

HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANNING

Final Report

July 2015

URBANSscale



INTRODUCTION.

Defining social infrastructure
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Report format

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INTRODUCTION

In March 2013 West Wimmera Shire Council acknowledged the need for a strategic approach to develop Community Precincts, and has committed to working with Harrow, Goroce and surrounding communities to develop Community Precinct Plans. This project is the final stage in this Shire wide Project, and follows on from previous projects focused on Kaniva and surrounds, and Edenhope and Apsley.

The Harrow, Goroce and Surrounding Communities Precinct Planning is a collaborative project between West Wimmera Shire Council, Regional Development Victoria and the Harrow and Goroce Community Reference Groups. The purposes of the project are:

- To identify and evaluate existing community and social infrastructure.
- To identify and assist Council to develop a priority listing of Community and Social Infrastructure in relation to identified needs for the next 10 years.
- To provide an assessment of the short, medium and long term funding requirements required to implement recommendations of the Harrow, Goroce and Surrounding Community Precinct Planning Feasibility Study.

The objectives of the project are to provide a strong strategic basis for Council's investment in social infrastructure in Harrow and Goroce over the coming ten years, and to act as a catalyst for community building and place-making in the two communities.

DEFINING SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Social infrastructure is a broad term that describes community assets used to improve the quality of community life. It can include physical capital and infrastructure, such as 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. For the

purpose of this project, social infrastructure includes assets made available to the communities of Harrow and Goroce, such as parks and gardens, walking tracks, open and public spaces, sporting grounds and facilities, community centres and halls.

In undertaking an assessment of its social infrastructure, Council acknowledges several key points:

- Not all social infrastructures in the Shire are owned by Council: schools, churches, cafes, galleries and various other facilities are owned and managed by private enterprise and/or community organisations. These facilities provide important opportunities for interaction and social engagement, add vitality to each town, and are fundamental to a healthy community.
- Community groups and volunteers across West Wimmera Shire perform a vital role in maintaining social infrastructure. These groups extend Council's capacity by contributing to the maintenance and operation of local facilities, and by ensuring they remain accessible to the wider community benefit.

Council's role in this project is to engage its communities and to understand what social infrastructure they need to support current and future resident populations, as well as visitors and tourists. Central to this task is gaining an understanding of the factors influencing each community, and how these factors then influence social infrastructure provision. This requires Council to ask and answer the following questions: What infrastructure does the community currently use, and have access to? How well does that infrastructure perform? Is there anything missing? What does the community need in the future? And, how can it be delivered?

PROJECT PROCESS

The draft Harrow and Goroke Community Precinct Planning process has been carried out in the following phases:

Phase 1: Project commencement

Background documents, study area visits and analysis, initial consultation.

Phase 2: Context analysis

Detailed research on local and regional data, trends and influencing factors, full site inspections

Phase 3: Community workshops

Comprehensive stakeholder engagement, key spaces and places, needs analysis, opportunities

Phase 4: Draft Community Precinct Plans

Development of precinct objectives and themes, priority projects, draft report

REPORT FORMAT

This draft report is structured in three sections, as follows:

Part A of this report provides background information to the Community Precinct Planning process, including an assessment of the factors influencing social infrastructure provisions at the local level, Shire level and sub-regional level. It also includes an analysis of the two study areas, and highlights the importance of engaged communities, as well as a partnership approach, to social infrastructure planning in West Wimmera Shire.

Part B combines background research, demographic analysis and an assessment of existing social infrastructure usage and demand, with community and stakeholder inputs relating to infrastructure gaps and opportunities. From this, new Community Precinct Plans for Harrow and Goroke are prepared. The Community Precinct Plans comprise overarching Directions for future social infrastructure investment in each township, Priority Projects corresponding to each Direction, and distinctive Infrastructure Opportunities maps that graphically represent the relationship between place, projects and change.

Part C includes a series of supporting plans and maps, as appendices to Parts A and B.

Analysis |

A

ANALYSIS



A.

PLACES

A.1

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

Like many rural municipalities across Victoria and Australia, West Wimmera Shire is experiencing significant social, cultural and economic transformation. These transformations are having direct effects on communities and businesses, sporting groups and community organisations, and consequentially, they are leading to changes in the way Council understands, plans for and delivers social infrastructure provision.

At the macro level, aging populations, growth of and centralisation in regional centres, the availability of technology and its subsequent impacts on employment patterns and communications, and the consolidation and restructuring of the agricultural sector has led to a shift in the composition of rural communities. In addition, contraction in federal government funding levels and shifting policy positions has had effects on local government, creating greater levels of competition for state-based resources that enable local infrastructure investment.

At the micro level, the changes are equally rapid and impactful. While agriculture remains the core economic and social driver in West Wimmera Shire, farmers are seeking new opportunities through crop diversification and value-added production, which is in turn shifting the local skill base away from on-farm labour, and leading to depopulation of primary agricultural areas. Families that have long-resided in farm communities are now relocating into nearby townships and centres, though many are also choosing to leave the Shire for major regional centres in adjoining municipalities, where employment opportunities – across various sectors – are more abundant.

Changes in the agricultural landscape – the main employment engine the Shire – leads to changes in social structures and patterns. Lower populations in small communities create many flow-on challenges for local businesses, schools, sporting groups, and community and cultural associations. The centralisation of populations – children and youth, young families, working aged men and women, retirees, empty nesters and the aging – in West Wimmera's major centres places strain on existing infrastructure and services in those communities, and the reverse is also true: when population

shifts and growth in centres is met by changes in service provision in those towns, there is also a flow-on effect on infrastructure and service provision in outlying communities.

A.2

ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

West Wimmera Shire has very high levels of community engagement: its residents volunteer and serve on boards and committees; its parents are connected with the school community; its towns sustain a number of church congregations; it has various Service Clubs, CFA and SES volunteer stations in the district; Progress Associations and historical societies; books and arts clubs. 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 – people who can 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 major issues for small communities: overloaded responsibilities, too much work, and too few people on too many committees are seen as a threat to the viability of many community organisations, and to the wellbeing of its residents.

Like other towns in West Wimmera, Harrow and Goroke have high levels of participation and engagement. A key challenge is to ensure clubs survive and thrive in the face of increased pressure, can adapt to changing conditions, and receive the right types of support. Another challenge is ensuring clubs come together to solve problems that affect not just their own club, but their wider communities.

A.3

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Rural councils are under increasing financial pressure as they strive to deliver the necessary social infrastructure to meet its residents changing and evolving needs, while also continuing to provide the infrastructure to attract visitors, tourist and new residents into its communities.

Concurrent to this have been significant changes to policy delivery, and the way programmes are funded, at the State Government level. These changes have forced Councils to work proactively in engaging communities to respond to localised issues, while also building the capacity of those local groups to self-manage, and to a large extent, self-fund their community services.

While these changes pose challenges for Councils and communities, they have also encouraged greater levels of partnering in social infrastructure planning and delivery. The partnership approaches that improve social infrastructure planning are also critical to successful project delivery. State and local governments now prioritise investment in projects that:

- Are identified by the community
- Respond to demonstrable, local community needs
- Can be delivered to benefit multiple community groups and individuals, and
- Can be co-funded by community groups.

