

SHARE STRATHBOGIE

Engagement Report

April 2021

Document control

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1. Introduction

The Local Government Act Victoria 2020 requires Council adopt a Community Engagement Policy that includes deliberative engagement practices. These practices must then be used to ensure true community input into the development of the:

- Community Vision
- Council Plan
- Financial Plan, and
- Asset Plan

The Act provides Councils until March 1 to have a Community Engagement Policy adopted. The Council Plan, Financial Plan and Asset Plan deadline is October 31 this year.

Council is working hard to improve our communications and engagement practice to build confidence and trust in what we do. We know, working with our community will mean we can achieve great things. Our goal is a shared vision, a common direction, a united community.

2. The Engagement Approach

Our engagement program will be delivered in five stages. This report focusses on the first stage of the engagement process and will be updated as we move through the stages described below.

Stage one February – April 2021	<p>We hit the streets hosting <i>Share Strathbogie</i> sessions in all seven of our townships.</p> <p>Hundreds of face-to-face conversations were held with locals about why they love living in Strathbogie Shire, what would make it an even better place to live and if there was anything people could live without.</p> <p>Our goal was to understand our community's values and expectations. To be really clear on what matters to our community. These broad questions helped us achieve this goal.</p> <p>During stage one we also used a budgeting exercise that allowed us to understand our community's infrastructure and service priorities.</p> <p>The outcomes of this exercise will be two-fold. They will help us set the priorities in our Council Plan and Community vision, along with informing the 2021/22 Budget and our Financial Plan.</p>
Please note: The information below outlines coming stages	
Stage two	Launch online engagement hub
Stage three	Community forum – deliberative engagement
Stage four	Further feedback opportunity
Stage five	Closing the loop and releasing our finalised documents.

3. Engagement methods

Our planned engagement program is ensuring our community is being engaged using the method or tool they prefer.

In stage one we created meaningful face-to-face engagement opportunities across our Shire. This ensured we proactively sought feedback and generated two-way conversations.

The *Share Strathbogie* sessions have provided the first opportunity for our community to have their voices heard. Having Councillors at every session demonstrated to the public their ideas were being considered and acknowledged.

Face-to-face engagement has generated trust in the process. It has allowed community members to ask questions, be provided with answers and feel heard.

As we move through the stages the depth of engagement will also change. This will mean our engagement activities will stretch along the IAP2 Engagement Spectrum from 'inform' to 'collaborate' and 'empower'.

The table on this page outlines the engagement methods we used based on the level of impact **in stage one**.

During stage two and three our depth of engagement will increase to collaborate and empower.

Table 1: Engagement methods used based on the level of impact.

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
<p>General Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising • Media releases • Social media • Emails • Newsletter stories • Website • Fact sheets • Posters 	<p>Direct and Interactive Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Centre • Correspondence seeking feedback 	<p>Feedback forums</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share Strathbogie face-to-face sessions • Prioritisation exercise • Meetings with stakeholders 	<p>Stage two and three methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community forum 	<p>Stage three methods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community forum

3.1. Information provided to the community

During our engagement activities extensive information was provided to the community.

Table 2: Links to all the information provided.

What	Topic
Media release 1	Help shape the future of Strathbogie Shire
Media release 2	Sense of Community makes Strathbogie Shire special
Fact sheet	Help shape Strathbogie Shire's future
Newsletter	My Strathbogie Bulletin
Euroa Gazette Advertising	Weekly advertising throughout April-March
Nagambie Voice Advertising	Fortnightly advertising throughout April-March
Posters	Ruffy poster
Social media 1	Post
Social media 2	Post
Social media 3	Post
Social media 4	Post
Social media 5	Post
Social media 6	Post
Social media 7	Post

4. Participation

Many of our Share Strathbogie sessions were held at public events throughout our Shire. Through these we held hundreds of conversations with our community. While we have not captured the number of participants we have:

- Captured more than 800 individual pieces of feedback
- Completed eight *Share Strathbogie* sessions in Strathbogie, Nagambie, Avenel, Euroa, Longwood, Violet Town, Ruffy and Avenel (after weather impacted the twilight market)
- Dedicated more than 100 hours face-to-face hours

5. What our community told us

Through these sessions we have captured more than 800 individual pieces of feedback. We have worked through all feedback to determine topics in Council's remit and those that are outside Council's area of control or, which sit as opportunities for Council advocacy. This feedback can be found in *6.9 Key questions feedback*.

5.1. Key questions

People responded well to our three key questions – what do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire, what would make it even better and is there anything you could live without.

This exercise was designed with two goals in mind:

1. To provide every person living in Strathbogie Shire with an opportunity to share their values and aspirations
2. To understand our community's values, needs and hopes for the future.

From this feedback we have been able to develop seven themes, which are outlined below.

A creative community. Our community told us they value arts and culture. They are proud of their cultural heritage and our artistic talents. Now is the time to build on that so everyone can enjoy it.

Liveability and connectivity. This is about roads, rates, footpaths and rubbish – they matter. Our people want easy access around our townships and throughout our Shire. These services are important they make us love where we live.

Our environment. Our community is telling us this is why they love where they live. It's the natural environment, the open space, the parks, gardens and waterways that draw people here to live, work and play. More importantly, they're telling us to protect it. They want future generations to experience the special place we call home.

Sustainable growth and development. This is a topic on many people's minds. Development must be managed carefully to protect the natural environment, to protect our sense of community. We must ensure the community infrastructure grows at the same pace as housing, tourism and industry.

Our people. To borrow a line from a famous movie (and our community, we heard it several times) it's 'the vibe', it's the people, it's a feeling of safety. It's passion, it's spirit, it's just an awesome place to live. Let's build on the things that support our people – young, old and in between.

Smart spending. Of course there's the serious side. Our community want us to spend funds wisely. They're concerned they're not getting value for money. They're expecting we spend smart and buy local whenever we can.

An engaged community. When it comes to communication we can't do enough. They're grateful for the customer service team, but beyond that there are improvements to be made. Our community is telling us they're seeing better input into our decision making, but we're definitely on notice. Community engagement makes for better decisions and better outcomes.

5.2. Prioritisation Exercise

At each *Share Strathbogie* session participants were able to complete an exercise that allowed them to prioritise Council services and infrastructure. Participants were given 200 points and were asked to put their points towards the infrastructure and services that mattered to them. This exercise was designed with two goals in mind:

1. To provide every person living in Strathbogie Shire with an opportunity to share their priorities with Council.
2. To ensure we understand our community's priorities to inform the 2021/22 Budget, Community Vision and Council Plan

Through this activity we found our community's top five service and infrastructure priorities are (over page):

Service priorities	Infrastructure priorities
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths 2. Climate Change 3. Supporting local business 4. Planning and development 5. Environment 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roads, drains, bridges and footpaths 2. Buildings and facilities 3. Arts and cultural facilities 4. Major facilities that promote tourism or regional events 5. Waste management

Full results can be found in section 6. *Findings*.

6. Findings

6.1. Overall findings

Table 3: Overall service priorities

Our community's service priorities

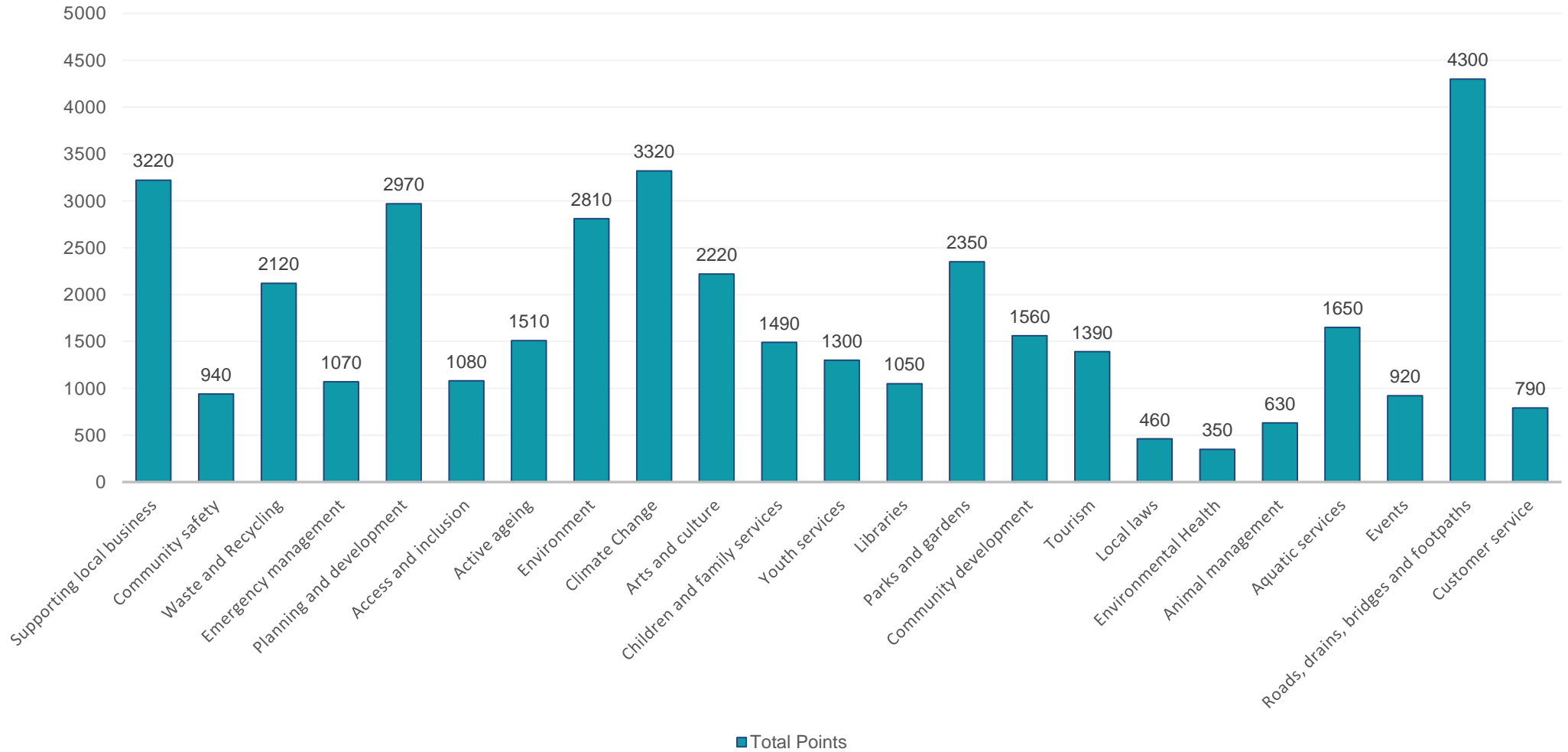
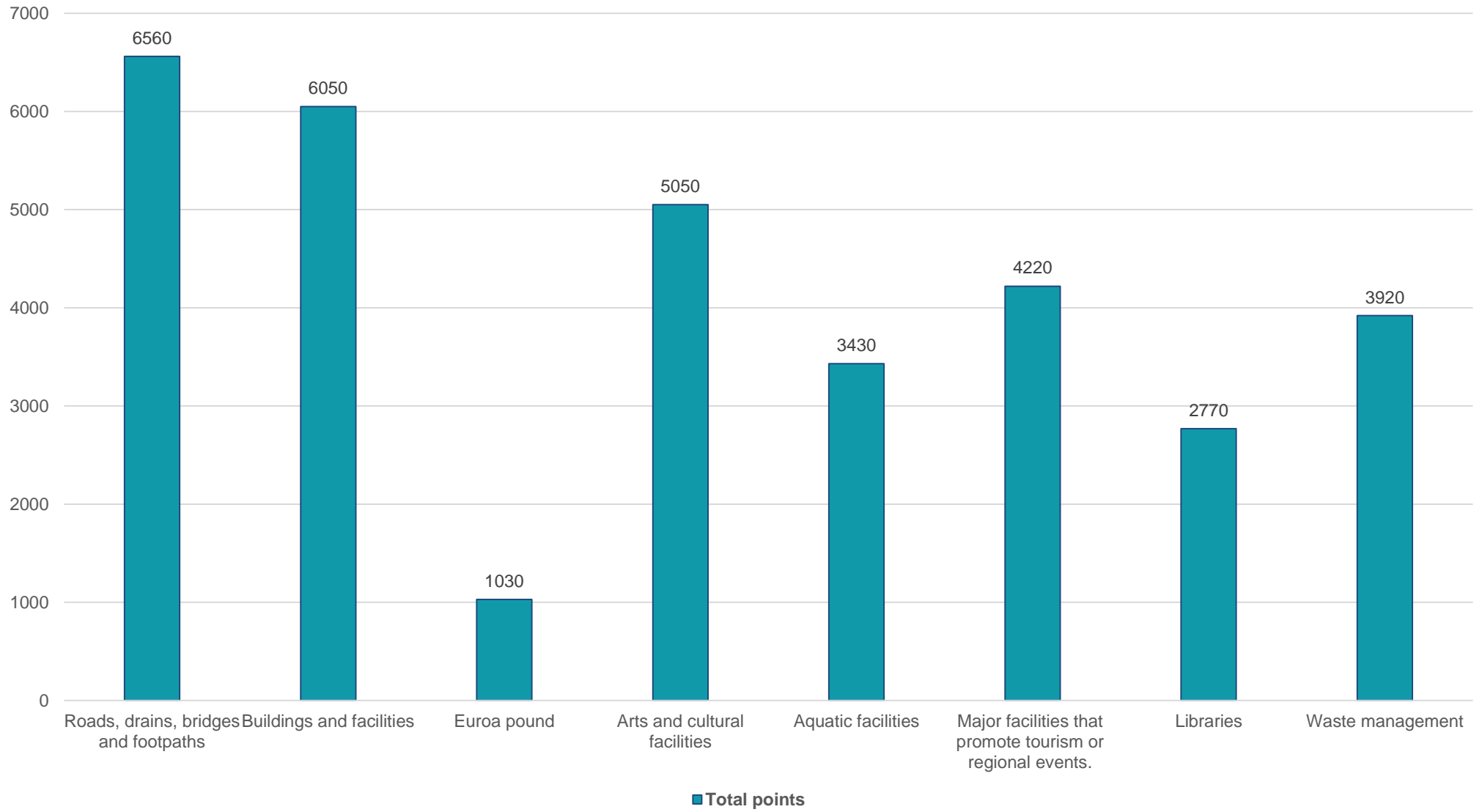


