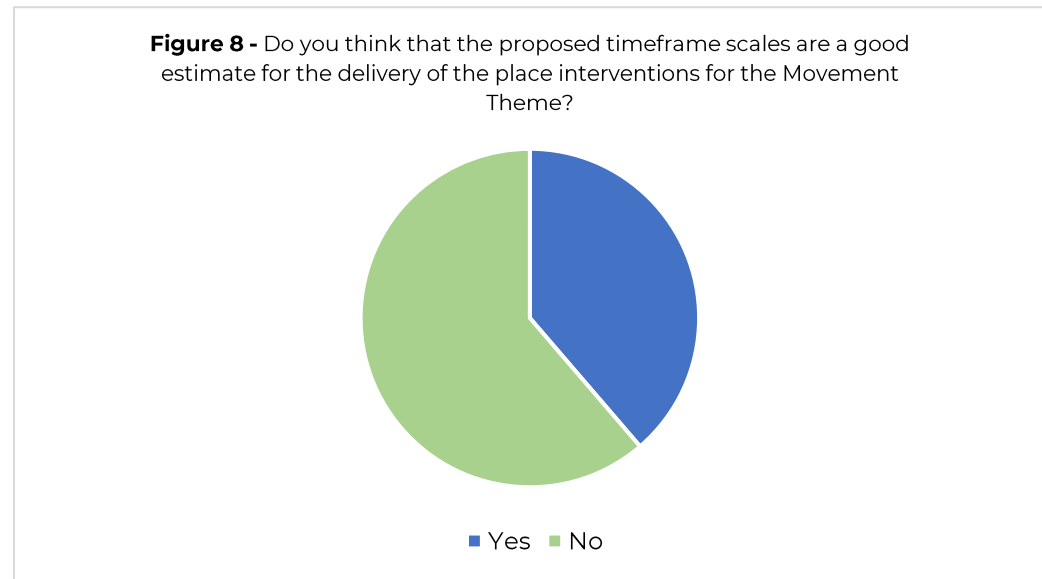


Table 9 – Survey Responses to estimates of delivery of place interventions for Movement.

Examples of 'Yes' Responses	Examples of 'No' Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I hope so it's the most important issue! • They seem reasonable. • In terms of the scale of work and need for funding, the timeframe scales appear reasonable. • Nothing will change quickly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack demonstrated commitment to actually doing anything. • Speed it up. • Give actual estimates for when work will commence. • Dates and deadlines.

Theme Three – Economy

- a. The below table provides a snapshot of some of the comments received in response to the following question - ‘Do you think the Place Interventions will deliver Place Principles 3.1 and 3.2 for the Economy theme?’

Table 10 - Survey Responses to Place Principles 3.1 and 3.2 for the Economy theme.

Strengths/Opportunities	Weaknesses/Other
Definitely needs improvements, it’s such a beautiful area that doesn’t seem to get much funding but gets a lot of visitors.	No, give people rest and do not force them into a 7-day work week. Our town is quiet on Sunday, and this benefits the community.
Yes, Robertson needs further business to provide services and goods for residents and visitors... For residents, it will mean we can source more within our own town, saving time and fuel costs.	I don't know whether a 7-day economy is realistic for cafes and retail in Robertson. I think the current Thurs - Monday pattern works well.
More local businesses would encourage more people spending money and helping locals.	The current services we have really are enough, this is a village not a town.
I would love to see Robertson promoted more as a local produce hub (cheese, dairy, meat, and vegetables) and as a cultural hub given the number of artists who live in the village and surrounds.	Currently too many of the businesses in the village have irregular operating hours that do not make it a showcase destination.
If it attracts tourists then it’s a big yes.	People that live in Robertson generally are organised and have all they need nearby. I see no need for a 7 day a week economy in Robertson.

b. Figure 9 indicates the responses received in regards to the following question - ‘Do you think that the proposed impact scales are a good reflection of how the interventions will have a positive effect in the village?’

In addition to the provision of a yes or no response to the above question, participants were asked to explain their answer. A snapshot of some of the responses received is provided below:

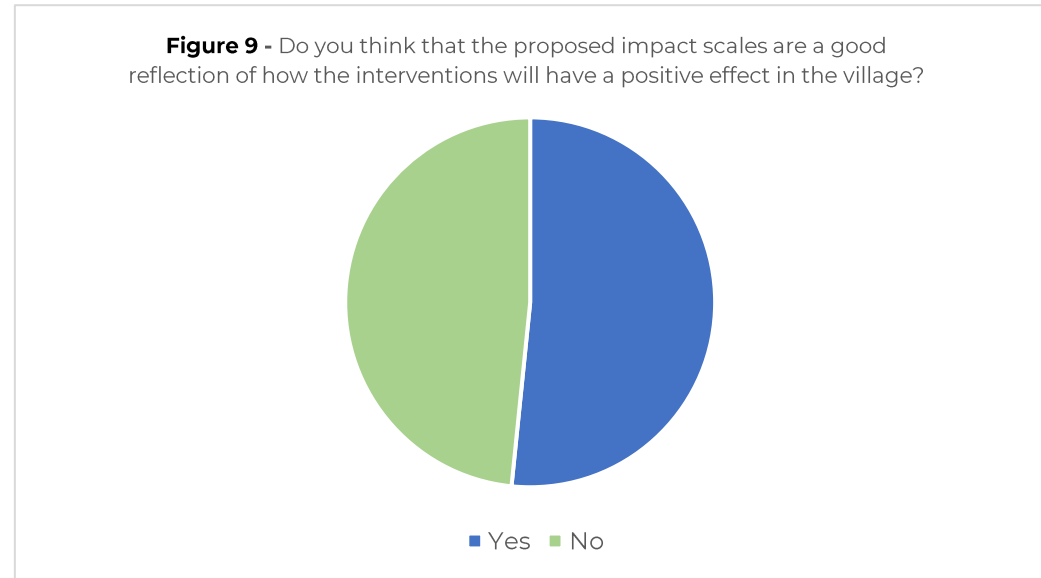


Table 11 – Survey responses to whether impact scales reflect the effect of the interventions for Economy.