A.4

STUDY AREAS

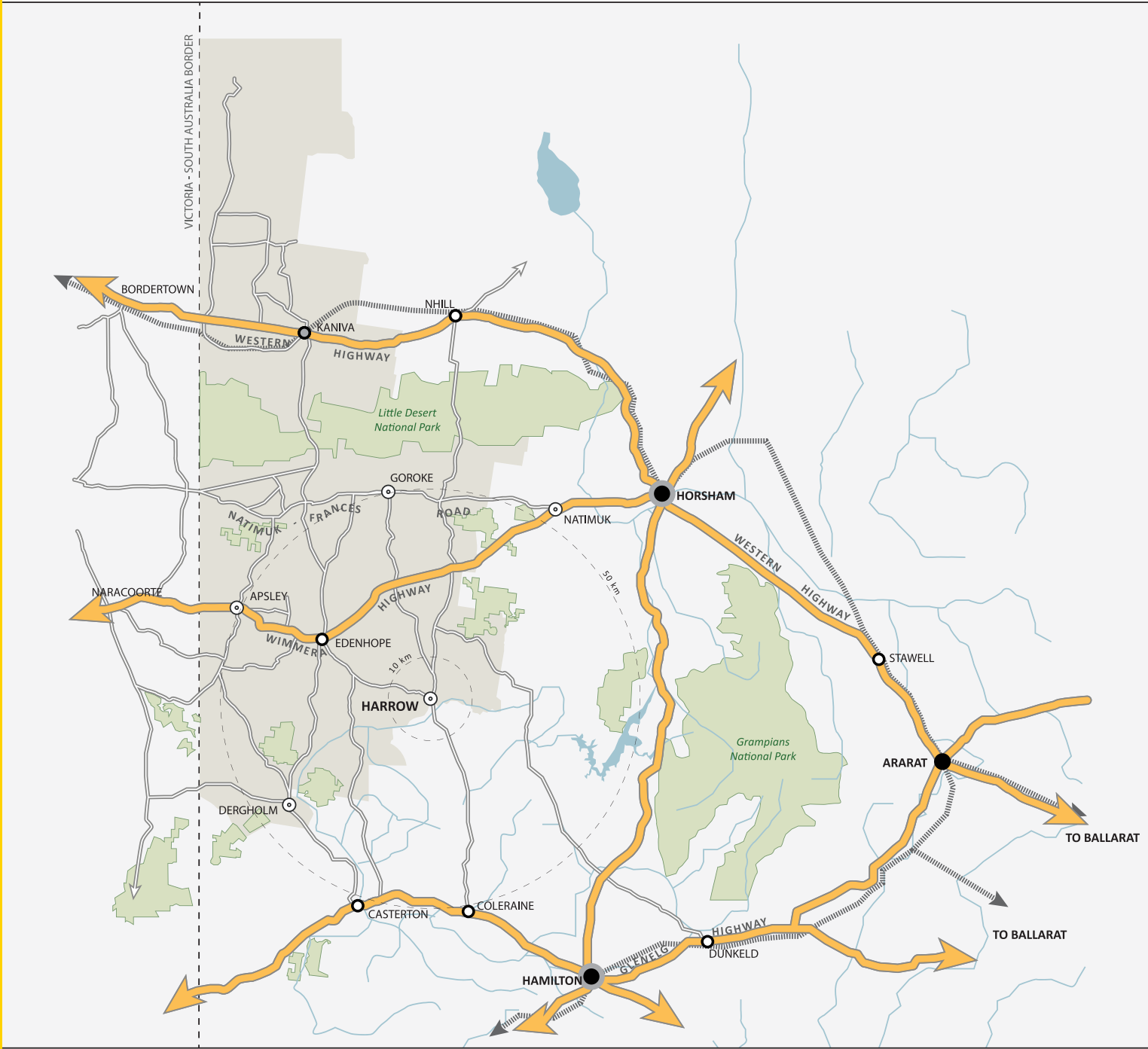
The physical locations of Harrow and Goroke, along with established land use and built form patterns, and the unique geography of each town, are key influences on social, economic and cultural functions. These in turn have a direct consequence on social infrastructure provision in each community.

Goroke is located in the centre of the Shire, and its residents have access to social infrastructure, as well as community, health, cultural and education programs and services in Edenhope and Kaniva. However, due to its proximity to other large towns, and its historical linkages to other wheat belt towns, Goroke residents also choose to travel outside of the Shire to Nhill and Horsham for a wider range of social, economic, education, cultural and commercial opportunities.

Similarly, Harrow, which is located in the southeast corner of the Shire and shares a border with the Southern Grampians Shire, has a direct relationship to Edenhope for Council and community services, but also has a strong synergy with other southwest Victoria sheep grazing communities. For this reason, Harrow residents has developed social and cultural connections with Hamilton, which like Horsham is a regional centre with a wider range of services and facilities.

While Harrow and Goroke have stable populations and townships that support a number of local businesses, schools and sporting and community organisations, the proximity of these towns to other, larger centres – within the Shire and outside of it – is a major influence on the type, size and scale of the social infrastructure that is and can be provided within each township.

On the following pages are Regional Context Plans for Harrow and Goroke: these place each township in its regional context, and demonstrate the physical relationships – and to an extent, natural dependencies – between these two communities and the larger townships within and outside of West Wimmera Shire.



HARROW COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLAN

REGIONAL CONTEXT

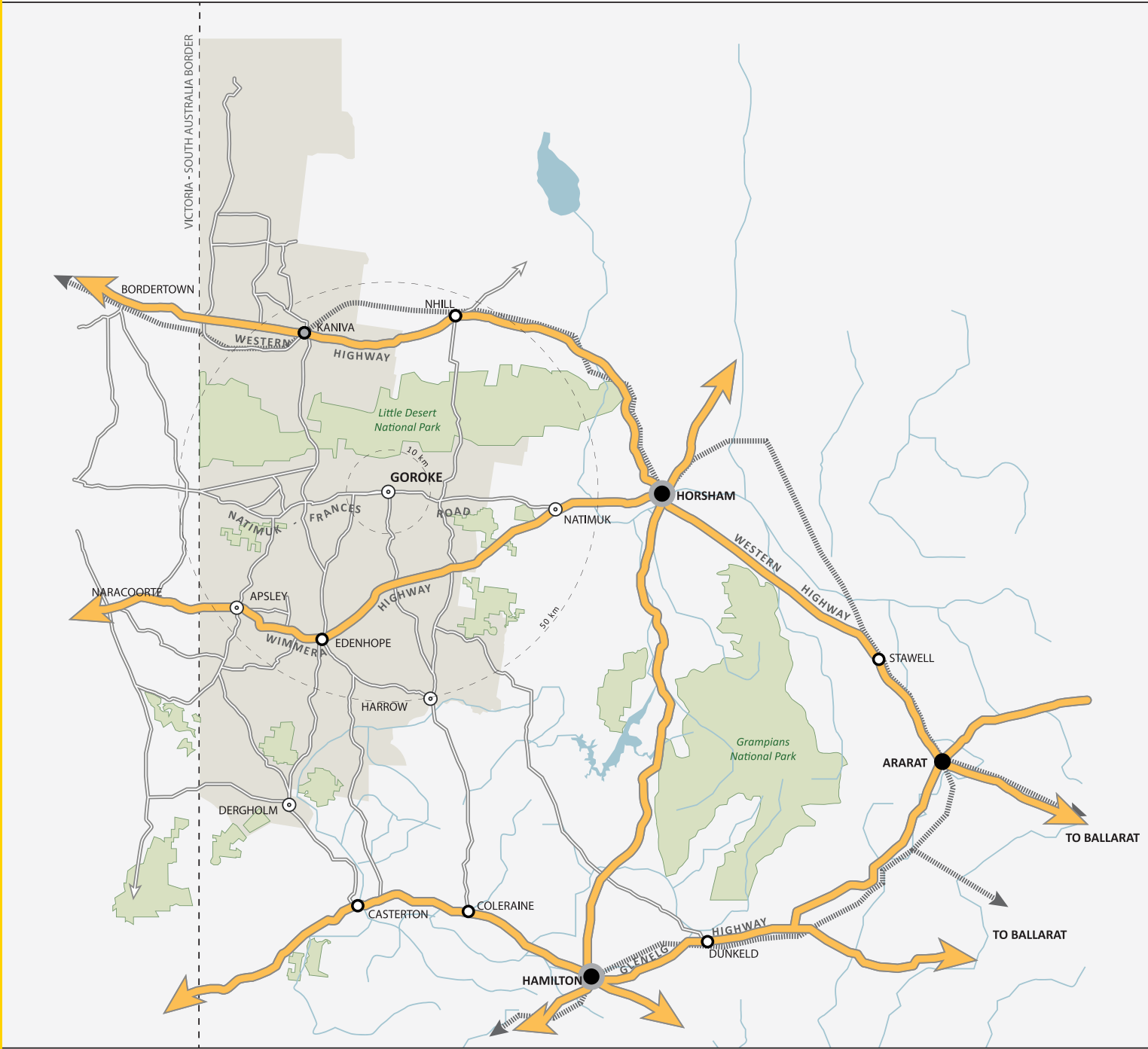
- LEGEND**
- HIGHWAYS
 - LOCAL ROADS
 - RAIL LINE
 - WATER COURSE
 - LAKE OR RESERVOIR
 - STATE/NATIONAL PARK
 - WEST WIMMERA SHIRE
 - REGIONAL CITY
 - REGIONAL CENTRE
 - DISTRICT TOWN
 - TOWN
 - SMALL SETTLEMENT

JOB : HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLAN
 CODE : RBS001
 DATE : 13 JANUARY 2015
 SCALE : NOT TO SCALE



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GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLAN

REGIONAL CONTEXT

- LEGEND**
- HIGHWAYS
 - LOCAL ROADS
 - RAIL LINE
 - WATER COURSE
 - LAKE OR RESERVOIR
 - STATE/NATIONAL PARK
 - WEST WIMMERA SHIRE
 - REGIONAL CITY
 - REGIONAL CENTRE
 - DISTRICT TOWN
 - TOWN
 - SMALL SETTLEMENT

JOB : HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLAN
 CODE : RBS001
 DATE : 13 JANUARY 2015
 SCALE : NOT TO SCALE



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HARROW

Harrow is a western districts community settled in the 1840s, and is located 33km south east of Edenhope and 94 km north of Hamilton.

The township enjoys a very high level of amenity due to its well preserved heritage architecture, and location on the Glenelg Rivers, and the associated corridor of open space. Views into Harrow are limited due to the rolling landform and dense native vegetation screening. This creates a great sense of arrival as you enter from the highway: the road drops down into the centre of town. Once in the township, the steep, vegetated hills and limited sightlines create a sense of enclosure.

The Harrow community has been successful at leveraging its cultural heritage and natural assets. It attracts visitors and tourists across the year to events such as the billy-cart race, Harrow by Night Sound and Light Show, and Beaut Blokes, and is working to establish a new mud-bash racing track in town. It also has the Harrow Transport Museum and Johnny Mullagh Cricket Centre.

