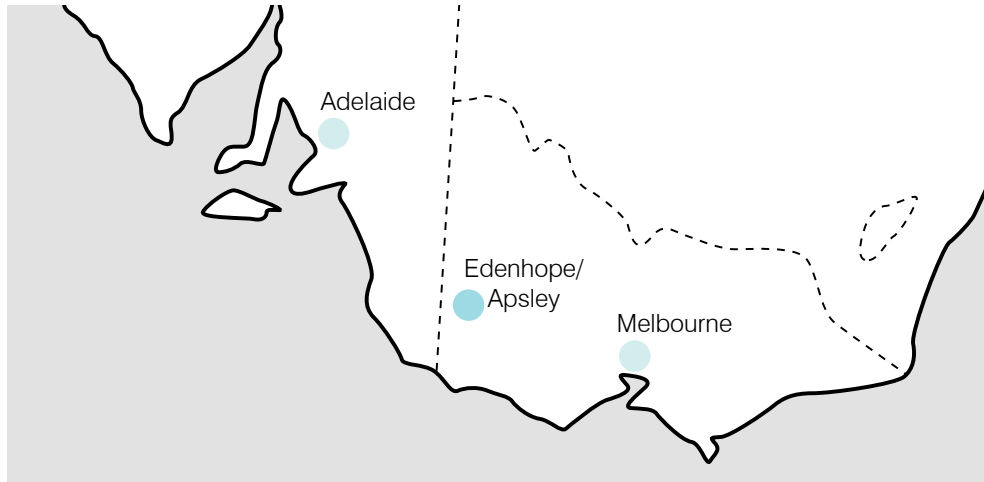




# Edenhope and Apsley Social Infrastructure Study



# Edenhope & Apsley



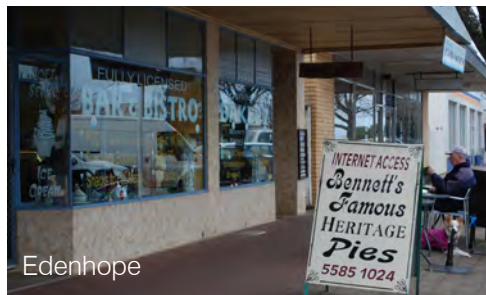
Edenhope is the administrative and commercial heart of the West Wimmera Shire, and is the municipality's largest township. Located 93 kilometres southwest of Horsham on the Wimmera Highway, Edenhope provides education facilities, health and wellbeing services, and professional and retail employment in support of a largely agricultural-based economy.

Like many rural townships, Edenhope plays a vital role in providing opportunities for social interaction and civic engagement for residents across a large rural catchment. With its proximity to Lake Wallace and historical and contemporary ties to cricket and Australian Rules Football, Edenhope is rightly

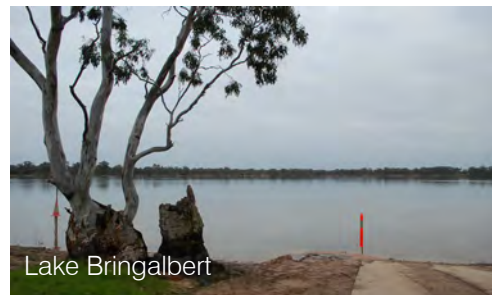
viewed as a centre for sports and recreation, but it also offers its community a wide range of social and cultural opportunities across the arts, heritage and natural environment.

Apsley is located 21 kilometres west of Edenhope and has a population of 320 people. It is a dynamic and engaged community, and enabled by strong local leadership, activism and organisation, has developed its own identity based on its colonial history, its rich environmental assets, sports participation, and a productive agriculture sector. The township has developed a range of social infrastructure – including parks and play spaces, walking tracks, a hall and local school – capable of supporting its local population, while its close proximity to Edenhope allows residents to easily access other sport and recreation, health and wellbeing, and community services and infrastructure.

Of high importance to residents in Edenhope and Apsley are Lake Bringalbert and Lake Charlegrark. These two lakes, located within 20 minutes of each township, are used by local residents for camping, water sports and other social events, and are valued for their beauty and accessibility. Each lake is managed by a local committee, and each site has evolved to meet the needs and interests of its user groups. Lake Bringalbert is very much a local asset and is managed to protect its low intensity usage and solitude. Lake Charlegrark has evolved as a popular seasonal venue, with facilities and infrastructure to support camping, music festivals and other large events.