Table 4: Overall infrastructure priorities

Our community's infrastructure priorities



6.2. Strathbogie findings

Table 5: Strathbogie service priorities

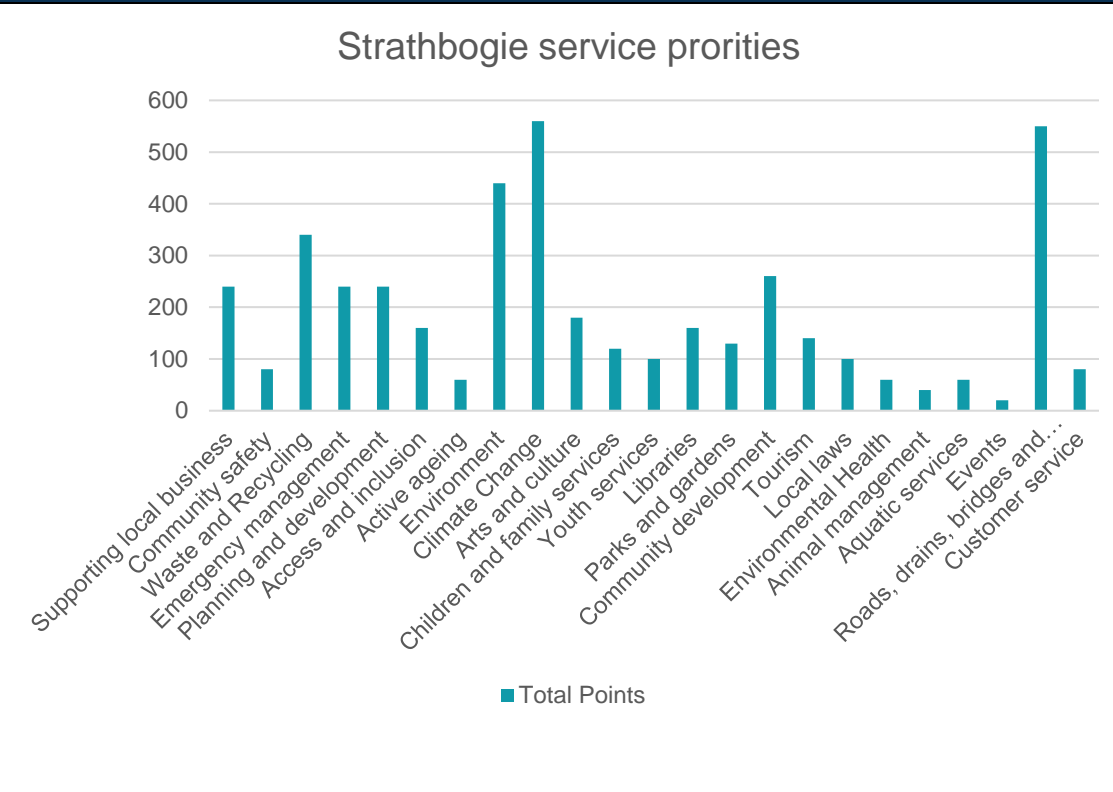
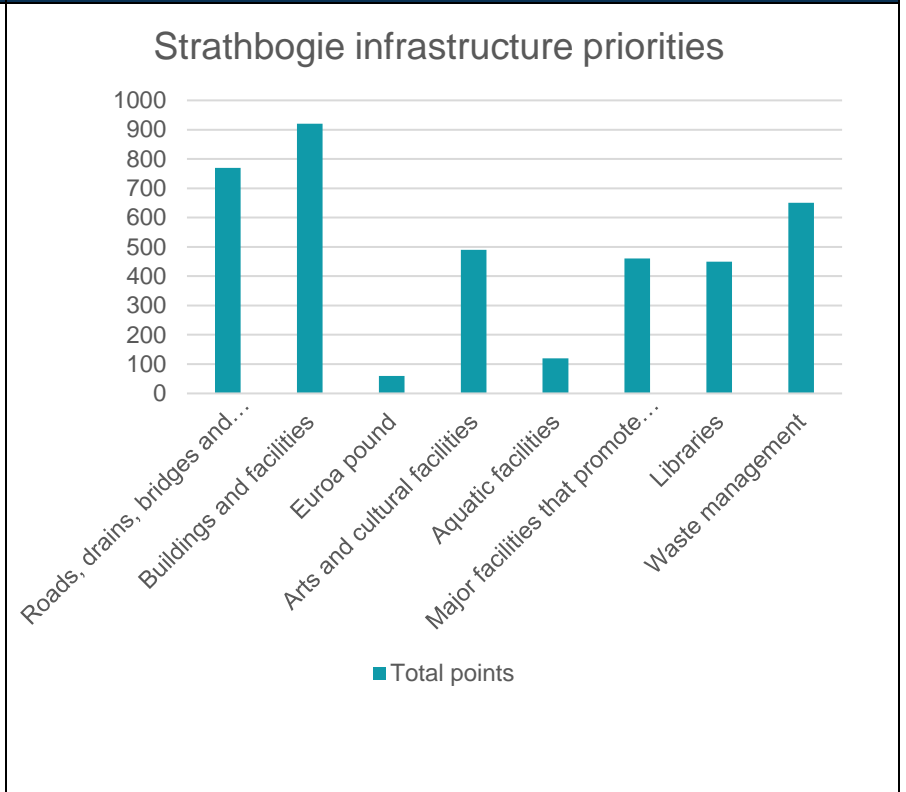


