



Murchison

& DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN

2025 - 2029



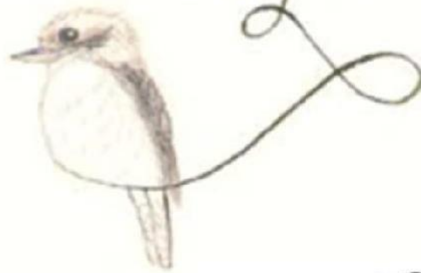


MURCHISON

Vision Statement

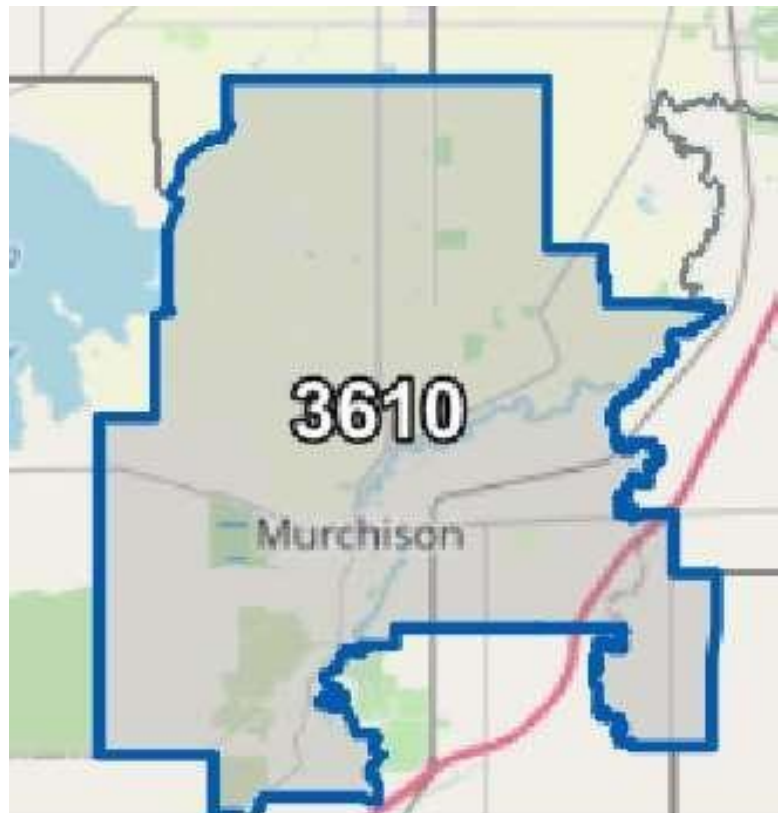
Our local history and river landscape provide a unique identity and civic pride.

Advancing towards our future prosperity with confidence, we will maintain a harmonious, safe and supportive community, rural lifestyle opportunities and sustainable development.



