



BET BET & DISTRICT
OUR COMMUNITY
2030



OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

The Bet Bet & District Community Plan 2030 sets out the community’s vision for the next ten years.

Developed and owned by the community, the plan captures the community’s voice for what is most important for them.

Community planning commenced in October 2019 and was completed in April 2020.

Residents in and around Bet Bet and district were invited to share their input into the planning process in a variety of ways:

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

The Bet Bet & District Community Plan is a community owned plan that captures community aspirations across a broad range of areas (not just local government).

This project was delivered with funding from the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund.



OUR VISION

In 2030 Bet Bet & district will have:

- ✓ strong social connections
- ✓ access to health and wellbeing services
- ✓ support for ageing residents
- ✓ strong community leaders
- ✓ increased tourist activity
- ✓ affordable water
- ✓ access to public transportation
- ✓ reliable, fast and affordable internet and mobile phone service
- ✓ volunteers of all ages; and
- ✓ regular communication with Council.

OUR TOWN

Bet Bet is located 15 kilometres from Maryborough and 180 kilometres north-west of Melbourne.

Bet Bet and district has its own Community Hall (Betley Mechanics Institute Hall).

Our History

The name Bet Bet is thought to have been derived from an Aboriginal word meaning place of red ochre.

Bet Bet is steeped in gold mining history. In 1910 after the mining boom the Bet Bet village slowly shrunk. The school closed in 1948, the Church of Christ closed in 1974, the railway station was de-staffed in 1976, and the general store closed soon afterwards.

On 19 January 1995, most of Bet Bet Shire was united with Maryborough city and most of Tullaroop and Talbot and Clunes Shires to form Central Goldfields Shire. The balance of Bet Bet Shire went to Loddon Shire.



“We have our own space here.”

CENSUS SNAPSHOT



POPULATION: 129

- Male: 49.6%
- Female: 50.4%
- Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people 3.1% (Victoria 0.8%)



AGE

- Median age in Bet Bet: 45 years (Victoria 37 years)
- Children aged 0-14 years made up 21.9% of the population (Victoria 18.3%)
- 19.7% of the population are aged 65 years and over (Victoria 15.6%)



DWELLINGS

- 17.8% of dwellings were unoccupied (Victoria 11.7%)
- 200/week was the median rent (Victoria \$325)



HOUSEHOLDS

- 74.5% were family households
- 25.5% (12 people) were living in single person households (Victoria 24.7%)
- 0% were group households
- 0% had no cars



EMPLOYMENT

- 44.2% worked full-time (Victoria 57%)
- 34.9% worked part-time (Victoria 31.4%)
- 7% were unemployed (Victoria 6.6%)
- 14% were away from work (Victoria 4.9%)



HOUSEHOLD INCOME

- In Bet Bet 28.6% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 (Victoria 20.3%) and 0% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000 (Victoria 15.5%).



INTERNET

- 28.8% of households in Bet Bet did not have access to internet at home (Victoria 13.6%).

IN BET BET & DISTRICT WE LOVE...

- The friendly people/community connections
- Community involvement
- Peace and quiet
- Betley Hall
- Central location
- Wide open spaces
- History and heritage
- Arts and cultural activities nearby
- Nearby access to shopping and services

KEY ISSUES / CHALLENGES

- Population decline
- Ageing community/isolation
- Keeping the Betley Hall going
- Access to health care services
- Internet accessibility
- Lack of community leaders/volunteers
- Water supply and costs
- Council governance
- Red-tape and slow planning processes
- Access to public transport
- Road safety
- Employment opportunities
- Educational opportunities



OUR KEY PRIORITIES

- 1 **OUR COMMUNITY**
- 2 **OUR ECONOMY**
- 3 **OUR ENVIRONMENT**
(BUILT & NATURAL)
- 4 **OUR LEADERSHIP**

OUR COMMUNITY

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

STRONG SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. Hold regular community events aimed at strengthening community connections in Bet Bet and district.
2. Partner with community and health services to offer regular activities focussed on health and wellbeing, arts/culture and social connections from the Betley Mechanics Institute Hall.
3. Seek funding for play and musical equipment to run arts/cultural activities at the Betley Hall for children and young people.
4. Advocate for the community bus to include Bet Bet and district in its route.

A HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY

1. Offer activities and programs locally for children and young people e.g. talent nights at hall, running races, arts and cultural activities etc.
2. Advocate for increased community based and in-home services for ageing residents so that they can 'age in place'.
3. Advocate for improved access to health services in Maryborough e.g. more GP's and nurses, nurse practitioners, after hours and specialist health services, '13 SICK' service.
4. Advocate for workforce planning for the health sector.
5. Promote pharmacy prescription renewal services available in Maryborough.
6. Identify and plan for a designated 'heat retreat' area for residents on days of extreme heat.
7. Advocate to Central Goldfields Shire Council to lower the costs at the Dunolly standpipe so that costs are equitable with Coliban water authority charges.