Table 6: Strathbogie infrastructure priorities



6.3. Nagambie findings

Table 7: Nagambie service priorities

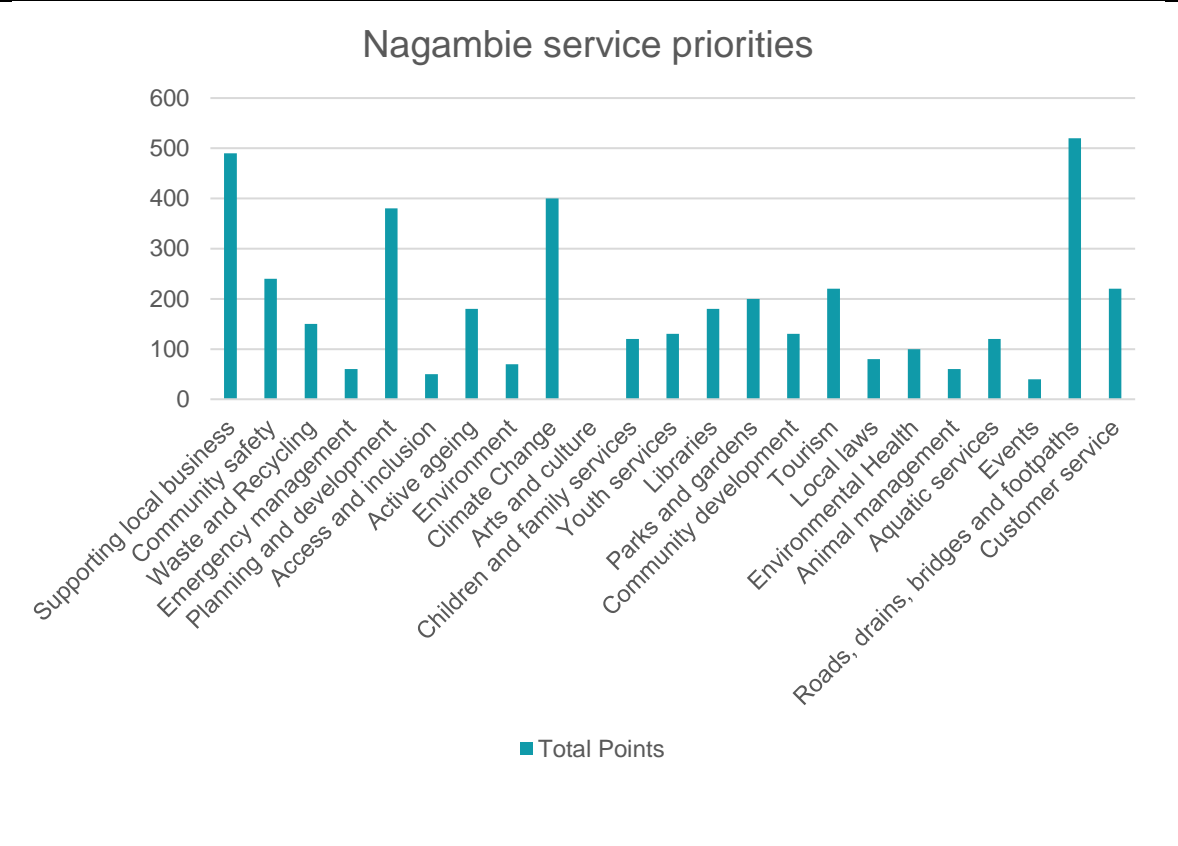
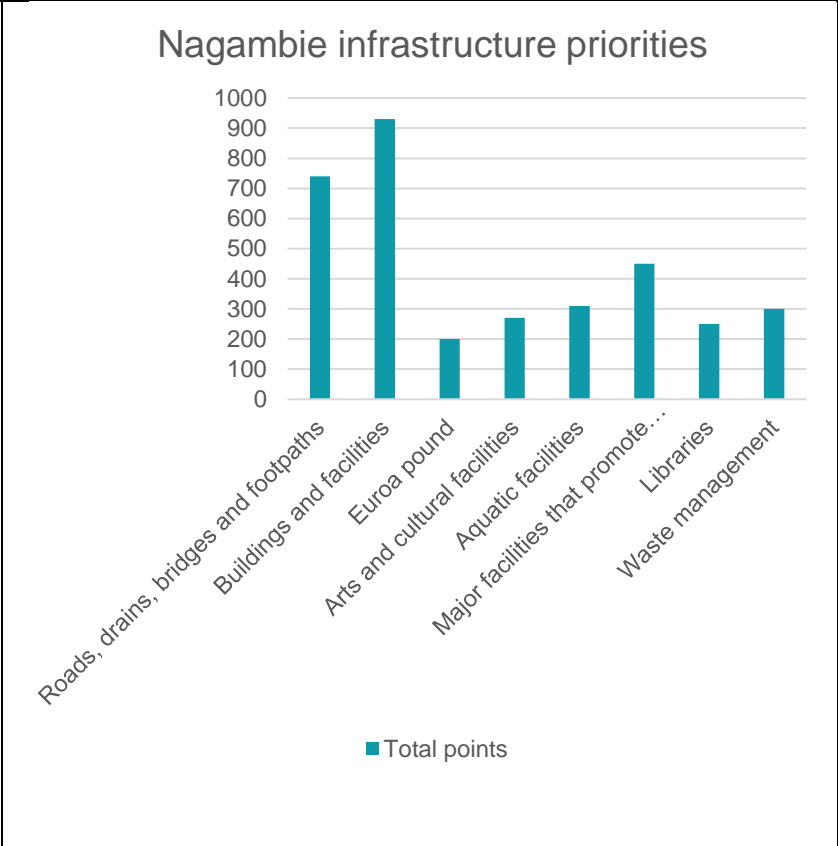


Table 8: Nagambie infrastructure priorities



6.4. Euroa findings

Table 9: Euroa service priorities

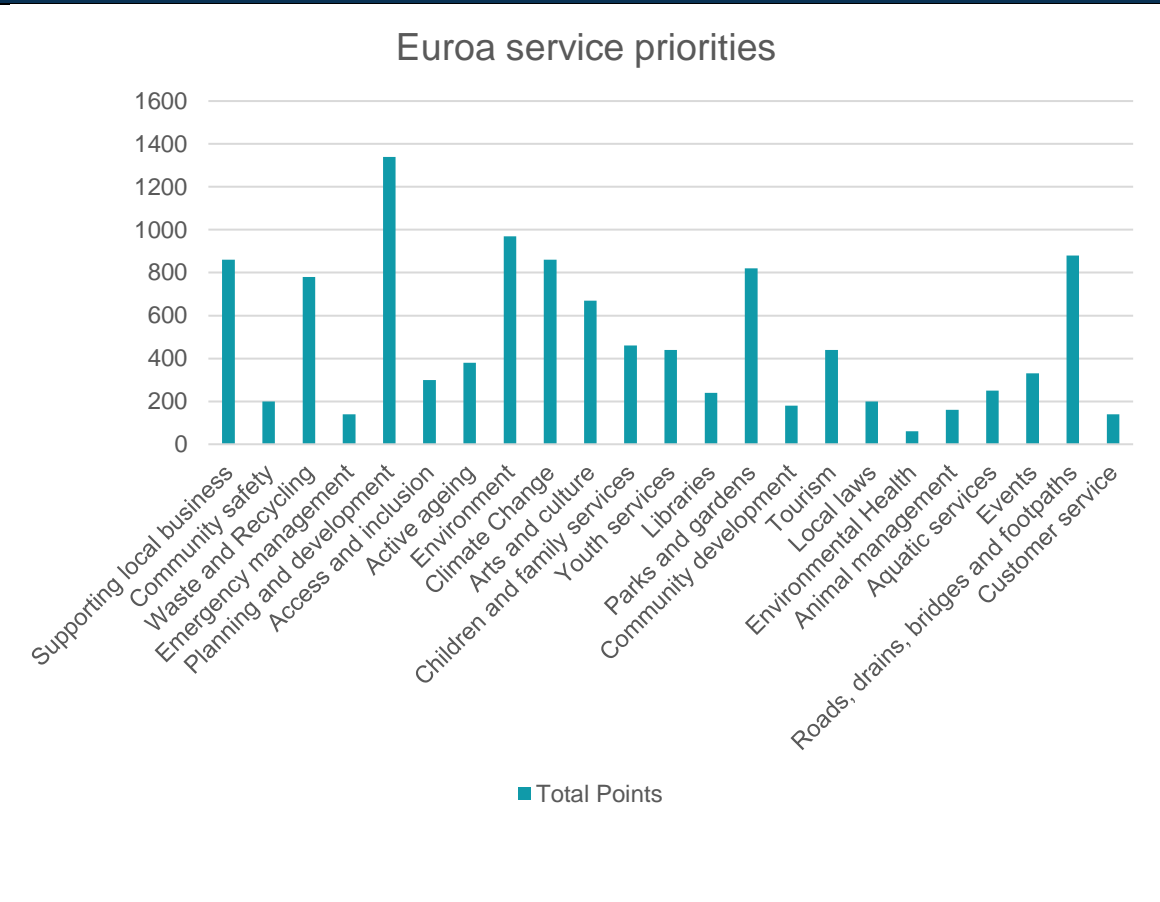
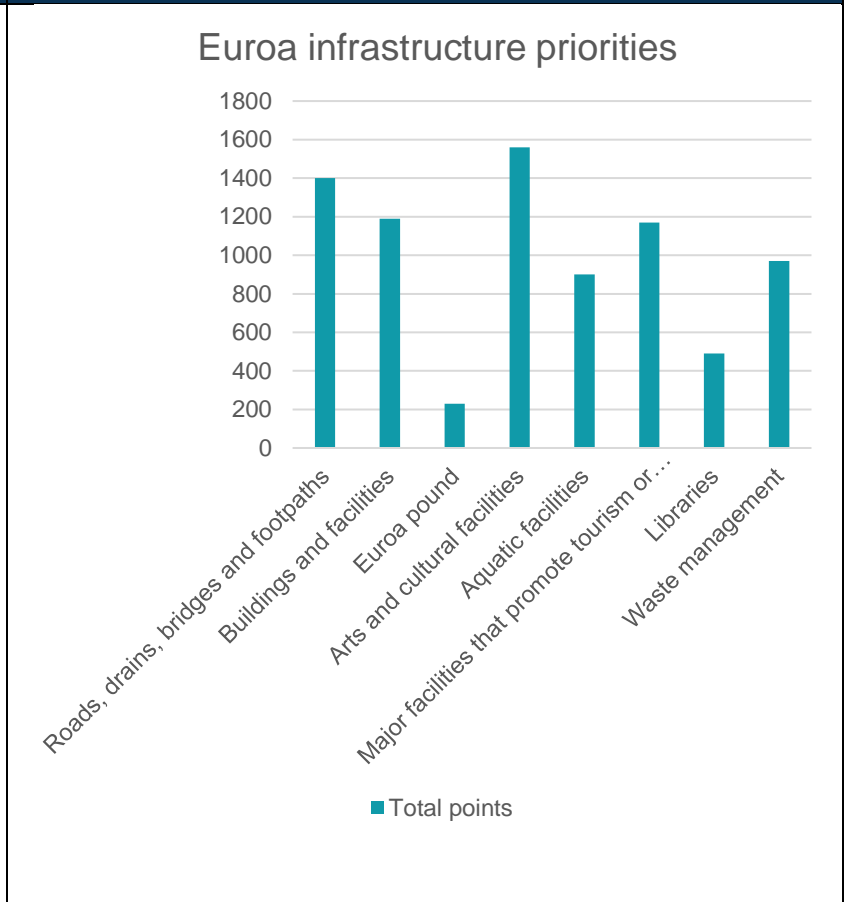