The town also supports a number of sporting and social interests, including golf, tennis, a gold club, fishing, and canoeing. Harrow/Balmoral Football and Netball Club play in the Horsham and District League.

PHYSICAL FORM

Harrow's township has been established on one side of the Glenelg River flats, with land form and geography playing a major role in the development of commercial and residential areas. The lowest land in town is the location of the commercial core (Blair Street), and it includes well-preserved heritage architecture and some of the areas earliest homes. Later developments – primarily residential housing, but also a school (now closed) and more recently, rural residential areas – are built on the steep hillside above town.

The commercial area is a quaint, compact village along Blair Street. While there is river access from the northern end of Blair Street, the town does not directly address the Glenelg River. A large sports and wetland is located further south, and has good river access and green space. A range of community and tourist infrastructure is centrally located, including a nursing centre, visitors centre and public toilet, library and hotel.

Despite its compact form, there is a number of vacant, original lots in the centre of town, and also within a block of Blair Street. Some of these have been appropriated as informal access areas, while others are unused.

A large sporting complex is located several kilometres from the town centre on the Nhill-Harrow Road, and supports local football, netball and cricket clubs. A golf course is adjacent. These facilities are located away from the township due to landform: there is a significant shortage of level, buildable land in Harrow.

There is ample on-street parking for residents, visitors and tourists in the central area of town.

The majority of Harrow is zoned Township (TZ), with the exception of the river corridor (Public Conservation and Resource Zone) and the Jonny Mullagh Reserve (Public Park and Recreation Zone). A small area of land to the north of the township is zoned Rural Living (RLZ), and Council has identified this area as suitable for additional Rural Living developmen

DEMOGRAPHICS

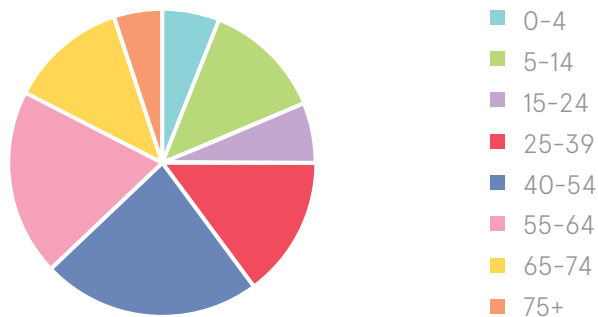
Harrow has a population of 315 people, comprising 171 males (54.3%) and 144 females (45.7%). The number of males is 5.1% above the State average and 4.9% above the National average. Key population cohorts are:

Age group	Number	Town %
0-4	19	6
5-14	38	12
15-24	19	6
25-39	45	14.2
40-54	71	22.4
55-64	61	19.3
65-74	37	11.7
75+	25	8.4
Total	315	100

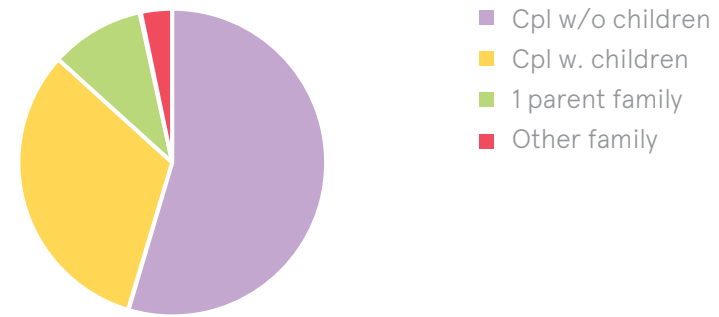
In Harrow there are 90 family units: of this, 49 families are couples without children, which is 54.4% against a State average of 36.7%, while 29 families have children, which is 32.2% against a State average of 46%. There are also nine single-parent families, representing 10% against a State average of 15.5%.

Family Composition	Number	Town %
Couple without children	49	54.5
Couple with children	29	32.2
One parent family	9	10
Other family	3	3.3
Total	90	100

Harrow Age Demographics

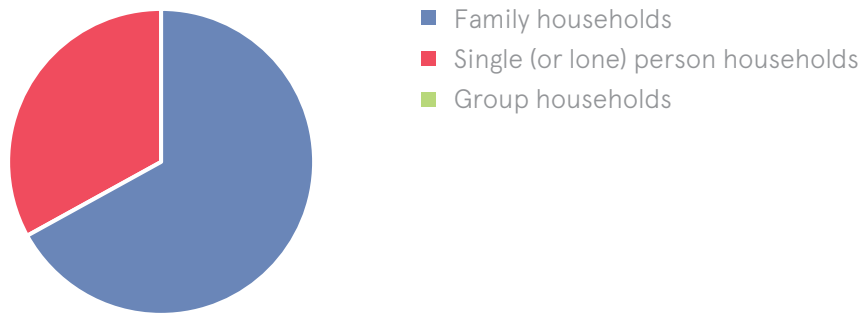


Harrow Family Composition



Looking at household composition, Harrow has 92 family households, which at 67.2% is below the State average of 71.2%, and 45 single (or lone) person households, representing 32.8% against a State average of 24.5%.

Harrow Household Composition



KEY INSIGHTS

- There are 132 people aged between 40–64 years. Adults of this age are established in the workforce and at a child-rearing age. These adults typically access sporting infrastructure, libraries, parks, playgrounds, childcare and kindergarten facilities, hotels and cafes.

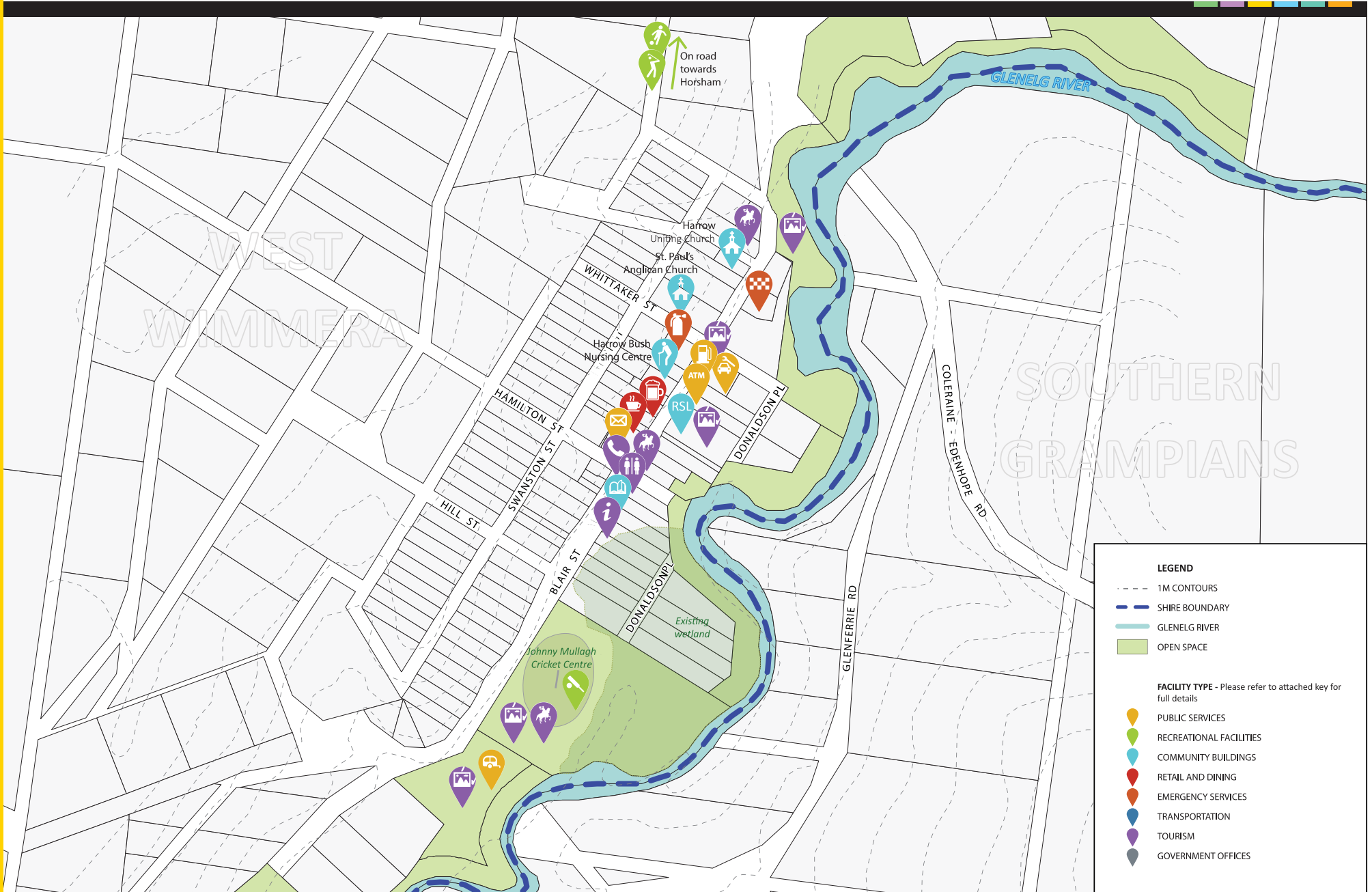
- In the coming decade, many in the 40–64 age bracket will transition to retirement, and will add to the already high numbers of 65+ and 75+ residents in Harrow. This will place additional pressure on existing elderly-person facilities in the community, and will demand new and/or enhanced infrastructure that enables easy mobility, physical wellbeing, and positive social interaction.