Edenhope



Lake Bringalbert



Apsley

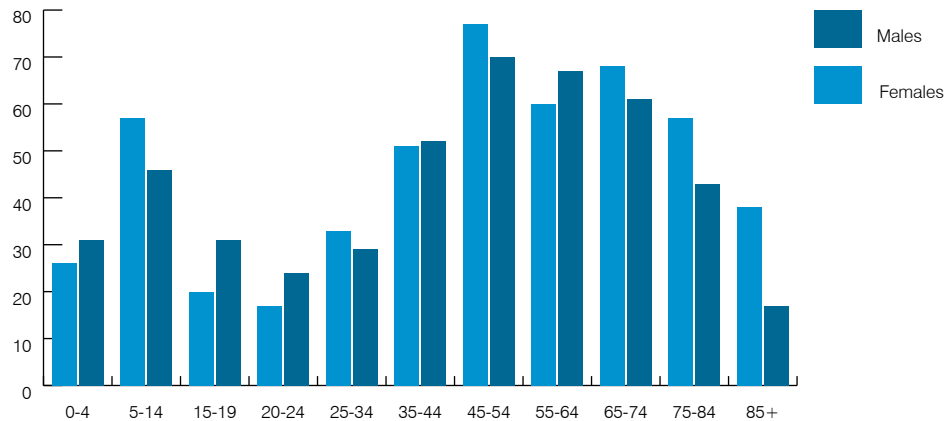


Lake Charlegrark

# Community profile

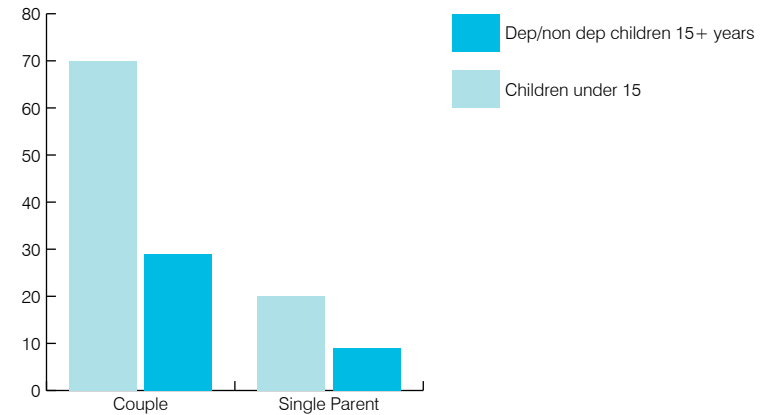
Edenhope's demographic profile is vital to Council's understanding of the challenges and opportunities relating to social infrastructure provision: insight into community structure and social patterns – who lives in the town, how, when and where those people access facilities and services, and who is maintaining those facilities – provides the intelligence to understand future demand, and provides clear guidance on the type, location and quality of social infrastructure required.

Edenhope current population is 4521, and this is expected to decline to 3417 by 2026.

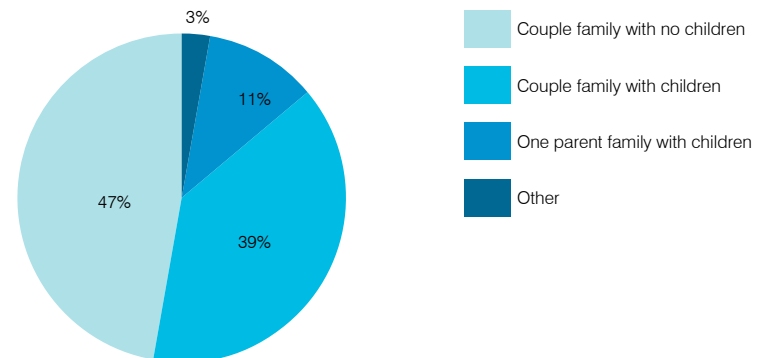


Edenhope residents have an average age of 49 years old, against a national average of 37, and its highest concentration of residents is between the ages of 45 and 75 years. From its population of 975 people, 558 individuals are aged over 45 years. Edenhope has 111 widows living in its community, representing 13.6% of the population, against a Victorian average of 5.6%

and a national average of 5.5%. As a striking counterpoint, Edenhope also supports a large population of young people: it has 160 residents aged 14 years or younger.



In Edenhope, 47% of households comprise a couple with no children, against a Victorian average of 36.7%, and there is also 183 single person households, representing 42.6%, and against a Victoria average of 24.5%. Of the families living with children, the high majority of families have children aged 15 years and under.



# Insights

From the community profile we can establish that:

- Edenhope supports a high number of residents over 45 years, and a very high proportion of residents aged 65 years and older.
- It also supports a very high number of widowed individuals
- The family composition of Edenhope skews towards households without children
- But there is a large number of working age parents with young children
- Children in Edenhope are typically under 15 years of age
- There are not many residents in Edenhope aged in their 20s and 30s

Council's platform for economic growth is also critically important to current and future social infrastructure provision, as changes to the economy and workforce have direct impacts on demographic profiles and household composition.

