



Kaniva & surrounds Social Infrastructure Study

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This report was prepared by URBANSCALE + here studio
for West Wimmera Shire Council



here studio



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Part A Methodology

Background

The Kaniva Social Infrastructure Study is Stage One of a shire-wide series of feasibility studies to establish community precinct plans for the communities of West Wimmera. Kaniva and the surrounding districts of Serviceton, Lillimur, Telopea Downs, Lawloit and Miram comprise Stage One of this major shire wide project.

West Wimmera Shire is characterised by its small towns and communities: places where the region's rich agricultural traditions interact with, and sustain, township economies based on professional services, health and community care, retail trade, and local government. Changes – driven by economic restructure, land use change and demographic shifts – are constant, and when change occurs in small towns, its consequences can be felt in communities for years.

Kaniva is a small but robust community and economy. Its location on the Western Highway provides significant strategic advantages relating to economic growth and land use; it has a wide range of community infrastructure to support its population, including sport and recreation facilities; its economy is anchored in agriculture; and the town is adjacent to Little Desert National Park, a major tourist attraction in the region.

The Kaniva Social Infrastructure Study is an exciting opportunity to plan for and manage the future social infrastructure needs of a rural and regional community amid real contextual pressures at local, regional, state and global scales. Some of these broader pressures, we know, are global economics, the climate change imperative, and the shifting political landscape. There are many opportunities and challenges here to consider.

Central to the Study is engaging with the community and stakeholders to understand their needs, wants and expectations for the future. Planning for social change and growth is not only about identifying the underlying community sentiments, but encouraging community positions to be connected to capacity and awareness, and planning together the future that is desired, as well as how to get there. A strong process of this kind leads to the identification clear priorities, targeted local and state government investment, and the multiplication of local outcomes through social, economic and environmental dimensions.

The Study is a collaborative project between Council, Regional Development Victoria and the Kaniva Social Infrastructure Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee, appointed by Council, is comprised of key leaders and stakeholder groups from Kaniva and surrounding communities. Council led and managed the project to oversee the development of a Community Precinct Plan, while Regional Development Victoria provided a direct line of communication to the team of State Government resources and peak bodies to advise and inform the development of the Plan.

The Study has culminated in the preparation of a Kaniva Social Infrastructure Strategy, which is contained in Parts B and C of this document.

Approach & Objectives

APPROACH

The consultant team used an evidence-based, action learning methodology to research, analyse and plan for sustainable growth and community change in Kaniva, alongside and with local stakeholders and individuals. This approach – of working on real issues, in real time, with real people and outcomes – is a proven methodology and has profound impacts on the acceptance and understanding of the drivers of change, and a transformative effect on the uptake and implementation of change initiatives.

Of primary importance was devising a process that responded to the particular characteristics of the Kaniva communities, taking account of local conditions and contexts, the Advisory Group's needs, strategic issues and opportunities, as well as the expectations of the wider community, stakeholders and funding bodies. To achieve this, the consultant team adopted fundamental principles to guide the process, including:

- that all research, investigation, decisions and action be community led and owned
- that we apply an asset-based methodology, rather than a deficit or needs-based methodology
- that we conduct a sequence of stakeholder workshops, and that the insight and findings from each workshop determine the trajectory of subsequent research and investigations
- that we invest in the community's ability to self-manage and deliver change via action-oriented capacity building tools and techniques.
- identify opportunities for investment in new multi-use and multi-functional social infrastructure
- provide a strategic basis for investment that represents value for money

Working with the community at each phase of the process, we have delivered a Kaniva Social Infrastructure Strategy that:

- is a best practice example of community-led Precinct Planning
- is a localised, social response to community change
- enhances and improves the existing social and physical asset base
- is framed as a non-hierarchical, non-sequential action plan, with priorities that can be actioned according to timing, funding and readiness
- identifies catalyst projects that can drive outcomes in multiple precincts and community domains
- is flexible and nimble, allowing Council and the community to respond strategically to opportunities as they arise
- is partnership-based, and by extension give greater weight and priority to those projects that meet the needs of more than one group or cohort, and deliver more than one social outcome.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Strategy are:

- to engage the Kaniva community in identifying future social infrastructure requirements
- maintain, enhance, and intensify usage of, the existing social infrastructure asset base
- identify opportunities for partnerships and collaboration

Workshops



Workshop 1 28 Jan

Community
Assets

Future Scenarios

Characters

Principles/
Criteria



Workshop 2a 5 March

Insights from Homework
and Workshop 1

Debate/Discussion

Ideas Lab

Project Planning



Workshop 2b 19 March

Insights from Workshop 2a

Provocation

Co-designing the
Rec Reserve

Precincts
Case Studies



Workshop 3 2 April

Core elements of Strategy

Workshopping of Questions

Funding
Opportunities

Next Steps

Limitations

Our research process, which evolved over several months, was a rigorous and robust exchange of ideas and inspirations, and involved a wide range of participants from the community and Council.

As occurs in many research projects, our work encountered a small number of limiting factors, and it is important to acknowledge these as part of our learning and reporting.

Early in the process it became apparent that some key recreational and community groups were not represented in the Advisory Group. This matter was acknowledged immediately by Council, which then took steps to inform and engage those groups directly but outside of the Workshop settings, and to ensure their input was fed into the strategic process.

The Advisory Group, and to a large extent the findings and recommendations of the Strategy, have a strong emphasis on sports and recreation assets. This is in no small part due to the characteristics of Kaniva and its surrounding districts: sporting groups play a major part of local life, are active and engaged, and they took every opportunity to contribute to the process.

We do not believe this has been to the detriment of other community cohorts and interests – the Strategy clearly identifies actions across many other areas of community life – but we do recognise that with such a strong sporting culture in Kaniva, the strategic response is weighted towards those communities and facilities. What we have aimed to do is ensure future investment in sporting and recreational assets includes consideration of other user groups who can access and benefit from those assets.

The consultant brief identified several small towns that formed the basis of the feasibility study. Serviceton is one of those towns: it is a small but highly engaged and active community, and it has a range of social infrastructure that supports its local community as well as Kaniva's residents. In response, we developed a series of recommendations specific to Serviceton, but have not made specific recommendations for any other small community.

Recommendations

The Study recommends that decision-making, management, governance and investment relating to Kaniva and surrounds' social infrastructure be in accordance with a new, local strategic framework: the Kaniva Social Infrastructure Strategy.

The Strategy has two dimensions:

- 1) Social – a two-tier, community-led governance structure and
- 2) Physical - four new Social Infrastructure Precincts.

The recommended governance structure recognises both the role of the Kaniva community in setting a clear vision and determining strategic directions for the Strategy, but also the vital role the community does and will play in developing and delivering projects, and sustaining change, into the future.

Kaniva is a highly engaged, informed and active community: it is arguably the town's defining social asset. A new governance model that continues to engage the community in local decision-making, which includes mechanisms to prevent over-burden and volunteer fatigue, and which includes frequent evaluations and assessment, is an investment in the long-term capacity, capability and sustainability of the community.

The physical dimension of the Strategy, represented by four new Precincts and a suite of Priority Projects, is a reimagining of Kaniva's social infrastructure assets: it locates existing social infrastructure in defined areas based on common type and function, cohorts served, accessibility and social value. When we place existing social infrastructure assets within Precincts, we are able to examine and appreciate the important social functions they perform, and then define in clear terms a set of objectives for the future role and function of each Precinct: in this way, Precincts become both a vehicle for understanding current usage and demand, and determining future needs and investment based on changing demographics, social patterns, condition of assets and other factors.

Implementation of the Strategy is then based on the principles of cooperation, shared planning, partnering, co-funding and investment leveraging. It seeks to embed the successful three-way partnership between Council, community stakeholders, and State Government/other funding body.

This approach is fundamental to contemporary social investment models, and is an approach that is understood, and established, within Kaniva and its surrounding communities.

Process Outcomes

The outcomes of the Study process are:

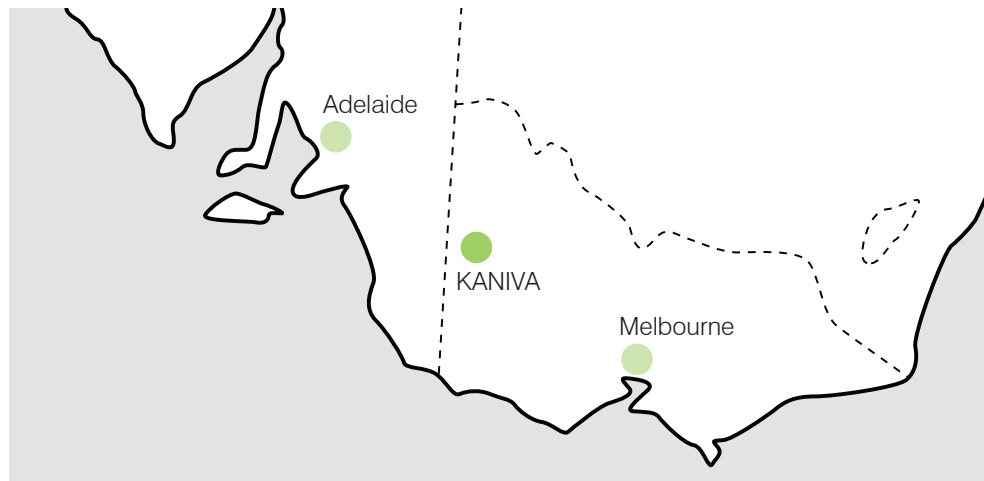
- A clear vision and priorities for Kaniva and surrounds' small towns and communities
- Opportunities that are aligned to strategic directions and government investment
- A program of change and investment that is clearly understood and valued by residents and stakeholders
- A Social Infrastructure Strategy to guide short, medium and long term investment
- Directions for the use and management of social infrastructure, including partnerships and governance arrangements
- A strategic roadmap that incorporates Council and community responses to land use change, economic growth, and sport and recreation and community service delivery
- Concept designs and models for physical change – how the town would look under a new approach
- Identified leverage points to unlock social, physical and economic assets
- A community that understands where it is now, and where it is heading
- A package – a plan for investment and change – that is understood by the community and State Government, with priorities ready for funding.