- There are a large number of children aged 5–14 – which is school-age – who travel outside of Harrow for school but who need access to age-appropriate social infrastructure while residing in the township.

- The 15–24 age bracket is relatively low against other age brackets, but this is forecast to change in the next decade as the large group of children currently under 15 mature.

All population data is taken from the 2011 ABS Census, which is available at:

www.abs.gov.au



HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANS
HARROW -

JOB : RS8001 HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY
PRECINCT PLAN
DATE : 27 JANUARY 2015
SCALE : 1:5,000 @ A3 / 1:2,500 @ A1



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FOOTBALL



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SENIOR CITIZENS



RSL



CAFE



PUB



ATM



CARAVAN PARK



CFA STATION



POLICE STATION



TOURISM ASSET



SITE OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE



PUBLIC TOILET



PUBLIC PHONE



INFORMATION

HARROW COMMUNITY FACILITY ICONS

JOB : RBS001

DATE : 19 JANUARY 2015
SCALE : NOT TO SCALE



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GOROKE

Goroke is in the Wimmera region, and was settled in 1862. It is located 47km north east of Edenhope and 99 km south east of Kaniva.

There is a vibrant community sector in Goroke, which indicates a large volunteer base: Lions, Apex, Senior Citizens, Landcare, the Agricultural and Pastoral Society, Scouts, arts groups, SES and the Memorial Hall group are all active. This is in addition to the Border Districts Football and Netball Club, cricket, bowling, tennis and gun clubs. Goroke also has several active church communities.

PHYSICAL FORM

Goroke presents as the archetypal Wimmera town: it is flat and has a linear layout, spreading along the Natimuk-Frances Road, but with a compact built-up area around the town's centre. Core social infrastructure such as the library, town hall, public toilets and parkland are all located within two blocks.

The commercial core supports a mix of local businesses, including a supermarket, café, service station, post office, and a vibrant hotel that fronts the main road – it has a welcoming courtyard and appeals to locals and visitors.

The residential street network forms a grid pattern to the south of the main road, with houses within easy walking distance of the town centre, churches and other community services and facilities. Church Street has three churches; Railway Street includes the railway siding and silos, which are visible from the surrounding area.

Interesting, Goroke is 'book-ended' by the Prep-Year 12 school, health centre and SES at its eastern edge, and the large sporting and recreation complex – including a football/cricket ground, netball courts, swimming pool and a caravan park – at its western edge.

DEMOGRAPHICS

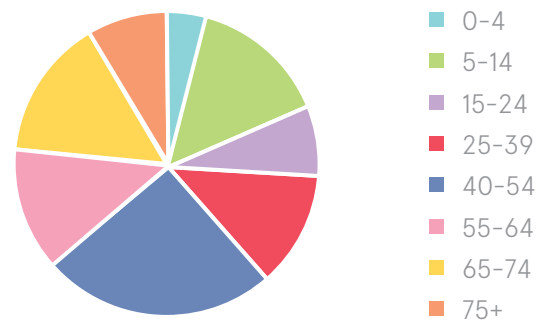
Goroke and its surrounding districts have a population of 623 people. Of this, 305 are male (49%) and 318 female (51%), which is consistent with both the State and National averages. Key population cohorts in Goroke are:

Age group	Number	Town %
0-4	26	4.2
5-14	90	14.4
15-24	47	7.5
25-39	78	12.5
40-54	156	25
55-64	81	13
65-74	92	14.8
75+	53	8.5
Total	623	100

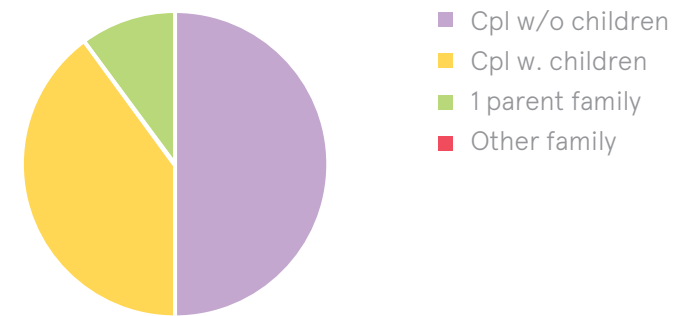
In Goroke there are 188 family units: of this, 93 families are couples without children, which is 49.5% against a State average of 36.7%, while 76 families have children, which is 40.4% against a State average of 46%. There are also 19 single-parent families, representing 10.1% against a State average of 15.5%..

Family Composition	Number	Town %
Couple without children	93	49.5
Couple with children	76	40.4
One parent family	19	10.1
Other family	0	0
Total	188	100

Goroke Age Demographics

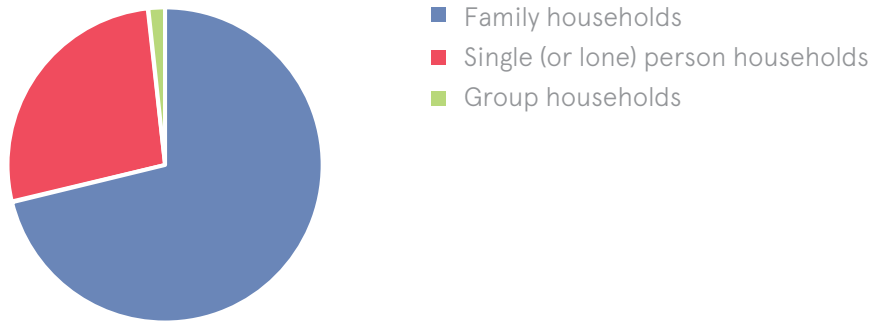


Goroke Family Composition



Looking at household composition, Goroke has 185 family households, which at 71.2% equalling the State average, and 71 single (or lone) person households, representing 27.3% against a State average of 24.5%.

Goroke Household Composition



KEY INSIGHTS

- There are 226 people aged over 55 in Goroke, and within this group, 143 are aged over 65. This is the most significant demographic group in the community at present, and it signals that in the next 10 years there will be

increased local demand on social infrastructure that supports healthy, active aging, ease of mobility, and positive social interactions.

- There are 90 children aged 5-14, which is a significant proportion of the population. Goroke P-12 school will play a vital role in providing social infrastructure to this cohort, but other community infrastructure such as parks, playgrounds and riding trails will be required to enable positive socialisation, particularly as this group transitions towards young adulthood.

- There are 71 single person households in Goroke, which is 11% of the population. This cohort, though likely spread across various age groups, seek social interaction through sporting and social groups

All population data is taken from the 2011 ABS Census, which is available at:

www.abs.gov.au

COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANS



B.

COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANS

B.1 DIRECTIONS

HARROW

1. BLAIR STREET AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS

Rationale:

Community life in Harrow is centred on Blair Street: it is the primary entry point into the township; it acts as the social and commercial heart for residents; and is a key asset for visitors and tourists. The streetscape includes numerous examples of locally significant heritage buildings and monuments, large areas of public open spaces, and community facilities within easy walking distance of housing and accommodation. Public works that address safety, mobility and connectivity will have positive social and physical impacts on Harrow's residents, and also provide economic benefits through an improved visitor experience.

Opportunities:

- Street lights improvements
- All-weather, all access footpaths
- Relocate the existing playspace from Johnny Mullagh Reserve into town centre, and upgrade
- Dump point in central area

2. EMBRACING THE GLENELG RIVER FRONTAGE

Rationale:

Although established adjacent to the Glenelg River, and with an important social history incorporating the river and its environs – including flooding events – the township of Harrow does not have active river frontage.

The river corridor adjacent to the township, spanning from the Johnny Mullagh Reserve in the south to the bridge crossing in the north – is a high-quality natural environment with abundant native vegetation and birdlife, and is a significant asset to be unlocked by the community.

The waterway and immediate environs is managed by multiple groups: river health is the responsibility of the Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority; native flora and fauna, and Crown Land, is the responsibility of State Government; while land to the west, within the Harrow township, is managed by Council, the community and private landowners.

A programme of investment, firstly, in flood management and conservation will open-up the river frontage to community use, and secondly in passive recreation opportunities, will transform the precinct into a significant local and sub-regional asset with direct social benefits for residents and visitors.

Council acknowledges that GHCMA is preparing to undertake a comprehensive project to map the flood waters in the Harrow Township, as part of a process to prepare new planning overlays and controls relating to flooding and land subject to inundation. Given the historical impacts of flooding on the township, and the importance of river management to the future vitality of the town, this project represents a significant opportunity for Council and the community. With active partnership management, Council can seek to broaden the flood mapping process to take in issues around river corridor health and community usage.

