

DRAFT

Bridgewater On Loddon Community Plan 2022 - 2032

DRAFT



Vision

As we look forward to the future, Bridgewater and surrounding districts will strive to be economically strong, environmentally friendly and affordable to live in; while maintaining the friendly Rural Town Community that draws and keeps residents and visitors here.

Objectives

To establish the aspirations and priorities for the Bridgewater community – to provide a voice for the community stating what is important to them and for their future.

- ▶ Community Health and Wellbeing
- ▶ Community Buildings and Open Spaces
- ▶ Future Development
- ▶ Local Economy

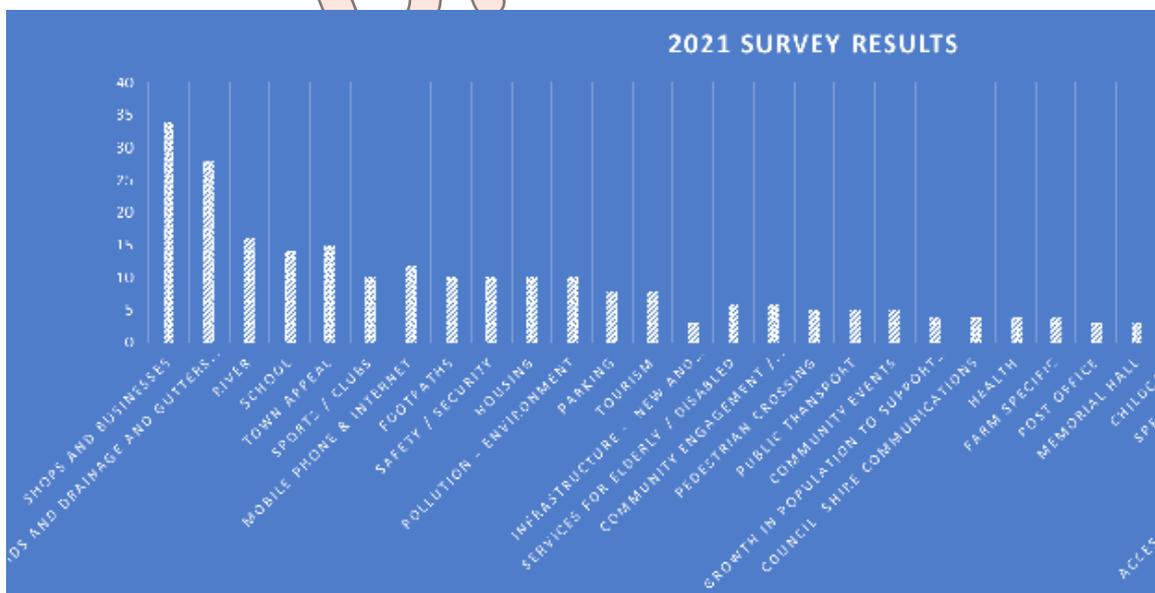
Our Process

The initial Bridgewater on Loddon Community Plan was developed in 2003. In 2021 Bridgewater On Loddon Development Incorporation (BOLD) was formed to manage and maintain the Bridgewater on Loddon Community Plan. A survey was produced to identify the communities priorities and circulated around the district in August 2021, receiving an excellent response.

This revised Community Plan has been produced from information compiled from wide community consultation by way of surveys, meetings and talking to community members.

Community Clubs & Groups are included in this plan, they were invited to identify their priority projects by supplying their strategic plans.

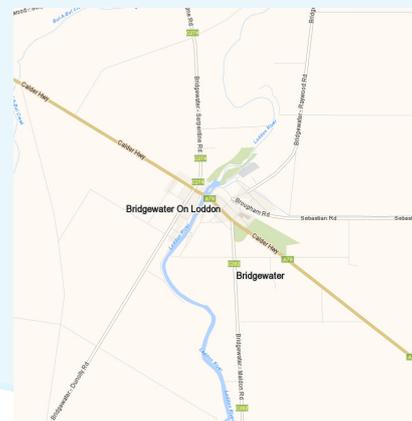
Numerous projects from the initial Bridgewater on Loddon Community Plan have been addressed and completed with this assistance of dedicated community members, local government and state government.



Location

Bridgewater on Loddon is located along the Calder Highway, nestled in a prime agriculture region with the Loddon River dividing the township. Bridgewater is 39km northwest of the Central Victorian regional centre of Bendigo, 170km from the Victorian capital city of Melbourne.

Bridgewater on Loddon is the Southern Gateway into the Loddon Shire.



