

BERRIWILLOCK & DISTRICT

LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN





OUR VISION

A vibrant and caring community with strong community spirit.

OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN

The Berrillock community led by the Berrillock Community Development Group updated their last community plan in 2013. Funding in 2018 from the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund supported the re-engagement of community to explore longer term issues and aspirations looking towards 2030.

Recent community consultation has strongly informed this renewed 2018 plan that will also inform the Buloke 2030 'whole of shire' integrated plan focusing on livability and economic development in the current rural environment.

Residents in and around Berrillock were invited to share their thoughts through:

- an online survey
- community postcards
- a drop in session
- a focus group
- a community workshop; and
- draft plan feedback processes.

The Berrillock & District Local Community Plan is a community owned plan that captures community aspirations across a broad range of areas (not just local government). The plan gives voice to local aims and aspirations and provides an opportunity for involvement by people who are interested in shaping the future of Berrillock and District.

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY PLANNING

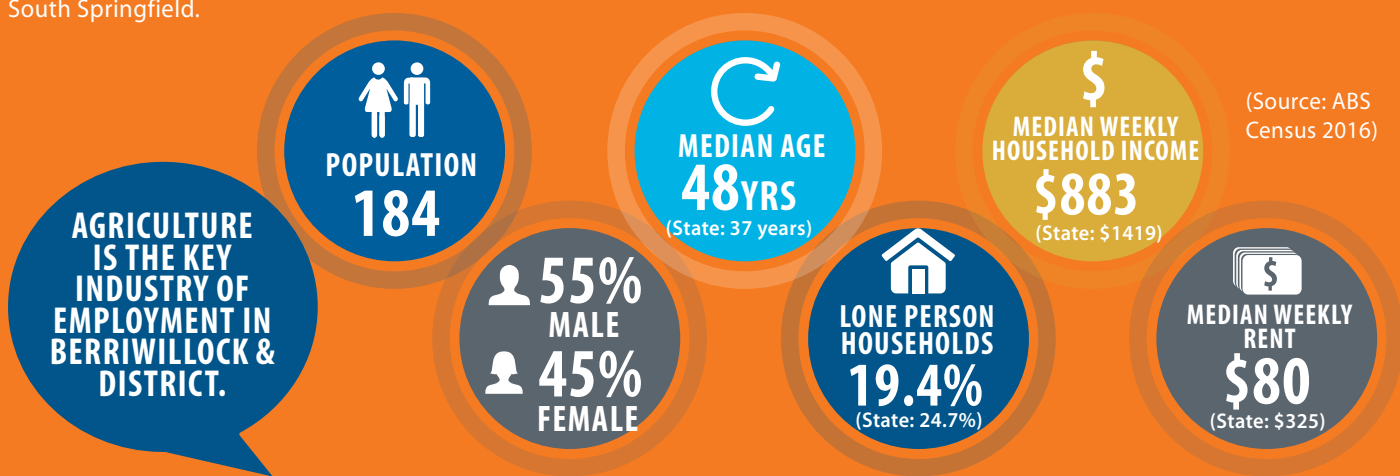
A Community Plan describes the community's long term vision and aspirations and is a way of directly involving residents in future planning.

The Berrillock and District community has already made a number of achievements as a result of their previous community plans, such as:

- Berrillock Community Centre
- Relocation of bowling green to community centre
- Back to Berrillock celebration
- The successful engagement of young families in community activity

OUR COMMUNITY

Berriwillock is a vibrant grain growing community off the Calder highway in the Mallee region of north-west Victoria, it was first settled in 1890. In the early times, Berriwillock was first spelt Berriwielook and it was also known as: - Reserve, The Eight Mile, and South Springfield.



OUR STRENGTHS

- Strong sense of community spirit
- Vibrant young community members
- Caring people
- Safe
- Sporting opportunities
- Community members have a range of skills
- Great community atmosphere

"Farms are set up for the next generation".

"Our people are our best asset".

"We need to keep up our caring attitude".

OUR ASSETS

- Community Centre
- New bowling green
- CFA
- Tennis Courts
- Pub
- Park
- Grain Co-op
- Cemetery
- 24 hour fuel

"The Pub is a huge asset for our community".

OUR CURRENT CHALLENGES

- Very poor mobile phone service
- Poor internet
- Lack of disability access toilet in town
- Government red tape
- Lack of employment opportunities
- Access to healthcare services
- Continuity of healthcare services
- Lack of community bins
- Roads in need of repair
- Run down occupied and vacant houses
- Disused buildings around town
- Inclusion of residents from different socio-economic backgrounds
- Volunteering
- Supports for residents with limited resources

"We need more civic pride- things don't look so pretty around Berriwillock and district".

"In Bendigo they are putting Wi-Fi on buses and we are flat out making a phone call".

OUR FUTURE CHALLENGES

Looking Towards 2030

Community members highlighted a range of challenges/trends that they felt were important to plan for.