About Murchison & District

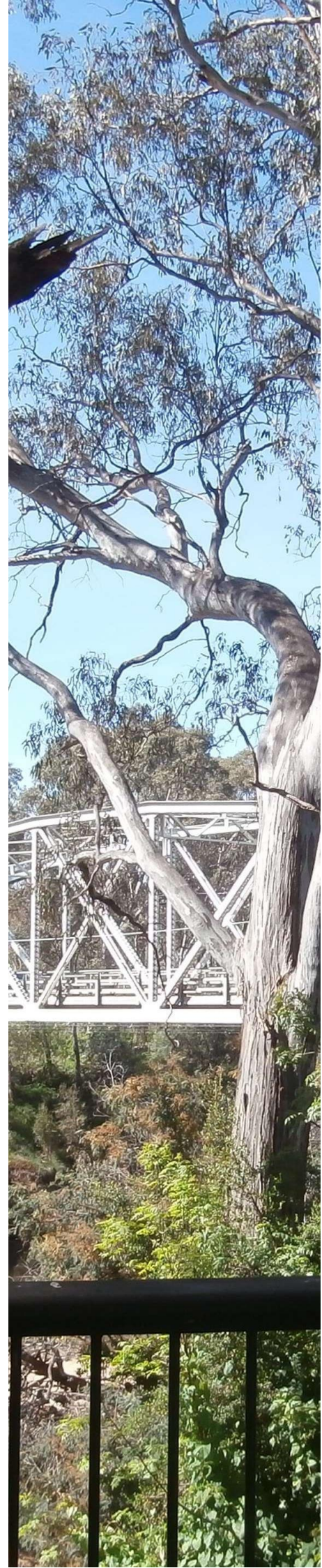
Population:	884	Families:	233
Females:	453	Males:	430
Median Age:	50	All Private Dwellings:	448
Average People Per Household:	2.4	Median Weekly Household Income:	\$952
Median Monthly Mortgage Repayments:	\$1,083	Average Motor Vehicles Per Dwelling:	2.1
Australian Ancestry:	377	English Ancestry:	364
Scottish Ancestry:	107	Irish Ancestry:	124
German Ancestry:	9	Catholic:	173
No Religion:	403	Anglican:	102
Uniting Church:	50	Presbyterian and Reformed:	64
Full-time workers:	275	Part-time workers:	145
Unemployed:	19	Couples With Children:	78
Couples Without Children:	134	One Parent Families:	38
Homes Owned Outright:	182	Homes Owned With Mortgage:	123
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Population:	42	Median Age (Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander):	16



Please note: the above data (2021 census) is the most current we have at this time

Murchison & District Community Plan

To create an ambitious, long-term
plan for the betterment of Murchison
- the town, its residents and visitors.



Murchison & District Community Plan

Volunteer residents of Murchison and district engaged in a rigorous planning process to formulate the original “Murchison and District Community Plan” (2011). The Plan was produced under the auspices of Greater Shepparton City Council (GSCC) and aligned with the Community Planning and the Community Engagement Policies of GSCC at that time.

Plan 2011 was formally reviewed and endorsed by GSCC, allowing volunteers to commit to the implementation of the Plan under the auspices of the Murchison Community Plan Implementation Committee. MCPIC members ensured that implementation priorities and activities were closely aligned with both GSCC and local community initiatives. Following further consultation, the original Plan 2011 was updated in 2017. The present iteration, Murchison and District Community Plan 2025/26, maintains the key emphases of earlier versions of the Plan and additionally captures and incorporates the priorities of newer resident volunteers in the district and their ideas for an attractive prosperous Murchison Community.

Murchison and District Community Plan (2025/26) retains the framework of the original plan and the emphasis on community engagement in its acceptance and implementation. Plan 2025/26 was founded on the following principles:

1. Promote quality of life in Murchison by investment and upgrades to the natural and built environment.
2. Celebrate local identity and cultural heritage through relevant events and community programs
3. Maintain the existing safe rural township atmosphere and environment that welcomes both residents and visitors.
4. Support improved access and development of recreational and community facilities for people of all ages and abilities.
5. Positively support town attraction and tourism initiatives that promote growth, visitation and business development.
6. Support participation in life-long learning by improved access to the local environment, recreation, education and the arts.

The 2025/26 Revision of the Plan encapsulates those principles as a series of ‘Pillars’ which focus on the overarching aim (“Mighty Murch”) and four support Pillars:

1. Riverside Murchison
2. Clean Green Murchison
3. Mindful Murchison
4. Historic Murchison

*Murchison & District
Community Pillar #1*

Mighty Murchison



Mighty Murchison

Murchison & District Community Pillar #1

Objective: To develop Murchison into the premier small town within the Goulburn Valley for residents and visitors alike.

Strategic Direction: By retaining our core values as a safe, community-minded rural town that welcomes residents and visitors alike. We will seek to improve the livability of individuals and families living and visiting our community.

“Mighty Murch” aims to promote the establishment of new businesses in Murchison, to improve access to essential services in Murchison, to ensure ready access to high quality communications technologies for residents and businesses, and enable greater links to high quality regional transport infrastructure and facilities.