Council's Economic Development Strategy indicates that:

- Future growth and investment will be directed towards Edenhope and Kaniva
- Rural lifestyle development will be facilitated in the small outlying communities of Apsley, Goroke and Harrow
- Council will seek to attract to new enterprise investment, and further investment and capitalisation of existing enterprises
- Growth in townships will enable housing growth
- There will be increased agricultural productivity, including value-added agriculture and agribusiness
- Industrial development will occur in Edenhope and Kaniva
- The activation of town centres in Edenhope, Kaniva and smaller centres is important.

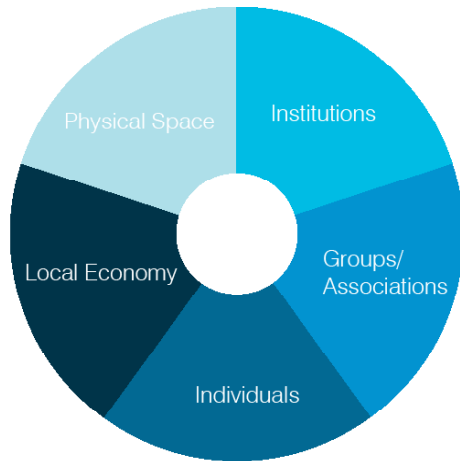
Increased investment in Edenhope will lead to:

- An increased number of working aged males and females
- An increased number of family units
- An increased number of children and teenagers
- Subsequent changes to social mobility

Under this scenario the average age in Edenhope will slowly come down, more in line with the Victorian and national averages.

# Existing community assets

A community asset is anything that can be used to improve the quality of community life. Most community assets can be identified under the following five categories: individuals (skills, interests, networks), physical space (natural resource, structure or place), groups or associations, institutions (cultural, heritage, schools, hospitals, etc) or local economy (business, industry). Identifying these assets provide insights into location, quality, density, accessibility and provides an opportunity to assess a community's potentials, capabilities and talents.



## EDENHOPE

Edenhope has a good spread of social infrastructure assets, most of which are centrally positioned between Lake Wallace and Elizabeth Street (main street). Most of this infrastructure is well-used and in good condition.

Lake Wallace is a strong natural asset and anchor for the town – it not only provides open space, tourism, recreation and community gathering spaces, but also is an active symbol of the town's livelihood.

Edenhope has many strong sporting clubs with long traditions and recreational facilities that have been developed over time.

## APSLEY

Community life in Apsley is supported through key social infrastructure assets and is relatively self-contained, while some members of the community and groups (particularly sport) travel to Edenhope to access facilities there. There are some concerns around the amenity and quality of the infrastructure in Apsley, particularly at the Recreation Reserve.

Members of the community identify the three important social assets that towns should have as being the school, sporting facilities and a hotel. With the recent re-opening of the Border Inn through local entrepreneurship and community support, the town has rejuvenated a key social asset and there is a strong sense of optimism in the town.

Apsley is a progressive, cohesive community with a local action group that appears to be organised, consultative and who are getting things done. Apsley's natural environment and its history are two key assets that the community identifies. In terms of tourism, Apsley Alive (a local event) and the Rusty Rattlers dirt circuit are attractions. The recent re-opening event at the Border Inn attracted approximately 600 people to its celebrations.



# Existing community assets in Edenhope

## Tourism

Lake Walk	Race Club	Fishing
Flora + Fauna reserve	Swimming Pool	Trees
Henley Park	Edenhope Hall	Foreshore + Sound Shell
Apex/ Lyons Park	P & A Art Gallery	Bird Hides
Multi- sports facility	Golf course	Fire Brigades
Back Swamp	Edenhope Apsley FNC	The Heart & Soul of Edenhope:
Land to Bowling Club	Local Pub	Lake Wallace
Surrounding open spaces	Edenhope Schools	

## Arts & Culture

Recorder band	Race Club	Service Probus Lions
Schools	Henly	Brazilian Embroidery
Library + Gallery	Flowering Gum	Sing Australia
West Wimmera Community Arts Centre	West Wimmera Arts Group	Art
Red Tail Gallery	Lake Wallace Art Installation (2012)	Safety for Kids
Good 'O' Boys	Hall	Court House
Churches	Mens Shed	Hospital
Historical Society	Art Group	Kindergarten
Craft Groups	Aboriginal Cricketers	Tourism
Quilters	Big Fish	Walking Track

## Open Space

Race Club	Race course	Lake Wallace Hotel
Lake Wallace	Info Centre	Regional Living Expo
Surrounding Lakes	Sporting Events	Shopping Centre "Great Shops"
Birds	Plaques (history)	Trees
Orchids	Good Ole Boys	Closeness to tourist highlights
Fauna Park	Caravan Park	Court House
Red Tail Black "Cocky"	Motel	Cricket Mural Monument
Hall	Big Fish	Art Society Gallery Workshops
Bailey's Rocks	Pool	
Henley + Tourism		

