

# **Dhurringile Community Plan**

**Est. 2016**



**GREATER  
SHEPPARTON**

# Dhurringile Community Plan

The Dhurringile Community Plan Group would like to thank everyone that contributed by providing feedback; your feedback is important in determining the future direction and growth of this community. This plan was developed by the Dhurringile Community with the support of Greater Shepparton City Council.

Greater Shepparton City Council would like to thank the community members of Dhurringile for their time and contribution in developing this community plan. Council would like to thank in particular those community members that have contributed many hours of their time in planning, attending meetings, hosting events and in developing content for surveys and mail outs that has contributed to the development of the Community Plan. We thank the following people and organisations for their support and assistance in the process:

- Anne Smith
- Ciara Keniry
- Deanne Harrison
- Jo Parsons and the staff at Dhurringile Prison
- Jodie Brisbane
- Lisa-Lu Niglia
- Martin Baumber
- Rachel Smith
- Rocky Niglia
- Sharon McCarthy
- Steven Brisbane
- Sue Terry
- Tony McCarthy
- Dhurringile Primary School



We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, pay our respects to Elders both past and present, and recognise their continuing culture



## **Community Planning in Greater Shepparton**

---

Greater Shepparton City Council supports communities to develop Community Plans that identify community strengths and assists them to build upon those strengths to empower communities into the future. Community Plans enable people to develop a vision for their community and work towards projects to achieve that vision. Community Plans are the result of extensive community engagement, and are implemented on an ongoing basis by a group of community members that drive the projects with the support of Council if required. Community Plans are also a source of supporting information for agencies and organisations that work or provide resources in the region. It is acknowledged that it is essential that Community Plan priorities and actions are reviewed regularly to ensure that the priorities remain reflection of the emerging needs of the community.

Community Plans link with Council strategies and plans including:

- Greater Shepparton City Council - Council Plan 2013-2017
- Greater Shepparton City Council – Community Development Framework
- Greater Shepparton City Council – Community Engagement Strategy

## **All about Dhurringile**

---

Dhurringile is a locality in the City of Greater Shepparton in northern Victoria, approximately 30kms South West of Shepparton. The name Dhurringile is derived from the Aboriginal word for “crouching emu”. We are predominantly an agricultural community, with farming industry dating back to the squatters that followed Joseph Hawdon from 1838. Like many areas, large runs of tens of thousands of acres were claimed initially, but following soldier settlements and the Land Act 1869, the area began to be more densely populated. Water storage and irrigation systems enabled our current agricultural industry to flourish and the current locality to form. Our community produces food for all of Australia and for international markets, including dairy, meat, fruit, vegetables and broad acre crops.

The Dhurringile Mansion is our most famous historical monument, built for the Winter family and completed in 1877 to include 68 rooms and a tower. The mansion and grounds have been subsequently used for agriculture, as a prisoner of war camp, an orphanage and more recently as a low security prison farm of 640 acres.

We are fortunate to have quality facilities and strong local organisations in our area. This includes a Community Centre and Recreation Reserve managed by our Committee of Management, the Dhurringile Tennis Club which manages our synthetic tennis courts, the Dhurringile Primary School, and the Dhurringile



Action Group, who liaise and advocate with the Dhurringile Prison on behalf of the community. We use our facilities to improve community well-being through hosting monthly community meals, sports activities and many other events and activities.

Our local environment has been impacted by historical clearing, but through strong work by the Dhurringile and District Landcare group we are improving native vegetation and biodiversity, including the recent Crouching Emu Revegetation Project along Dhurringile Road.

## **What the statistics tell us about us**

---

As according to the 2011 Census (2016 census yet to be conducted) the Dhurringile community consists of a total population of 413. Our median age 36, slightly younger than both City of Greater Shepparton (COGS) 38 and broader Victoria 37.

Our population of under 18s and over 65s stand lower than local and state averages. Our under 18 cohort is 17.9% of our total population, lower than COGS (26.0%) and Victoria (22.5%), and over 65 at 3.9% compared to COGS at 14.8% and Victoria 14.2%. However, quite notably, our population of 25-34 and 35-49 year olds are 19.1% and 34.9%, each significantly higher than COGS (11.7% and 20.5%) and Victoria (14.2% and 21.4%).

47.8% of our 67 households have children compared to COGS at 29.7% and 31.8%, and 40.3% of these are children under 15.

3.0% of our population identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin. 13.8% of us were born overseas, slightly higher than COGS at 13.3% but lower than Victoria at 26.3%, but none of us are considered recent arrivals.