Examples of ‘Yes’ Responses	Examples of ‘No’ Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well anything to help a small economy can’t hurt. Robertson is so busy over the weekend so having businesses open 7 days will benefit highly. The arts/food precinct ideas are good, enhancing what already exists. Will build more of an interconnected economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More traffic over the weekend isn’t what the community wants. Sometimes it seems Robertson is an economy, not a community.

c. Figure 10 indicates the number of participants who identified whether or not they considered the proposed timeframe scales were an appropriate estimate for the delivery of the Draft Place Interventions for the Economy Theme.

In addition to the provision of a yes or no response to the above question, participants were asked to explain their answer. A snapshot of some of the responses received is provided below:

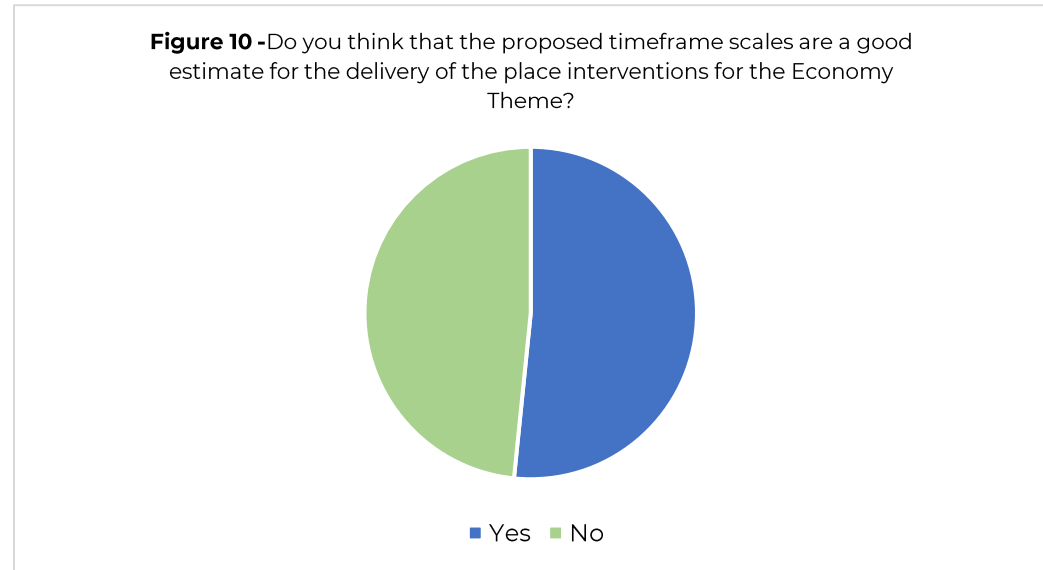


Table 12 – Survey Responses to estimates of delivery of place interventions for Economy.

Examples of ‘Yes’ Responses	Examples of ‘No’ Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, though many of these have been ascribed a short-term scale and there is possibly the need for capacity to achieve all of these goals. • They seem reasonable. • Let’s hope we get the funding required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I find the timeframe scales meaningless as there is no time attached to them. • Curious about what the time frame would be. The indicator is vague! • Too vague and wishy washy. Not convincing.

Theme Four – Housing

- a. The below table provides a snapshot of some of the comments received in response to the following question - 'Do you think the Place Interventions will deliver Place Principle 4.1 for the Housing theme?'

Table 13 – Survey Responses to the Place Principle 4.1 for the Housing theme.

Strengths/Opportunities	Weaknesses/Other
At the moment, there is no variety in density. For residents to age in place, we need more options for them to move away from large blocks/farms and for our children.	Greenfield development areas should allow for a better mix of density with smaller blocks intermixed with larger blocks and good allotment design to connect with existing village infrastructure networks.
Having dual occupancy is something that will help an ageing community.	This is a country, rural area, stop trying to make it something it's not.
The interventions offered are key to getting the balance of housing right and especially if design principles are clearly set out so that the highly valued character of Robertson is preserved.	There is no need to severely alter the character of Robertson with a greenfield development.
Infill residential housing is a good idea, especially if the town centre is more welcoming and has better developed services.	One of the good things about Robbo is its small size, this will open the way to urban sprawl and negatively impact the green initiative.
This is a must to reduce carbon footprints and improve living amenity generally.	The village charm is maintained by a low-density housing.
It provides a sensible basis to move forward.	No, town size is appropriate.

b. Figure 11 indicates the responses received in regards to the following question - 'Do you think that the proposed impact scales are a good reflection of how the interventions will have a positive effect in the village?'

In addition to the provision of a yes or no response to the above question, participants were asked to explain their answer. A snapshot of some of the responses received is provided below:

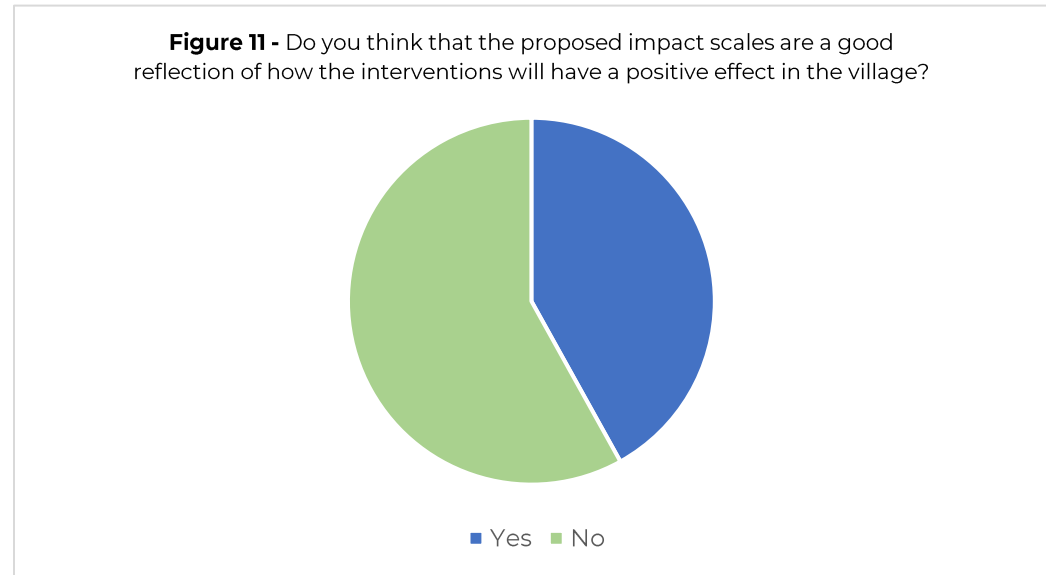


Table 14 – Survey Responses to whether impact scales reflect the effect of the interventions for Housing.