## Sport & Recreation

Gym lake side equipment	Golf prox 200	Mens Shed
Hockey	Water Ski	Edenhope Apsley FNC
Little Athletics	Horse Race	Bowling Club
Pool	Race Club	RSL
Football	Walking Track	Aboriginal Cricket
Netball	Bowls	Play Group
Basketball	4x4	Henley on Lake Wallace
Cricket	Lake Wallace	Cards
Race course	Koweree Sports Centre	Boating
Fishing	Seniors	Skiing
Duck shooting	Fauna Park	Adult riding club
Stadium	Tennis	Dirt Circuit racing club

## Economic Development

Art Society + Gallery	Lake Wallace	Edenhope Hall
Cultural Centre	4x4 Tracks	Edenhope Apsley FNC
Medical Surgery	Shearing Schools	Retail Services
Main St businesses	Churches	Edenhope Schools
Council Tip	State Accredited Hockey field	Hospital
Hollands	Hospital	Barkala Flats
Pig Farm	Footy Club	Local Pub
Feed lot	Race Club ERC	Industry Estate
Advocate	RSL	Swimming
Caravan Park	Bowls Club	Yabby Farm
Elsie Bennet Centre	ICBI Forum Footy Club	Abattoirs
Shire	Regional Living Expo	Shopping Centre
Chemical Free (far from pollution e.g organic honey)	Lakes Hostel	Mens Shed
		WWSC

# Existing community assets in Apsley

## Tourism

Sue, Lawrie, Richie – Darwin walk on Horseback	4x4 travellers
Newlands Walk	Amber Ridge
Fishing and shooting	Playground
Monthly market	Historic buildings
Border Inn	Rusty Rattlers
Lake Bringalbert	Farm Stays

## Arts & Culture

Richie Foster	Churches – 1860 Uniting Church
Hall	Historic Structures
Winning Post	Elderly Citizens
Local Artists	Monthly market
Apsley Market	Sewing/craft group
School	Community strength
Border Inn/Apsley Pub	Heritage woolsheds etc
Cemeteries	Primary school
Location	

## Open Space

Lake Bringalbert	RSL
Newlands Walk	Location
Fishing and shooting	Water skiing
Great Red Gum Trees	Angling
Nature walks	Kids Playground
Hall	BBQ

## Sport & Recreation

Tennis Club	Rusty Rattlers
Apsley Pony Club	Garden Walks
Edenhope/Apsley Football	Rec Reserve
Netball Club	Senior citizens
Apsley Dirt Circuit	Hunting
Apsley Golf Course	ADMC
Angling Club	Craft group
Safer Place	Cricket

## Economic Development

Farm stays	Common Community Centre
New Dairy (potential)	Cemeteries/History
Potential, potential, potential	Amber Ridge
Agricultural diversity	Edenhope/Apsley Football
Pub	Netball Club
Border Inn	School
Ardwick B&B	Hall



# Impacts on social infrastructure

By integrating community profiles and social analysis with strategic growth directions for Edenhope and surrounding areas, we can respond to challenges and set clear parameters for decision-making relating to social infrastructure provision and investment.

## SHORT TERM

In the short term – 5-10 years, out to 2024 – the Edenhope population will continue to skew towards an aged and aging population. Over that period, the social infrastructure priority is to optimize, enhance and investment in services and facilities to support an aging population, enabling social mobility, and fostering a sense of safety, place and identity, and community connectedness.

## LONG TERM

In the mid to long-term – 10-20 years, from 2024 and beyond – and subject to broader economic restructuring and growth, the population will skew back towards working age residents and younger families. Over that period, the social infrastructure priority will shift to meet the needs of families: investment in sports, recreation and education facilities, new play spaces for children and youth, and services that encourage healthy, active lifestyles.



# Strategic Framework

The Edenhope and Apsley Social Infrastructure Strategy is built on three platforms:

- *Optimise* the existing asset base through improved accessibility and programming, clearer communications about available services and facilities, and minor upgrades and improvements that enable wider community use
- *Enhance* the existing assets base through adaptive re-use and repurposing, by providing connections and networks between assets, and through major upgrades to core facilities
- *Invest* in new social assets to meet the specific needs of the community's primary cohorts: an aging population in the near-term, and families and young people in the long-term.

To achieve this, the Edenhope community, Council, State Government and other partners will devise, develop and co-deliver projects and initiatives across Four Core Areas:

## COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS

Create the spaces and places, and organise the events, that enable planned and unplanned social interaction across the communities.

Social interaction creates meaning and fosters connectedness and belonging amongst residents, and relationships that support social mobilisation and change.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Provide regular opportunities for community-level dialogue about social and community issues in Edenhope and Apsley.

Residents that are informed and engaged in processes that explore issues are more likely to participate in solution-finding and change initiatives. This creates self-sustaining, positive social momentum.