Part B Strategy

Kaniva & surrounds

Kaniva is located in western Victoria, on the Western Highway approximately 92 kilometres north-west of Horsham. It is within the West Wimmera Shire Council, and is the economic, social, educational and cultural hub for communities across the northern part of the municipality.



At the 2011 Census, Kaniva's population was 714: of this, 18% of residents were aged 5-17 years, 16% were aged 55-64 years; 8% were aged 65-74 years and 15% were aged 75 and over¹. Based on projections across West Wimmera Shire, the region is expected to experience a small population decrease in the next 20 years; the population is also predicted to age significantly, with increased numbers of residents aged 55 years and above².

Kaniva's economy has strong historical links to agriculture, both grazing and cropping, and this sector remains the primary economic driver, with 20% of the Kaniva working population (15 years and over) employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing industries. A further 15% are employed in the retail trade, 14% in health care and social services, and 10% in education and training.³

A number of small communities near Kaniva, including Serviceton, Lillimur and Telopea Downs, provide a focus for the agricultural community. The amenity of these communities is highly valued by residents, reflecting their natural environments as well as a proud agricultural and architectural heritage.

West Wimmera residents are highly engaged in community life. A 2011 study by the Department of Planning and Community Development revealed that:

- 78.4% attended a local community event in the last 6 months
- 76.8% are members of organised groups such as sports, church, community groups or professional associations
- 68% volunteer in some capacity
- 41.5% are on a decision-making board or committee⁴

Given its location on the main transport route between Melbourne and Adelaide, Kaniva is frequently used as a rest-stop for travellers. It has a number of locally and regionally significant sites, including the Serviceton Historical Railway Station (circa 1887), the Little Desert National Park and the Big Desert National Park.

1 Towns in Time (2011). Timeseries data from 1981-2006 Censuses - Enumerated population from Census 2011. Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.
2 Victoria in Future (2012). West Wimmera Shire Profile. Department of Planning and Community Development.
3 Department of Planning and Community Development (2010) Indicators of Community Strength at the Local Government Area Level in Victoria 2008.
4 Towns in Time (2011). Timeseries data from 1981-2006 Censuses - Enumerated population from Census 2011. Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure.



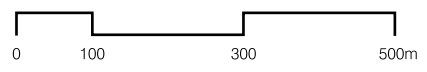
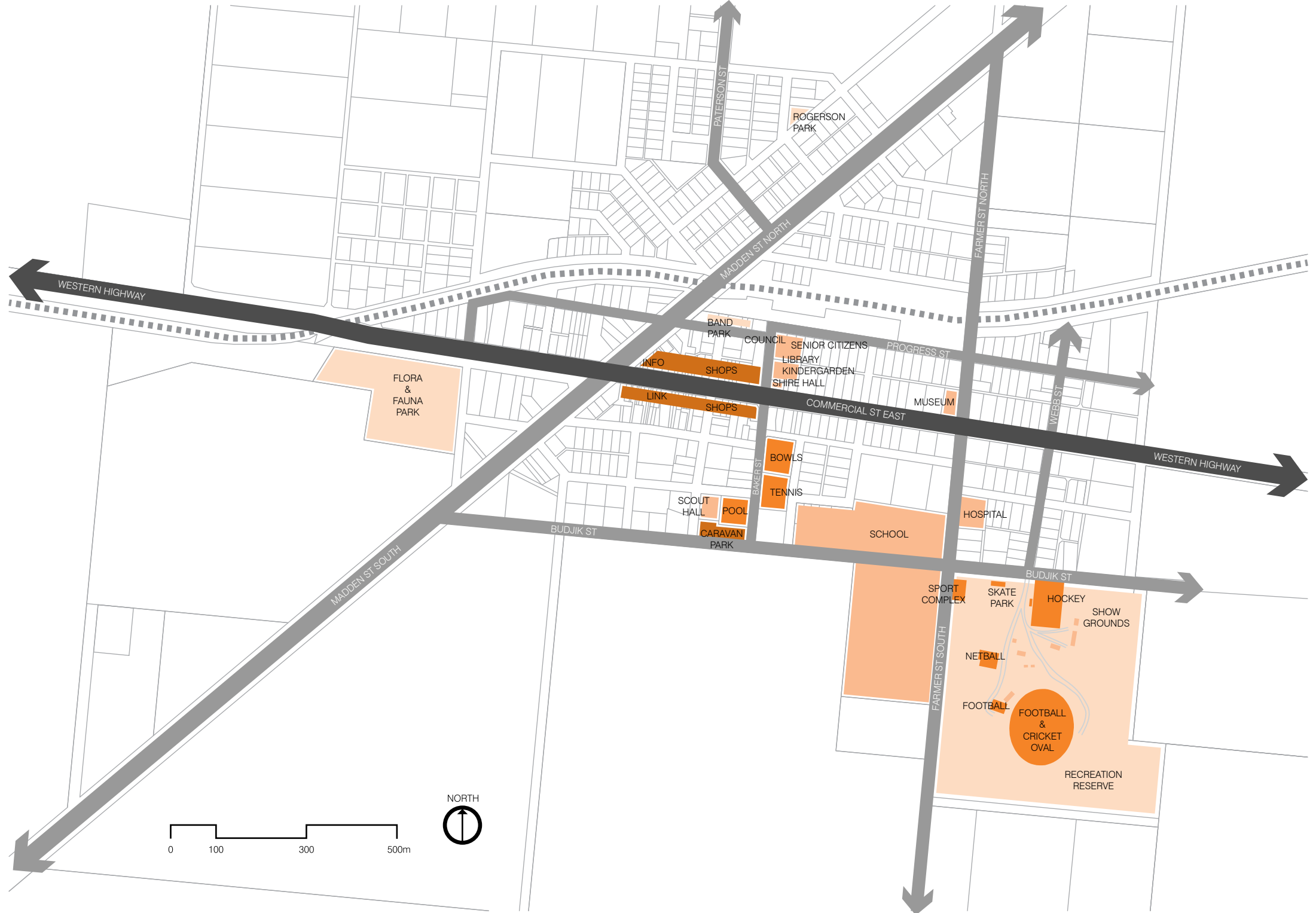
HeartFelt

gallery care

TINKS
GARDEN

HARDWARE





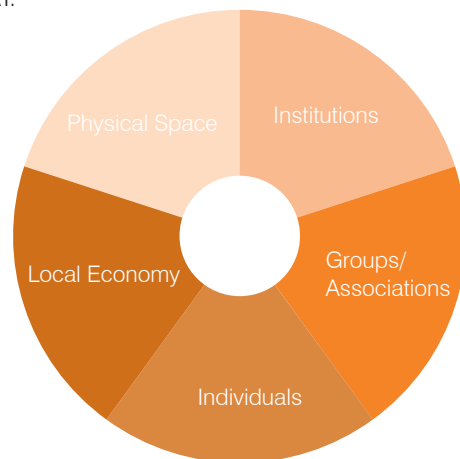
Existing community assets

A community asset is anything that can be used to improve the quality of community life. It can include physical capital and infrastructure (buildings, roads, open and public spaces such as parks and plazas); financial and economic capital; and the political and social capital inherent to local leadership and informal social networks.

“Identifying assets is a major opportunity to assess a community’s potentials, capabilities, and talents⁵”.

Kaniva community life is supported and enabled by an extensive social infrastructure asset base. Those assets can be organised into five broad categories: physical spaces; groups and associations; institutions; economy; and individuals. By placing existing social assets into the categories, assessments can be made about location, quality, density, accessibility, and gaps. Further, insight is gained into how well the asset base is meeting the existing needs of the community, and how well those assets are positioned to meet future, changing needs.

⁵ An Asset-based Approach to Community Development and Capacity Building (2008). UN-HABITAT.



Insights:

- Kaniva has a high number of physical infrastructure in close proximity to the residential and commercial cores
- Social infrastructure supports smaller communities outside of Kaniva, but many local people travel away from Kaniva to access social infrastructure, including to Serviceton and Nhill
- A high number of active community groups and organisations access, and often maintain, social infrastructure
- There is a high density of sporting, health and wellbeing infrastructure located in and near the Kaniva Recreation Reserve
- There is a small but functional range of centrally located cultural and community assets.

More tellingly, it is evident that Kaniva’s social infrastructure development has continuously and incrementally evolved to meet its contemporary needs. Simultaneously there has been a growth in the number groups and associations formed to meet the changing social, sporting and cultural interests of residents.

Taken together, these insights indicate that Kaniva has:

- a supply of ‘legacy’ infrastructure, designed to meet historic demand and usage requirements, but which is not fit for future purpose
- existing infrastructure that is limited by its single-use – it is not flexible and adaptive, and limits the types of activities that can occur
- groups and associations that are stretched to maintain the physical asset base, to attract and retain volunteers, and to provide their members with the facilities and access they expect, and
- a very strong base of community leaders, all of whom are focussed, determined and passionate, but who are facing increasing pressures relating to volunteer decline, limited funding, and increasing workloads and accountability.

Existing funding model

PARTNERSHIPS

The Kaniva community's ability to identify gaps in social infrastructure, to establish new and productive partnerships and to deliver projects is a substantial, people-based asset, and provides a model for successful implementation of this Strategy by the community.