Opportunities:

Short-term

Partner with GHCMA, State Government, community groups and private landowners and devise a programme of short-term remedial works to remove pest plants and improve accessibility

- Actively participate in GHCMA's flood mapping process and find opportunities to leverage new data and insight into the broader programme of waterway management and riverfront activation.

Mid-term

- Prepare a Glenelg River Corridor Masterplan to guide investment and capital works with a focus on community and environmental benefits.

The Masterplan should consider:

- community usage
- accessibility
- recreational activities such as fishing, canoeing and other water sports
- a network of walking tracks with interpretive signage
- mapping areas of ecological value, and creating a network of environmental assets

3. GOOD QUALITY, SAFE AND WELCOMING SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Rationale:

Sports clubs and groups perform a critical role in rural communities: along with physical activity and competition, they provide important opportunities for social interaction and engagement; a venue for social events; a platform for volunteering and fundraising; and contribute to the local economy. Clubs are also a valuable source of community pride for local residents.

Healthy, inclusive communities provide sports and recreation opportunities to people of all ages and abilities, and have a range of safe, welcoming facilities that can be adapted for different activities.

Any major investment in sports facilities should prioritise participation, safety and adaptability, while community-building projects should focus on local groups' capacity to increase participation and manage volunteer resources.

Opportunities:

Recreation reserve

- Upgrades to change rooms to improve safety and inclusivity
- Explore multi-use surfaces and facilities
- Horse trail/network around township

4. PROMOTING HARROW

Rationale:

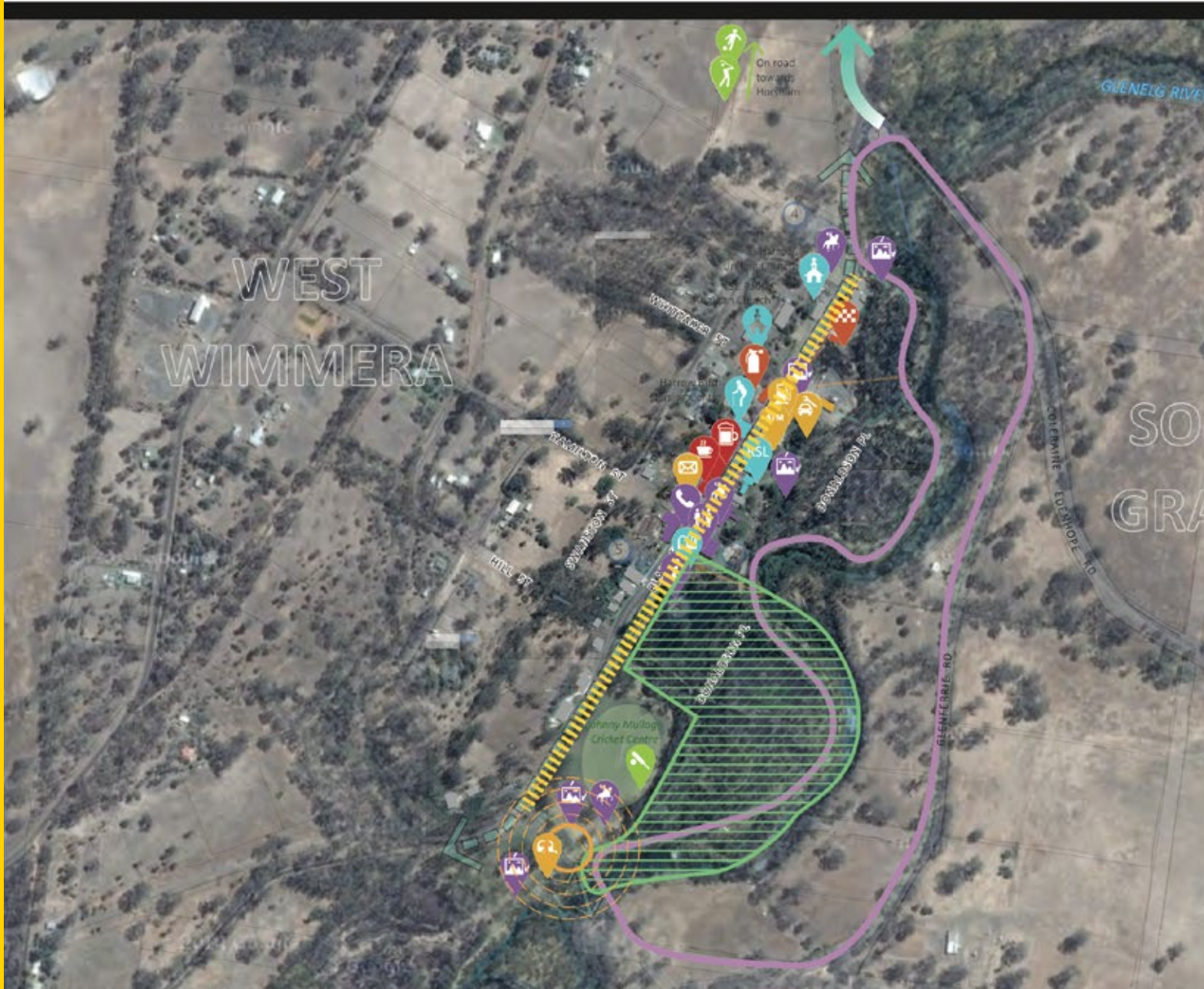
Harrow is a destination. Home to a large number of events – spanning the arts, culture, performance, sports, history and community – organised by proactive, socially mobile and capable individuals, Harrow has a unique energy and a real commitment to providing an enriching lifestyle for locals, and a memorable experience for visitors.

Harrow's events are a celebration of community life, give purpose to the town's organisations, and provide a positive, common purpose for residents. Events also have wide-reaching economic benefits.

Social infrastructure investment should be both strategic and physical: it needs to leverage Harrow's unique characteristics, and promote and reinforce its strong social and historical narratives, while also providing physical change projects that attract further visitation, support better events, and contribute to the high-quality visitor experience.

Opportunities:

- Whole of town project for 150th celebration in 2018
- Mud Bash event: explore additional uses for the infrastructure
- Promotional signage
- Free camping in township



- CREATE NEW 'LOOP' WALK FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS**
 - Signage
 - Improve the track, consider accessibility as a horse trail
 - Maintain access throughout the year
 - Improve river crossing point at swimming hole
- ADDRESS SEASONAL FLOODING ISSUES TO CREATE RIVERSIDE PUBLIC SPACES**
 - NOW**
 - Work with CMA to investigate river clearing to improve flow and consider creation of billabongs to manage flood water
 - NEXT**
 - Improve pedestrian access along river's edge for all ages and abilities
 - Improve wayfinding signage, picnic and BBQ facilities
- BEAUTIFICATION OF BLAIR STREET**
 - Enhance pedestrian environment with improved street lighting
 - Improve footpaths for ease of movement for all ages and abilities
 - Improve wayfinding signage to encourage visitors to walk from one end of the village to the other
- RECREATION HUB**
 - Investigate feasibility and location of dump point
 - Improve wayfinding signage to draw visitors through to centre to the swimming hole
 - Relocate or create new playground in town hub
 - Encourage connection between recreation areas to riverfront and town hub
 - New playground may be adventure style to create a regional attraction
 - Consider locating biking tracks in this location for local youths and visitors
- HARROW RECREATION RESERVE**
 - Upgrades to change room facilities
- Existing Community Facilities**
 - PUBLIC SERVICES
 - RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
 - COMMUNITY BUILDINGS
 - RETAIL AND DINING
 - EMERGENCY SERVICES
 - TOURISM

HARROW COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES

JOB : R5001 HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLAN
 DATE : 6 MARCH 2015
 SCALE : 1:5,000 @ A3 / 1:2,500 @ A1



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GOROKE

1. A UNITED, CLEAR VOICE

Rationale:

Goroke is a community with clear insight into its own social and physical changes. Residents are informed about local issues, active in clubs and groups, and engaged in decision-making. There is a strong sense of stewardship in Goroke: a sense that change is occurring in many areas of community life and that a new vision for the town is required, one that balance the past and present, while working together towards a positive future for Goroke.

Investment in social infrastructure also means investment in people. A real opportunity exists to create a platform for locally-led change in Goroke: a forum for sharing stories and experiences about current community issue, where residents can find common ground, where groups can co-design and co-invest in projects. This type of investment is aimed at the social systems that sustain change in the community, and can have an immensely positive impact in Goroke.

Opportunities:

- A new community reference group including local groups and Council representatives
- Community visioning and township planning processes

2. A WELCOMING AND ENGAGING TOWN

Rationale:

Goroke's earliest built environments were influenced by its historical connections to railways, while in recent decades its development has occurred around and along the highway, which acts as both social unifier and physical divide. Residential areas are located to its north and south, and community infrastructure is spread along its length from east and west. Where it intersects with the Edenhope-Goroke Road, the highway slows and creates a town centre: a place where locals meet, access services and shops, and where visitors and tourists can pause to explore the surrounding township.