## SOCIAL EMPOWERMENT

Build a platform for community participation and grassroots leadership that is based on shared meaning, measurable impact, social capacity, and self-determination.

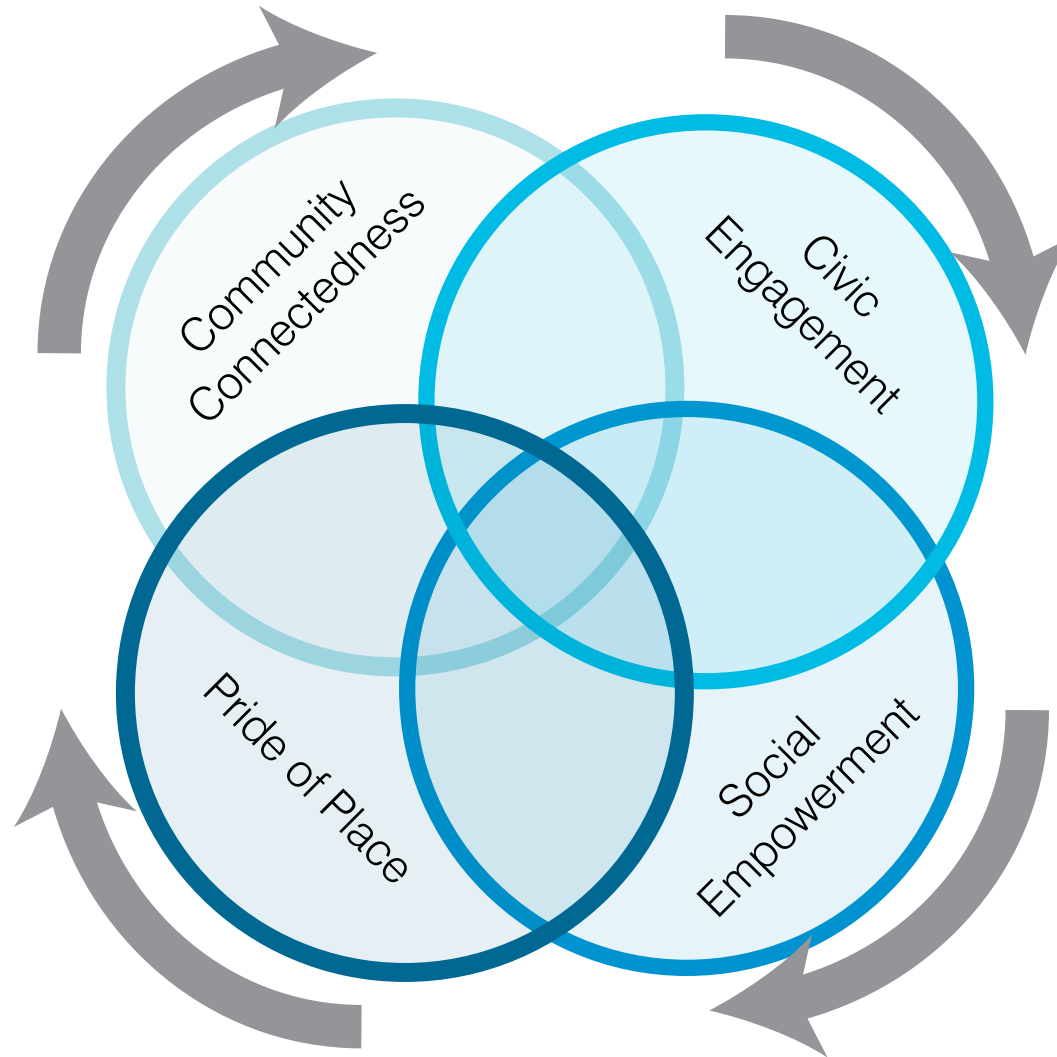
Empowered communities are collaborative, resourceful and motivated, and capable of leading local projects and initiatives. This increases individual capacity, and builds wider community resilience.

## PRIDE OF PLACE

Celebrate, affirm and leverage the strengths, historical and contemporary narratives, and distinctive characters that mark Edenhope and Apsley as unique.

Residents that identify with their community as a place become advocates and ambassadors for aspirational and ambitious change, are actively mobilised, and reinforce and model important social values and norms.

# Strategic Framework



# Edenhope Precinct Plan

## CONTEXT

Through a combination of adaptability, foresight and cooperation, Edenhope has built up its suite of social infrastructure assets to meet the social, sporting and health and wellbeing needs. Its core assets, such as the Lake Wallace Foreshore area, sports and recreation facilities, parks and gardens, walking tracks, and barbecue and picnic grounds, are in good condition, fit for purpose, and centrally located.