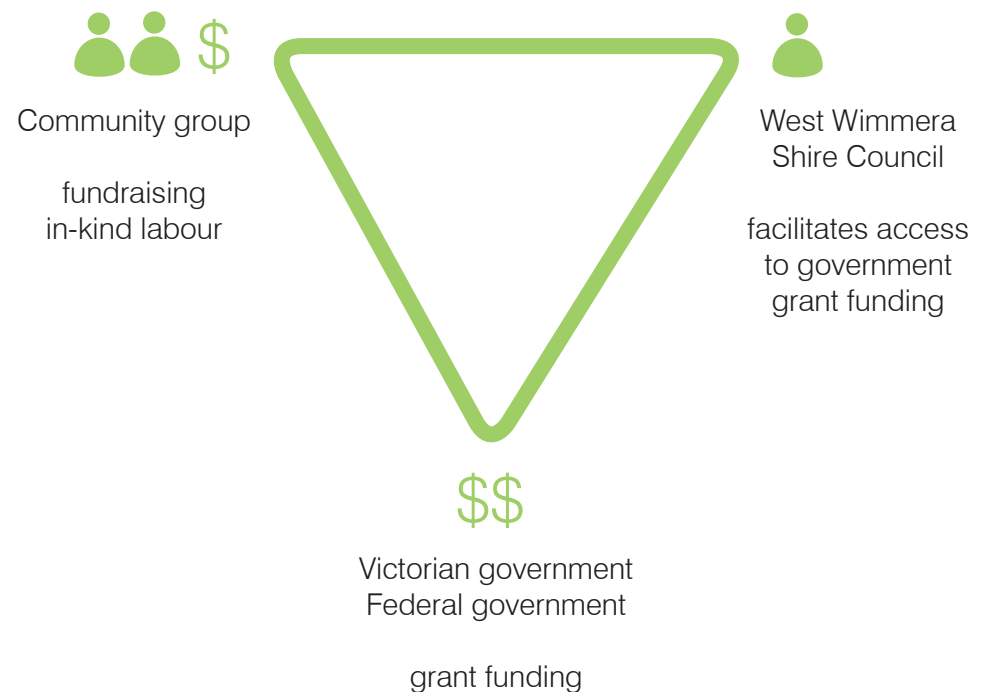
The community has identified a series of small and large, short and long-term projects that are required to support its social infrastructure needs. To ensure it can organise, plan, deliver and re-organise around new issues, it needs to formalise and further embed the partnership approach between community groups and associations, Council, government agencies, and the private sector.

Partnerships need to be strategic and operational; they need to respond to issues and opportunities within the existing community, and always look to the future; they need to represent different interest groups and stakeholders; and they need to be responsive to the particular social context and needs of each project.

FUNDING

Identifying and securing funding sources will be an essential element in implementing the Kaniva Social Infrastructure Strategy. Drawing on best-practice approaches, to obtain funding we must:

- Establish a local need/demand for the project
- Form partnerships with interested community groups, Council and other stakeholders
- Reach for community consensus on the project
- Co-invest
- Design projects that are:
 - Socially, economically and environmentally sustainable
 - Flexible and adaptive, and which can support current and future uses
 - Of benefit to multiple local user-groups



Issues / Challenges

Kaniva residents identify a number of issues and challenges that have, and will, directly or indirectly affect social infrastructure demand, provision and usage in the town.

These issues and challenges are presented here under broad strategic themes:

POPULATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE

A key issue for the Kaniva community is population change: the town is forecast to experience population decline over the next 20 years, along with an increase in the number of people aged 55 years and over. The existing high number of one and two-person households (particularly centred around the 55 years and above cohort) are expected to grow; indicating that the local population will incrementally change from one based on working age adults and young families, to a population largely comprising of aging and retired residents.

A second, important issue is the changing social patterns in Kaniva, Horsham and other regional areas, particularly among youth and family cohorts. More families now have two working adults, often both full-time; families enrol children in schools outside of Kaniva; children participate in a wider range of musical and creative pursuits, both in school and outside, attracting young people away from previously dominant activities.

Does Kaniva have the facilities to support the growth of new sports and recreational activities to support its changing and aging population? Will some clubs cease to exist in the future?

“ Kaniva has been a self-regulated town – [its] interests have had a sporting focus. We have built infrastructure that met our needs ”



VOLUNTEERING

Kaniva is a community with very high levels of community engagement: its residents volunteer and serve on boards and committees; its parents are connected with the school community; the town sustains a number of church congregations; it has various Service Clubs and CFA stations in the district; Progress Associations in Kaniva and Serviceton, and the local Historical Society; book clubs and arts groups. To this it can add an extensive list of clubs and groups covering all types of competitive and recreational sports for all ages.

Each of these clubs has aspirations for membership growth. Each also strives for financial sustainability. To achieve this they all require volunteers – to manage the regulatory environment, provide leadership and guidance, but to also plan for and manage events, competitions and training.

Volunteer decline and volunteer fatigue are identified by the Kaniva community as two major issues: overloaded responsibilities, too much work, and too few people on too many committees are seen as a threat to the community and the many organisations in Kaniva.

Can the community sustain its high level of participation and engagement? Can all clubs survive and thrive in the face of increased pressure? Are clubs receiving the right types of support? Will clubs adapt to change? And can they come together to solve problems that affect not just their own club, but the wider community?



SPORTING GROUPS AND FACILITIES

Kaniva is an active, sporting community. The town has clubs and groups providing structured training and competition year round in a wide range of sports. Kaniva-Leoor United Football Club, based at the Kaniva Recreation Reserve, has the largest membership base of any club in Kaniva, and supports its operations through commercial farming. The Recreation Reserve is also home to netball, cricket and hockey clubs, all of which compete from the Reserve and seek access to the football clubs change rooms and function spaces. Kaniva Hockey Club is actively seeking an upgrade and extension to its existing facilities to include a second grass pitch and change rooms, or a new flood-lit synthetic pitch, within the Reserve. Kaniva Leoor United Netball Club is seeking a third playing court, and better access to change rooms.

Kaniva Community Tennis Club, which is located away from the Reserve, is experiencing decline in participation rates (reflecting a national trend); it is seeking improved facilities in a bid to attract new recreational and competition players to the sport. Lawn bowls is the other major sport in Kaniva, and participation rates are expected to increase in the coming years. The Kaniva Bowls Club is based in central Kaniva and has two, flood-lit rinks, one synthetic and one turf: it is seeking to convert the turf rink into a synthetic rink in the near future, to minimise the maintenance workload and cost.

Serviceton also has a bowls club supporting a local, but aging and declining membership, and a Recreational Reserve which is used for camping and as an occasional training ground for other Kaniva-based clubs.

Should the Kaniva Recreation Reserve be the base for all sporting clubs in Kaniva? Can the community sustain a new multi-use facility at the Reserve? Is it possible to enhance, rather than relocate, the Kaniva Bowls Club? Can Council and the community balance the competing demands for new infrastructure in the Kaniva Recreation Reserve? Is a new governance model required so clubs can plan and drive projects together?

“ Organisations that aren’t prepared to give ground may find it hard to survive ”

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Kaniva’s residents are passionate about local economic growth: they want to attract new industries and employers into the town, and to welcome new families into community life. Kaniva’s residents believe they are part of a robust local economy, and therefore they have a positive outlook. The town has a strong physical asset base, is located on major road and rail networks, has easy access to National Parks, and a welcoming community. A key challenge confronting the community is how it can leverage and enhance its existing asset base, offer a unique experience to visitors and tourists, and attract outside investment that can underpin growth.

What social infrastructure projects could contribute to local economic growth? What is the community’s role in championing investment in the town?

Strategic Framework

STRATEGY

The Kaniva Social Infrastructure Strategy has two dimensions:

- Social – a two-tier, community-led governance structure
 1. Kaniva Social Infrastructure Reference Group
 2. Precinct Working Groups
- Physical – four new Social Infrastructure Precincts

The two dimensions form a new local framework for identifying, planning and responding to Kaniva's social infrastructure needs and demands, now and into the future.

IMPLEMENTATION

The model for implementation of the Strategy is based on recurrent cycles of action: planning for action, taking action, reflecting and evaluating actions, and planning for further action based on new insight and learnings (as shown in the diagram).

ACTION 1 in the model was the formation of the Kaniva Social Infrastructure Reference Group. This group, which includes leaders of local community groups as well as Council representatives, is the primary custodian of the Social Infrastructure Strategy.

ACTION 2 in the model is the establishment of four new Precinct Working Groups. These Groups are responsible for the delivery of Priority Projects within each Precinct. Group membership, responsibilities and actions are to be decided on a project-by-project basis, dependent on the specific needs and context of each Priority Project.