A welcoming and engaging town provides a compelling reason to stop and stay: it rewards those who explore its public spaces, community facilities, shops, play areas, open spaces, and social history, and conveys a strong narrative about its past and future.

Social infrastructure investment can be directed towards projects that create a sense of arrival, a sense of community and place, and which encourage people to interact, informally and formally, through commerce and community life. These projects benefit the residents' through social enrichment and economic stimulus, and provide visitors and tourists with a distinctive rural experience.

Opportunities:

- Gateway treatments at town entrances
- Beautification works in town centre
- Tree planting
- Public seating
- Opening up under-used areas
- Urban design treatments that slow passing traffic and encourage visitation
- Reactivating street frontages
- Community uses in vacant shops
- Painting and murals
- Regular community events and markets
- Promotional signage visitors to key local sites

3. A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

Rationale:

Goroke's residents imagine a town united in common purpose, and where progress is measured not through change, but through cooperation. Fundamental to this is connectivity – physical, and social.

Goroke is rich with social infrastructure, but these are often dispersed, under-used or no longer fit-for-purpose.

There is value in concentrating facilities in one centre or place, whether for sports, the arts or social events: it encourages a mix of social activities, and it enables use by different age groups and interests. Well designed, well managed spaces play an important role in signifying positive change and improvement, and enhancing local identity and pride of place.

Projects that improve people's access to spaces will ultimately connect people with people. This is a valuable, long-term investment in the community's social wellbeing.

Opportunities:

- Network of all-weather footpaths in central areas
- Safe pedestrian crossing points in town centre
- Signage to connect visitors with community and cultural assets
- Identify under-used spaces and seek new or adaptive uses
- Recreation Reserve
- Pathways that link existing sports and recreation areas
- Traffic management measures to prioritise safe movement of pedestrians
- Upgrades to existing pavilion to accommodate community use and events
- New public toilets

4. GATEWAY TO LITTLE DESERT

Rationale:

The Little Desert National Park, located a short distance from Goroke, is a unique natural environment that draws large numbers of visitors to the extensive network of four-wheel drive and walking tracks.

Proximity to the National Park, along with easy access to other natural assets such as Lake Ratzcastle and Lake Charligrark, represents a major social and economic opportunity for Goroke. By directing local resources and investment towards social infrastructure that supports the visitor experience, Council and the community can position Goroke as a 'Gateway to Little Desert' and draw new visitors to explore the region, use local facilities and spend in local businesses. A niche market to explore is the four-wheel drive community, who could use Goroke as a base to explore the tracks within the region.

Projects aimed at enhancing the visitor experience can be locally led and managed, and will benefit from shared planning, collaboration and partnering: between Council, community groups, local businesses and also the Regional Tourism bodies.

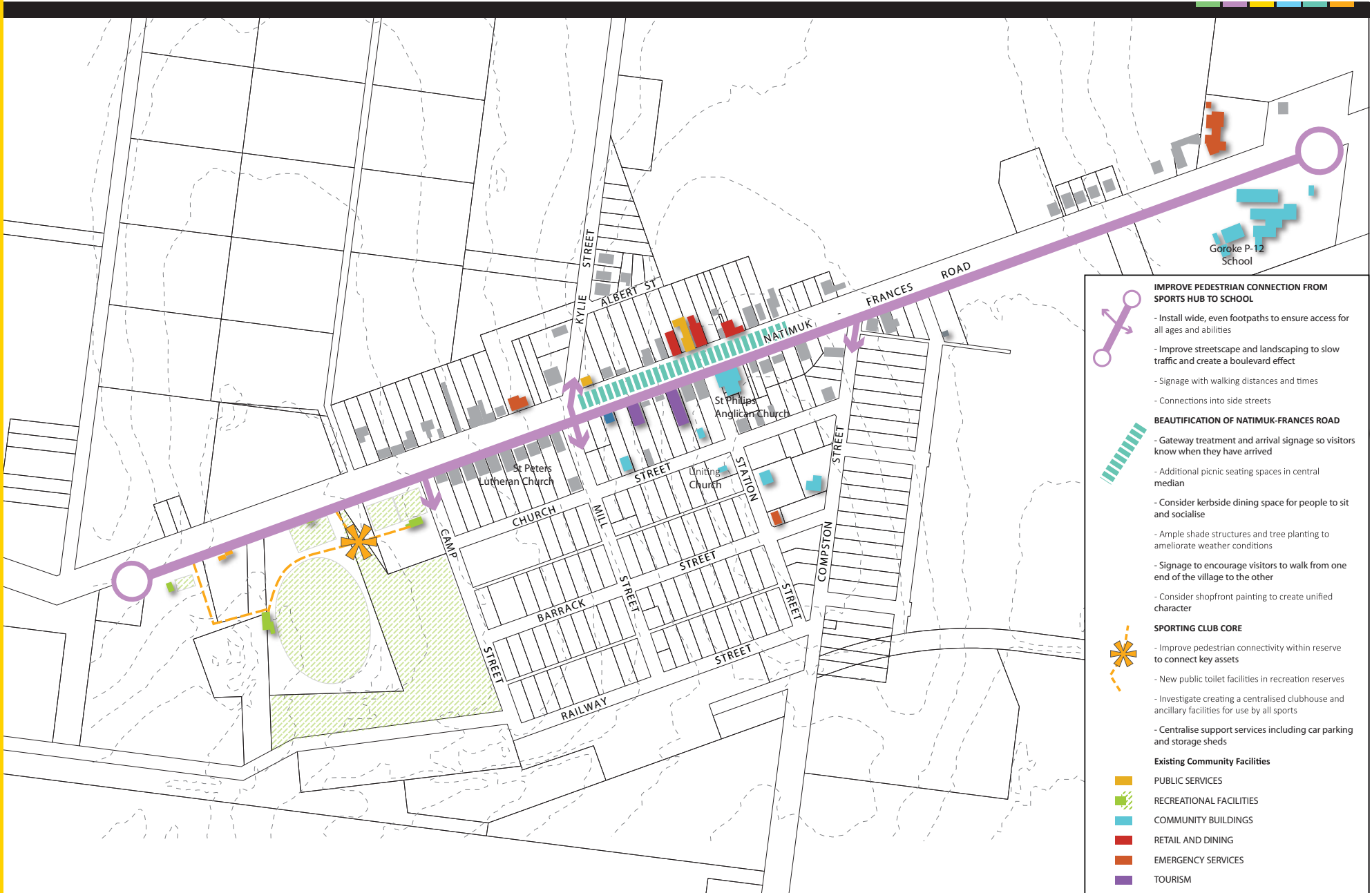
Opportunities:

Position Goroke as a 'Gateway' and base for four-wheel drive and adventure tourism

Create a 'hub and spoke' visitor experience that places Goroke at the centre of a network of adventure tourism including Little Desert National Park, local lakes, four-wheel drive tracks, waterholes, campgrounds and historical sites

Steer local resources and investment towards social infrastructure that support visitors:

- camping facilities including change rooms, showers and a dump point
- maps of local sites, and other tourist information
- community volunteers acting as guides



IMPROVE PEDESTRIAN CONNECTION FROM SPORTS HUB TO SCHOOL

- Install wide, even footpaths to ensure access for all ages and abilities
- Improve streetscape and landscaping to slow traffic and create a boulevard effect
- Signage with walking distances and times
- Connections into side streets

BEAUTIFICATION OF NATIMUK-FRANCES ROAD

- Gateway treatment and arrival signage so visitors know when they have arrived
- Additional picnic seating spaces in central median
- Consider kerbside dining space for people to sit and socialise
- Ample shade structures and tree planting to ameliorate weather conditions
- Signage to encourage visitors to walk from one end of the village to the other
- Consider shopfront painting to create unified character

SPORTING CLUB CORE

- Improve pedestrian connectivity within reserve to connect key assets
- New public toilet facilities in recreation reserves
- Investigate creating a centralised clubhouse and ancillary facilities for use by all sports
- Centralise support services including car parking and storage sheds

Existing Community Facilities

- PUBLIC SERVICES
- RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
- COMMUNITY BUILDINGS
- RETAIL AND DINING
- EMERGENCY SERVICES
- TOURISM