History

Bridgewater was established as a crossing point for diggers enroute to the Inglewood gold diggings. A punt operated a mile below the present bridge and was used as a crossing by Cobb and Co. The Loddon River at this point was later used by diggers to wash their gold when scant water supplies at Inglewood dried up or became silted by mining activity. Chinese settlers established extensive market gardens along the river and supplied surrounding districts with fresh vegetables.

The river was permanently bridged in 1862-63. A brewery was established in the 1860's, and several hotels were in existence by the 1870's. A flour mill was opened in 1873, and in the same year a Railway League was formed and was successful in agitating for an extension of the line from Inglewood. The first train arrived in 1876.

Bridgewater's early development was assisted by proximity to the river, as dairying and a cheese factory supplemented sheep grazing and cereals. By the late 1880's, four cheese and butter factories has been established in the region.

A post office was opened in 1868, a school opened in 1871 and the Mechanics' Institute was opened in 1880.

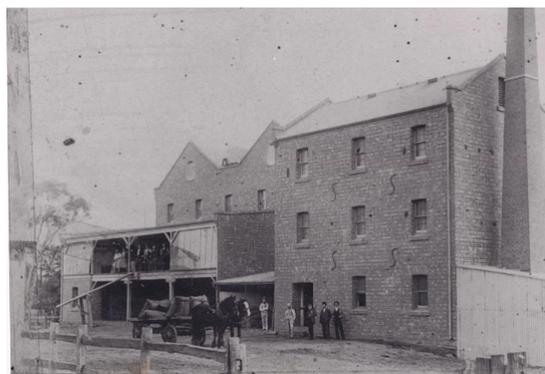
Several sporting clubs were established, including golf (1921) and tennis (1926). A memorial hall of grand proportions was opened in 1923, serving as a picture theatre and social centre. Reticulated water was laid on by a local Water Works Trust in 1928 and electricity from the State grid was turned on in 1940.

Four steel silos of total capacity 280,000 bushels were built near the railway station in 1963 for holding wheat, barley and oats. The flour mill had silos with a storage capacity of 500,000 bushels in 1970.

In 1972 the Waterwheel vineyard and winery was established next to the Waterwheel flour mill.



Bridgewater Memorial Hall



Bridgewater Flour Mill

Community Health and Wellbeing	
Objective	Strategies
Safe and Secure Community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Neighbourhood Watch ◆ Farm safety & security ◆ Livestock / Farm Theft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To support and advocate for the continuation of the Bridgewater Police Station. ➔ To support local Police information sessions. To support and advocate for safe speed limits within the town.
Access to Health Services and Facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Families and Youth ◆ Seniors ◆ Improve physical and mental health ◆ Access to the river, facilities and business for people of all abilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To support and promote Inglewood & Districts Health Services. ➔ To support and promote programs established in Bridgewater region offering services for seniors, youth and families. ➔ To support and promote health information days. ➔ To promote and support facilities and business for improved access for people of all abilities.
Heritage, Arts and Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Australia Day Celebrations ◆ Anzac and Remembrance Day Celebrations ◆ Local Festivals & Events ◆ History and Heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To promote, encourage and ensure the Australia Day, Anzac and Remembrance Day celebrations continue. ➔ To promote and support local events and festivals. ➔ To ensure the Bridgewater and region History and Heritage is preserved and promoted for future generations. ➔ To advocate funding opportunities towards acknowledged history, heritage, events and celebration programs.
Sport and Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Bridgewater Recreation Reserve ◆ Bridgewater Football Netball Club ◆ Bridgewater Cricket Club ◆ Bridgewater Golf Club ◆ Bridgewater Bowling Club ◆ Bridgewater Water Ski Club ◆ Active Farmers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To promote and support opportunities to take part in physical activity. ➔ To advocate funding opportunities to the sporting organisations that have supplied their current 5 – 10 year Strategic Plans. ➔ To promote and support inclusive sporting events to provide community interaction. ➔ To promote and support health and fitness programs in the Bridgewater region.