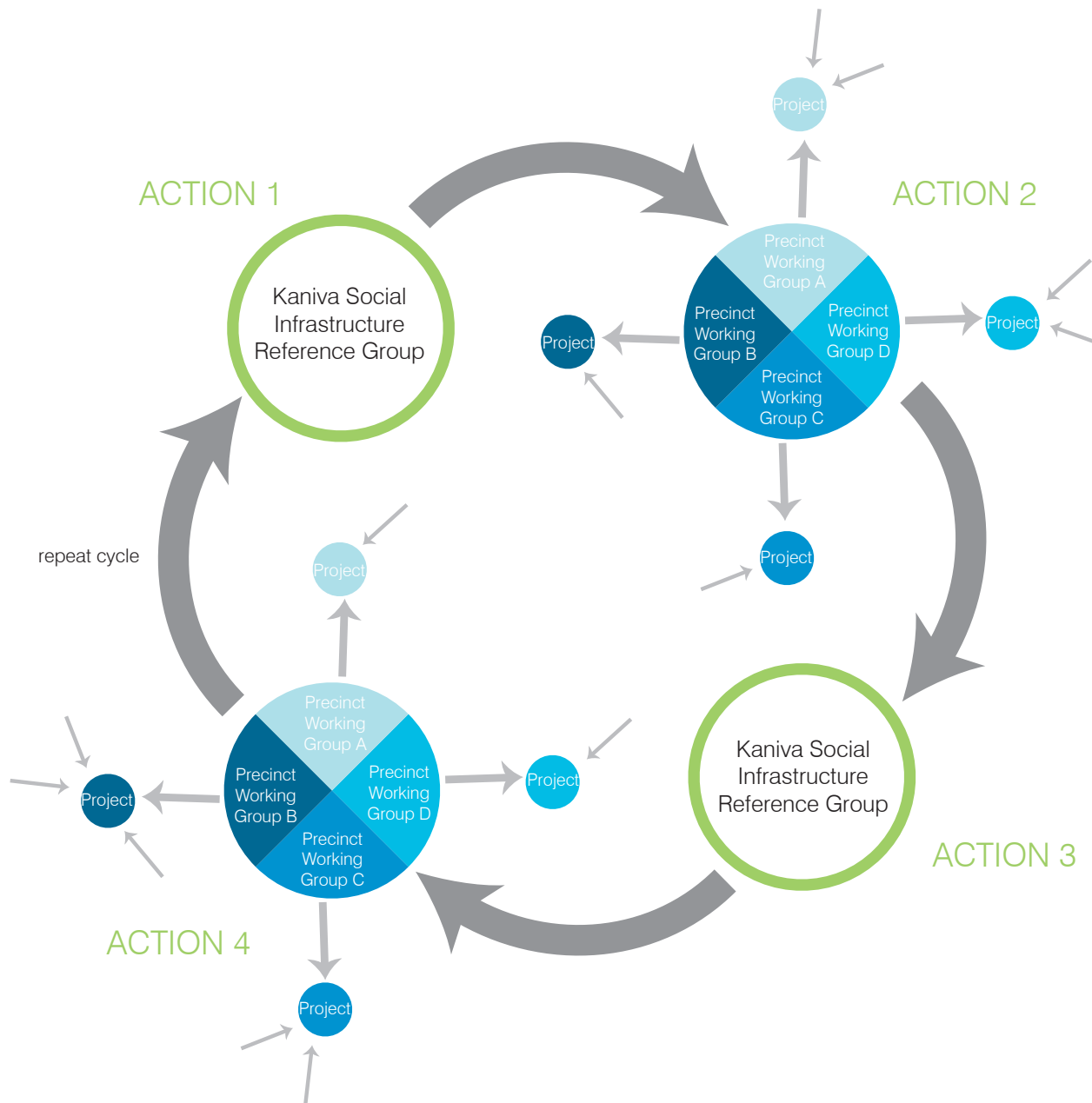
ACTION 3 in the model is a review phase, led by the Kaniva Social Infrastructure Reference Group. This built-in review is fundamental as it provides a check-in point to measure local progress against the Strategy; to gather new information and data; and to identify new Priority Projects. It includes a review of the overall direction of the Strategy, and the performance of the governance structure and Precinct Plan framework.

ACTION 4 in the model is a recommencement of the action cycle, with new or revised Priority Projects undertaken in response to established local priorities. This self-sustaining, inclusive, community-based and community-led model will deliver incremental, planned and measurable change in Kaniva's social infrastructure provision and management. It is a practical, collaborative approach which has the capacity to:

- harness volunteer insight, passion and effort across Kaniva and its surrounds
- focus attention and resources on issues and opportunities that affect the whole community
- develop, reinforce and sustain new partnerships

PRINCIPLES

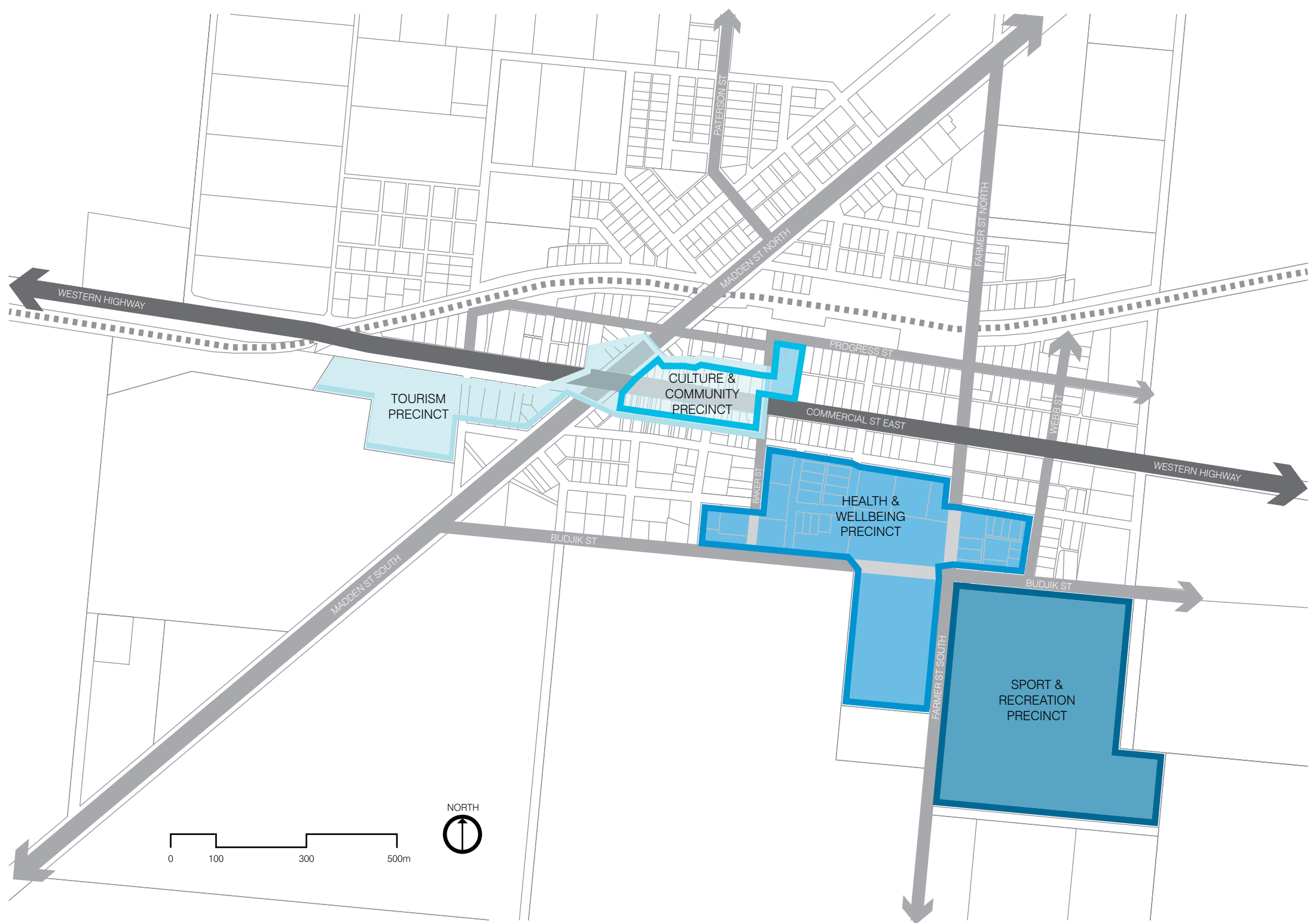
Kaniva's residents have coalesced around a suite of principles that give impetus to its overall strategic response to social infrastructure provision and management, and guidance on the type, scale, cost, impact and social value of the projects it supports.



“ We need greater communication between Council and the community ”

The six principles are:

1. We will work as a community to identify and understand the social issues affecting Kaniva
2. We will deliver projects that respond to demonstrated social need
3. We will devise inclusive, adaptable and sustainable projects
4. We will seek outcomes that benefit the majority of Kaniva's residents
5. We will use decision-making processes that involve a wide range of voices
6. We will work in partnership with Council and other community groups to drive and sustain local change



WESTERN HIGHWAY

TOURISM
PRECINCT

CULTURE &
COMMUNITY
PRECINCT

HEALTH &
WELLBEING
PRECINCT

SPORT &
RECREATION
PRECINCT

PALERSON ST

MADDEN ST NORTH

FARMER ST NORTH

PROGRESS ST

WEBB ST

COMMERCIAL ST EAST

WESTERN HIGHWAY

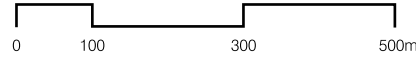
BUDJIK ST

MADDEN ST SOUTH

FARMER ST SOUTH

BUDJIK ST

BAKER ST



SPORT & RECREATION PRECINCT

- Co-locate and cluster sports facilities within the Recreation Reserve
- Provide a range of quality, flexible sports facilities and surfaces
- Support increased participation in existing and new competitive and recreational sports
- Improve pedestrian connectivity within the Reserve, and to adjoining Precincts

COMMUNITY & CULTURE PRECINCT

- Provide social infrastructure that is accessible, flexible and adaptive, and which supports use by a wide range of groups and individuals
- Preserve the town's heritage while upgrading assets to meet current and future needs
- Activate the Precinct by promoting community and street art, music and performance and reuse of commercial spaces
- Leverage Kaniva's strong sense of community identity
- Increase local and visitor patronage to arts, cultural and heritage activities

HEALTH & WELLBEING PRECINCT

- Provide access to a range of social infrastructure that promotes healthy lifestyles and social inclusion
- Invest in assets that meet the changing needs of the community, particularly young people and the aging
- Improve pedestrian linkages into the Precinct from adjoining residential areas

TOURISM PRECINCT

- Support economic growth by providing social infrastructure that is attractive to tourists and visitors, especially parks and gardens, playgrounds and walking trails
- Create pedestrian linkages between key social infrastructure and other sites of interest
- Optimise social infrastructure usage through better promotion and signage

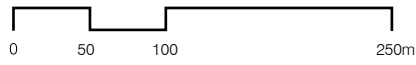


Part C Implementation

“

Kaniva is a strong sporting community

”



Sport & Recreation Precinct

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- More people are now engaged in recreational, non-competition sports
- Sports that have been historically strong in regional communities are losing members to other sports at an increasing rate
- Sporting groups and associations that collaborate, plan together and share resources will respond better to this changing environment
- Well designed, flexible and adaptive sporting infrastructure can play a key role in community engagement and connectedness, and improve a person's overall and health and wellbeing
- Good quality sports and recreation facilities has a multiplier effect for the town, as it attracts visitors and tourists and can lead to increased economic and cultural activity

KEY GROUPS

- Representative from all sporting facility user groups within the Reserve
- Agricultural and Pastoral Show Society
- Kaniva College
- Kaniva Sporting Complex Committee of Management
- Kaniva Lions Club
- Representative from the casual user group (fitness classes, church youth programs)
- West Wimmera Shire Council