GOROKE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE OPPORTUNITIES

JOB: RS8001 HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLAN
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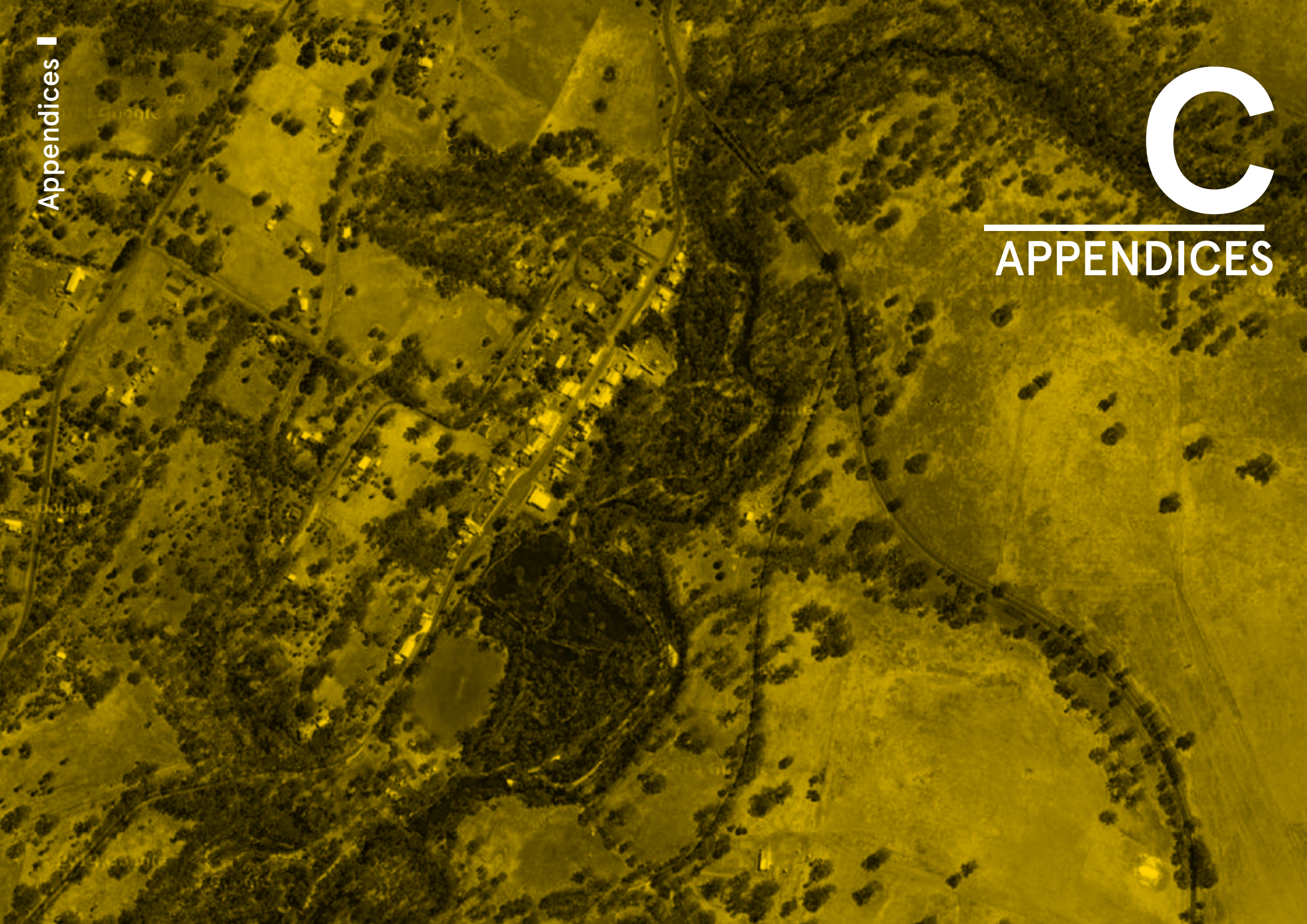


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APPENDICES



WEST
WIMMERA

SOUTHERN
GRAMPIANS

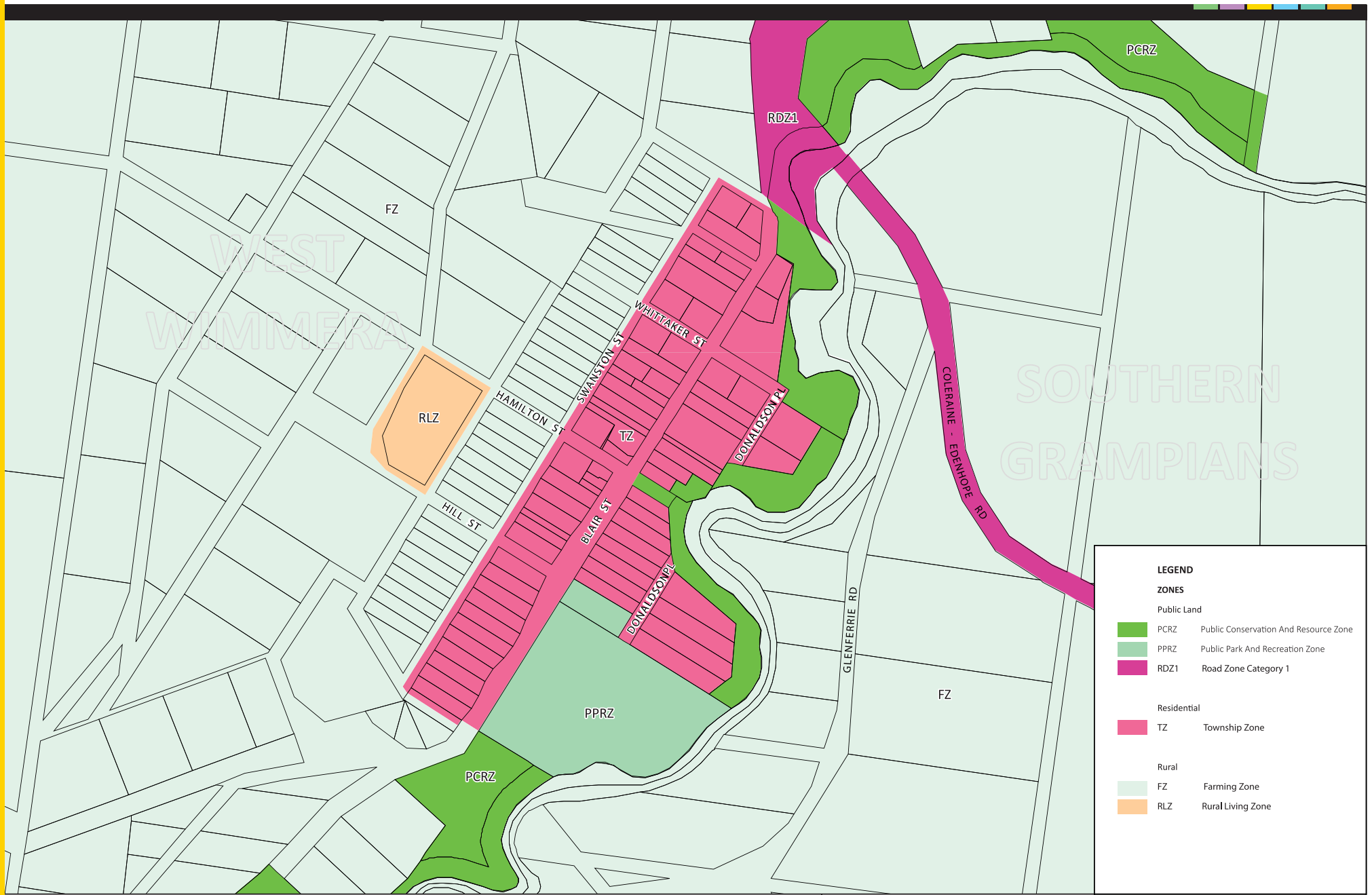


HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANS
HARROW - AERIAL

JOB : RSB001 HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY
 PRECINCT PLAN
 DATE : 20 JANUARY 2015
 SCALE : 1:5,000 @ A3 / 1:2,500 @ A1



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LEGEND

ZONES

Public Land

- PCRZ Public Conservation And Resource Zone
- PPRZ Public Park And Recreation Zone
- RDZ1 Road Zone Category 1