Future Development	
Objective	Strategies
Roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Road Maintenance & Upgrades <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sebastian Road - Bridgewater Dunolly Road - Town Roads ◆ Road Name Signs ◆ Weed Control ◆ Drainage ◆ Transport Connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Advocate to DoT and Loddon Shire Council to ensure a safe and reliable road networks ➔ Advocating to DoT and Loddon Shire Council community concerns and providing information regarding road hazards. ➔ To engage the community for continued feedback to identify road issues. ➔ To advocate and work with DoT and Loddon Shire Council to address identified Road issues. ➔ Advocate to DoT and Loddon Shire Council to control weeds on the roadside. ➔ Advocate to DoT and Loddon Shire Council to ensure all Roads have name signs in place to assist emergency services. ➔ Advocate to DoT and Loddon Shire Council to identify drainage issues. ➔ To advocate and support implementation of the transport network maintenance and upgrade works that assist increased transport movements and ensure safety.
Loddon Shire Council Urban/Town Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Improved footpaths and street lighting ◆ Improved signage ◆ Improved streetscape ◆ Improved gutters and drainage ◆ Improved parking ◆ Improved water quality ◆ Town Entrances and Signs ◆ Install additional rubbish bins ◆ Eradication of weeds ◆ Create pedestrian crossing ◆ Create bike paths / cycle way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To advocate and work with Local and State Government for continued improvements to the Bridgewater region growth plan and the integrated strategy town plan. ➔ To engage the community for continued feedback to identify issues for future improvements ➔ To advocate and work with Loddon Shire Council to address identified issues within the township.
Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Access to affordable housing ◆ Land development opportunities ◆ Short-term & long-term accommodation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Advocate to Local and State Government for housing and land development ➔ Advocate to Local and State Government the need for short-term & long-term accommodation in the region. ➔ Advocate to Local and State Government the necessity to access to affordable housing.
Mobile phone and internet services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Advocate to Local, State and Federal Governments for improved mobile phone and internet access and coverage in the Bridgewater region.

Future Development	
Objective	Strategies
Access to public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Advocate to Local and State Governments for improved access to public transport.
Education opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To promote and support acknowledged education opportunities.
Community information and communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To promote and ensure community information and Local government communications are inclusive to everyone. ➔ To produce a Welcome Pack for new community members
Bridgewater Rural Fire Brigade & Emergency Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Flooding ◆ Fire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To promote and ensure the continuation of the CFA in our town. ➔ To promote and work with local government and other government agencies for improved Emergency Management practices.



Community Buildings and Open Spaces	
Objective	Strategies
Bridgewater Primary School	→ To advocate, promote and support the future existence of Bridgewater Primary School.
Bridgewater Memorial Hall	→ To advocate, promote and support the future continuation and redevelopment of the Bridgewater Memorial Hall.
Public Toilets	→ To advocate and work with Loddon Shire Council to maintain accessible sanitary public toilets.
Bridgewater Cemetery's	→ To advocate, promote and support the future continuation of Bridgewater Cemetery and ensure the Old Cemetery's history is maintained.
Playgrounds, Parks and reserves Parks and public open spaces	→ To promote and support parks, reserves and public open spaces for social opportunities for interaction in community.
Natural environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Corella and animal pest eradication ◆ Weed eradication ◆ Landcare Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To maintain the beautiful Natural Environment of our region by advocating, promoting and supporting Local, State & Federal government programs in animal pests and weed eradication. → To promote and support Clean-up Australia Day programs in the region. → To promote and support the formation of a local Landcare group.
Bridgewater Train Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To promote and support the development of the Bridgewater Train Station. → To advocate growth and programs acknowledged in their current 5 - year strategic and business structure plans.
River <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Swimming Hole ◆ Foreshore development ◆ Improved walking & cycling tracks ◆ River front preservation ◆ Health ◆ Improved river access for people of all abilities ◆ Boat Ramp rubbish removal improvements ◆ Boat Ramp improved signage ◆ Safe use for everyone all year ◆ Pier at Hotel ◆ Exercise equipment located along the river 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → To advocate, promote and support, with Local government and State authorities, to maintain and implement improvements to the Swimming Hole, walking & cycling tracks. → To advocate and promote with Local government and State authorities improvements to Boat Ramp area. → To advocate and promote with Local government and State authorities the safe use of the river for everyone all year. → To advocate, promote and support to maintain and preserve the river health. → To promote and work with Loddon Shire Council for continued development to the Bridgewater Foreshore project.