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Kaniva Recreation Reserve

- Upgrade the power and water supply at the Reserve to support the provision of major events and increased demand from existing and future sporting groups uses
- A new children's playground within the Recreation Reserve
- Create stronger pedestrian linkages to the adjoining Health and Wellbeing Precinct and the Kaniva township

Sporting and Community Facility

- New change rooms, function space, commercial kitchen and flexible meeting rooms to support community and business uses
- A new, flood-lit Multi-Sport Facility to accommodate hockey and tennis clubs (relocated from existing sites) and future use by other sports

Netball

- Construction of a third netball court adjoining the existing courts
- Provide separate change room facilities within the new Sporting and Community Facility

Hockey

- A second playing field and change rooms adjoining the existing playing field; or
- Access to a single, flood-lit playing field within a new Multi-Sport Facility

Governance

- The Sports and Recreation Precinct Working Group to become the lead agent for devising and delivering local Priority Projects within the Recreation Reserve

Recreation Reserve



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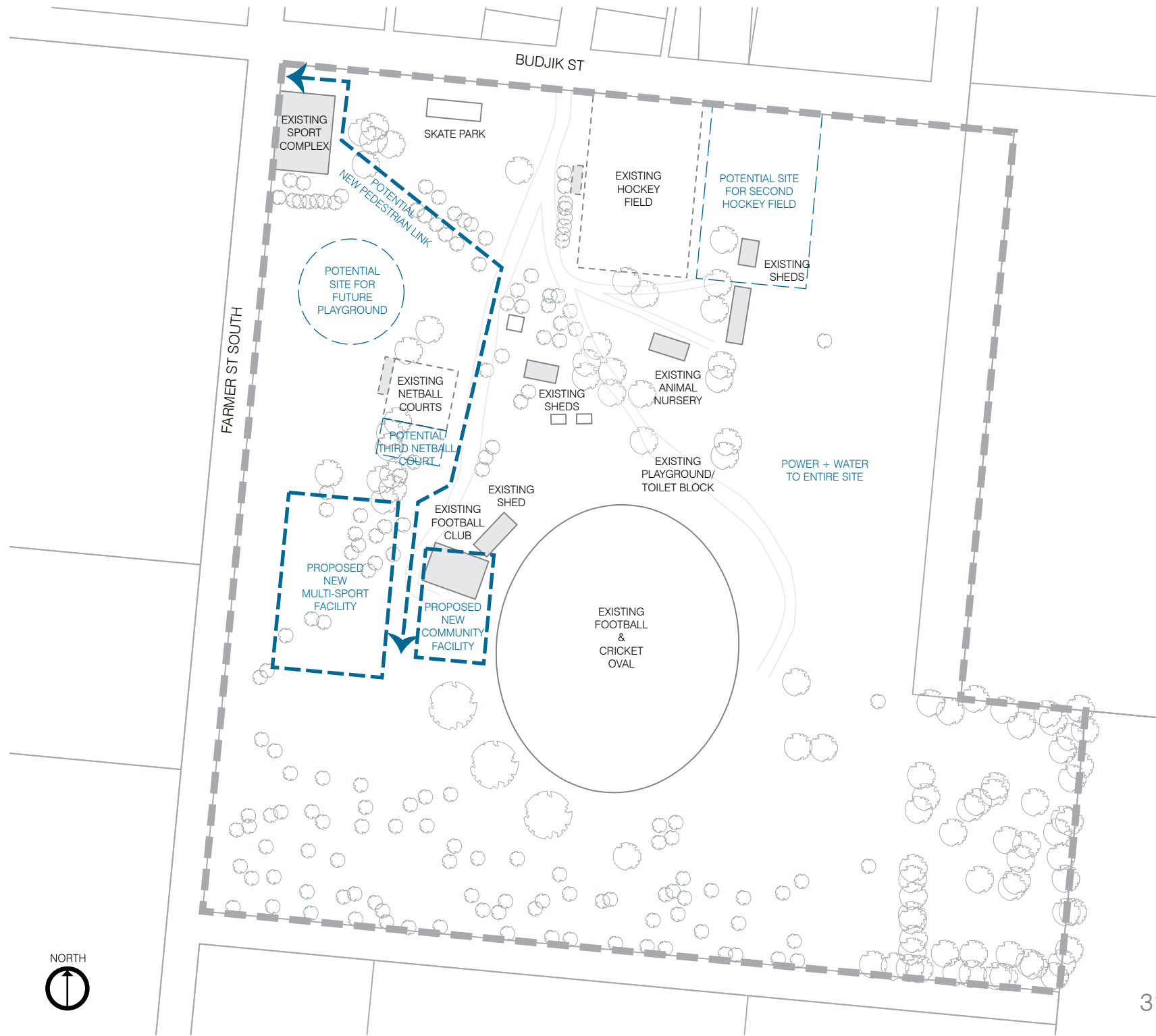
We need to consolidate infrastructure, and the Kaniva Recreation Reserve is the hub

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The Kaniva Recreation Reserve is one of the primary social infrastructure assets for the communities across the north of the municipality, and currently supports a wide range of year-round competitive and recreational activities, primarily at the club level but also for individuals.

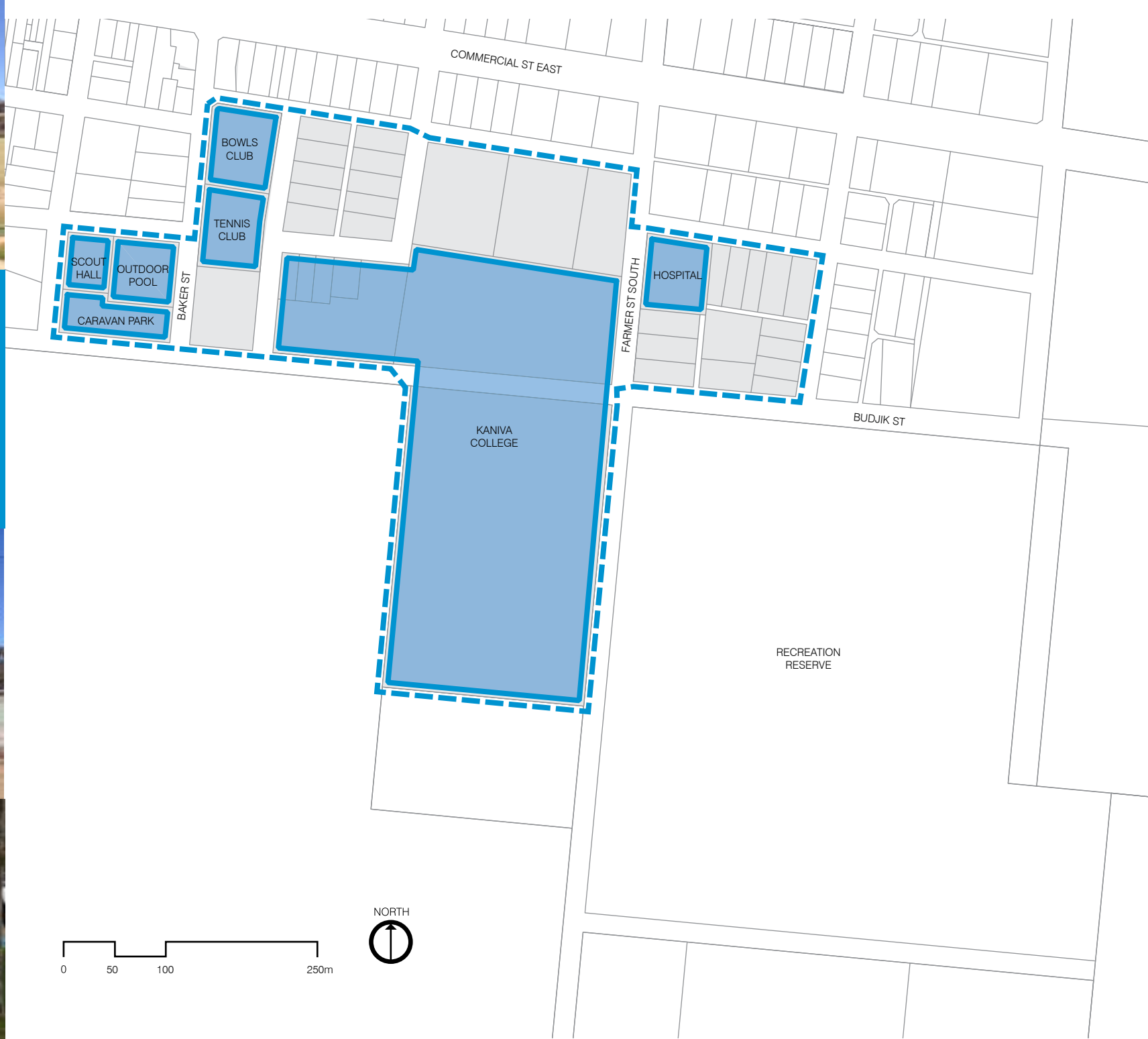
Fundamental to the long-term success of the Recreation Reserve – measured by increased participation, equitable access and management arrangements, and sustainable (cost, time) maintenance arrangements – is targeted, strategic investment in upgrades and new construction to provide quality facilities to the widest cross-section of user groups.

Priority Projects have been identified which balance the competing demands and interests of existing user groups, provide space to grow and support new user groups, improve pedestrian linkages within the Reserve and between the Reserve and adjoining Precincts, and which encourage shared and equitable access and management.