Table 10: Euroa infrastructure priorities



6.5. Longwood findings

Table 11: Longwood service priorities

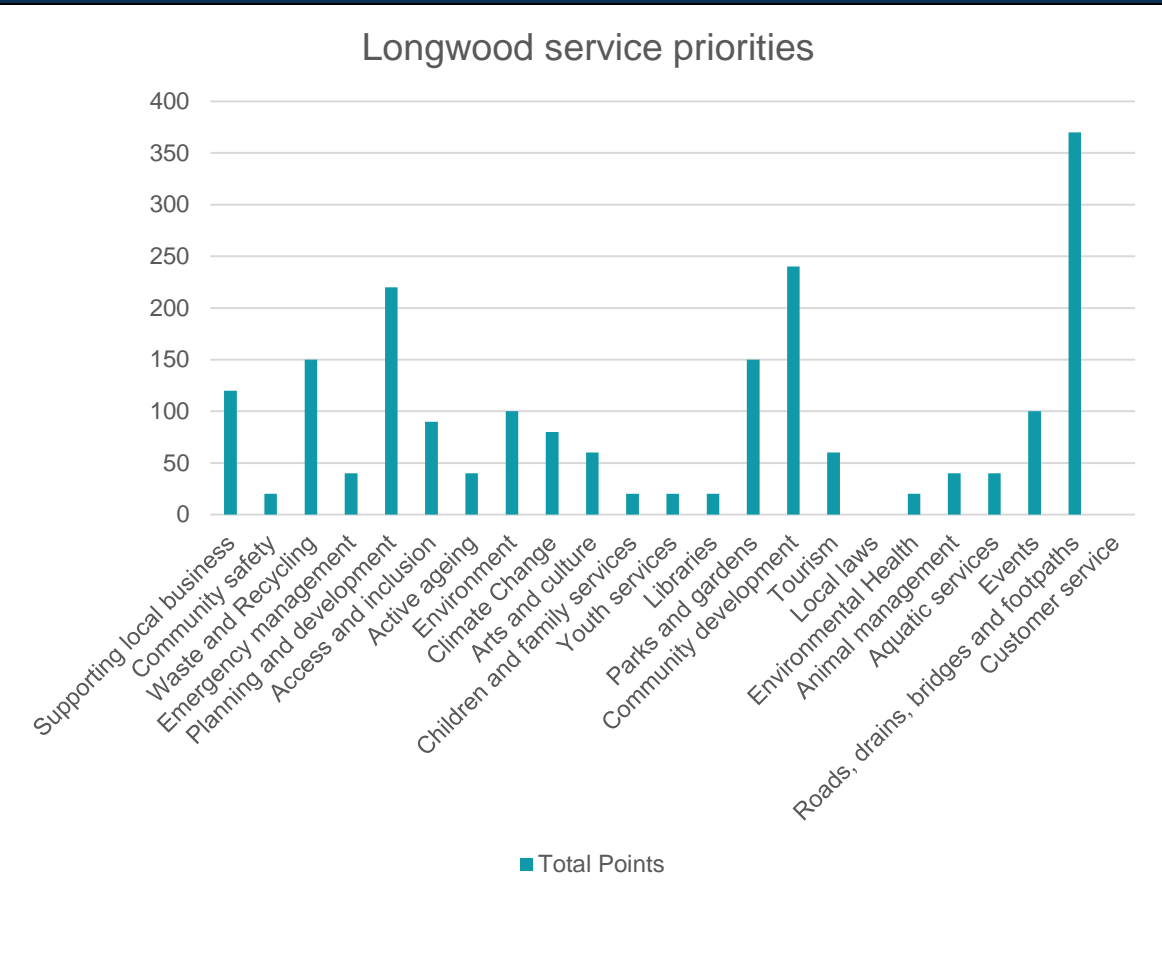
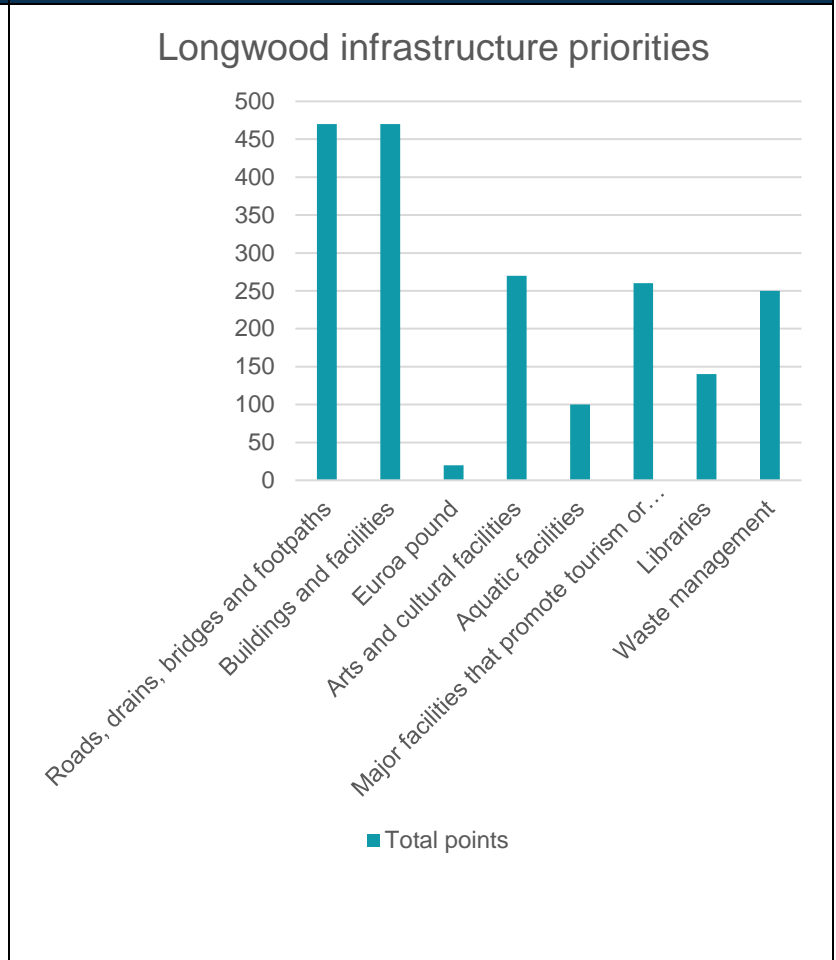


Table 12: Longwood infrastructure priorities



6.6. Violet Town findings

Table 13: Violet Town service priorities

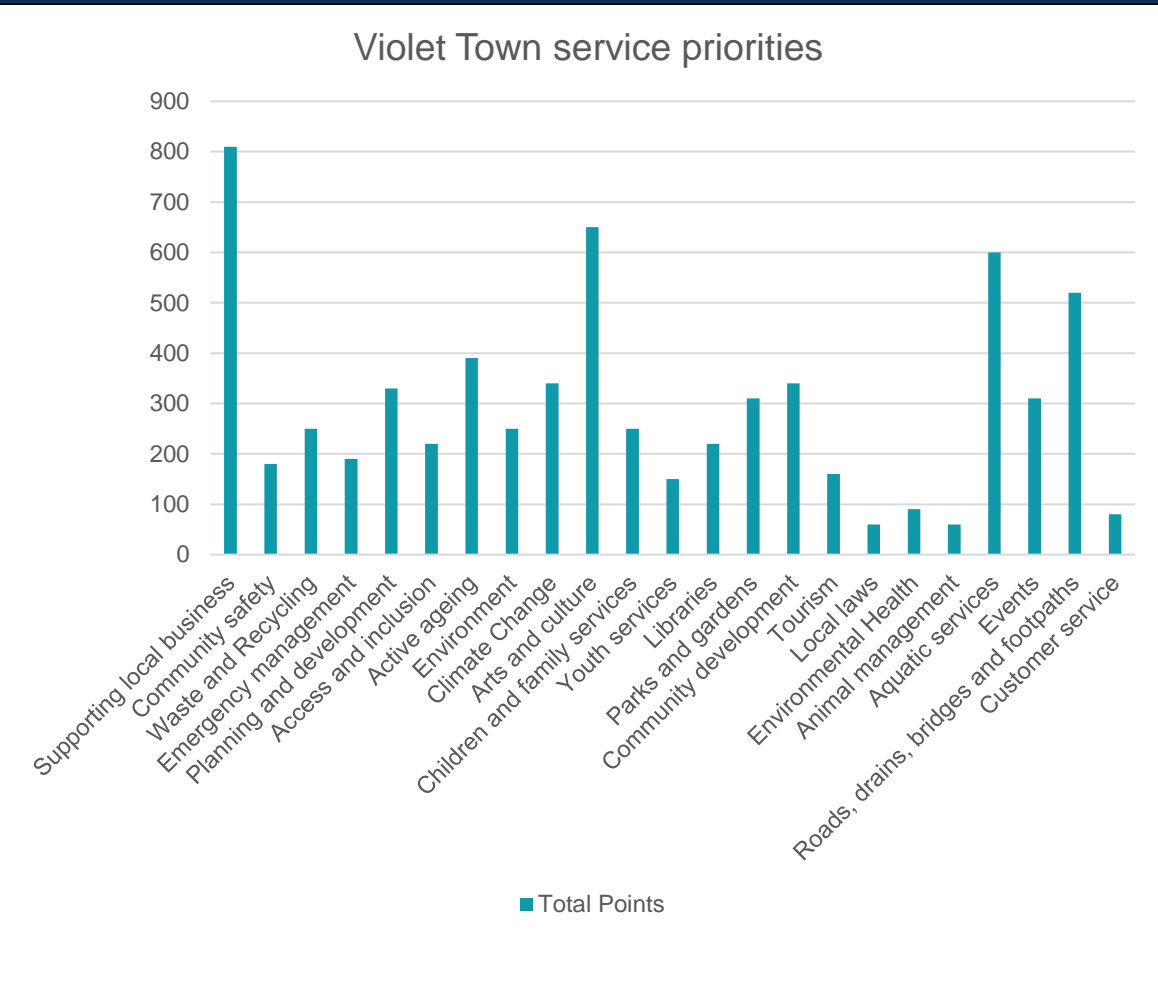
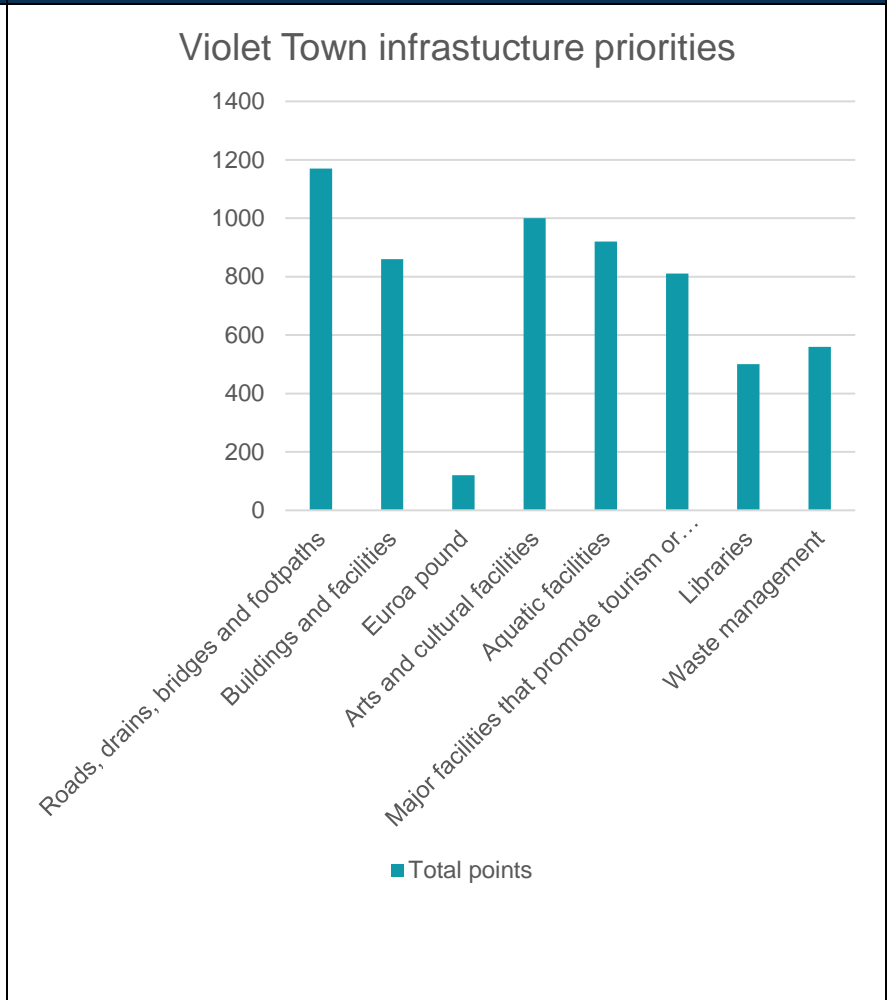