Mighty Murchison

Murchison & District Community Pillar #1

Strategic Direction (cont.): Mighty Murchison is an overarching community pillar that will focus our priorities on safety, and improve livability as well as visitor experiences in Murchison. Mighty Murchison will work with local government and other community organisations to enhance the Murchison township and community.



*Murchison & District
Community Pillar #2*

*Riverside
Murchison*



Riverside Murchison

Murchison & District Community Pillar #2

Objective: To develop and promote Murchison's connection to the Goulburn River and the surrounding open spaces.

Strategic Direction: Liveability and visitation will be improved through enhancements in the natural and built infrastructure that provide improved access for both residents and visitors. Riverside Murchison aims to improve public amenities and access to local landscapes.

This community pillar will aim to build upon the other community pillars to foster tourism and business opportunities. It will also consider possible attractions and events and seek long-term sustainable improvements to riverbank amenities and visitor facilities.



*Murchison & District
Community Pillar #3*

*Clean Green
Murchison*



Clean Green Murchison

Murchison & District Community Pillar #3

Objective: To develop and promote Murchison as an attractive and sustainable town with an active movement toward a net-zero future.

Strategic Direction: Clean Green Murchison will support and promote sustainable practices within the Murchison community.

This community pillar seeks to ensure that the amenity and appreciation of the environmental and man-made assets in Murchison are enhanced by ensuring that they are:

- 1) maintained in an attractive clean, tidy state; and
- 2) are readily accessed by the public.



Clean Green Murchison

Murchison & District Community Pillar #3

Strategic Direction (cont.): Clean Green Murchison will support and promote sustainable practices and the adoption and uptake of renewable energy technologies in the Murchison community.

We will seek to collaborate with like-minded partners to address to reduce the impact on the climate through amelioration activities and advocacy.



*Murchison & District
Community Pillar #4*

Mindful Murchison



Mindful Murchison

Murchison & District Community Pillar #4

Objective: To foster and develop the physical and mental well being of the Murchison community through support of local sports clubs, art projects, and community wellness initiatives.

Strategic Direction: Healthy Murchison will promote community participation in public and community art projects and outdoor recreational activities.

Mindful Murchison will utilise aspects of other community pillars to better support access to local recreation amenities. This includes improving community facilities, fostering opportunities to engage local communities in arts and recreation programs, building stronger social connections, well being and a sense of place.



*Murchison & District
Community Pillar #5*

Historic Murchison



Historic Murchison

Murchison & District Community Pillar #5

Objective: To celebrate and promote our local history including significant events, people and places.

Strategic Direction: Historic Murchison will promote projects that reflect and celebrate Murchison's unique history and cultural heritage.

Historic Murchison will aim to develop a Murchison Tourism Plan based upon historic sites and events and promote events and activities that have both community and visitor appeal.

Historic Murchison will incorporate options to develop projects at historic sites with local, national and international significance.



Historic Murchison

Murchison & District Community Pillar #5

Strategic Direction: Historic Murchison will specifically seek to promote the global scientific significance of the Murchison Meteorite, through projects that attract local and visitor interest. Working with the Murchison & District Historical Society, MCP will support partnerships with scientific experts and various levels of government to enhance the recognition of the Murchison Meteorite.



Our 2021-2025 Council Plan has **five key themes** to achieve its strategic direction:



Links with the Greater Shepparton City Council Strategic Direction



Project Classification System

The following pages outline the project classification system developed to ensure that all projects/initiatives align with our 'Community Pillars'.

Also, these will allow MCP group to align with and identify project details including:

- Benefits the Community
- Deliverable Types
- Project Budgeting
- Project Duration
- Required Community Engagement



Project Community Benefits

Primary Benefits



Social



Built



Economic Growth

Environment



Secondary Benefits



Sport & Recreation



Tourism & Hospitality



Cultural Heritage



Education



Arts & Culture



Sustainability



Family



History



Senior



Youth

Key Features of the Murchison Community Plan

Deliverable Types & Project Duration

Project

Reference to a 'project' is a tangible intention or desired outcome from the implemented idea or strategy. The success of a project is determined by a change in the physical or physiological surroundings within Murchison.