Examples of 'Yes' Responses	Examples of 'No' Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More infill in current town boundary no more greenfield development. • Overall sensible set of options if the town is to become a more liveable town for future residents. • Yes - but only if restricted to village theme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people will put further strain on services. Also new areas are in green spaces. • Remove greenfield development focus on development controls for infill. Don't change Village boundaries. • No. The village charm is maintained by a low housing density. Increasing it will be detrimental to what people want from Robertson

c. Figure 12 indicates the number of participants who identified whether or not they considered the proposed timeframe scales were an appropriate estimate for the delivery of the Draft Place Interventions for the Housing Theme.

In addition to the provision of a yes or no response to the above question, participants were asked to explain their answer. A snapshot of some of the responses received is provided below:

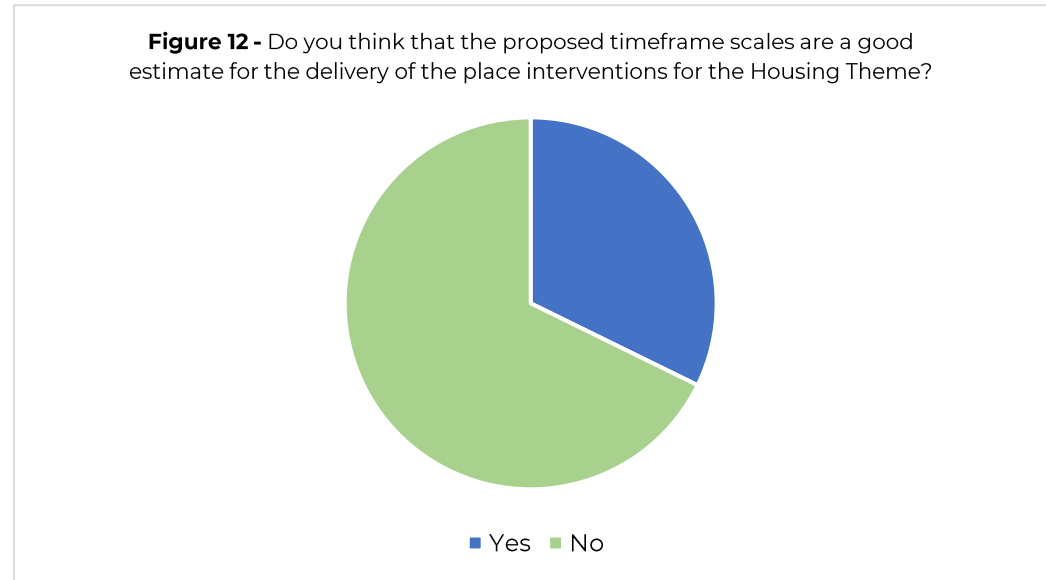


Table 15 – Survey Responses to estimates of delivery of place interventions for Housing.

Examples of 'Yes' Responses	Examples of 'No' Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadly speaking yes, though there could be lag in delivering infill in residential areas. • Seems reasonable. • As it will take time to expand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High impact is indicated but long timeframes How does this match the importance given? • Times and deadlines. • All development options must be accelerated as there is a housing crisis in play in Robertson.

Theme Five- Community and Place

- a. The below table provides a snapshot of some of the comments received in response to the following question - 'Do you think the Place Interventions will deliver Place Principles 5.1 and 5.2 for the Community and Place theme?'

Table 16 – Survey Responses to Place Principles 5.1 and 5.2 for the Community and Place theme.

Strengths/Opportunities	Weaknesses/Other
It is a huge improvement on the status quo in place today.	I would love to see Robertson renamed Yarrowa! I would love to see First Nations acknowledgement and signage and interpretations in the village alongside its colonial history.
Great idea to have community focused areas.	Keeping our identity is key.
Brings community together.	Robertson needs to have its town presence better tied together, as it needs key infrastructure and a means to keep its rural character.
This would have a significant impact on how residents live in, and visitors experience the village.	The idea of a community square next to the CTC would also be really welcome as it already acts as an information point.

b. Figure 13 indicates the responses received in regards to the following question - 'Do you think that the proposed impact scales are a good reflection of how the interventions will have a positive effect in the village?'

In addition to the provision of a yes or no response to the above question, participants were asked to explain their answer. A snapshot of some of the responses received is provided below:

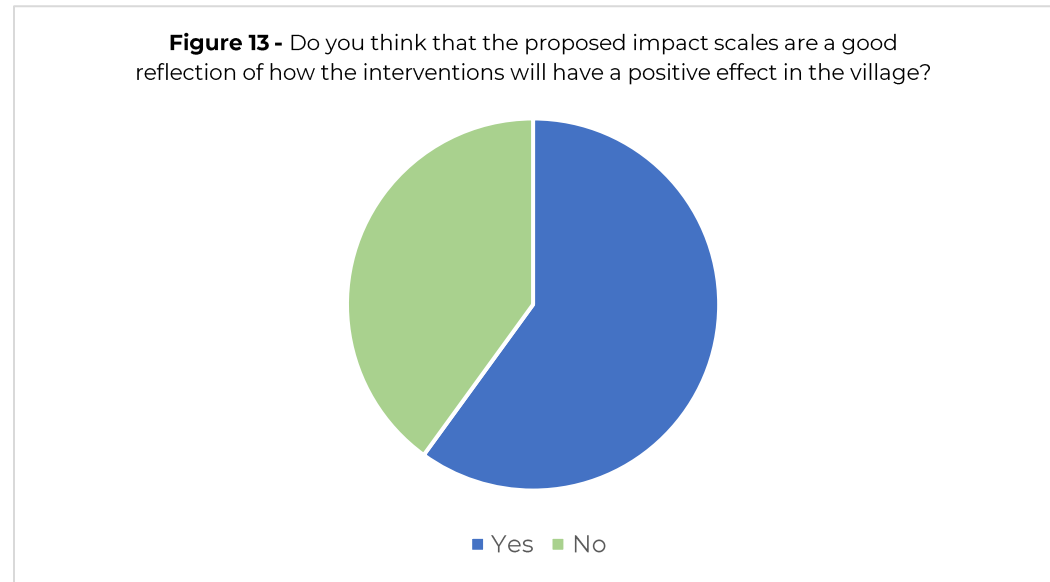


Table 17 – Survey Responses to whether impact scales reflect the effect of the interventions for Community and Place.