Bridgewater on Loddon is the Southern Gateway into the Loddon Shire

Local Economy	
Objective	Strategies
<p>Tourism and marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Caravan Park ◆ Local winery's ◆ Loddon River ◆ Bridgewater Hotel ◆ Bridgewater Motel ◆ Bridgewater Recreation reserve ◆ Arts & Culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To promote and support future Tourism growth within our region. ➔ Promote the value of successful strategies and advertising of tourism in the Bridgewater region. ➔ Promote and encourage local Tourism locations and attractions on social media. ➔ To promote and support a visitor information tourist stand. ➔ To promote and support Arts & Culture programs in the Bridgewater region.
<p>Economic development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Agribusiness processing ◆ Agriculture ◆ Tourism ◆ Food & Water security ◆ Housing ◆ Businesses in township 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To advocate and promote future investment to grow the economy and enhancing the prosperity and quality of life for all. ➔ To advocate and work with Local, State & Federal Governments to ensure strategic economic development and growth for the Bridgewater region. ➔ To promote and support additional businesses within the township. ➔ To encourage and support shop front building owners along main street to permit business opportunities for future growth and create employment. ➔ To advocate and promote Loddon Shire Council to assist with the opening of closed shop front business to provide convenience and take way stores and create employment opportunities to the region. ➔ To promote and support Agriculture information functions. ➔ To advocate and promote with Local and State governments for future housing and land development within the Bridgewater region. ➔ To advocate and promote with Local, State & Federal governments for food & water security in the Bridgewater region. ➔ Advocate to manage settlement growth to limit the impact on agricultural productivity, natural resources and environmental assets. ➔ To advocate and support ongoing investment in water infrastructure and management of water resources to enhance security and efficiency of water supply to agriculture and township.
<p>Local businesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Post office ◆ Wineries ◆ Agriculture ◆ Agribusiness processing ◆ Business in town 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ To promote and support local businesses within the Bridgewater region. ➔ To promote and encourage all to support our local businesses. ➔ To promote and support local business to ensure goods and services are provided in the Bridgewater region. ➔ To advocate and promote the continuation of our productive Agriculture industry in the Bridgewater region.

Community Identified Priority Projects By Community Consultation

Road Maintenance & Upgrades

- Sebastian Road
- Arnold Road
- Town Roads

Council Urban/Town Plan Renewal

- To address numerous issues within the town boundary
- Land development for housing

Town Shops and Businesses

- Additional food & grocery businesses within the town
- Access to unutilised shops within the town

River & Environment

- Continuation of the foreshore projects
- Eradication of corellas

Community Buildings

- Bridgewater Primary School Continuation
- Bridgewater Memorial Hall Redevelopment

Access to Public Transport

- Bus service
- Rail link

Agriculture

- Food & water security
- Continuation of our productive Agriculture industry

Community Clubs & Groups Priority Projects

By Strategic Planning

Bridgewater Recreation Reserve Inc.

Bridgewater Recreation Reserve is the Sporting Precinct in Bridgewater on Loddon and is the home of:

- ➔ Bridgewater Cricket Club
- ➔ Bridgewater Football & Netball Club
- ➔ Bridgewater Golf Club
- ➔ Bridgewater Tennis Community
- ➔ Active Farmers Bridgewater

Identified Projects

- ▶ Courts repair and resurfacing
- ▶ Whether protection around the courts
- ▶ LED lighting upgrade for tennis/netball and 2x football towers
- ▶ Electronic scoreboards for football/netball
- ▶ Internal Change rooms men's, toilets upgrade and floor sealing
- ▶ Outside fencing along Bridgewater/Maldon Rd
- ▶ Drainage around the perimeter of the ground and around courts
- ▶ New goal posts
- ▶ Mower for golf club
- ▶ Improve curtains at end of veranda.
- ▶ Tank water to be connected to new change rooms
- ▶ Landscaping
- ▶ Drainage between new change rooms and existing pavilion
- ▶ Repurpose old female change room and football office and umpire room
- ▶ Bump Track (Bikes)
- ▶ Cricket Practice Net (Fixed or Mobile)
- ▶ Solar battery

Bridgewater Bowling Club Inc.

Identified Projects

- ▶ Improve and maintain the front Green.
- ▶ Improve drainage and upgrade car parking along Elden St.
- ▶ Install adequate LED Greens lighting.
- ▶ Upgrade shelters to the Green ends.
- ▶ Purchase new Green mower.
- ▶ Installation of veranda and extended sunshade to main building.
- ▶ Ensure that the on-going maintenance of facilities reflects a vibrant, active club.

Acknowledgements

Bridgewater on Loddon Development would like to acknowledge the:

- ➔ **Bridgewater community for taking the time and effort to complete the community survey and submit their ideas and suggestions that assisted in producing this plan.**
- ➔ **Members of the BOLD committee who work together as a well-oiled team to develop this Community Plan.**
- ➔ **Sporting Clubs that provided their identified priority projects.**
- ➔ **Loddon Shire Council community planning scheme that recognises this plan.**