“ Everyone in Kaniva knows each other, people know who you are when you go out ”



Health & Wellbeing Precinct

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- People that engage in social, sporting and other health and wellbeing activities improve their overall physical and mental health, and feel more engaged with their community
- A range of flexible, centrally located facilities that meets the needs of all ages groups is important to ensure community-wide participation
- Investment in infrastructure that directly meets the needs of the aging population is vital: this cohort is increasing in number, living longer, and leading a more active lifestyle than previous generations
- All-weather pedestrian linkages between residential areas and health and wellbeing assets in vital for ensuring on-going usage by aging residents
- Good quality health and wellbeing infrastructure supports the local population but can also attract visitors from across the region, and have broader economic benefits

KEY GROUPS

- Kaniva Memorial Swimming pool
- Kaniva Bowls Club
- Kaniva 1st Scouts Group
- Kaniva Community Tennis Club
- Kaniva Caravan Park
- Kaniva College
- Kaniva Hospital
- Kaniva Medical Centre
- Allied health professionals
- West Wimmera Shire Council

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Kaniva Memorial Swimming Pool

- upgrades to the facility including shaded areas, access ramps, and a hydrotherapy pool to support an aging population

Kaniva Bowls Club

- construction of a second synthetic bowling green

Walking Tracks

- provision of a network of all-weather walking tracks into the precinct, connecting residential and commercial areas to the social infrastructure

Kaniva Community Tennis Club

- minor upgrades to the facilities to sustain use by the club until a new multi-use facility is established at the Recreation Reserve

Governance

- The Health and Wellbeing Precinct Working Group to become the lead agent for devising and delivering local Priority Projects within the Precinct

Walking tracks



“

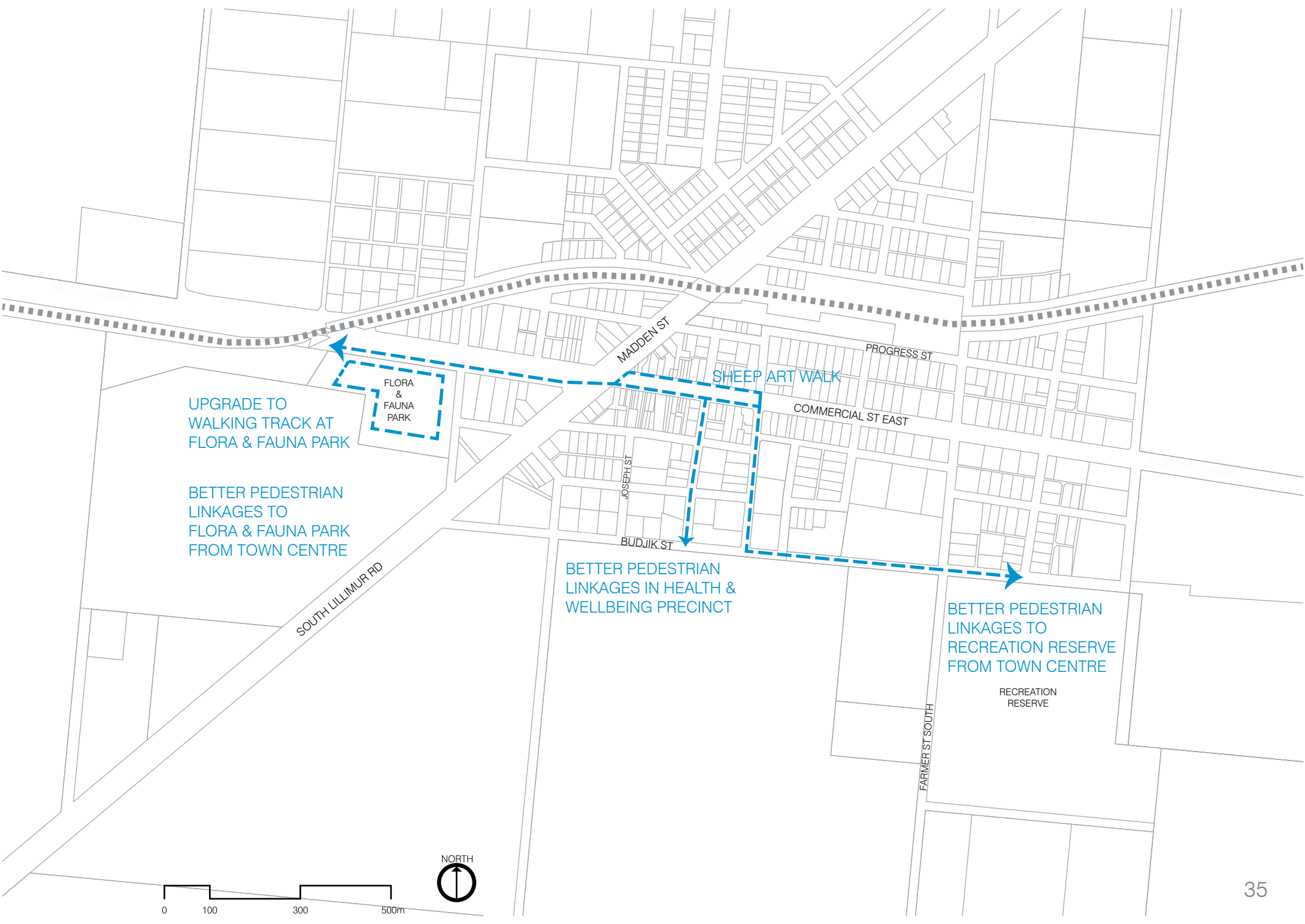
This is a project to work on in stages, we need better accessibility, safety fencing then an all-age family friendly playground

”

The health and wellbeing benefits of walking are widely understood: increased fitness and mobility enable more active lifestyles, and increased socialisation – whether walking with family and friends or through chance encounters and conversations along the way – builds positive mental health, confidence and sense of belonging.

Kaniva has a compact, highly accessible central area: the majority of dwellings within the township area are located at a walkable distance to shops, sports and recreation facilities, churches, Council and other services, and parks and gardens.

A Priority Project to enhance the walkability of Kaniva – by providing all-weather, signed and marked walking tracks connecting residential areas with the commercial, sports and recreation, and tourism assets – will provide primary benefits to local residents via increased pedestrian movement, and secondary benefits to the local economy via increasing tourist and visitor access to local assets.



UPGRADE TO WALKING TRACK AT FLORA & FAUNA PARK

BETTER PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES TO FLORA & FAUNA PARK FROM TOWN CENTRE

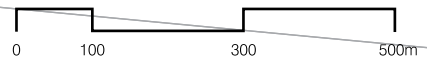
FLORA & FAUNA PARK

SHEEP ART WALK

BETTER PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES IN HEALTH & WELLBEING PRECINCT

BETTER PEDESTRIAN LINKAGES TO RECREATION RESERVE FROM TOWN CENTRE

RECREATION RESERVE





“
People always help each other out when someone is in trouble, Kaniva has a great community spirit
”



Community & Culture Precinct

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- An active and engaged community requires social infrastructure that encourages and supports a wide range of community and cultural activities and events
- Augmenting and enhancing the existing social infrastructure asset base will enable the community to meet current and future needs, while also ensuring the important cultural and architectural heritage is preserved
- The potential to leverage the strong sense of community identity should be explored
- Investment in local arts and cultural activities will engage the Kaniva community and also attract visitors and tourists to the region

KEY GROUPS

- Kaniva Progress Association
- Kaniva Lions Club
- Learning Information Network Kaniva (LINK)
- Kaniva District Historical Society
- West Wimmera Shire Council
- Religious organisations
- Interested individuals

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Kaniva Shire Hall

- upgrades and enhancements to the existing facilities, including new commercial kitchen, flexible meeting spaces for community use, and improved heating, cooling and seating.

Governance

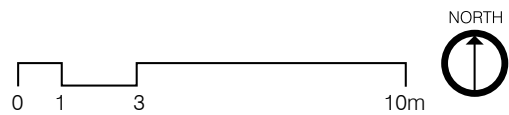
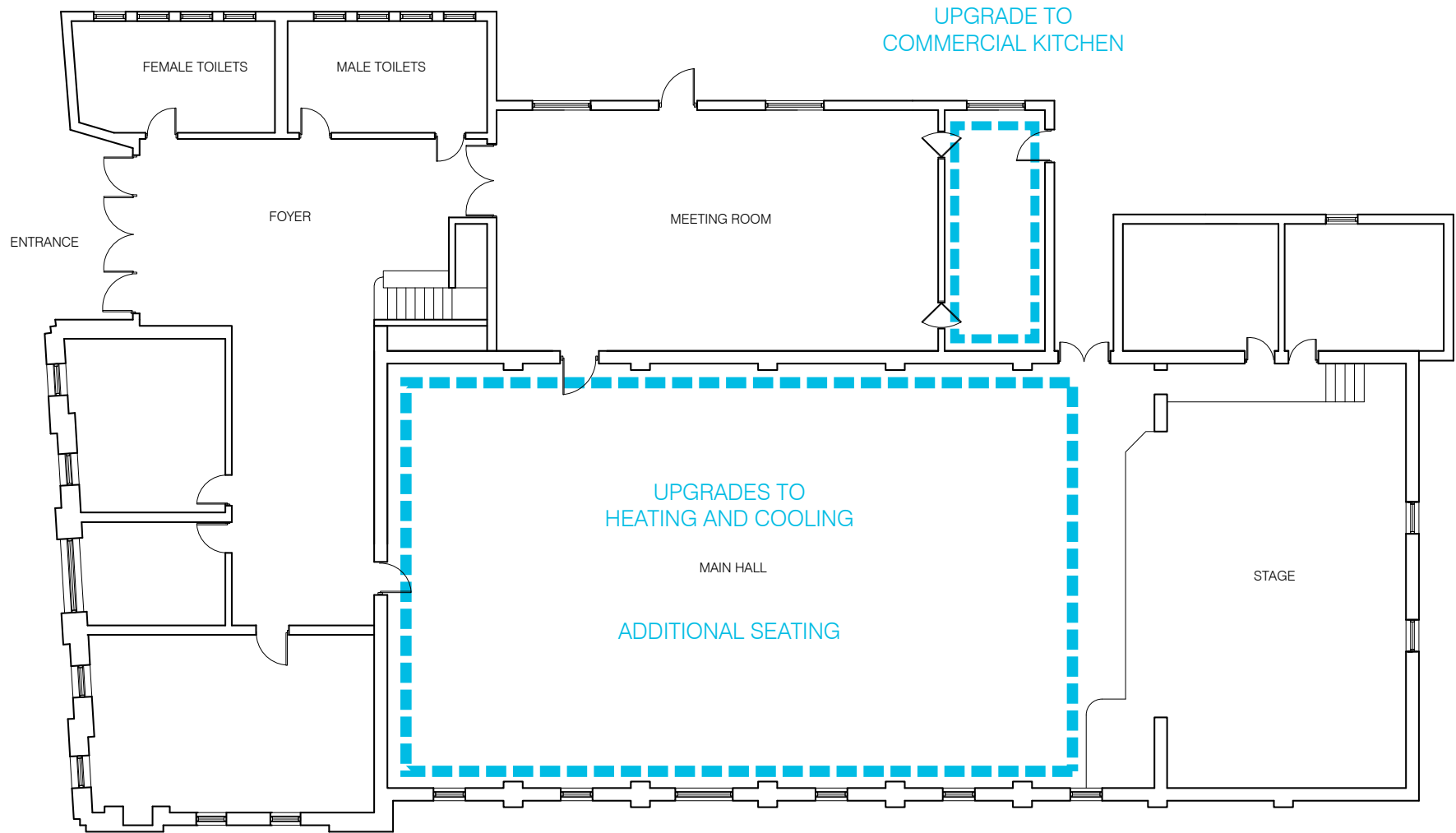
- The Community and Cultural Precinct Working Group to become the lead agent for devising and delivering local Priority Projects within the Precinct