Examples of 'Yes' Responses	Examples of 'No' Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They appear reasonable as Robertson has been under resourced in the past. • Impact seems reasonable. • We are so proud of our little town we have a real sense of belonging it's so peaceful we are so lucky to live here. • It's why we live here. It isn't rocket science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too vague. • More resources, more creativity, more focus on holistic approach to the town • More opportunities needed to highlight the central importance of community in ways other than numbers and lines on the map.

c. Figure 14 indicates the number of participants who identified whether or not they considered the proposed timeframe scales were an appropriate estimate for the delivery of the draft Place Interventions for the Community and Place.

In addition to the provision of a yes or no response to the above question, participants were asked to explain their answer. A snapshot of some of the responses received is provided below:

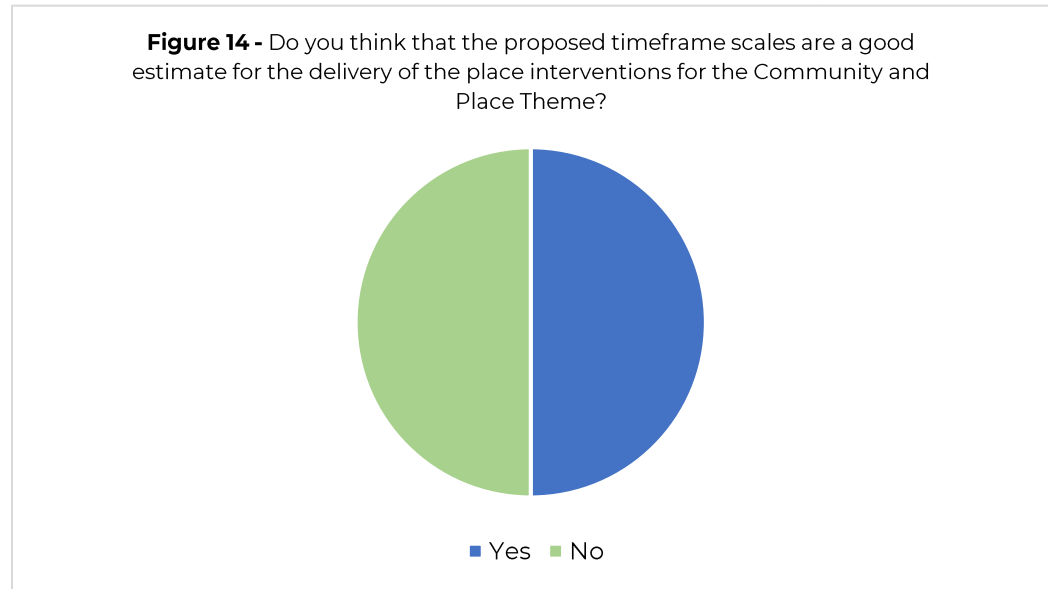


Table 18 – Survey Responses to estimates of delivery of place interventions for Community and Place.

Examples of ‘Yes’ Responses	Examples of ‘No’ Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite other aspects of the Place Plan having a higher priority, if these initiatives are carried out in the timeframe suggested, there would be a significant gain for the village. • Brings people together. • Improving the physical infrastructure of the town is very necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too languid. • Any timeframe is probably too long. • Dates and targets about which I do not know.

2.4 Online Discussion Forum

An interactive discussion forum was available during the exhibition period via Your Say Wingecarribee. This online engagement tool enabled community members to contribute comments regarding their review of the Draft Place Plan and respond to posts made by other community members. A total of five (5) contributions were made to the discussion forum and a summary of the comments is provided below.

Table 19 – Online Discussion forum submissions.

Participant	Submission	Staff Comments
G. White	Overall, the Environment and Sustainability section of the Robertson Place Plan is a missed opportunity to adequately address the risks and adaptation needed to factor in climate change. It is extraordinary that a plan for the future does not have climate actions as the highest priority in all urban planning decisions.	Noted. There are a number of Place Interventions that aim to collectively support the long-term sustainability and climate resilience of Robertson. Following community feedback, Place Intervention 1.2.3 has also been added to the Draft Place Plan which looks to deliver workshops and education sessions that will focus on preparing the community for impacts from natural hazards and climate change, including bushfire, storms, flooding, earthquakes and landslips.
Matt	Leave Caalong Creek Riparian area alone. The creek backs onto our property and we are not prepared to sell our land to council for a walk way and public access. If you are thinking to build a walk way onto the water way then you are going to disrupt the biodiversity and ecosystem. I can't see how council can think they can afford to buy out people's land and redraw property lines. Making a walkway on Caalong will ultimately lead to pollution and rubbish being dropped by thoughtless visitors to the area.	Noted. Caalong Creek was identified by the local community as a significant barrier to pedestrian movement during the consultation sessions that were held at various stages of the development of the Draft Place Plan. In response to this, the introduction of an active transport loop along the riparian corridor was identified to improve pedestrian connectivity and also encourage walking and cycling activity within the village centre. It is not the intention of Council to acquire land to realise this intervention and the process of bringing the creek into public ownership for community benefit is a