Goal

Reference to a 'goal' is an intangible intention or desired outcome from the implemented idea or strategy. The success of a goal is determined by a desired level of change.

Short Term

A short-term project or goal is one which completion can reasonably be expected within the next 12 months

Medium Term

A medium-term project or goal is one which completion can reasonably be expected within the next 5 years

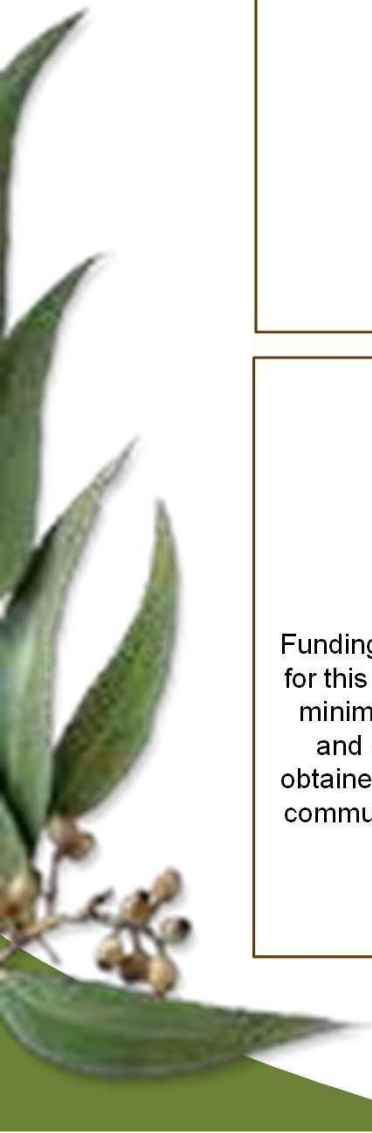
Long Term

A long-term project or goal is one which we are unable to reasonably estimate the timeframe in which it will be completed

Key Features of the Murchison Community Plan

Community Engagement and Project Budgeting

<h3>Tier 1</h3> <p>Actions the Murchison Community Planning Committee can undertake without any additional support</p>	<h3>Tier 2</h3> <p>Actions the Murchison Community Planning Committee and the broader Murchison community can undertake without the need for additional support</p>	<h3>Tier 3</h3> <p>Actions the Murchison Community Planning Committee and the broader Murchison community that requires the following support: Private Business Greater Shepparton City Council Local service providers (i.e. Goulburn-Murray Water, etc.)</p>	<h3>Tier 4</h3> <p>Actions the Murchison Community Planning Committee and the broader Murchison community that requires the following support: Tier 3 Support State & Federal Government Local, State and/or Federal Government agency (i.e. NBN, VicRoads, DWELP, Parks Victoria, etc.)</p>
<p>\$</p> <p>Funding required for this project is minimal or nil, and can be obtained through community input</p>	<p>\$\$</p> <p>Funding required for this project is minor and will require a successful application for a minor grant</p>	<p>\$\$\$</p> <p>Funding required for this project is major and will require a successful application for a major grant</p>	<p>\$\$\$\$</p> <p>Funding required for this project is major and will require a funding from State and/or Federal Government</p>



PLAN 2025/26: Implementation

The volunteer Murchison Community Plan Implementation Committee, open to all community members in the district, will use the preceding Plan principles/Pillars to steer the conduct of projects and activities aimed towards the delivery of the primary pillar, “Mighty Murch”. The Implementation Committee will undertake its work in collaboration with community, local council and other relevant stakeholders.

Plan 2025/26 addresses all major social, physical, economic and environmental aspects of the Murchison and District community and identifies community priorities to inform Council and other potential stakeholders who contribute to the improvement of physical and financial resources in the region.