Table 14: Violet Town infrastructure priorities



6.7. Ruffy findings

Table 15: Ruffy service priorities

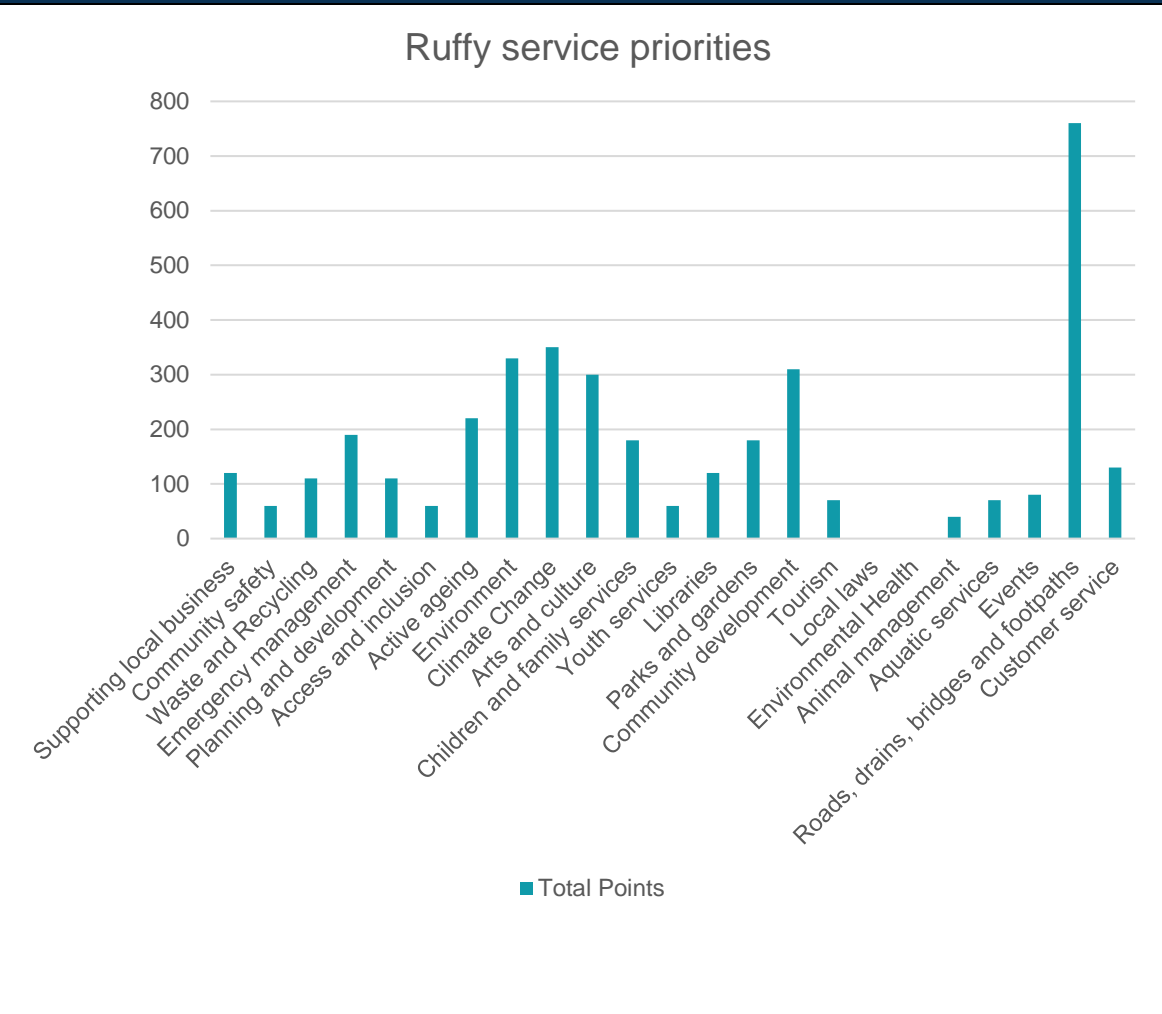
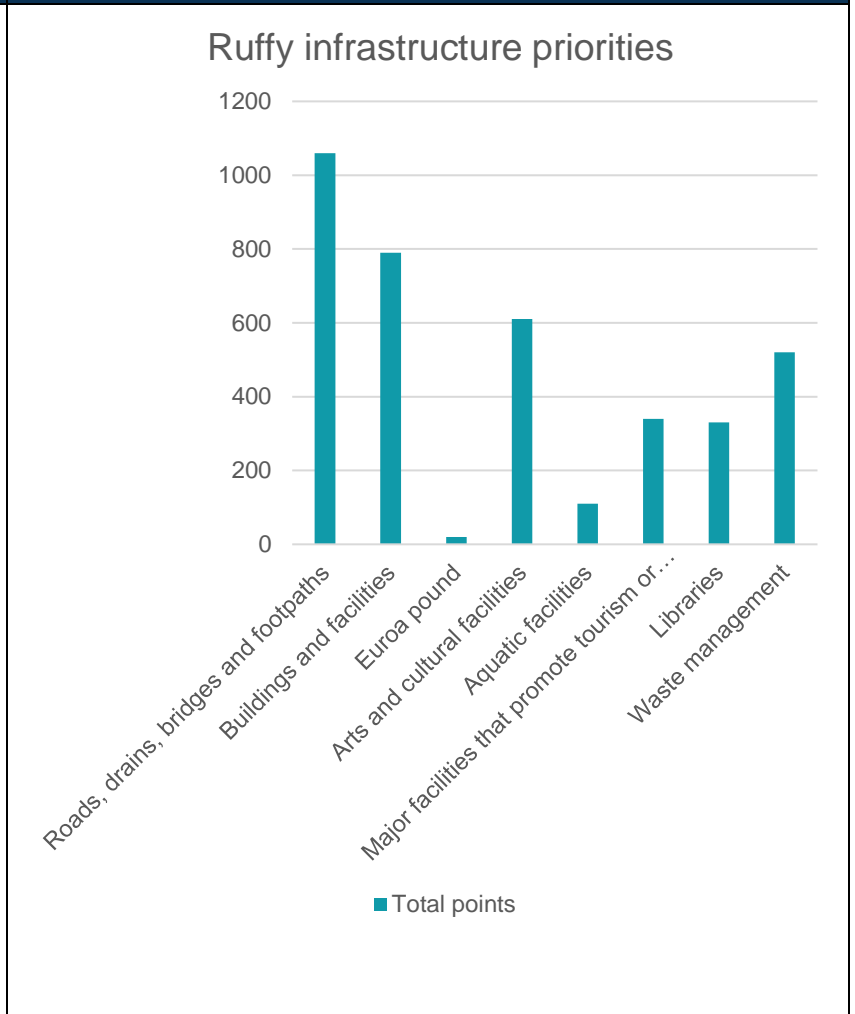


Table 16: Ruffy infrastructure priorities



6.8. Avenel findings

Table 17: Avenel service priorities

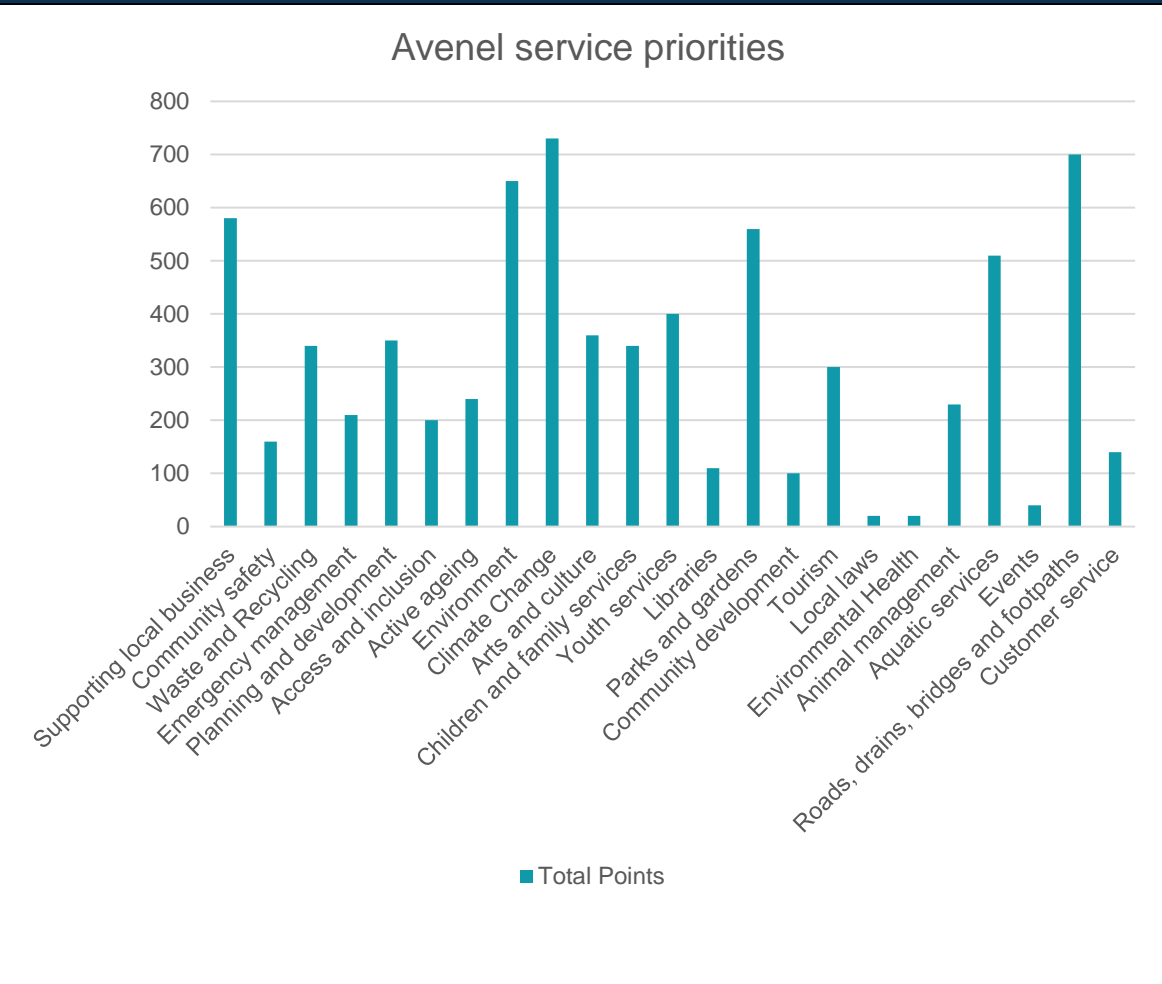
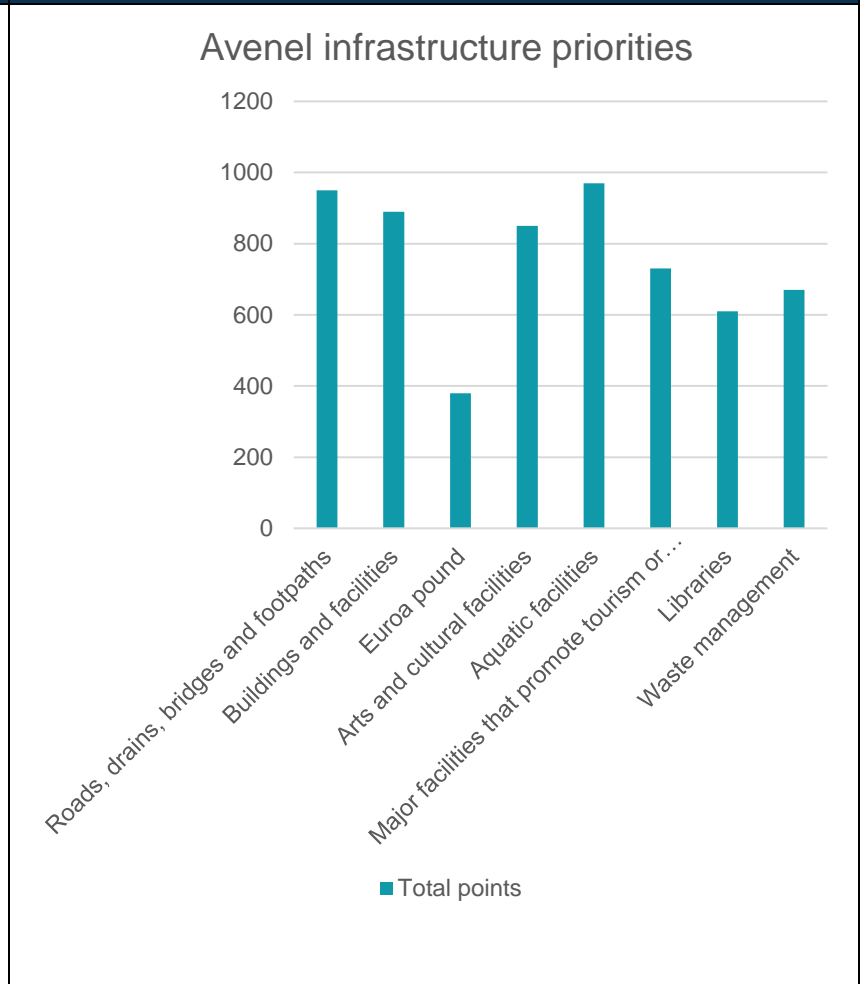