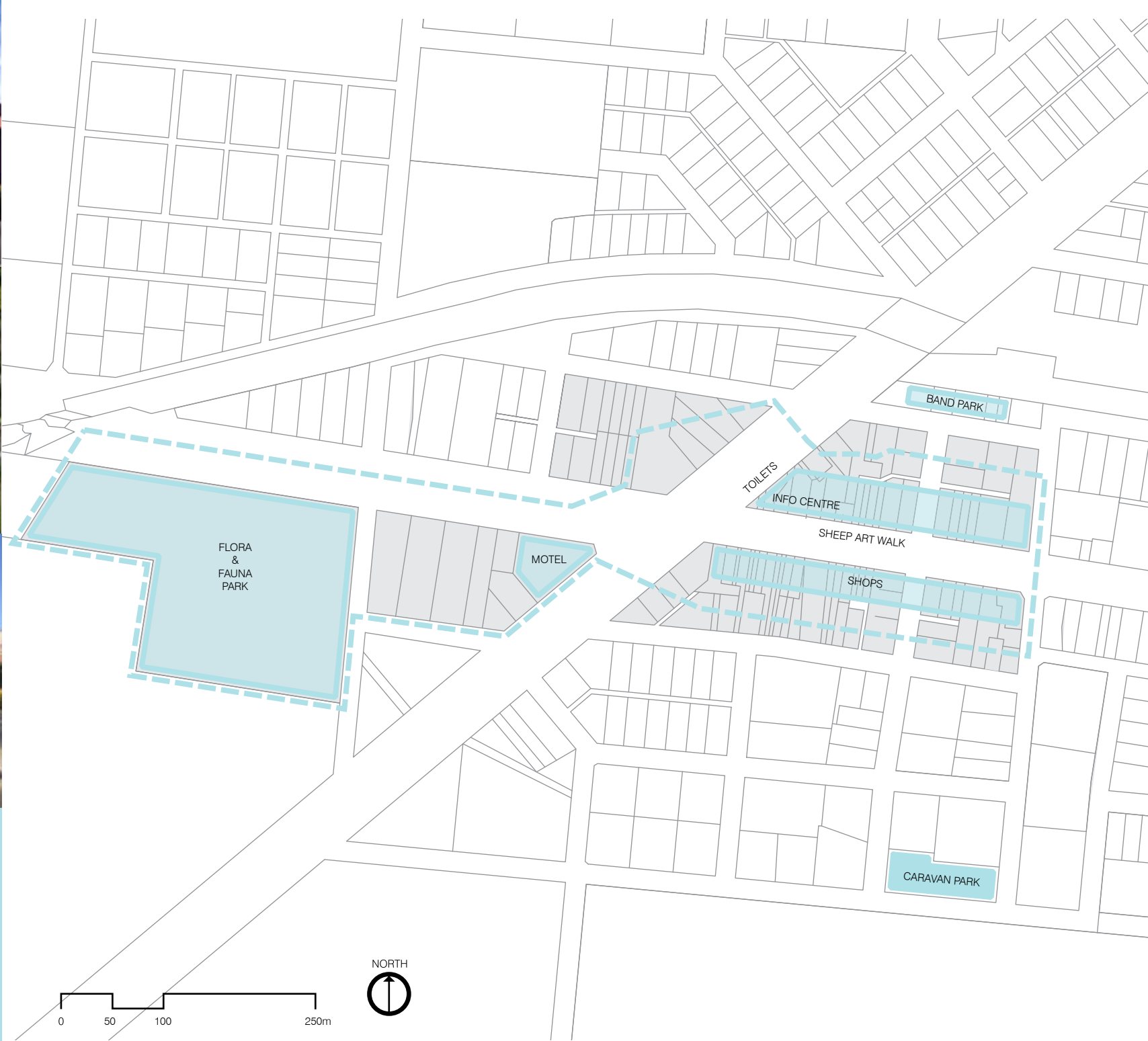
Kaniva Shire Hall upgrade



Local residents and groups place significant value on Kaniva's historical places and buildings. The Kaniva Shire Hall is a great example of this: a structure rich in architectural, social and civic history, but rather than a static memorial to times past, it is frequently used by the community for a range of events, functions and community meetings.

As a social infrastructure asset, the Kaniva Shire Hall has an important past, and an equally important future. A Priority Project is to undertake sensitive upgrades and enhancements to the kitchen, seating, meeting rooms, and heating and cooling, to enable greater levels of use, comfort and flexibility. These works will preserve the important social and historical qualities of the building, and encourage a vibrant mix of community uses for years to come.





“

We need better signage at the town entries and in the town near the info centre, promoting facilities and tourist attractions

”

Tourism Precinct

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- Kaniva's location on major transport routes gives it access to high volumes of passing traffic: this needs to be converted into more stop-overs and greater spending in the local economy
- Social infrastructure that serves the needs of travellers – such as campgrounds, parks and gardens, and playgrounds – encourages people to remain in Kaniva longer
- Connecting local tourist sites to the core commercial area will make navigation easier, and enhance the visitor experience
- Strategic investment in social infrastructure that leverages the town's brand, and magnifies its tourism assets, will support overall economic development

KEY GROUPS

- Kaniva Progress Association
- Representatives from retail, hospitality and service industries
- Agricultural & Pastoral Society
- Kaniva Lions Club
- VicRoads
- Parks Victoria
- West Wimmera Shire Council

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Play space

create a new, centrally located children's playground at a scale and quality to attract tourists

Band Park

renew the existing toilets to an all-abilities access, install a BBQ for community amenity, and improve the security by erecting a fence. Work with service clubs to provide shading (rotunda).

Fauna and Wetlands Park

upgrades to the existing network of walking tracks with the Park

Walking Tracks

create a network of all-weather, signed walking tracks connecting the central business area with significant tourist sites and features

Governance

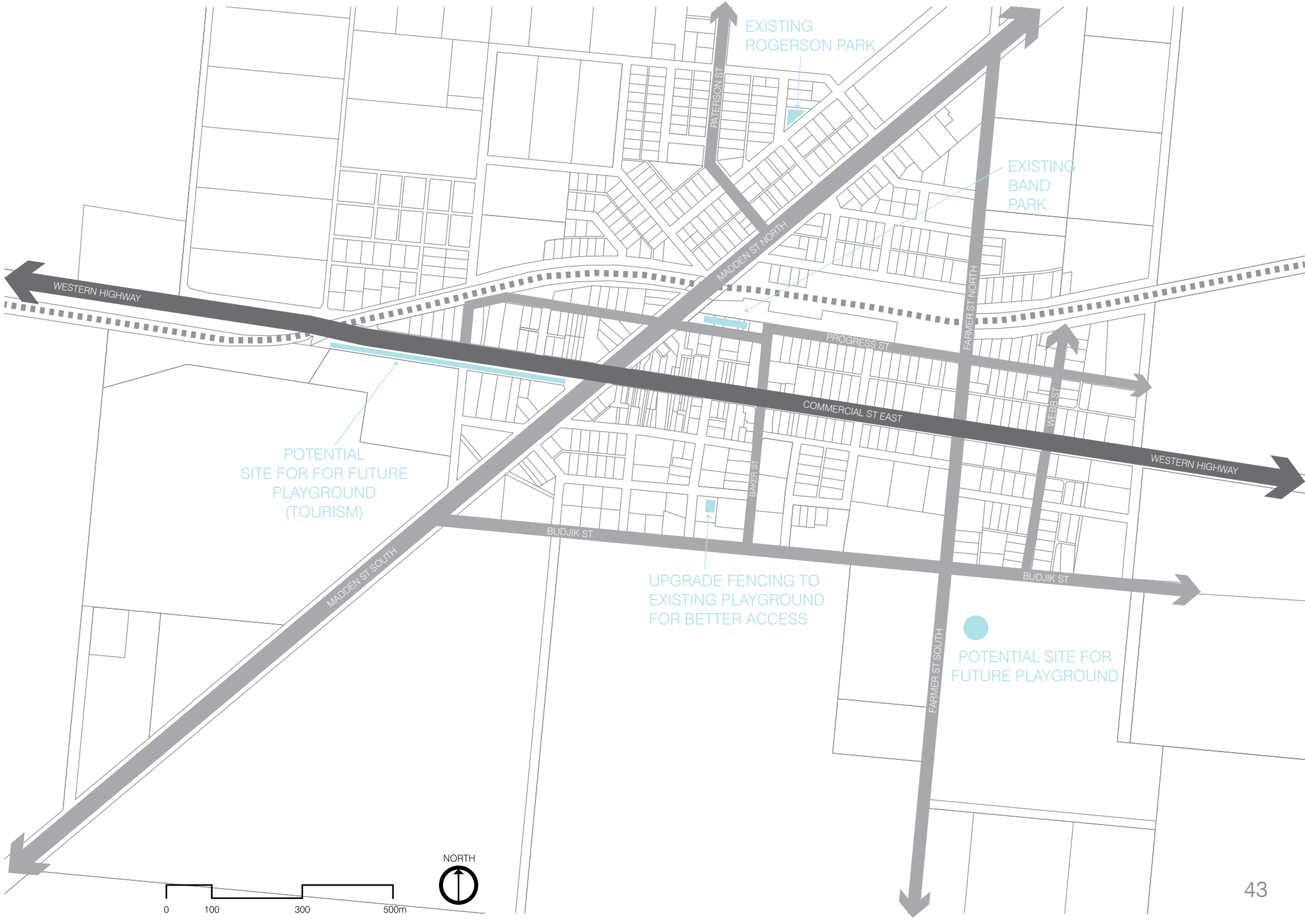
The Tourism Precinct Working Group to become the lead agent for devising and delivering local Priority Projects within the Precinct

Playspace



The experience of exploring, climbing, swinging and running around a play space, with parents sitting nearby in on a shady seat or picnic table, is a very important part of childhood, and also family life. But play spaces – within well-maintained parks and gardens, with adjacent parking, ease of access and direct pedestrian connectivity to commercial areas – also perform an important role in supporting and encouraging economic development. A Priority Project for Kaniva residents is investing in a centrally located, major play space that can service local children and families, attract visitors from nearby towns and communities, and encourage passing travellers to stop, rest and explore Kaniva.