Residential

- TZ Township Zone

Rural

- FZ Farming Zone
- RLZ Rural Living Zone

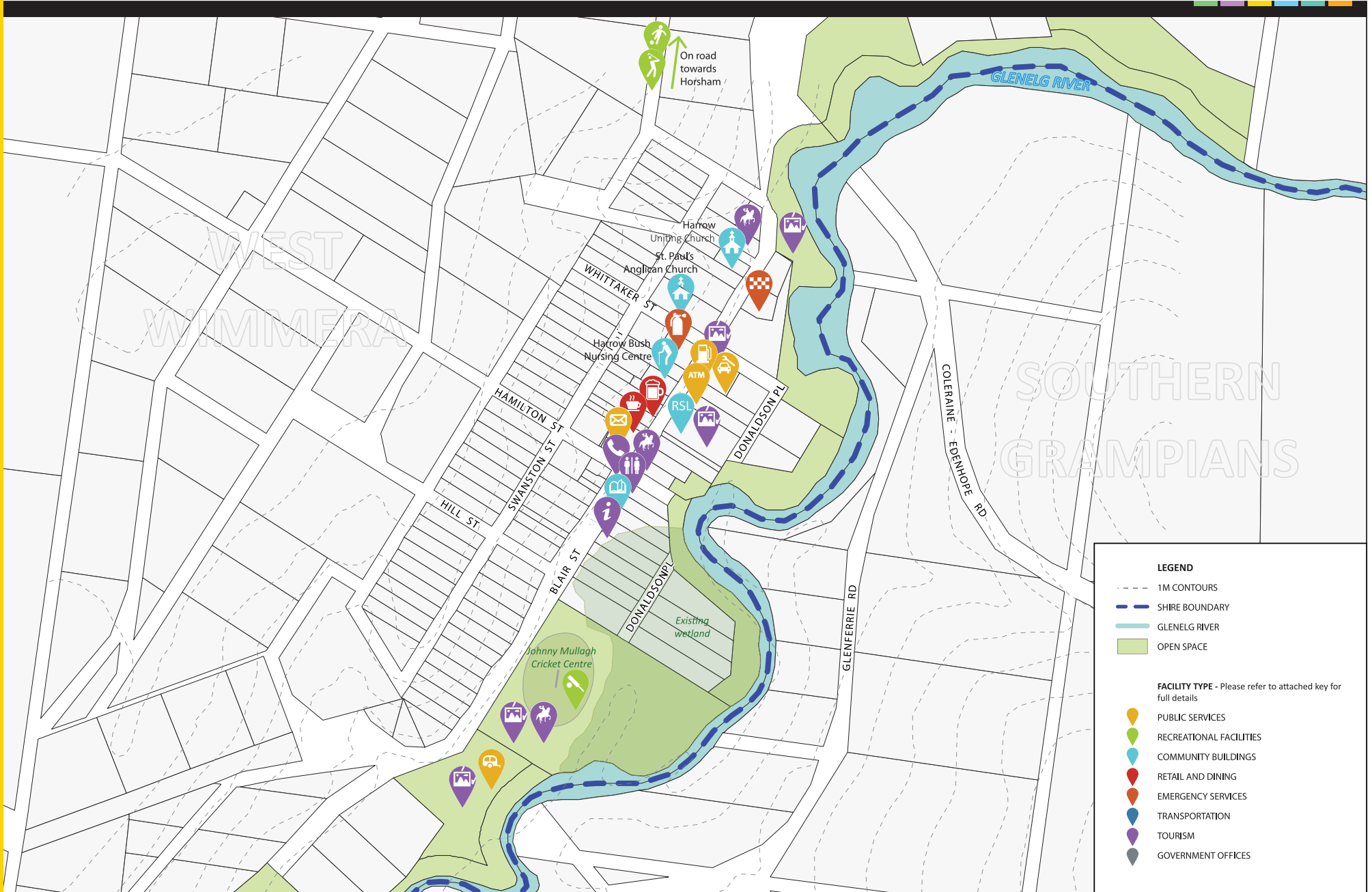
HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANS
HARROW - ZONES

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HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANS
HARROW -

JOB : RS8001 HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY
PRECINCT PLAN
DATE : 27 JANUARY 2015
SCALE : 1:5,000 @ A3 / 1:2,500 @ A1



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LEGEND

- - - 1M CONTOURS
- - - SHIRE BOUNDARY
- GLLENELG RIVER
- OPEN SPACE

FACILITY TYPE - Please refer to attached key for full details

- PUBLIC SERVICES
- RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
- COMMUNITY BUILDINGS
- RETAIL AND DINING
- EMERGENCY SERVICES
- TRANSPORTATION
- TOURISM
- GOVERNMENT OFFICES



POST OFFICE



PETROL



GARAGE / SERVICE STATION



FOOTBALL



CRICKET



GOLF COURSE



CHURCH



LIBRARY



SENIOR CITIZENS



RSL



CAFE



PUB



ATM



CARAVAN PARK



CFA STATION



POLICE STATION



TOURISM ASSET



SITE OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE



PUBLIC TOILET



PUBLIC PHONE



INFORMATION

HARROW COMMUNITY FACILITY ICONS

JOB: RBS001

DATE: 19 JANUARY 2015
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE



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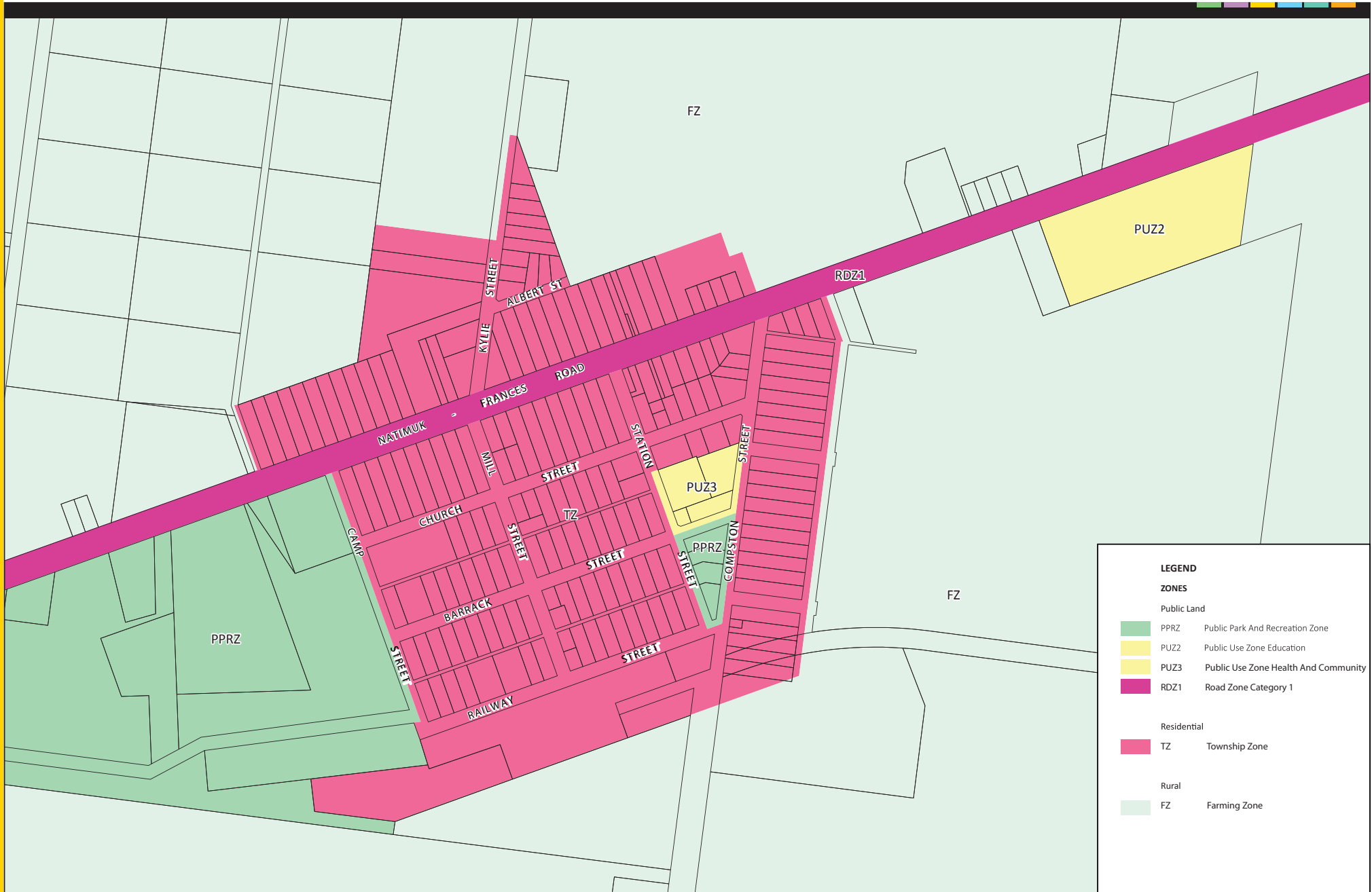


**HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANS
GOROKE - AERIAL**

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PRECINCT PLAN
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LEGEND	
ZONES	
Public Land	
	PPRZ Public Park And Recreation Zone
	PUZ2 Public Use Zone Education
	PUZ3 Public Use Zone Health And Community
	RDZ1 Road Zone Category 1
Residential	
	TZ Township Zone
Rural	
	FZ Farming Zone

**HARROW AND GOROKE COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANS
GOROKE - ZONES**

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**HARROW AND GOROK COMMUNITY PRECINCT PLANS
GOROK -**

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DATE : 27 JANUARY 2015
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-  POST OFFICE
-  PETROL
-  GARAGE / SERVICE STATION
-  FOOTBALL
-  CRICKET
-  GOLF COURSE
-  PLAYGROUND
-  TENNIS
-  BOWLS CLUB
-  NETBALL
-  SWIMMING POOL
-  CHURCH
-  SENIOR CITIZENS
-  LIBRARY
-  RSL
-  KINDER
-  COMMUNITY HALL
-  MENS SHED
-  SECONDARY SCHOOL
-  PRIMARY SCHOOL
-  GENERAL STORE
-  SUPERMARKET
-  CAFE
-  PUB
-  ATM
-  CARAVAN PARK
-  BANK
-  AMBULANCE STATION
-  MATERNAL HEALTH CLINIC
-  CFA STATION
-  POLICE STATION
-  BUS STOP
-  TOURISM ASSET
-  SITE OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE
-  PUBLIC TOILET
-  PUBLIC PHONE
-  SHIRE OFFICE

GOROKE COMMUNITY FACILITY ICONS

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Report prepared for West Wimmera Shire Council, and the communities of Harrow and Goroke, by **URBANSCALE** with **David Lock and Associates**.

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