35.8% of us own our houses, while 38.8% have a mortgage and 13.4% rent privately. Our home ownership is higher than most in COGS and Victoria, at 31.6% and 33.0%. More of our households are lower income than COGS and Victoria (28.4%, 23.6% and 19.1% respectively), and less are considered high income at 6.0% compared with COGS 8.3% and Victoria 16.1%. Our unemployment rate stood at 11.2% at the time of the Census, compared to COGS at 5.6% and Victoria 5.4%. 10.2% participated in voluntary work in the 12 months prior to the 2011 Census, compared with COGS at 19.4% and Victoria 17.6%.



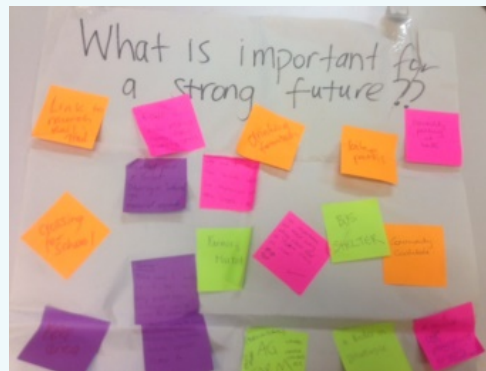
## The Community Planning process

---

Council's Community Development Officer approached some of our community leaders to gauge interest in developing a Community Plan in Dhurringile in early 2016. An initial information session was held on 14 April, inviting interested community members to come along and discuss the opportunity. 12 people attended the meeting to learn more about what community planning is and discussed the benefits and challenges of developing a Community Plan in Dhurringile, before deciding to pursue the project and discuss how to best engage with the broader community.

Following discussions at this meeting, Council Officers attended the Meal Deal Dinner in April and gave a presentation on Community Planning. Approximately 50 people attended the evening and had the opportunity to see examples of other Community Plans in the municipality, see project inspiration from other areas, discuss ideas and submit any suggestions or feedback via a submission box and post it note activity. Our local young people grasped the opportunity to provide their feedback, submitting lots of great ideas and comments through the post-it note activity. We used questions like "What is important for a strong future?", "What are our challenges?" and "What do we love about Dhurringile?" to elicit responses to contribute towards the plan.

Interested community members were invited to attend a follow up meeting and put together ideas and suggestions drawn from the session and developed a survey to be mailed out to gain more feedback and assist to prioritise the projects. This survey was circulated via post to all residents in the Dhurringile 3610 postcode, and community members were offered the opportunity to submit feedback via post, drop in at the Council building, email, phone call to Council or via an online survey. The survey gained four responses. Following the final submission date the group met to collate all ideas from each of the meetings and community feedback methods and began to formalise the plan.





We recognise that our young people are an important part of our community and future and that their opinions and ideas for our community are valuable. A session at the Dhurringile Primary School was held on 31 May, and the 11 students provided some excellent ideas in a brainstorming session around what they love around Dhurringile and what they would like to see in Dhurringile in the future. The students appreciate the nice people, the good community, the peace and quiet, the school and the land and surrounding fresh and clean environment. They are interested to see more people attracted to live in the area, a playground, town entry signs, movie nights, game nights and school sleepovers. They also believe the area needs drinking fountains, better public toilets, air conditioning in the hall and work done on the local roads. The students then completed an art project to draw either a vision of Dhurringile in the future or focussing on a specific project, some of which are featured below.



## Our Feedback About Us

---

**Our Strengths:** We appreciate our strong community, our school and our peaceful, beautiful environment. We have an ideal location nearby the towns of Murchison and Tatura that provide for many of our needs, and it is a relatively easy trip to the city if we need to be there. Our good soils support our local agricultural industry and our smaller local businesses are important to us. We love that we have lots of great open space and clean air. Our sense of community helps us to care for one another and offers the opportunity to socialise and make friends through our monthly “Meal Deal” dinners. Our children appreciate our small school and the opportunities that they have for their learning experiences within that school that they may not receive in a larger school, including cooking, sports and computers.

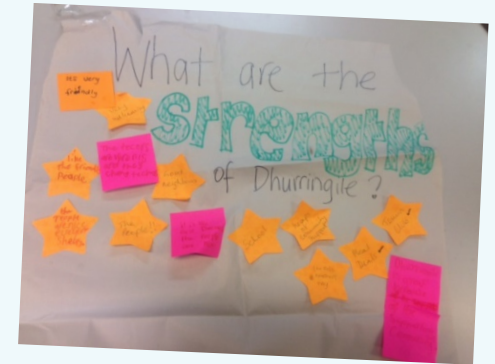
**Our Challenges:** Our local industries rely on water so water availability is a challenge for our livelihoods, as are other economic and environmental stresses. We are concerned that our population is ageing and that we need to attract more new families to the area and we need to remain inclusive. Negative press has sometimes surrounded the Dhurringile Prison, which we feel impacts upon perceptions of our area and community. Like many communities we would love more volunteers to help us with our projects and organisations to continue our strong sense of community. We are not an overly diverse community and some have suggested that we have reduced knowledge of other people and could work to improve our diversity to attract more people to the area. Some of our facilities and roads require upgrading and improving to assist our livelihoods, details of which will be available in the action plan.