To guide investment, a play space hierarchy should be formed: a central, large-scale play in central Kaniva can service the majority of the community (to the south of the train line), as well as tourists and visitors, while one small-scale neighbourhood play space should be retained to the north of the train line to support ease of access by nearby residents.



EXISTING
ROGERSON PARK

EXISTING
BAND
PARK

POTENTIAL
SITE FOR FOR FUTURE
PLAYGROUND
(TOURISM)

UPGRADE FENCING TO
EXISTING PLAYGROUND
FOR BETTER ACCESS

POTENTIAL SITE FOR
FUTURE PLAYGROUND

0 100 300 500m



Serviceton

APPROACH

Serviceton is located approximately 27 kilometres west of Kaniva. The township and surrounding areas has a population of 270. The town is set back from the Western Highway, and includes a compact residential area. Within the township boundary is the Serviceton Historic Railway Station, the Serviceton Recreation Reserve, and the Serviceton Bowls Club. The Serviceton Reservoir is located on the Western Highway. The community is supported by a proactive, engaged Serviceton Progress Association; the organisation is engaged with residents, advocates for investment through a localised Action Plan, and produces a newsletter.

CONTEXTUAL FACTORS

- The resident population is declining, and aging
- Residents of Serviceton travel to Kaniva to access social and professional services, retail and hospitality, and to participate a wide range of community and sporting activities
- There is a small but highly engaged and proactive community
- The Historic Railway Station is a regionally significant asset that is managed by a local group, but it is owned by VicTrack
- Recreational infrastructure at the Bowls Club and Recreation Reserve require upkeep and maintenance, but service a small group of people
- The sporting infrastructure available in Serviceton is also available at Kaniva



“

Serviceton is a vibrant and active community, if there is work to be done whether that be fundraising, organising an event, sitting on a committee or simply giving a neighbour a hand, our small rural community rises to the challenge.

”

PROJECTS

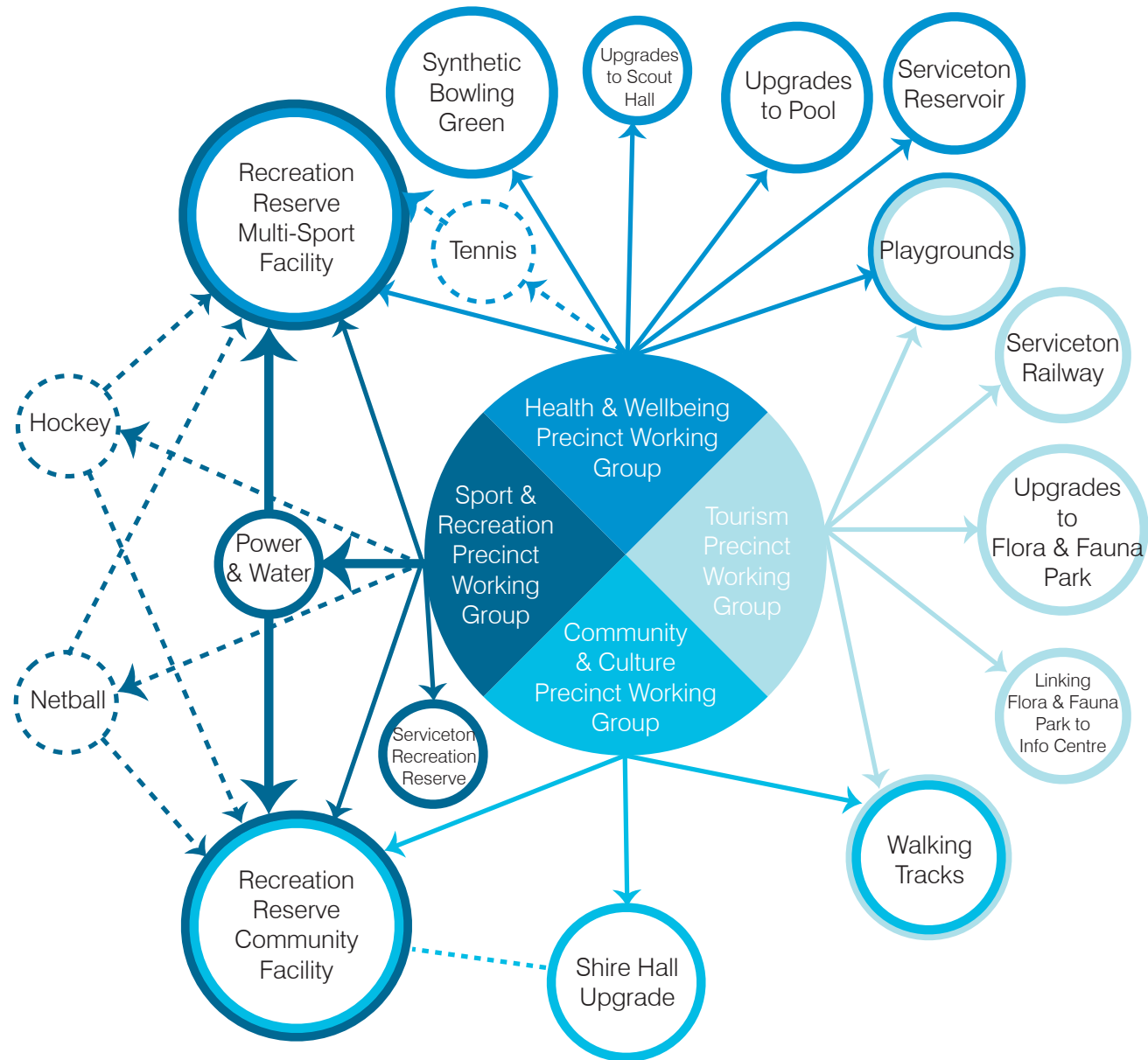
Serviceton Railway is a regionally significant asset. Upgrades and enhancements that leverage its economic potential – recognising the architectural and cultural value of the site – should be pursued in conjunction with VicTrack and the local community.

Serviceton Reservoir is a locally significance site for the Serviceton and Kaniva communities. It plays an important role as a social and recreational venue: minor upgrades and enhancements to the existing walking tracks, and the provision of additional shelters and barbeque areas around the Reservoir, would improve the experience for local visitors.

Serviceton Recreation Reserve has value as an alternative sporting facility for Kaniva-based clubs, but it also supports local tourism. Minor upgrades and enhancements within the Reserve may lead to increased usage by clubs and visitors.

Serviceton Bowls Club is a locally important organisation providing a social and sporting focus for the community. Major upgrades to the facility will be difficult to justify in the face of declining membership, especially if significant investment is directed towards the Kaniva Bowls Club site. However, opportunity lies in supporting the proactive committee to secure grants to undertake the minor upgrades and enhancement required to maintain the facility in the near future.

Project Map



The Project Map is a graphic representation of the Social Infrastructure Strategy. It identifies all Priority Projects, and relates them to the four Social Infrastructure Precincts.

The Strategy calls for Priority Projects to be planned and delivered according to factors such as funding availability, partnerships, local capacity and constraints. Therefore, this Projects Map avoids presenting projects in a hierarchy, or as a sequence of consecutive actions.

Instead, the Project Map presents projects non-linearly: it locates each project within the responsibility of each Precinct Working Group, and highlights how a particular project intersects with other different projects, and with other Precincts.

Catalyst Projects – those that can unlock future investment in subsequent social infrastructure projects, or which can have a transformative effect on social infrastructure provision, are enlarged.

The Project Map is therefore an extension of the overall Strategy:

- Each project is important to, and can benefit, the whole community
- Projects have dependencies and relationships to other projects
- Projects are not viewed in isolation, but are understood to be contributors to the overall Strategy
- Projects are not presented in an arbitrary sequence, but are commenced only when the conditions and contexts give the community the greatest potential for success.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the West Wimmera Shire Council, Venkat Peteti, Ange Veitch, Taegan Salt, Cr. Bruce Meyer and Robyn Evans as well as the following participants:

- 1st Kaniva Scout Group
- Kaniva A & P Society
- Kaniva Badminton Club
- Kaniva Bowls Club
- Kaniva College
- Kaniva Combined Probus Club
- Kaniva Community Sporting Complex
- Kaniva Community Tennis Club
- Kaniva Cricket Club
- Kaniva District Basketball Association
- Kaniva & District Progress Association
- Kaniva Hockey Club
- Kaniva Leeor United Football Club
- Kaniva Leeor United Netball Club
- Kaniva Lions Club
- Kaniva Rotary Club
- Kaniva Squash Club
- Kaniva Swimming Pool Committee
- LINK Neighbourhood House
- Purple Starfish
- Serviceton Action Group
- Telopea Downs Progress Association
- West Wimmera Health Service