Plan 2025/26 reflects the community vision for the future, and its priorities for improving and developing the community. The Community Plan will be the primary instrument by which the Murchison Community will seek funding and support for specific projects from GSCC and other relevant bodies and organizations. Plan 2025/26 provides a focus for local development and a tool for working with external partners in achieving community aspirations and represents a shared vision for the area.

Notwithstanding, the Murchison Community Plan Implementation Committee recognises that Plan 2025/26 is not ‘fixed in stone’ and exists as a ‘living document’ to be reviewed and updated over time. The Implementation Committee is thereby committed to both the update and implementation of Plan 2025/26 to ensure that the Plan continues to address changes in the priorities and aspirations of the Murchison Community.

Annexure 1

PLAN 2025/26: Consultation & Community Feedback

The volunteer Murchison Community Plan Implementation Committee facilitated a Community Consultation Day on the 28th of May 2023. Over 60 community members were in attendance and 130 ideas were provided.

Raw Data community feedback is given below:



Photos from Consultation Day 2023

PLAN 2025/26: Community Feedback

1	Start a Community Garden , with produce sharing and food swap
2	Advertise Community Events in other ways than social media . E.g. Mail Box Drop
3	Have more Open Days for Community Groups to gain interest. E.g. market days
4	Better and more Commercial Development
5	More Community Events (council freeze on funding?)
6	We need lights inside the public toilets
7	Pop Up Stores ... store rented in town for just a few weeks
8	Build Gazebo near river park
9	Better Marketing - more people need to know about Mighty Murchison (e.g. social media)
10	Illuminate the bridge at night time
11	Have more Movie Nights / Matinees
12	Have regular rides down Rail Trail e.g. horse drawn buggy / motorised bike for multiple people
13	Better public toilets / more room / more modern facilities
14	More promotion of local community groups
15	Put traffic lights on the bridge
16	Paint the bridge & guard rails
17	Do something with old Rail Bridge
18	Get a new sign for town entry and exits " Home of the Murchison Meteorite "
19	Get a welcoming town sign (x2) , maybe sculptural and interesting
20	New infrastructure / new businesses / events
21	What is our Murchison Slogan ??
22	Get more businesses for more local employment
23	Convince Rushworth to finish the rail trail connection with Murchison
24	We need better line-marking in Stevenson Street at shops and car parks
25	Keep the cows coming to Murchison ??
26	Develop part of Camp 13 as visitor destination
27	Paint Water Tower: themes – Aboriginal History and Meteorite (flora and fauna)
28	Youth engagement
29	Recognise though original occupiers of Murchison – Warring Nguraillum Tribe “Tim or Jim xxx”
30	Develop history content for Camp 13 for international interest.
31	Develop Heritage Centre to include library and tourism office x 7 days week, 1 paid staff backed by volunteers.
32	Historic Irrigation Precinct: Old Whroo Road near tip
33	Murchison Field Day on designated farm of old school farming methods eg. Pre 1960 “Steve McLean”
34	Do something with the original town square 2 ticks of agreement
35	Recognition of correct Aboriginal clan here : the Ngurai-illum Wurrung people NOT YORTA YORTA
36	Events based on history.
37	Days Mill open more often ? regular market
38	Holiday program – 5 days learn 1 new thing each day. – experience town and all it has to offer.
39	Better recognition of the resting place of “King Billy”
40	Could the events of the Heritage Weekend be stretched out to enable more visiting.
41	BIG meteorite celebrations!
42	Water tower to be left in original historic condition and name plaque to be upgraded.
43	The development of Harper House as a historical destination
44	Maintain the natural history of the water tower and its dedication plaque.
45	Open Days Mill more often for public.
46	School holiday program at Heritage Centre
47	Scavenger hunt for Meteorite Park activities in M. Park.
48	Rodrick Square – beautification – tourist stop – tables / chairs / BBQ (2 ticks of agreement)
49	Remove invasive species along riverbank
50	Clean up riverbank
51	Toilet block closer to kids playground
52	More seating near river
53	Railway bridge resurfaced and made into an extension of the rail trail. Aerial view of the trees would be seen at Campbells Bend
54	Clean up Murchison East entrance - Its an eyesore and environmental disgrace
55	Clean up town entrances
56	Improvements and upgrades to Jaycee Park
57	Beautification of walking path between playground and Jaycee Park to encourage walking around our town
58	Nature playground at Jaycee Park
59	Develop parkland to north of the town
60	Nature playground showing natural landscape of Murchison
61	A boat ramp and more access for pedestrians down to the river
62	Walking / bike track along the river opposite Thornbirdge [J Ewart]
63	Deck for the Railway Bridge over our River [J Ewart]
64	Removal of ash trees from river bank
65	Fence at skate park
66	Safer crossing for children at playground from the shops
67	Improvement playground
68	Bridge maintained & blasted / recoated to look loved
69	More seating / shade near river opposite the shops for hot summers day
70	Riverside toilet to have more natural appearance, not drop in metal block