Edenhope's residents are optimistic about the town's future: the town has a strong local identity, it has a rich abundance of natural environmental assets, it provides an excellent quality of life to people of all ages, and its historical and contemporary ties to agricultural productivity sustain its local economies. Residents are also ambitious: the desire is to see Edenhope's various groups united in common purpose, to create a new opportunities together, to share ideas and resources, and to deliver incremental, sustainable change as a whole community.

The Edenhope Precinct is based on the town's commercial and civic core. These two locations are where local residents meet, interact, work and socialise, and where visitors to town explore local sights. They add vitality and energy to community life in Edenhope.

Change and investment in Edenhope's social infrastructure must be calibrated against the particular social and demographics profiles of the community: it has a large number of volunteer organisations, a deep existing asset base, and an aging population balanced by a large concentration of young people.

## OBJECTIVES

The Edenhope Precinct focuses the community on five objectives:

1. To be connected and reengaged in social life
2. A sense of place and belonging
3. Community cohesion built on common purpose and shared visions
4. To make the shift from ideas to local actions
5. To make change happen at the grassroots level

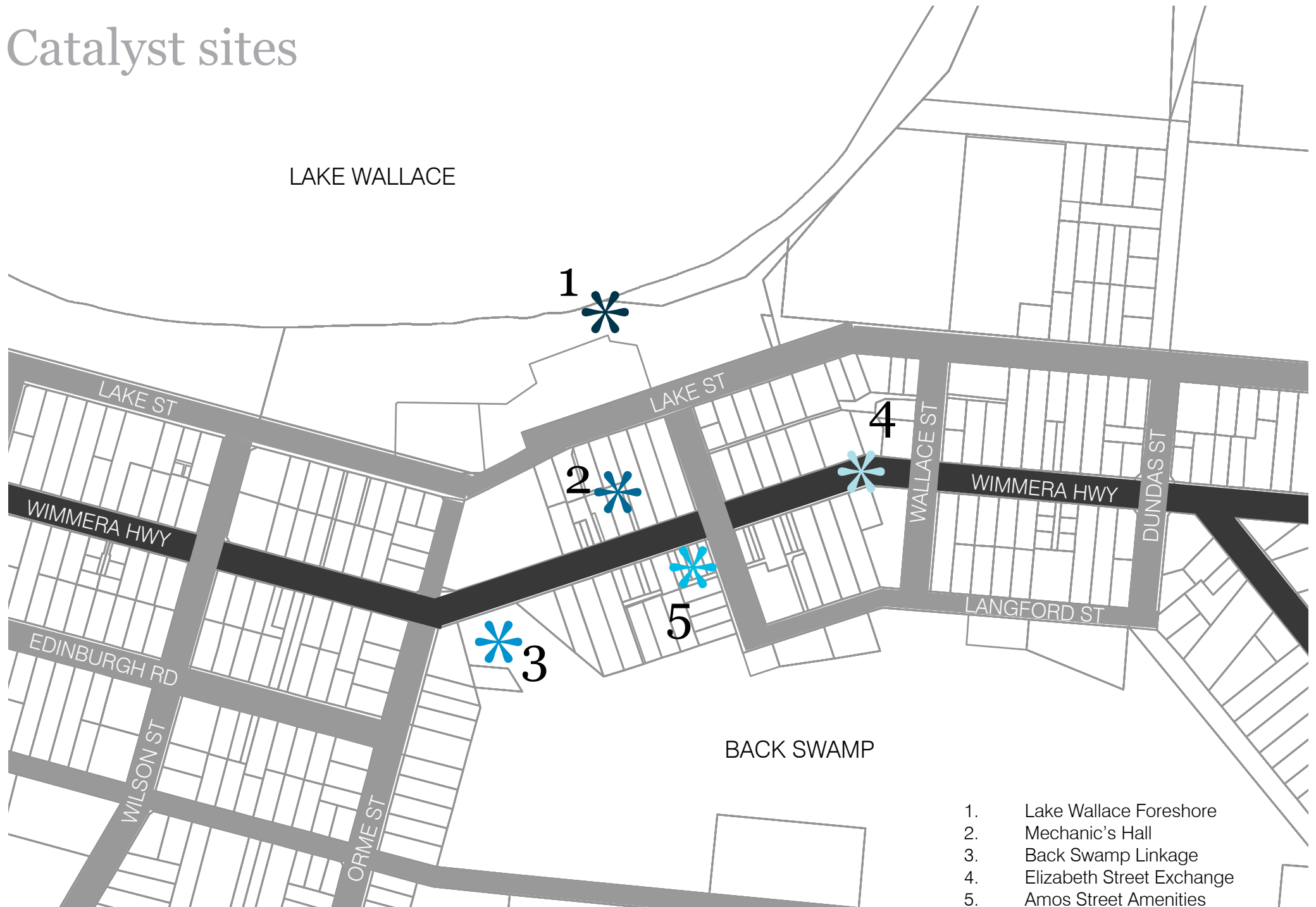
These objectives can be delivered through:

- An equal emphasis on social and physical renewal
- New engagement and decision making processes
- Optimising and enhancing existing assets
- Short and mid-term investment in facilities that support healthy aging
- Long-term investment in facilities that attract and support families and young people

## PROJECTS

- Lake Wallace Foreshore enhancements
- Adaptive reuse of the Mechanic's Hall as a community hub
- New pedestrian linkages between Lake Wallace and Back Swamp
- Unlock pocket sites in town area: under-used parks, new benches – places where people can interact with the town and each other
- Communication tools to improve access to existing assets
- Visitor signage that allows visitors to make easy links between key sites
- Community bus to support aging residents,
- Community gym
- Tourist information and a Local Guides Network

# Catalyst sites



# Catalyst sites



## 1 PROJECT Lake Wallace Foreshore

### OPPORTUNITY

- Optimise usage of the Foreshore space and infrastructure
- Better connectivity to commercial core
- Remove physical barriers
- Provide focal point for local residents
  - Seasonal and special events
- Tourism market
  - Interpretative signs/walk
  - Modern amenities
  - Shade structures and more barbecues
- New directional signage

### IMPACTS

- Place activation
- Local gathering spot
- Tourism spend

# Catalyst sites



## 2 PROJECT Mechanic's Hall

### OPPORTUNITY

New community hub  
Adaptive reuse of key asset  
Flexible meeting and function spaces  
Shared management

### IMPACTS

Place activation at western end of CBD  
Community pride and cohesion  
New linkage between CBD and Lake Wallace

# Catalyst sites

## 3 PROJECT Back Swamp Linkage

### OPPORTUNITY

Sealed walking track around Back Swamp  
Extended walking network  
A new passive recreation space  
Interpretative signage  
Connect with Lake Wallace

### IMPACTS

Place activation at southern end of CBD  
Health and wellbeing investment  
Unlocks key natural environment asset  
Tourism potential

## 4 PROJECT Elizabeth Street exchange

### OPPORTUNITY

A natural theatre in central Elizabeth Street  
New benches  
Traffic calming  
    Streetscape improvements  
    Public art and local themes

### IMPACTS

Place activation in central Edenhope  
Interaction in a new social heart  
Sense of arrival, place and identity

## 5 PROJECT Amos Street Amenities

### OPPORTUNITY

Improve the visual amenity of a prominent site  
New shelter structures  
Better signage  
    Streetscape improvements

### IMPACTS

Place activation in central Edenhope  
Tourism benefits

## OTHER PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

1. Enhanced pocket parks, shelters, play spaces and rest areas
2. Better local signage
3. Community bus service
4. Community gym
5. Map and promote services and facilities to visitors



# Apsley Precinct Plan

## CONTEXT

Apsley is a small town undergoing transformation. Driven by engaged and proactive local residents, the community has come together around important redevelopment and renewal projects, including the Border Inn rejuvenation. The spirit of optimism that is so obvious in the community is derived in equal part from its self-sufficiency – the ability of locals to identify trends and social changes affecting the whole community – and its ability to leverage those trends and opportunities, and transform them into meaningful change. The positive momentum created through cooperative projects place Apsley in a strong position for future growth and change, and with further strategic support and partnering from Council, additional projects that provide local benefit can be implemented.

Apsley residents are focused on:

- Protecting the high-value natural environment
- Celebrating local history and narratives
- Continuing major events, and increasing visitor numbers
- Improving the overall visual amenity and streetscapes in the township
- Improving the quality and condition of existing social infrastructure assets
- New agricultural investments
- Apsley Alive, Rusty Rattlers, dirt circuit are local attraction
- Protecting its 'social triangle': a local school, local sports, and a local hotel

## OBJECTIVES

The Apsley Precinct focuses the community on two strategic objectives:

1. Growth through economic investment
2. Increased community amenities/services.

These objectives can be delivered through:

- Cooperation and shared planning at the local level
- Shared planning and co-funding of projects at the Council level
- Further community capacity-building to reinforce positive momentum