Table 18: Avenel infrastructure priorities



6.9. Key questions feedback

Table 19. Feedback gathered relating to each theme.

Theme	Key question	Feedback
A creative community	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festivals and the energy they bring. • Variance of activities. • I never run out of things to do. • The cinema in Euroa. • Entertainment. • Tourist information friendly • Free camping at Longwood Recreation reserve. • More event - lots more could be done.
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More community ART. • Support for VT market. • Promote historical aspects of Longwood more. • More art installations x2 • More food and art culture to vitalise the town. • More street furniture for Binney Street. • Make Binney Street by the shops one way. • Binney street to go European. • Outdoor space Euroa Music Festival Music/events. • Festivals & food precinct. • Recognise and celebrate the diversity of history in this town and make it more interactive. • Shared space - band hall and Visitor Information Centre • Use lake more as a draw card. • Tourism infrastructure. • Need energy to the place to draw people here. • More family tourism to bring people. • Sewerage dump point with parking bay in town as people pass through - however, the Regatta Centre is too far out of town. • Rowing events don't bring money to town as they BYO. Need to draw them into town. • Red Kelly statue. • Outdoor cinema. • More events activities. • More live music.
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 km speed limit through Nagambie.

<p>Liveability and connectivity</p>	<p>What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy here - the Shire maintains the oval when you want it to be done. • Smaller town. • Location (to Melbourne) x 2 • Our library, kinder friendly businesses (café, supermarket) pool, the creek The Parish. • Pools. • Sport in VT. • No need to shop out of town. Yah • Great pool. X 2 • Country, freedom, peace. • Freedom - Its home. X 2 • It's quiet. • Peaceful and tranquil location. Centrality ie to Victoria. • Proximity to Melbourne. but far enough away! x5 • The parks are tended to regularly and tidied up. • Escape from Melbourne. • Great that it is a destination in itself. • Amenity - relaxed atmosphere. • Proximity to Melbourne. X 2 • Facilities - driving options have improved. • Love the lifestyle. • Location, east of access, quick trip to Melbourne (by car) Village atmosphere. • Wouldn't swap it for metro ever. • Ice creams - must have been for the market! • Village feel of smaller towns. • Nice soft village. • Quiet, beautiful, cafes, lakes, homewares etc. • Lovely and clean and well preserved. Retains heritage. • Continue the support of the heritage buildings. • Architecture and ambience of old world. • Lovely and clean and well preserved. Retains heritage. • Proximity to Melbourne x 2 • Can walk everywhere and leave the car at home. • Facilities. • Like the pop ups in the main street - a great feature - good focus. • Historical buildings. • Lots of different sports. • Access to larger towns. • Pretty town.
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What would make it an even better place to live?

- Sealed, safe roads X 3
- Toilets - the TCC become public toilets and cleaned by Shire X 4
- Roadsides - better management and large fallen trees - balancing habitat & fire safety.
- Mobile library to Ruffy.
- Fix Buntings Hill Road wheelie bins.
- Roads need to be graded properly - recent grading has made road unsafe. X 2
- Grade roads more often.
- Quality of roads - improve back road to Seymour.
- Tar Buntings Hill Road.
- Tar Longwood-Ruffy road -new section being done.
- Disabled toilet is the only toilet open near walking track. Council needs to supply toilet paper, soap, towel and clean.
- Ruffy Rec - fix the disabled reserve toilet door! It needs to open outwards X 2
- Manage road side trees getter. Fuel load too high - older trees pose a lot of risk - Longwood Ruffy Road typical example.
- Check trees that don't look too healthy for white ants - they love blowing over in the wind.
- Safer roads (Welby track trees unsafe).
- Clean nature strips of rubbish.
- More activities for kids.
- Flood mitigation infrastructure plan.
- Upgrade the VT reserve. Improve main street re traffic.
- A strategic Early Childhood Education Plan. Support for early childhood education.
- Enforce dogs to be on leads.
- Need electric car charger at servo as on junction of two highways.
- \$\$\$ spent on the VT streetscape like other towns.
- 50 km signs coming into VT are not visible, overgrown? Poor placing (coming from Murchison VT road.
- Harrys Creek Road dangerously narrow (5-6 km out) 4-10 km.
- Pool open longer months.
- Community building available for music, dancing activities, kids and teens X 2
- Appealing streetscape x 3
- Footpaths. X 4 - Pedestrian crossing in Cowslip Street. Better pavements. X2
- Easier process of septic tank permits.
- Gap Road needs to be graded more.
- Improvements to roads.
- Better (some) town drainage in Longwood.
- Masterplan for Longwood.
- Masterplan on recreation reserve (plus grants we can use through Longwood East Landcare.
- Better access to transport for those that do not drive.
- More recreation/sports for children and adults.
- Roadside should be cleared more when trees come down.
- Better Longwood Ruffy Road.

- Dangerous overhanging trees.
- A masterplan for the Longwood Recreation Reserve.
- Better servicing of unsurfaced roads.
- Drainage for Hurley Street.
- A decent town mower for Longwood.
- Half basketball court & playground in the pub paddock.
- Footpaths & kerbs to get kids safely to the bus stop.
- 2nd netball court. X 2 for juniors as this age group growing numbers.
- Amenities block for multipurpose (currently no facilities for female umpires).
- A Council electric bus to service Strathbogie residents once each week (and Avenel, VT, Ruffy etc) on other days. To meet morning train (for city travel) and leaving Euroa after picking up passengers from midday train. For shopping, health etc.
- A better place for the future? A more connected Shire Council. Better transport. Better infrastructure. Encourage new families.
- Roadside management, fallen trees, damaged fences. If it fall in Euroa its removed, if it fall outside town boundary - push it off the road and forget it.
- Children's Playground.
- Tidy up around town.
- Higher standards for footpaths and accessibility.
- Clean picnic tables.
- Clean bins.
- Holes near service pits.
- Pedestrian link to clock tower.
- Need pathways for older people/disabled people around the lake.
- Off leash dog area.
- Hard rubbish pick up opportunities.
- Bring back the water slide with a coin donation to raise money for community groups.
- Water park.
- Walk way to leisure park.
- More walking tracks around the lake to town.
- Need disabled parking at Buckley Street car park.
- More disabled facilities.
- No infrastructure which disadvantages the younger community.
- Maintain the water front.
- Need pram/wheelchair ramps and pathways such as at Clocktower.
- More accessible tracks around the lake and town for prams and wheel chairs.
- Kerbs and ramps to pathways from roads aren't suitable for power chairs and wheelchairs.
- Parallel parking near water tower - all the way through.
- If path to Regatta Centre happens - reserve land for potential extension. - bridge - G Ryan development - Parklea - so it goes around the lake.