- Ageing Community
- Declining population
- Changing socio-economic demographic
- Farms are getting larger
- Increased reliance on technology
- Access to health and wellbeing services

“A lot of people here are on welfare-if we can do our best we can help them to stay here”.

“Mobile phone access is a big issue; we have no coverage”.



OUR OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for the future have been captured under four key themes which are supported by longer term strategic directions and key actions to achieve these.

Importantly, these key directions were formed through recent community discussions.

OUR BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE.

1. Actively support the management of the Berrivillock Community Centre.
2. Advocate/work in partnership with Council and VicRoads to ensure a safe road network e.g. making crossroads safer.
3. Explore community and Council initiatives to encourage residents to tidy up their properties and the town.
4. Plan for the demolition of the old hall.
5. Repair and upgrade playground equipment.
6. Plan for the future use of redundant facilities in town.

BEAUTIFICATION OF STREETScape AND TOWN ENTRANCES.

1. Beautify the streetscape and town entrances.

PROTECT, MANAGE AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY.

1. Install a row of community rubbish bins to further support rural residents who do not receive rubbish collection services.
2. Advocate for annual hard rubbish collection service.
3. Maintain trees and control weeds on council, crown and private land.
4. Apply for a town Fruit Fly Trap and educate community on the management of fruit fly.



OUR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY WELLBEING, LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS.

1. Work in partnership with Council to provide library services in Berrwillock.
2. Seek funding to draw together, store and present local history e.g. displaying honour boards.
3. Develop a network to support, welcome and include new residents.

A HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY.

1. Promote the guidelines for the use of the Sea Lake Community Car for Berrwillock residents who have health appointments requiring travel support.
2. Advocate for clear processes/responsibilities for after care following discharge from 'out of shire' hospitals.
3. Seek information on allied health and medical services that are available within the Buloke Shire.
4. Advocate for the increased use and promotion of tele-health options.
5. Advocate for an appropriate level of essential place based health services (GP's, Mental Health Services).
6. Advocate for permanent appointments for GP services that support continuity of care for residents.
7. Seek funding opportunities and Council support to maintain and enhance community recreation activities and facilities.

OUR ECONOMY

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY AND IMPROVED AMENITIES FOR RESIDENTS, TOURISTS AND HARVEST WORKERS.

1. Develop a camping area near the park with powered sites and a disabled access toilet/shower to assist with accommodation for tourists and harvest workers (community enterprise model).
2. Seek funding to add a Darren Weir Tribute silo to the silo art trail.
3. Promote the pub to support ongoing viability for visitors and residents alike.

PROMOTION OF THE LIVEABILITY OF BERRIWILLOCK & DISTRICT

1. Promote the positive attributes of living in Berrwillock.

ACCESS TO RELIABLE AND EFFECTIVE TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS.

1. Advocate for improved internet services.
2. Advocate for improved mobile phone coverage.

OUR COUNCIL & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

ENHANCED COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP, INVOLVEMENT AND SPIRIT.

1. Berrillock Community Development Group to hold regular meetings to progress priority actions within its community plan.
2. Review and promote opportunities to work together/ partner/share resources with neighbouring towns.
3. Encourage the involvement of new volunteers, offer appropriate training and support and recognise existing volunteers.
4. Proactively seek grant money to support future projects.
5. Engage with designated Council representative at Berrillock & District Forum meetings.

COUNCIL ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT ON COMMUNITY MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE.

1. Designated Council representative to regularly attend Berrillock & District Community Development Group meetings.
2. Encourage and support enforcement of local laws in relation to unsafe/run-down buildings in town.
3. Partner with key providers and health networks to advocate for adequate place based health and wellbeing services.
4. Advocate to VicRoads for road safety issues to be addressed.

QUALITY CUSTOMER SERVICE AND IMPROVED RESPONSE TIMES FROM BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL.

1. Improve Buloke Shire customer service quality and response times e.g. works requests.
2. Review red tape challenges and plan together to address and wherever possible reduce red tape.



HOW DOES THIS PLAN FIT?

The ten Local Community Plans have informed the development of a 'whole of Buloke Shire' integrated Community Plan. The Buloke Shire Integrated Community Plan will inform Council's planning processes over the next three Council Planning phases up to 2030.



This Plan will also strongly inform the direction of a range of key stakeholder organisations that are connected to Buloke Shire communities.

GETTING INVOLVED

If you would like to get involved in implementing the Berrillock & District Local Community Plan contact:

P. 1300 520 520

E. buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au

A. PO Box 1, Wycheproof VIC 3527
367 Broadway, Wycheproof VIC 3527



Buloke Shire Council

PUTTING THIS PLAN INTO ACTION

Implementation of the Berrillock and District Local Community Plan will be driven by the Berrillock Community Development Group.

A key Council representative will attend meetings to enable leadership and support from Council wherever appropriate. An action plan template has been developed to assist with local project planning and review.