## PROJECTS

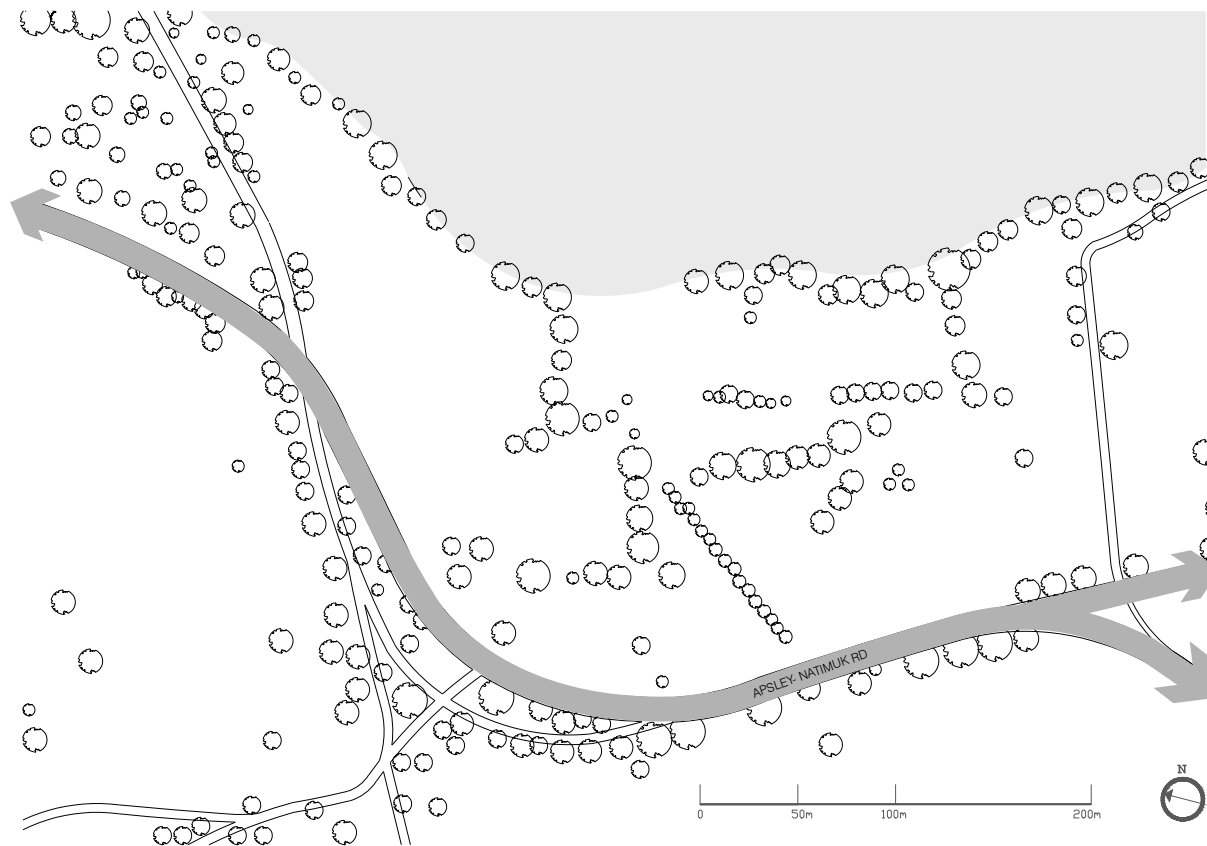
- Upgrade facilities at the Recreation Reserve
  - o Sporting change rooms facilities
  - o Caravan and camping facilities
- Upgrade park and playspace facilities
- Upgrade Federation Corner
- Streetscape improvements in central area
- Shelters at Angling Club
- Better sub-regional promotion of Apsley Primary School
- Improved local signage
- Community noticeboard

# Lake Bringalbert

## CONTEXT

Lake Bringalbert is a lake that, when full, covers an area of approximately 88 hectares. The lake and surrounding reserve are maintained by a Committee of Management who have been progressively completing small projects around the site themselves.

Lake Bringalbert is seen as a local-level natural asset and the Committee is keen to avoid overdevelopment.



## PROJECTS

- Additional shelters
- Signage to nearby shops and services
- Improved toilet facilities



# Lake Charlegrark

## CONTEXT

Lake Charlegrark is managed by an ambitious committee who are looking to rebuild key infrastructure and improve the quality of existing facilities. Lake Charlegrark is increasingly attracting larger user numbers particularly over the warmer months through its Youth Group and Music Festival events.

Current user groups include: the Neuarpur Angling Club, Apsley Angling Club, Good Ol' Boys Car Club, Boarders District Football and Netball Club, Goroke Apex, Goroke P12 College, Kaniva College, Wimmera Senior Citizens and West Wimmera Shire Council. The Crabtree Hall is used for parties, functions, events and fundraising by the above groups.

Lake Charlegrark attracts over 3000 campers per year, 30+ members per year and over 3000 day visitors a year, with peak periods in the summer, during the Music Festival, Christmas, Easter and the Cod Opening.

## PROJECTS

- Demolition of existing caravan park toilet/shower block and construction of a new amenities block for campers and day visitors
- Repair of existing BBQ in camp kitchen area
- Removal of old kiosk which is disused and in disrepair
- Clean and provide new BBQ to Crabtree Hall
- Repair boards at the top of the jetty
- Provide lockable gates to brick toilet block for major events
- Add signage and rules of use for existing boat ramp
- Provide additional camp kitchen with toilet/shower to old tennis court site



# Lake Charlegrark