		<p>long-term plan that has the potential to be achieved when future development occurs in the areas either side of Caalang Creek.</p> <p>The high ecological and biodiversity value of the creek was also recognised during the community consultation sessions and as the proposal to create an active transport loop is a long-term plan, other short and medium term interventions have been identified to ensure this is supported, such as the clearing of invasive weeds.</p> <p>An additional page has been added the Draft Place Plan to further assist in the explanation of the proposed implementation of the active transport loop along Caalang Creek (Page 36).</p>
<p>Matt</p>	<p>Thanks for the reply. As Caalong Creek is half owned by council and half by residents an acquisition of land would be required. Unless you are saying in writing that council intends to redraw property borders and take land from residents. I find this very concerning and short sighted.</p> <p>As this was a community suggestion I think consultation with every resident that backs onto caalong creek is essential and required.</p> <p>The draft outline of walkway is on our property and we own all the land to the waterline. I could like to know how council intends to take land from our residence.</p>	<p>Noted. The Draft Place Plan identifies this proposal as a long-term intervention and it is not the intention of Council to acquire land along Caalang Creek to realise this. The purpose of the introduction of an active transport loop is to improve walking and cycling connectivity in the centre and we see this being realised only when development occurs to properties either side of Caalang Creek, providing a variety of housing supply and benefitting the community. For example, the Draft Place Plan identifies areas for potential residential infill and when this occurs in the long-term, the active transport loop could be realised at this stage, if the community is in favour of the same, during that time.</p> <p>An additional page has been added the Draft Place Plan to further assist in the explanation of the proposed</p>

		implementation of the active transport loop along Caalang Creek (Page 36).
Stephen	Please leave caalong creek riparian alone. It is a wildlife corridor and does not the councils interference. The creek is part of our backyard which we would hate to see spoilt.	<p>Noted. Caalang Creek was identified by the local community as a barrier to pedestrian movement in the village and to improve this a long-term proposal to bring the creek into public ownership has been identified in the Draft Place Plan. The introduction of an active transport loop along the creek would significantly improve connectivity and encourage people to use active transport options to travel around the village centre. The delivery of this proposal is a long-term plan for Robertson and has the potential to be achieved through future development on either side of Caalang Creek for long term public benefit.</p> <p>It has never been the intention of Council to realise this proposal through land acquisition.</p> <p>During the community consultation sessions, the ecological and biodiversity value of the creek was also emphasised by the community and as this is a long-term plan there have been other interventions identified to further enhance Caalong Creek in the short and medium term, such as the clearing of invasive weeds.</p> <p>An additional page has been added the Draft Place Plan to further assist in the explanation of the proposed implementation of the active transport loop along Caalang Creek (Page 36).</p>
Stephen	Thank you for reply. I am also part of the local community having lived in Robertson for 32+ years. My wife and I have worked had for our home and	Noted.

	<p>garden as have the other home owners that own lands along caalong creek. I am also confident there are better less invasive was to connect the people of Robertson. We are very disappointed the council has chosen to hang this over our heads.</p>	
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2.5 Written Submissions

Eight (8) written submissions were received during the public exhibition period from a number of community groups and residents. A summary of the comments has been provided below and categorised under each theme to assist with reporting purposes.

Table 20 – Written submissions received.

Theme 1 – Environment and Sustainability		
Name	Submission Summary	Staff Response
L. Whipper	<p>Emphasised the importance of acknowledging that "Robertson has evolved in and around whilst respecting both the agricultural and environmental assets of the area."</p> <p>Recommends that planning considerations should encourage the planting of natural/endemic species as street trees to maintain the integrity of local habitats and eco steps for wildlife.</p>	<p>Council acknowledges that street trees in Robertson aid in preserving the identity of the town and its "Sense of Place" as outlined in Robertson's Development Control Plan.</p> <p>Deciduous trees are used as they provide shade during summer months and allow the penetration of winter sun. However other important street tree principles outlined in the Robertson Development Control Plan include retention and enhancement of significant existing trees and remnant native vegetation, thus maintaining the integrity of local habitats and eco-steps for wildlife.</p>

		Council follows the advice of in-house tree management and the adopted Street Tree Master Plan to best ensure that local habitats and streetscape is best determined.
Robertson Business Chamber	<p>Supports the improvement of the quality of Robertson's natural assets and access to them.</p> <p>Recommends that the Plan should acknowledge the environmental benefit of greater housing density in the village and number of shops and services available so that they don't have to drive long distances for daily needs.</p>	Noted.
Robertson Community Association	<p>Expressed that strategies and timelines are not clear and that the word 'climate change' is only mentioned once in the entire document.</p> <p>Additionally recommends that where an action identifies Council to lead the implementation that there is identifiable and contactable Council staff who will be responsible for this.</p>	<p>Noted and the Draft Place Plan has since been amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Council has been nominated as a Place Partner, the Council department/s that will be involved in the delivery of the Place Intervention have been listed. • Climate Action in Robertson has been identified as a priority by the community. A number of Place Interventions aim to collectively contribute to Robertson's response to climate change. In addition, intervention 1.2.3 has been added which looks at resilience and preparedness from natural hazards and climate change.
G. White	<p>Expressed concerns that Council still does not have a climate action strategy and that this will mean that the place plan will need to be reviewed in coming years to incorporate climate actions.</p> <p>Suggests that the Plan could include a climate risk assessment that identifies the specific risks that climate change poses to the community.</p> <p>Also suggests that the Draft Place Plan include targets for</p>	<p>Council's adopted Climate Resilience Strategy has been considered in the Draft Robertson Village Place Plan, demonstrated through the addition of Place Intervention 1.2.3 which proposes education on the preparedness for impacts of natural hazards and climate change. This will encourage residents to plan for bushfire, storm, flooding, earthquake and landslip events.</p>