- Footpaths near hospital. Gaps in the network around town.
- Angle park in High Street near statue. Move bus stop to outside Forbes garage.
- Walkway from Regatta centre to town.
- Public access to the lake.
- Larger/more infrastructure need more ovals to cater for growth in town.
- Where do kids play? More organised sport? Where are the facilities and planning.
- Focus on water safety and education. Policing of waterways laws.
- Playgrounds.
- Even better skatepark.
- More bike tracks and trails.
- More things to do - bike riding.
- A croquet lawn in Avenel.
- Shire support for our historic buildings and bridge.
- Avenel Rec Reserve support.
- Better footpaths x 2
- Heated swimming pool. X2 Not an ice bath.
- Footpaths in Avenel.
- Strathbogie township need more maintenance.
- Creek to creek project needs mowing it's fire friendly.
- Flying cars, robot animals, new equipment in the play ground.
- Bike paths on Strathbogie Road.
- Footpath 2 especially to the kinder.
- Longwood-Ruffy Road near horse studs when trucks stop going up and down.
- Bike and walking tracks.
- Footpaths granitic sand and doesn't need to be smother.
- Track around Lake Nagambie - support foreshore path.
- Improved playground in Avenel.
- Better play equipment and spaces.
- Better signage and road thoroughfares - main road cleaner and routes.
- Splash park - something for the teenagers in town. Maybe in the creek.
- Extend the bike path.
- BMX track x 4
- Kennedy Street footpaths.
- Apex walking track to Clifton Street.
- Bike track Euroa to Violet Town along Mahers Road.
- Permanent recycling bin in Rotary Park.
- Better skatepark.
- A permanent sign promoting Euroa Farmers market on Band Hall wall.
- Weekend cafes open or an information centre with café.
- Speed stopper Creek drive.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe road base on Creek Drive - all the way. • Dust suppression along Creek Drive. (If not speed humps down Creek Drive near Anderson Street, where it butts onto Creek Drive.) • Footpath to Arboretum. • A rubbish bin at Sevens Creek walk start and finish (for poop bags) • More dog waste bins around the Apex track. • A better road into Mt Wombat. • Please supply bitumen to both sides of Brackett Street to stop all the dust. • Kids adventure playground. • Road improvements. • Less dead trees along sides of roads that fall down and risk people's lives. • All access walking track around the creek/Apex track (must be concrete or bitumen) • Palmer avenue block - needs cleaning up - the buildings that were moved there. • All seasons covered pool x 2 • Designated waking tracks to open up Strathbogie. • Plan for footpaths - get them connected. • Suspension bridge at Rockies x 2 • Better garbage pickup at Miepol and better mail delivery to my door! • Historic houses & buildings to keep up the authenticity of the region. • Things take time when they are related to Council and other services like Vic Roads. • Adventure playground on the other side of the bridge near toilets (like Bright has.) • Less dogs in Binney Street (ie more under control) • More rubbish collection in Creightons Creek. • Bring historic buildings back to life - celebrate - meaningful information. • Pruning street trees for aesthetic purposes.
	<p>Is there anything you could live without?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VTAG • Unrestrained dogs - unregistered dogs - feral dogs and cats. • Park near toilets on main street needs overhaul. • No pedestrian cross in Cowslip Street - accident waiting to happen. • Dust from trucks on Oak Valley Road. • Neighbours that blast rock without notice. • Mobile library. • Town's rubbish service • Very slow completion of some community projects - such as Spring Creek picnic area. • No 20 km speed limit mid week. • Council staff could be walking around town to see what needs to be done.
<p>Sustainable growth and development</p>	<p>What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I love the small village atmosphere and that there's great roadside vegetation. I love that landholdings on the Tableland are bigger (ie I'd hate to see them chopped up.) • Support progress. • Support all development as it brings people and prosperity.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bypass for trucks has improved it. • Diversified heritage precinct being preserved.
	<p>What would make it an even better place to live?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe a retirement village - can't manage 1/2 acre block by myself. • Support for housing refurbishments to become more sustainable with insulation and energy efficiency. • Security in rural zones - remote from towns makes rural locations vulnerable. • More subdivision opportunities in Violet Town. • Big picture planning focus for the future. • More available space for pop ups and shops. • Better, easier Planning team. • Never KFC McDonalds • Guidelines and a real desire to make our building developments and planning laws reflect action on sustainable energy goals. • Stop at 'hill top' house site approvals, much the same as some other councils have done eg Mullumbimby. Ensuring all the remaining natural environments are protected, including roadsides. Educating landholders and strong leadership needed here. Many new landholders are 'clearing' the scrubby roadsides. • Progress. • Remove rowing courses - retractable course to free up the lake - putting boats back into long rowing course stuffs it up. • More and varied shops. • Need to be in front of the curve with infrastructure. • People don't get accessibility - need toilets/parking/facilities. • Need kindergarten/primary school. • Need pocket parks in estates & playgrounds. • Need facilities to support locals. • More efficient approvals for development. • Better facilities for families and young children ie parks & equipment. • Need to cater for peak periods eg car parking. • Need more community infrastructure to cater for growth. • If new infrastructure is not built then you won't catch up to support the population. • Manage the growth & infrastructure needs to catch up. • Install angle parking alongside Jacobson's lookout to increase parking spaces (currently parallel) • Need developer contributions - developer needs to pay. • Infrastructure under pressure - do only urgently needed infrastructure. • Infrastructure already stressed by population but growth will make it worse. • Council needs a bigger picture of how the town is developing to service the growing community. • Stop further development until these issues of water and power are fixed for existing residents then proceed with all the development. • Keeping infrastructure up to development and service. • Parking - including near hospital. • Need long term plans for infrastructure. Planning properly for growth.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More green spaces on estates. • Three more housing estates need more infrastructure. • Sustainable carefully planned development.
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pub veranda - old pub VT. Slow process! • Inappropriate development that is too large growth needs to be in steps. • Money for the Rowing Course. • Over development in Nagambie. • Change traffic - take out Northbound lane. • Overdevelopment which could destroy environment - this is particularly vulnerable here. • Don't let Nagambie grow too big. • Too much housing development. • No kerb and channelling - grass drainage • Don't want to see unsustainable development. • New and ugly developments. • Large recycle facility in Boundary Road.
Our environment	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate. (seasons) X 2 • Environment. X 3 • Tranquillity X 7 • Rocky outcrops. • Surroundings. • Seasons. • How's the serenity. • Landscape. Environment including the sky • The granite. • The natural environment. • The animals (native) X 3 • My freedom. Native animals and birds. X 3 • The gum trees. • Beautiful area. • Parks and gardens • Natural remnant landscape. • Flora magnificent. • Fauna. • Scenic views. • The creeks and springs • High quality environmental land. • The environment. Natural landscape. • Climate. The boulders. • Natural environment. • Creek space a great asset. Green spaces - parks.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the shire is declaring a climate emergency. • Serenity and quiet. X 3 • Close to hills and views from the hills. • Park area around the river a big asset. • Country/rural life. X4 • The environment x2 • Seven Creek area.- Natural beauty. • Strathbogie Tablelands - the unspoilt environment. • Recycling Depot • I love the clean air, the wildlife. The sharing nature of the Tableland community. People can bring their ideas to the table and actually feel their voice being heard in projects and activities. • The environment of the Strathbogie Plateau - this is a very species rich place and does have many areas of native vegetation, even if some are disturbed - one of the richest mammal faunas in the state - we need to practically protect this and the community. • The environment and nature - the community - it is a real community - we look after each other. Freedom. Living in the country. Small community ????feel. • The environment, the landscape, the community locally in Strathbogie township and Euroa. (I have little experience in other locations.) • I love that there is nature unspoilt and abundant and that the people speak up to protect it. Clean Air, Clean Water. • Tableland great environment and the community needs to be protected. • The lake. Its environment, its people, flora and fauna. • Lake is such an asset • Peace and quiet x2 • Lake a big attraction. • Waterways, environment and the people. • Small community, lifestyle is relaxed and uncomplicated, waterways & natural wildlife. • The environment. • Quiet and peaceful x 3 • Love the country life. • Natural surroundings - fresh air - pool hall. • Fresh air, mountains, people, space, community. • Trees. • Climate, people, sense of community.
	<p>What would make it an even better place to live?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase native vegetation & wildlife. • Wind turbines and solar are a good idea. • Better weeds program & don't use contractors and spray at the right time - not too late. • Free waste drop off. • Protecting native veg/nature strips. X 2 • More things in the sustainable Strathbogie 2030 for local towns/residents

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shade trees on sides of Cowslip Street shopping strip to provide shade for cars in Summer. • Recycle shop at Violet Town tip. • Support for bush kinders. • Nature play areas for children. • Solar/wind micro grid. • More support of regenerative small scale farmers. • Children educated on sustainability - tip excursions. • More council purchases of recycle content items. • Worry about the fuel and danger of fallen logs laying on the side of the road. • More walking tracks. • Transfer station needs a recycle shop. • More information on recycling to encourage people to recycle. • Make parkland better and bigger. • More shade trees in town. • Eliza Street - get rid of what's been cut and dead - new shade trees and the drain. • Plant-up Euroa. • Clean up Sevens Creek from rubbish weeds etc and reinstate the foot walk near Memorial Oval. • Bush walk to Pollie McQuinns then onto Gooram (1/2 km) • More green spaces and street trees x 2 • It may not be Council's responsibility but the creeks management is a disaster. Blackberry and other weeds - Who cares? • Sustainable housing models - maybe a tour. • Much better weed management of Tableland roadsides. • The hall could have many solar panels generating into a local microgrid. We could power a community electric bus. Courtyard on the north with paving and vines - doors opening onto the paving from the hall. • Being confident that the natural environment will be protected under strong council regulations that are enforced. We need a system for reminding landowners and notifying new landowners about habitat protection once these precious habitats or even components of these are lost they will never be replaced - I am particularly concerned about ongoing loss of precious roadside vegetation when new 'farmers' move into the area - I have been around since 1991. • New residents education session about land care and environmental sensitivity around land management. • A better environmental policy or one at least! • Weed control • Transfer station needs to have the 'reuse' recycle ethos. ie timber now goes to landfill. • How can you make timber at the transfer station available for reuse. • Tip needs to be open more. • Don't try to save the planet globally, concentrate on local matters and you will make a difference. • More trees • Solar requirements in new developments - built in by developers, batteries etc.
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	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind turbines X 2 • Rabbits. • Foxes x2 • I could definitely live without the visitors/trailbikes, who seem to think our hills are fair game for destruction! Our walking tracks are naturally beautiful areas should be better protected from such ignorant and uncaring people. Why don't they crucify their own backyard!! • Climate emergency.
Our people	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I still do - I have embraced living in the Ruffy area but we are going down hill. • Community spirit. X 2 • People friendly. X 4 • Caring community. • Acceptance - the vibe. • Ancestor settled here and we live on the property. X 2 • Isolation - small population. X 2 • Community involvement. • VT market, tourists, people and freedom. • Community, quiet life, friendly neighbours, proximity to mountains, little shops, trainline, trees, community initiatives, clubs. • Small friendly town X 2 • Space, quiet, community, friendly less stress X 7 • Strong sense of community. X 2 • Great Community house, library and shops. • Sense of community X 6 • Community X 3 • Likeminded people • Good neighbours • Community. X4 • People. X3 • Quiet for retired people. • Friendly people. • The sense of community and the support we give each other (Strathbogie township - not Shire) • Community, Environment, Diversity and Topography • The people. • I love the people of Strathbogie. I have the ability to enact progressive and unique improvements for our community. The community is small enough for people to have a go to enact our ideas that are needs relevant to the people. • Just love Nagambie. • Atmosphere - feel safe here. • Open/safe town. • Friendly people and community. • Nice feel about it.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People even teenagers talk to us oldies. • Retired here for the lifestyle and being in the rural area. • Great place to life - the people and country lifestyle. • Great community atmosphere. • I come from Sydney, lovely, quiet, friendly. • Not many bushfires fundraiser, lots of nice people, big country town. • Sense of community. • Nice town. • Rural, moved from country to country, love freedom. • Quiet space and community • Proximity with country town feel. • Community feel. • Sports. • Just like it • Nice place to be • Belonging to a wonderful community. • Volunteering. X2 • The people. X2 • Small town feel x 3 • Grew up here - great family place. • Homely. • Peace and quiet. • Diverse range of people. • Smaller inclusive community. • Friendly people. X 7 • The openness of people. Not crazy like city. • People care about people. • Community passion. • Welcoming community. • Active community. •
	<p>What would make it an even better place to live?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping the spirit of the community up and always help people in need. • More teen activities/shops. • Needs for mid teenagers - a community hub for kids (ask the kids down assume.!). • More activity for kids especially in holidays.
	<p>Is there anything you could live without?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Smart spending	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value for money
	What would make it an even better place to live?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural rate consideration (not continual increases). • Euroa, Avenel, and Longwood get all the attention but smaller towns are being left behind. X 2 • Lower rates X 2 • Council having a buy local priority especially with business, be pro-active. Hosting online lists is not enough. • Reasonable rates levels. • More attention to small towns – it's not all about Nagambie and Euroa. • Council focused on outcomes not roadblocks. • Council spend money sensibly. • More accountable Council expenditure. • Funding real needs, not follies. • Excessive waste of rate payer funds on projects like the Spring Creek picnic area, which wasn't even wanted by the majority of our community. Short cycle vision by the Shire workers. • Value for money.
	Is there anything you could live without?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessively high rates compared to many other councils - many people in this Shire are not wealthy. • Council spending on re-doing projects (get it right first time!). • Rural rates, very little service for rates paid - compared to the towns - compared to eg Melbourne. Possible answer: lobby state government jointly with other councils and VFF etc • Excessive consultants fees for projects we just need to do. • High rates x no returns. • Rates increase with little return. • Excessive rates \$\$\$\$\$ • Excessively high rates. • High rates! • Small vision (foresight) • Non compliant Shire officials!! • Funding real needs, not follies. • Excessive waste of rate payer funds on projects like the Spring Creek picnic area, which wasn't even wanted by the majority of our community. Short cycle vision by the Shire workers. • The rates are excessive!! • Pay too much for what Euroa gets. • All money goes to Nagambie. • Wasteful staff resources. • Council staffing seems to be excessive.
An engaged community	What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion by caravan park. • The new councillors' approach to engaging with the community - keep it up! • Customer service people are fabulous. It's what happens after that.