CELEBRATION OF HISTORY AND HERITAGE

1. Gather, share and celebrate Bet Bet and districts heritage and history and recognise and respect Aboriginal culture.

“Water quality and supply is an important future issue.”

OUR ECONOMY

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY

1. Offer camping at the Betley Mechanics Institute Hall.
2. Advocate for increased frequency of rail services in Maryborough.

RELIABLE TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS

1. Advocate for reliable, affordable and high-speed internet services for Bet Bet and district.

POPULATION STABILITY/GROWTH

1. Promote the liveability of Bet Bet and district, especially to young families.
2. Work together with Council to lessen red tape and waiting times e.g. for planning and permit processes and to apply a more consistent approach across the community.
3. Advocate for equitable resourcing for Bet Bet and district.

VIBRANT ECONOMY

1. Advocate for new industry and increased employment opportunities throughout Central Goldfields Shire.
2. Advocate for improved access to higher education in Central Goldfields Shire.
3. Advocate for the affordability of rates in Bet Bet and district.

“We need to further develop heritage and other assets to stimulate tourism into Maryborough and surrounds.”

OUR ENVIRONMENT

(NATURAL & BUILT)

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Seek funding for an electrical BBQ, seating and shade at the Betley Mechanics Institute Hall.
2. Seek funding for the sealing of Middle Bridge road.
3. Review and install new and updated town signage and beautify entrances for Bet Bet and district.
4. Review waste collection services and ensure equitable servicing and charges in Bet Bet and district.
5. Maintain Betley Mechanics Institute Hall, a vital and treasured community resource.
6. Explore ways to sustainably manage the operating costs of Betley Mechanics Institute Hall e.g. power, insurance, services, maintenance.
7. Advocate for dedicated grants to be made available to support the maintenance and running costs of community halls.
8. Review the OHS requirements for the Betley Mechanics Institute Hall.
9. Advocate for the lowering of speed limits on single lane roads in Bet Bet and district.
10. Address water supply challenges at the Betley Mechanics Institute Hall.
11. Explore opportunities for the redevelopment of the historic gardens at the old school site.

PROTECT, MANAGE AND IMPROVE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Advocate for regular roadside mowing and clean-up of roadsides and management of public spaces e.g. mowing and weed control.
2. Explore climate action/drought initiatives for Bet Bet and district.
3. Review Bet Bet Reserve usage and current signage and plan for ways that it could be activated e.g. free camping.

INCREASED TOWN PRIDE

1. Explore activities/initiatives aimed at increasing community amenity and pride in Bet Bet and district e.g. tidy townships.

“Power bills are our biggest expense at the hall.”

OUR LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

1. Actively connect with Council's 'champion' for Bet Bet to ensure leadership and support from Council with the Bet Bet & District Community Plan and its identified community projects.
2. Actively lead the implementation of the Bet Bet & District Community Plan.
3. Advocate for continued local opportunities to meet with Councillors in Bet Bet & district to share community concerns, ideas and aspirations e.g. listening posts.
4. Develop clear and agreed communication and processes between DWELP, Central Goldfields Shire Council and the Betley Hall Committee of Management.
5. Work together with Central Goldfields Shire Council to ensure affordable and appropriate insurances for the Betley Hall.
6. Source training and support to access grant opportunities and a clear Council contact point for Central Goldfields Shire Council specific grants.
7. Lobby the State Government for decentralisation to Central Goldfields Shire.
8. Advocate for consistent, transparent and timely communication between Central Goldfields Shire Council and the Bet Bet and district community.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

1. Recognise and support volunteers and actively encourage the involvement of new volunteers (especially young people) in Bet Bet and district.
2. Introduce more education and leadership scholarships for rural schools.

“We need good consistent advice, every time I ask a question I get a form.”

PUTTING OUR PLAN INTO ACTION

Implementation of the Bet Bet Community Plan will be led by the local community.

Central Goldfields Shire Council's 'Champion' for Bet Bet and district will attend meetings and offer guidance, advice and support wherever possible.

Relevant key stakeholders/project partners will be invited to work with the Bet Bet community on shared priorities.

An action plan template has been developed to assist with project planning and regular review of community priorities.

Getting involved

If you would like to get involved in making Bet Bet and district an even better place to live in 2030 contact:

Manager Community Partnerships

Central Goldfields Shire Council
(03) 5461 0610