	<p>reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a low-carbon economy.</p> <p>Recommends that the Plan include specific actions for improving the resilience of the community to climate change, such as green infrastructure, improving water management and developing emergency response plans.</p>	
Theme 2 - Movement		
Name	Submission Summary	Staff Response
J. Kena	<p>Acknowledges that crossing opportunities along Hoddle Street would improve access to and visibility of CTC. Could also consider an additional crossing between CTC and Meryla Street to improve safety (2.1.2).</p> <p>Recognises that the shared path along Hampden Park and an additional and a new crossing along Meryla would improve access, visibility and safety (2.2.4).</p> <p>Also suggests the consideration of accessible parking at the front of CTC as well as an area for parking the Mobile Library van (2.2.4).</p>	Noted and agreed. Place Intervention 5.2.5 looks to improve access to Council services, including the mobile library.
J. Fisk	<p>Identifies that improving access from High Street should be a consideration, as well as opening up Main Street to High Street, especially during emergency situations.</p> <p>The submission additionally recognises that closing and selling off roads is not supported and should not occur to encourage the future expansion of Robertson.</p>	Access from High Street to Hoddle Street has been outlined as a potential active transport loop (2.2.2), supported by improved infrastructure, such as shared pathways (2.2.4) and the formalisation of unformed road reserves (2.1.4).
L. Whipper	Recognises that hard concrete curb and gutters are not in keeping with the character of the village, except along Hoddle	Noted.

	Street and where constructed that they should be more natural.	
Robertson Business Chamber	<p>Supports:</p> <p>a) improved east west connection, in particular making Macquarie Pass less vulnerable to closure.</p> <p>b) improved access to the village centre through additional footpaths and active transport loop.</p> <p>c) the construction of rear lanes to provide service access.</p>	Noted.
Robertson Community Association	<p>Agrees that the Movement section reflects the ideas of the community but there is no clear strategy and timeline of implementation.</p> <p>Further emphasised concerns around the inadequacies of suitable footpaths in Robertson. Urges the construction of footpaths, especially the construction of a safe footpath along Hampden Park.</p>	<p>Noted. In response to this, a page has been added to the Draft Place Plan to assist with better understanding the timeline of implementation.</p> <p>Infrastructure development will fall within the development of the Master Plan for Hampden Park under Place Intervention 5.2.4.</p> <p>The purpose of the Draft Place Plan is to enhance the existing village centre by establishing new opportunities that contribute to a long-term vision. Funding will be allocated following the adoption of the Draft Place Plan, providing a basis of a funding application to State and Federal agencies.</p>
Robertson Futures Group	<p>Strongly supports the upgrade of footpaths which was raised by many residents.</p> <p>The upgrade of rear lanes in the commercial centre is recognised as being significant as it would provide vehicular access, improve pedestrian safety, reduce traffic conflicts on</p>	Noted and agreed.

	the main street and facilitate the development of diverse housing at the rear.	
D. Anderson	<p>Recognises that the movement section of the Plan does not look into movement from north to south of the village with the dividing railway line.</p> <p>The Plan needs to recognise the importance of movement to the south which provides residents with access to the Robertson Nature Reserve, walks to the cemetery and local residents' daily movements.</p> <p>Suggests a pedestrian bridge over the railway from South Street to Wallangunda Street to provide an alternate crossing point.</p> <p>Another suggestion - improved railway crossing would be the crossing at the east end of the Cheese Factory, that would require Council in discussions with ARTC to provide a pathway along the private property boundaries returning pedestrians to the northern end (on the south side) of Missingham Parade.</p>	Noted. The Draft Place Plan identifies the opportunity for improved access from both the north and south of the village back into the centre.
Economy		
Name	Submission Summary	Staff Response
J. Kena	<p>The CTC Robertson currently offers some of the proposed functions of the multi-purpose hub and the CTC and Community should be added as a Place Partner for this intervention (3.1.2).</p> <p>Additionally suggest that it is worth noting that the CTC Robertson currently has responsibility for maintenance of the information at the Community Information Centre in Hampden Park.</p>	Noted and agreed. Draft Place Plan has been amended to include CTC Robertson as a Place Partner.

L. Whipper	<p>Recommends that accommodation needs to be monitored and appropriate restrictions applied in the business precinct and residential areas (i.e. Air B&B and holiday rentals).</p>	<p>The use of dwellings as short-term accommodation is currently governed by a State Environmental Planning Policy that, subject to meeting general requirements, is considered as exempt development.</p>
Robertson Business Chamber	<p>Supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the development of a tourism strategy that increases mid-week trade. b) Review of the DCP to enable increased building heights and reduction of setbacks. c) Establishment of an EV charging station in the centre. <p>Recommends that the DCP enable flexible use buildings along the main street to strengthen economic resilience.</p>	<p>Noted. The Draft Place Plan recognises the importance of the local village centre as the economic hub of Robertson village and identifies that that the current land use zone being E1 Local Centre, already facilitates a range of retail, business and community uses.</p>
Robertson Futures Group	<p>The submission supports the growth in the population of the town to attract other services, such as a grocer to provide enough stock to allow residents to complete their weekly shop.</p> <p>Supports the increase in building height to two-storey. However, suggests that "Building regulations relating to height need to rely on a 2 storeys control, rather than a numerical standard."</p>	<p>Noted. Building height investigation areas have been identified and Place Intervention 3.1.1 references the proposal to review the DCP to implement the design solutions within the Draft Place Plan.</p>
S. Lee	<p>Recommendation to amend the WLEP 2010 E1 Local Centre land use table to allow for Artisan food and drink.</p>	<p>Under the Standard Template LEP, Artisan food and drink industry is defined as a building or place the principal purpose of which is the making or manufacture of boutique, artisan or craft food or drink products only. Given the nature of the use being predominantly for manufacturing, hence the categorisation of this land use as a light industry, there is the potential for land use conflicts between industrial/manufacturing uses and</p>

