



OCTOBER 2023

HOPETOUN

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

OUR TOWN

Yarriambiack Shire Hopetoun Ward



Population of 694



Median age of 56



Median weekly household income of \$1120



Lake Lascelles, Wyperfeld National Park, Mallee Bush
Retreat, The Hopetoun Powerhouse, Corrong Homestead.

HOPETOUN is situated on the Yarriambiack Creek in the Southern Mallee, 121 kilometres north of Horsham, 90 kilometres south of Ouyen and 61 kilometres north of Warracknabeal. The town is recognised as 'The Gateway' to Victoria's Mallee region and takes its name from Lord Hopetoun who was Victoria's first Governor and Australia's first Governor General. He was a frequent visitor to the area as the guest of pioneer Edward Harewood Lascelles.

The town's population is 694 and for the past two decades has experienced a population loss of about 1.4 percent annually. The major employers are the community services sector, 29.8%; wholesale and retail sectors, 17.8 percent and agriculture, 16.6 percent. Although the area has an ageing population, volunteerism in the Southern Mallee township is much higher than the state average.

Natural features within easy reach of the township are Wyperfeld, Hattah-Kulkyne and Murray-Sunset National Parks, which protect more than one million hectares of natural habitat and are home to countless species of flora and fauna. Clear cloudless skies are a climatic characteristic.

There are many sporting organisations and more community groups than usual for a town of Hopetoun's size. The town has an administration centre – Gateway BEET (Business Education Employment and Tourism) which is also an agency for several government authorities including Centrelink. The Neighbourhood House currently house Historical society, Patchwork and is Management of the Gym and Hopetoun Mens Shed.

*Statistics obtained from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 census

COMMUNITY VISION

"The Hopetoun community envisage a township that is welcoming, healthy, visually vibrant, economically durable, environmentally sustainable and aided by inclusive contributions from the whole community."

Our Community Action Plan:

- ✓ Enables our community to have a voice
- ✓ Demonstrates community planning
- ✓ Demonstrates opportunities for funding partners
- ✓ Helps develop project plans
- ✓ Connects us with stakeholders
- ✓ Informs local government of proposed projects

This plan has been prepared following consultation with the Hopetoun community.



PRIORITY PROJECTS

By inclusively representing the needs of the wider community, Progress Matters has identified a list of priority projects for action.

Projects have been categorised according to project type while identifying their alignment with the strategic objectives of the Yarriambiack Shire Council:

- Red projects represent A Vibrant and Diverse Economy
- Yellow projects represent A Health and Inclusive Community
- Green projects represent A Robust and Thriving Environment



Health & Essential Services



Sport & Recreation



Economic Development



Environment & Sustainability



Education & Training



Tourism & Camping

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Hopetoun Health Services



The sustainable availability of urgent care, patient transport and home care are a high priority to the Hopetoun community. Action is required to address issues around the attraction and retention of medical professionals.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Housing



Addressing the shortage of available housing in Hopetoun, especially to assist with the attraction and retention of staff in the agriculture, health, emergency services and hospitality sectors.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Hopetoun Streetscape



Improving social and economic outcomes via beautification works and tree plantings along main thoroughfares and public spaces. Of particular importance is improving the accessibility of public spaces, footpaths and shops to provide an inclusive community. Initiatives and advocacy are also required to encourage beautification of houses and shopfronts.

Timeframe: Ongoing

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Business development & support



Initiatives, incentives and advocacy are required to capitalise on the emerging tourism industry and other opportunities to encourage new businesses and tourism offerings in town. Of particular importance is the utilisation of empty shopfronts and industrial land.

Timeframe: Ongoing

Hopetoun Old School Site Development



Repurposing the former primary school site to generate economic development for the town, complimented by additional housing to address a housing shortage and tourist attractions.

Timeframe: 2023-2026 (feasibility study and business case underway)

Neighbourhood House & Library Redevelopment



Redeveloping the Yarriambiack Library and Neighbourhood House precinct to deliver health and education outcomes, support business, and empower volunteer groups.

Timeframe: 2025-2027

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Delivering the Caravan Park Master Plan



Addressing short-term accommodation issues in the region through the provision of more and adequate facilities and amenities, capitalising on the additional tourism afforded the region by Lake Lascelles and the Silo Art Trail

Timeframe: 2024-2026

Delivering the Recreation Reserve Master Plan



Delivering social and health outcomes for residents through upgrades to key infrastructure at the Hopetoun Recreation Reserve sporting precinct.

Timeframe: 2024-2026

Tennis court lighting



Lighting for the fourth court and extra lighting for the existing courts is required to enable night competition which is essential to ensuring maximum participation in the sport, especially during hot weather.

Timeframe: 2023-2024

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Activating new sport & recreation opportunities



Improving social and health outcomes for residents through new sport and recreation offerings including a new lakes walking track, an eclectic offering of holiday programs for children, and more informal activities such as play equipment, bocce, mini golf and BMX.

Timeframe: 2023-2024

Southern Mallee Kart Club



Reviving the go-kart track at the Northern Loch Recreation Reserve to enhance social connectedness, tourism and economic benefits for the region.

Timeframe: 2023-2024

Golf clubhouse refurbishment



Refurbishment of the Hopetoun Golf Club clubhouse is required due to the age and deterioration of the facility, particularly the toilets which are in disrepair.

Timeframe: 2024-2025

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Historical tourism attractions



Initiatives of the Hopetoun & District Historical Society support social and tourism benefits for the town. Initiatives include protecting valuable historical and tourism assets at Corrong Homestead with a new shed, the upkeep and development of the old state school as a tourism attraction, and the ongoing support required for curatorship, archiving and research activities.

Timeframe: 2023-2024

Powerhouse Arts Studio & arts programming



Enhancing tourism, sport & rec and education outcomes via the Hopetoun Powerhouse Arts Studio. Upgrades are required to the backyard, windows and studio floor, while the addition/enhancement of the mezzanine accommodation and storage will enhance wider benefits for the community. Support and advocacy is also required to expand on arts programming, particularly current exhibitions and larger artist residencies.

Timeframe: 2023-2024

Newspaper



Ensuring the long-term future of the Hopetoun Courier, in circulation since 1892

Timeframe: Ongoing