PLAN 2025/26: Community Feedback

71	Bike path to be continued
72	More decorating of the town at Christmas, "light on the bridge" plus fireworks like Sydney
73	Dump point for caravans
74	Short walking track with history boards like at Colbo silos
75	Continue events such as Xmas Market, Movie Nights, stall day, pool event
76	Showcase the river with a riverside walk like swan hill, echuca
77	Xmas Carols and market
78	Pontoon platform for kayaks, canoes
79	A better walking track which leads to the jetty at the back of the rec reserve
80	Fix access steps to river at bridge
81	Improve the eastern entrance to town
82	Should it be a science town(i.e. meteorite) rather than stifling main stress business development with petty issues around fences / lighting – loss of business is depre
83	Shepparton Get Mooving activities – more advertising needed as they are great programs, just not well attended.
84	'Youth Park'- could include outdoor gym with lighting so early morning and night time health activities could use.
85	Murchison music festival, Family event on farmland, Country music roots (Steve Mc Lean)
86	An exhibition space to attract artists. Not only craft workshops but art of notability
87	More Murchison events like Movie Night, stalls and markets, group events.
88	Re-development of Jaycee Park.
89	Rejuvenate Meteorite Park with more activities and interactive elements.
90	Emphasize meteor's scientific significance.
91	More community access and awareness of community hall. Could also start mixed basketball or netball teams indoors. (three ticks)
92	Murchison Instagram page – e.g. sunflowers, canola, photo destination. Instagram page for Murchison to show the beauty of our town and people. (Ash Weidenbach)
93	Love the Book Box! Love if this could develop into a small library similar to Nagambie
94	The Library Van is great but it would be wonderful to have a small library building. A place where people could meet and the school could use too.
95	Rail Trail return loop at Doctor's Swamp or around swamp.
96	Nursing Home building. Get back running or convert to something else.
97	Need for safe crossings between park on either side of the main street.
98	Improve outward aesthetics of Murchison Museum building. Does the town want to be a heritage town?
99	Permanent irrigation system for the Recreation Reserve. Back oval junior sport.
100	Small community bus for outings and appointments.
101	Ancillary services such as taking people without transport to appointments.
102	Previously service supplied from DP Jones NH community bus.
103	More support for local groups. E.g. community house etc.
104	Community House good ideas. Expand on that. Neighbourhood – community forums.
105	Better communication for programs (council put on programs and barely anyone attended).
106	Work to lift community spirits post closure of nursing home, loss of main street, beautification of historic buildings.
107	More communication via leaflets directly to letterboxes.
108	Promoting trails and event and engaging with each other, sharing interests.
109	How do we connect with the prison? We appreciate their work and we want them to know.
110	Study the community to see how much development they actually want. i.e. town planning, block sizes, building heights, look and feel of town.
111	Solar to our businesses and main town amenities
112	Information Board / Map
113	Historic Scavenger hunt around town (schools / families)
114	Emphasize the significance of murchison meteorite
115	Solar / Battery project for town
116	EV Charging station (at Calendonian Pub). People will hopefully grab a feed or use our other businesses while waiting.
117	The ability to walk to shops from all streets for young and old. Encourage walking biking
118	Do a study on Murchison, it may already be Carbon Neutral.
119	keep planting trees
120	Caravan Dump along riverbank or somewhere appropriate to accommodate tourists who stop over.
121	Solar Panel Install at rec reserve and Community Centre roof
122	Better RV Facilities in Town
123	Dump point for caravans
124	Look at Violet Town 'community power' system
125	Community Garden / Produce Swap
126	Clean Up Murchison Day
127	Dump Point at the Community Centre (not riverside so DWELP can't object)
128	Camping Sites to have No permanent structures in flood prone areas. Come camp and Go.
129	Local transport provisions incl. electric vehicle and ability to recharge in town
130	Diminished community activities and services that were provided via DP Jones - Can we find ways to help with bus trips