		residential uses if these are not managed well. Changes to the E1 land use table will apply to all land within the E1 zone within the Shire, and therefore this recommendation will be better considered as part of the preparation of an Employment Lands Strategy which is anticipated to begin in 2024.
H. Healey	Supports the sentiment of the Draft Place Plan which is to keep the village alive in the present and also ensure the sustainable future of Robertson.	Noted and agreed.
Housing		
Name	Submission Summary	Staff Response
J. Fisk	<p>Expressed concerns around the current housing crisis - "most locals are moving out in the droves, high prices, high cost of rates sewerage and more together with high cost of purchasing housing that's not affordable to many."</p> <p>Recommended that Council work with Tafe NSW, Local High Schools and other education facilities, as well as trainee apprenticeships through schools to work on quick and easy solutions for constructing affordable houses e.g. container housing, tiny houses.</p> <p>Additionally recommends a change in minimum lot sizes to allow for smaller allotments for affordable housing.</p>	<p>Noted. The Draft Place Plan acknowledges the need to provide different housing types in the area. Therefore, the five (5) proposed interventions aim to review the planning framework (e.g. minimum lot sizes, character controls, etc) to deliver this objective.</p> <p>Council is supportive of younger residents, apprentices and trainees. A Careers at Council Expo was held in August 2023, supported by Regional Industry Educational Partnerships, TAFE and the University of Wollongong Southern Highlands to provide insight into career options, practical training opportunities and academic pathways.</p>
L. Whipper	<p>Objects to the northeastern land release for increased residential development.</p> <p>Expresses that the proposed residential infill has merit if done sensitively i.e. Respecting character, heritage and environmental assets, including facades and height limits.</p>	<p>Noted. The proposed north-eastern residential area has been identified as a long-term living area in the adopted Local Housing Strategy which is a 20-year plan for the Shire.</p> <p>Place Intervention 4.1.3 proposes the review of our Planning Framework to develop a character statement</p>

		or character controls in order to ensure that future development is in keeping with the character of Robertson.
Robertson Business Chamber	<p>Supports improved housing diversity both residential infill and new greenfield housing. In particular smaller housing and lot sizes.</p> <p>Recommended improvement:</p> <p>a) Infill should include a general reduction in minimum lot size throughout the village.</p> <p>b) Shop top housing should be enabled to allow for affordable dwellings.</p> <p>c) Clear architecture character controls are needed for new housing, similar to Burrawang.</p> <p>d) The Plan should note that the increase in housing diversity will create a change of character.</p>	<p>Noted. Place Interventions 4.1.1, 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 look to incorporate character controls, guide the review of planning controls (e.g. minimum lot sizes), and explore alternate housing typologies for Robertson.</p>
Robertson Community Association	<p>Timely and regular advice on the progress of in-fill development would be appreciated.</p>	<p>Noted. Communication between Place Partners will occur periodically and broader community meetings regarding the progress of the Draft Place Plan will be scheduled once every two years.</p> <p>Council additionally endeavours to build a housing monitor which will assist in guiding the 50:50 split of infill and greenfield housing in the Shire, as per the Local Housing Strategy.</p>

Robertson Futures Group	<p>Expressed their support for more diverse housing choice. Acknowledges the importance of providing smaller and more affordable dwellings for different ages.</p> <p>Generally, supports density in and near the centre but expresses concerns that without supporting regulations it may take a long time to achieve this.</p> <p>Identifies that the Plan does not address the minimum subdivision lot size in a direct and clear manner. There is a need to reduce 2,000m² down to 500m² or 600m².</p>	Noted. Place Intervention 4.1.4 proposes the review of our planning controls (e.g. minimum lot size) in order to support infill opportunities within the village centre.
H. Healey	<p>Recognises that the village can only expand to the north (Lemmons Road and just beyond), given the topography and location of the railway.</p> <p>Recommends that the minimum lot size for subdivisions in the north should be 1 acre to maintain Robertson's character. Identifies that the character of Robertson is that of a small country village and 1-acre minimum lot size is essential to maintaining this rural connection and character.</p>	Noted. The proposed north-eastern residential area has been identified as a long-term living area in the adopted Local Housing Strategy which is a 20-year plan for the Shire. When required, a separate Master Plan will be prepared for the long-term new living area in consultation with the local community.
Theme 5 - Community and Place		
Name	Submission Summary	Staff Response
J. Kena	5.2.1 - Increasing awareness of volunteering opportunities - CTC Robertson manages the Village website and also publishes the Robertson News where volunteering opportunities are included. This intervention is strongly supported "More volunteers are needed in many organisations, including CTC Robertson. Innovative recruitment strategies are needed, especially to attract younger volunteers."	Noted and agreed.

	<p>5.2.2 Stronger Networks for resource sharing - CTC publishes a monthly e-news listing What's on in Robertson & also Robertson News (published every 2 months in print & online). Also hosts Council information sessions and displays printed Council documents when provided.</p> <p>5.2.5 Council Services - Mobile Library out the front of CTC is working well (see other comments about parking space). Also, capacity at CTC for Council to have a regular presence to offer other services.</p> <p>5.2.6 Upgrade Community Buildings - Grant funding has been sought to carry out upgrades to the CTC but additional support for Council would be appreciated due to their role in the community.</p> <p>5.2.7 Community Square - Many community organisations have lobbied to get access to this land, and they would strongly support this becoming a community space to extend the community precinct. Possible uses - Robertson Burrow Community Op Shop looking for a new home. Also, the extension of the CTC building.</p> <p>Further expresses their support for the Draft Place Plan in exploring and implementing First Nations cultural heritage and knowledge, as well as contributing place appropriate art and celebration of heritage.</p>	
J. Fisk	<p>The submission has expressed concerns around the condition of the Caalong Community Hall and how this has impacted the preschool.</p> <p>Also expressed concerns around the state of the toilet block as</p>	<p>Noted. Precinct actions within the adopted Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy identifies initiatives that relate to the Robertson Community Centre. In addition, Place Intervention 2.2.4 and 5.2.4 in the Draft</p>