**Our Vision for the Future:** *“We want a strong and connected community that supports and grows our local industries, in good times and in bad. We want to enhance our local features and facilities to improve our livelihood and connection to our region.”*

## Implementing Our Plan

---

The feedback from our community has been used to create our ‘Plan of Action’. In order to implement the actions within the plan we will need to work closely with all groups and organisations in the area, and will require the assistance of volunteers to help to drive each project. We have a group of committed community members that are willing to work on the plan, and will gratefully accept anyone interested in volunteering either on a project basis or in joining the group. Each project will still require scoping, planning, fundraising or the sourcing of fund from grant bodies or philanthropists. Our Action Plan will be reviewed annually, with priorities shifting as projects are completed or community sentiment changes. The entire plan will be reviewed every 5 years to ensure that it remains relevant and reflective of community needs.



## Our Plan of Action

Goal	Actions/Projects	Partnerships	Timeframes/ Priority	Status	Strategic Goal (i.e. Council Pillar)
Promote our local area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Construct entry signage to identify locality</li> <li>-Create a welcome pack for new community members</li> <li>-Improve promotion and advertising the positive elements of the area including employment/land/community to encourage people to move to the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Dhurringile Community Plan Committee (DCPC)</li> <li>-Dhurringile P.S</li> <li>-Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC)</li> </ul>	High	Commencing 2016	Social Economic
Continue to support and develop our local Primary School to build enrolment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Celebrate the 100 year school centenary</li> <li>-Improve safety around school including speed control, safe crossings, signage, safe walking paths beside roads</li> <li>-Investigate location preference and construct a bus shelter</li> <li>-Walking path from school to Recreation Reserve</li> <li>-Investigate/implement options for student transport and after school care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-DCPC</li> <li>-Dhurringile P.S</li> <li>-Dept. Education</li> <li>-GSCC</li> </ul>	High	Commencing 2016	Social Built
Strengthen our community connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Hold more community events for all ages, abilities and interests, including movie nights</li> <li>-Continue to develop opportunities for all organisations/businesses/groups to effectively communicate and collaborate meaningfully on projects</li> <li>-Improve facilities and activities for young people</li> <li>-Establish a playgroup in the area</li> <li>-Create community cookbook</li> <li>-Continue to create an inclusive and welcoming community to encourage newcomers to the area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-DCPC</li> <li>-Dhurringile Primary School</li> <li>-Dhurringile Section 86 Committee</li> <li>-Prison</li> <li>-Local businesses</li> <li>-GSCC</li> </ul>	High	Commencing 2016	Social





Improve condition and accessibility of Recreation Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Install drinking fountain</li> <li>-Create a community park including BBQ, seating, shelter and playground</li> <li>-New signage</li> <li>-Improve disability accessibility including parking</li> <li>-Construct historical/memorial signage around reserve to link with Centenary Celebration of school</li> <li>-Improve landscaping and fencing</li> <li>- Additional flag pole in reserve for Aboriginal Flag</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-DCPC</li> <li>-Dhurringile Section 86 Committee</li> <li>-GSCC</li> <li>-Dhurringile Prison</li> <li>-Dhurringile and District Landcare</li> </ul>	High	Commencing 2016	Built Natural
Strengthen our connection and accessibility to our nearby towns and region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Advocate for development of shared path connections to Murchison and Tatura</li> <li>-Advocate for VLine bus stop to improve local transport</li> <li>-Advocate for improvements to quality of roads, including surfaces and widening</li> <li>-Improve horse warning signage to improve safety</li> <li>-Monitor impacts of proposed by-pass and fast rail proposals and capitalise on opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-DCPC</li> <li>-GSCC</li> <li>-VLine</li> </ul>	Medium	Commencing 2016	Built
Celebrate our history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Develop historical signage at key historical locations</li> <li>-Create historical walk/path connecting key locations</li> <li>-Hold celebratory/memorial events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-DCPC</li> <li>-Dhurringile Section 86 Committee</li> <li>-Dhurringile P.S</li> <li>-Dhurringile Prison</li> </ul>	Medium	Commencing 2016	Social
Improve condition and accessibility of Community Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Upgrade toilets including disabled toilet</li> <li>-Provide baby change facilities</li> <li>-Improve kitchen facilities</li> <li>- Heating</li> <li>-Air conditioning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-DCPC</li> <li>-Dhurringile Section 86 Committee</li> <li>-GSCC</li> </ul>	Low	Commencing 2016	Built