Annexure 2

Priority Projects: 2025-26

Project	Community Pillar(s)	Priority	Deliverable Type	Timeframe	Community Engagement	Budget	Project Community Benefits
Community Based Activities & Events	Mighty Murchison Mindful Murchison	High	Project	Short-Term	Tier 2	\$\$	
Creation of Murchison Riverfront Masterplan	Mighty Murchison Clean Green Murchison Riverbank Murchison Mindful Murchison Historic Murchison	High	Project	Short-Term	Tier 2	\$\$\$	
Creation of Murchison Tourism Plan	Mighty Murchison	High	Project	Medium-Term	Tier 2	\$\$	
Crossing Lights at Meteorite Park	Mighty Murchison	High	Project	Medium-Term	Tier 4	\$\$\$\$	
EV Charging Station	Mighty Murchison Clean Green Murchison	High	Project	Short-Term	Tier 3	\$\$	
Flood Recovery Support	Mighty Murchison Riverbank Murchison Mindful Murchison	High	Project	Short-Term	Tier 2	\$\$	
Murchison Football & Netball Clubrooms Upgrade	Mighty Murchison Mindful Murchison Riverbank Murchison	High	Project	Short-Term	Tier 4	\$\$\$\$	
Murchison Rail Trail Extension to Mooroopna	Mighty Murchison Mindful Murchison Riverbank Murchison	High	Project	Short-Term	Tier 4	\$\$\$\$	
Murchison Rail Trail to Rushworth	Mighty Murchison Mindful Murchison	High	Project	Short-Term	Tier 2	\$\$	
Murchison Tennis Club Court & Clubrooms Upgrade	Mighty Murchison Mindful Murchison Riverbank Murchison	High	Project	Short-Term	Tier 2	\$\$\$\$	
Murchison Township Map	Mighty Murchison	High	Project	Short-Term	Tier 1	\$\$	
Camp 13 Tourist Attraction Feasibility Study	Mighty Murchison Historic Murchison	Medium	Project	Medium-Term	Tier 2	\$\$\$	
Campbells Bend Rejuvenation Project	Mighty Murchison Clean Green Murchison Riverbank Murchison	Medium	Project	Medium-Term	Tier 4	\$\$\$\$	
Jaycee Park Rejuvenation Project	Mighty Murchison Clean Green Murchison Riverbank Murchison	Medium	Project	Medium-Term	Tier 4	\$\$\$\$	
Murchison Meteorite Celebration	Mighty Murchison Riverbank Murchison Historic Murchison	Medium	Project	Medium-Term	Tier 2	\$\$\$	
Removal of Non-Native Weeds and Trees from Riverbank	Mighty Murchison Clean Green Murchison Riverbank Murchison	Medium	Project	Medium-Term	Tier 3	\$\$\$\$	
Riverbank Visual Art Trail	Mighty Murchison Riverbank Murchison Historic Murchison	Medium	Project	Medium-Term	Tier 2	\$\$	
Goulburn River Access Improvement	Mighty Murchison Riverbank Murchison	Medium	Project	Long-Term	Tier 3	\$\$\$\$	
Improved Streetscape (Main St)	Mighty Murchison Riverbank Murchison	Low	Goal	Long-Term	Tier 2	\$\$\$	