	<p>there is often mud around this area. Limited maintenance for tourists and sporting organisations using these facilities. Additionally, raised concerns around the canteen area at Hampden Park regarding the cost of works.</p>	<p>Place Plan have been proposed to strengthen Hampden Park and encourage future activation of the area.</p>
L. Whipper	<p>Recommends conditions to ensure street lighting is minimised and low impact, non-spill/ full cut out to preserve the night-time amenity of the village.</p> <p>Emphasises that they are pleased that the Place Plan recognises the need to protect the historical character of the village.</p> <p>Further, recommends that "Heights and street frontages are important and if not clearly defined, and protected by controls can incrementally change the nature and persona of the streetscape."</p>	<p>Noted. The proposal has been submitted to Council's Assets team.</p> <p>Review of the planning framework within housing will factor in the effect of heights and street frontages and the contributions of these elements on the nature and persona of the streetscape within Robertson.</p>
Robertson Business Chamber	<p>Supports all the proposed strategies that seek to strengthen the gateway entrances into the village and improve the sense of community and place.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p>
D. Anderson	<p>The submission expresses their concern that the Draft Place Plan does not refer to sporting organisations of Robertson, aside from the local school and Show Society. Appreciates that there are playing facilities in the village, however, there are no dedicated club rooms, and the jockey club does not have a local training surface, so residents have to travel to Mittagong.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Local Sporting Groups have been added as a Place Partner. Feedback regarding upgrades and new playing facilities will be explored during the development of the Master Plan for Hampden Park (Place Intervention 5.2.4). The adopted Community and Recreational Facilities Strategy additionally explores precinct actions that impact the village centre.</p>
M. Hayward	<p>Wishes to submit their idea for a small dog park (off leash area) on the railway side of Robertson Common. Recognises that providing a space like this could encourage social connection in the community for both residents, visitors to the area and dogs.</p>	<p>Noted. The proposal has been submitted to Council's Parks and Building Assets team.</p>

Other Comments		
Name	Submission Summary	Staff Response
J. Fisk	Robertson should have an extension of time on the exhibited plan.	Noted. The public exhibition ran for a period of six (6) weeks from 4 September to 16 October 2023. During this time there were a number of face-to-face and online consultation opportunities that were communicated via Council's social media platforms, e-newsletter, physical flyers and posters.
L. Whipper	<p>The submission acknowledges the importance of maintaining the historical integrity of the village and the environmental contribution to the village.</p> <p>Urges that the review of planning controls so that they are sympathetic to the values of the village and have the intention of protecting the village's natural, historic, environmental, social and community assets.</p>	Noted. The Draft Place Plan identifies the importance of enhancing and protecting the character of Robertson. The five (5) Place Interventions under Place Principle 5.1 in the community and Place theme aim to achieve this.
Robertson Business Chamber	Acknowledges that the Plan does identify an indicative timeframe but suggests that it offer firm dates, particularly for high impact and priority items to improve accountability for Council and the community.	<p>Noted and agreed. This has been amended in the Draft Place Plan, with approximate timeframes now assigned to each Place Intervention:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Term = 2 to 5 years. • Medium Term = 5 to 10 years. • Long Term = 10 to 20+ years. <p>More information regarding this is available through the 'How to use the Place Plan' page that has been since added to the Draft.</p>
Robertson Community Association	<p>Expressed that many experienced difficulties in negotiating the survey.</p> <p>Disappointed that Council representatives did not attend</p>	<p>Noted. This feedback will be taken into consideration for future community engagement opportunities.</p> <p>During the exhibition period there were a number of face-to-face and online consultation opportunities that</p>

	<p>the public meeting at the School of Arts on 3 October, despite being invited.</p> <p>The Plan is long, and could be daunting to tackle for some. Suggests that a formal presentation session where residents could ask specific questions would have been beneficial.</p> <p>Expressed that the Plan lacks detail of strategy and clear timelines regarding implementation. Identifying a target date would be helpful.</p> <p>Expressed concerns with the implementation section having many of the interventions including words like review, advocate, identify and investigate and having vague timeframes.</p> <p>Recommends that due to the Robertson Community Association being acknowledged as a Place Partner that it would be beneficial that Council meet with the community on an ongoing basis to facilitate the delivery of the Place Plan. Further suggests that this occur more regularly than the once every two years proposal in the Draft Place Plan.</p>	<p>were communicated via Council's social media platforms, e-newsletter, physical flyers and posters.</p> <p>In order to strengthen the implementation of the Draft Place Plan, a page has been added which provides more information behind the related themes, impact scales and approximate timeframes.</p> <p>Robertson has a highly engaged community and due to limited Council resources, the Draft Place Plan identifies a number of Place Interventions that are Council and community led initiatives. In addition, dialogue between Place Partners will occur periodically to guide the delivery of responsible Place Interventions, however the Draft Place Plan additionally proposes that a formal meeting is to be held once every two years and a report tabled to Council within this timeframe to monitor progress.</p>
Robertson Futures Group	<p>Expressed concerns that the Plan is quiet on the implementation pathway and timelines for delivery of the Robertson DCP.</p> <p>Also expressed that minimal attention has been given to the need to improve infrastructure despite the increase in population.</p> <p>The public meeting was positive overall, however the key concerns that were raised included: the need for flexibility in</p>	<p>Noted. To further strengthen the implementation of the Draft Robertson Village Place Plan, a page has been added which delves deeper into the meaning behind the related themes, impact scales and approximate timeframes.</p> <p>There are a number of Interventions that refer to improvement in infrastructure, such as but not limited to the completion of unformed road reserves (2.1.4), Hampden Park Master Plan (5.2.4), additional footpaths</p>

	building design guidelines, stronger focus needed for the reduction of carbon emissions through policy and regulations, lack of detail around the new release area and clarity on minimum lot size.	(2.2.4) and the investigation of an active transport loop (2.2.2).
G. White	Suggests that the survey is too restrictive with only yes or no mandatory answers.	Noted. This feedback will be taken into consideration for future community engagement opportunities.
D. Anderson	Agrees that the Plan reasonably addresses a wide range of issues.	Noted and agreed.
Robertson Public Meeting Minutes	Acknowledges that the Plan fails to set out the implementation pathway and timelines for delivery of the DCP.	Noted. A number of amendments have been made to strengthen the comprehension and future implementation of the Draft Place Plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The colour of the impact and timeframe scales have been altered to a gradient grey colour, in order to avoid confusion with the colours that were utilised to represent the five themes. • Approximate timeframes have now been assigned to each Place Intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Short Term = 2 to 5 years. ○ Medium Term = 5 to 10 years. ○ Long Term = 10 to 20+ years. • To assist the future implementation of the Draft Place Plan, an intervention lead and supporting place partners have identified.