	<p>What would make it an even better place to live?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responses from Shire after events like this. • Sign to say picnic people take rubbish away from Rec Reserve because no council pick up. X 2 • Better communication. • More community engagement with Council. • Feedback on actions of previous meetings. X 3 • Get 'back room staff' to call people when they lodge a customer complaint. • Front line staff are great but it is like an Iron Curtain behind them. • Plan to engage upper primary and youth in our small towns. • Improve communication with the publican at the old pub where veranda is. • Improve Shire's communications to residents. • Newsletter to community (similar to East Gippsland) but not stopping advertisements in the Gazette. • More of this engagement • More exposure of smaller towns. • Keep the website up-to-date - info out of date. • New, even better free camping signage for recreation reserve. • Longwood Action Group. • Longwood on the Shire website map!! X 2 • Autonomous community groups. It's stifling and kills creativity that everything must go through STAG. This has created unnecessary bureaucracy. • Better and actual council and community engagement in local projects. Completion of local projects - on time and within budget. • Education on recycling/waste management. • In this day of COVID 'restrictions' we should have Service Victoria App everywhere and for everyone. • More education on waste management. • Fill up the empty shops with promotions. • Signage lettering is too small. • More engagement and consultation with community. • No coordinated voice for all issues (resources harnessed.) • A comprehensive Shire that delivers for all and not just the loudest or most active voices.
	<p>Is there anything you could live without?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website is hard to navigate. • Small groups don't talk for everyone.
<p>Advocacy opportunities (or topics raised outside Council remit)</p>	<p>What do you love about living in Strathbogie Shire?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday at the Ruffy store (sadly no longer!) • CFA is excellent. X 2 • Great schools • Ice creams • Food. • Good transport to Melbourne via Seymour. • Coffee shop • Lots of great cafes

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The smoothies at Mely & Me • Good schools.
	<p>What would make it an even better place to live?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow to clear native strip - fire hazard. • No cars dumped on properties in Redgate Lane Ruffy. • Better services upgrade put new mobile phone towers Ruffy photo - top of Welby track - benefit increase connectivity. • Clean up hanging trees off the roads. X 3 • Extend fire wood collection time for fallen trees along roadside. X 2 • Weekly community shopping bus & appointments ie Tolmie. • Bring back the Granite News X 2 • Community bus (Ruffy). Better internet & phone service X 5 • Road safety - Tulip Street. • A primary school we could feel confident sending our kids to. • Early childhood programs such as Music & movement - Gymbaroo. • Hall committee to be proactive in seeking people to use hall more often. • Safety/remoteness - the emergency app does not work when there is a local emergency. • Amalgamation & a larger council. • Shire investigate activity on stolen property from farms - livestock stolen. • Support for housing refurbishments to become more sustainable with insulation and energy efficiency. • Initiatives to support getting locals employed in ECEC. • Reliable internet. X 2 • No mobile service at Boho South - needs to be improved!! • Signed & formalised walking school bus track/path from sides of towns to schools and CBD. • Better pub. • Maybe a retirement village - can't manage 1/2 acre block by myself. • More support by local community for our primary school enabled by the Shire. • Reliable trains. • More low cost housing suitable for aged fold in VT. • Better mobile reception +better mobile data reception in VT + NBN X 3 • Run with community house training on how to take minutes of a meeting - so as to meet statutory requirements. • Support for local employment. • First aid training for volunteers throughout Shire. • Mental health training for volunteers throughout Shire. • The pub needs to be open often. • More kids at the school. X 4 • Buses to Euroa. • Longwood station back in commission. • The rail bridge. X 8 • Heavy vehicle bypass. • Rail underpass. X2 • Large rail overpass. • Traffic.

- Get rid of ugly overpass.
- Public transport - V-line to Melbourne.
- Secondary school & primary school represented at the market (with adult interaction).
- Sunday too dull on main street - missed opportunity.
- Upgraded hospital.
- Sunday afternoon supermarket.
- Better rail system.
- More shops to bring people in.
- Business centre restricted. Railway station an option (new design where will we go with new stores in the future.) Stop hoon behaviour. Lewis street/Farmer avenue.
- More breakfast food cafés.
- Business to be open longer hours especially weekends and public holidays.
- Don't change it - railway precinct.
- Plant out the roundabout at McDonalds - make it beautiful .
- Park Run is great.
- More train services.
- More visiting health specialists.
- Support underpass - ARTC. Railway precinct - green space in and around - push for this with ARTC.
- Support the caravaners by having Burtons open mid arvo Saturday and Sunday.
- More action in the main street on weekends - shops, cafes etc.
- The drug shop next to the library.
- Easy access to train line & travel to Melbourne.
- Main street to stay open.
- Regular and timely bus to Melbourne.
- Not closing down early Thurs and Saturday.
- Coffee shops open on public holidays for the tourist town.
- I would love to see the road speed limit being reduced to 80 and more signage to alert drivers to wildlife who share our roads. It is so distressing to see the unnecessary carnage on our roads, and its all due to the speed and perhaps lack of awareness.
- Gas
- Water pressure in Prentice Street.
- Council could advocate more for infrastructure power/water/services.
- Restaurants need to open longer hours particularly in Winter.
- Pub takeaways great idea.
- Markets are great
- Good food choice is key.
- Night time life is needed as Nagambie grows.
- Water pressure is crap at the Whroo Estate.
- Need to deal with reliable power supply.
- Another supermarket.

- Bus travelling to Shepparton & Seymour.
- Monday and Tuesday there is nothing open or happening! We need lots more activity/energy needed. X2
- Bring the Town pub to the modern era.
- Shops open at key times.
- Need shops for residents, clothes hardware, shoes not just eateries. X 2
- Need food premises opening later at night.
- People making tree change want services and more opening hours.
- Water pressure is poor. X 3
- Water supply is a concern due to growth.
- Improve electricity infrastructure - summer drop outs are painful!
- Water pressure & power improvements.
- Lack of power certainty.
- Retaining wall on High St addressed.
- Upgrade railway station - carpark has major dust issues.
- More good quality restaurants.
- Better opening hours and choice for locals.
- Varied businesses ie shops. X 2
- Public transport
- Abandon Government and return to a Common Law assemblies throughout.
- No hoons.
- More passenger train services x 2
- Better high school options.
- Fully equipped weights gym with spin bikes.
- Restore/maintain the old stone bridge (respectfully)
- More shops.
- More room in the school.
- Not closing down early Thurs and Saturday.
- Coffee shops open on public holidays for the tourist town.
- More action in the main street on weekends - shops, cafes etc.
- The drug shop next to the library.
- Easy access to train line & travel to Melbourne.
- Main street to stay open.
- Regular and timely bus to Melbourne.
- Railway precinct - green space in and around - push for this with ARTC.
- Support the caravaners by having Burtons open mid arvo Saturday and Sunday.
- Plant out the roundabout at McDonalds - make it beautiful.
- Park Run is great.
- More train services.
- More visiting health specialists.
- Support underpass - ARTC.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business to be open longer hours especially weekends and public holidays. • Secondary school & primary school represented at the market (with adult interaction). • Sunday too dull on main street - missed opportunity. • Sunday afternoon supermarket. • Better rail system. • More shops to bring people in.
	<p>Is there anything you could live without?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadside debris x3 • Dead trees (safety) x5 • Pests, mice, rats and possums. • COVID-19 x 2 • Macca's and Kentucky Fried. • Non-functioning pub. • Fast trucks barrelling through town. • Barking dogs. X2 • Sulphur crested cockatoos x 6 • Pub fencing. • Possums in the hall and the damage they are causing. Destroying one of our best assets. • Speeding/hooning through town. • The freeway noise - haha. • Stop feeding the cockatoos vermin for farmers and very destructive. • Railway line being rebuilt every 'few weeks'. • Undrinkable water. • My neighbours barking dogs. • Hoons in car - safety. • Hoons. • Rubbish lying around McDonalds roundabout. • Heavy Vehicle bypass. No no no. • The overpass. • Racism, abuse against females. • New bridge will be an abomination - go for underpass. • Burtons closing on weekends at 5 pm (12.30 Saturdays) • Wasteful staff resources. • Council staffing seems to be excessive. • Rail underpass. X2 • Large rail overpass. • Traffic. • Get rid of ugly overpass.

7. Evaluation

At the end of the feedback sessions (not held at community markets) we asked participants to rate their satisfaction with the process. The overall satisfaction rating was 84 per cent.

Table 21. Community satisfaction ratings – results displayed a percentage of total respondents.

Bad	Not so good	Okay	Very good	Excellent
0%	0%	12%	43%	45%