

DRAFT

# Robertson Village Place Plan

## Wingecarribee Shire Council

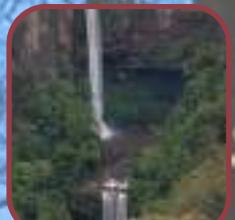


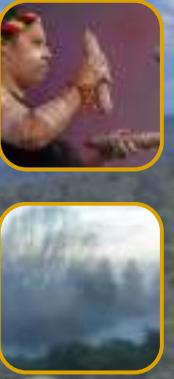
We're with you

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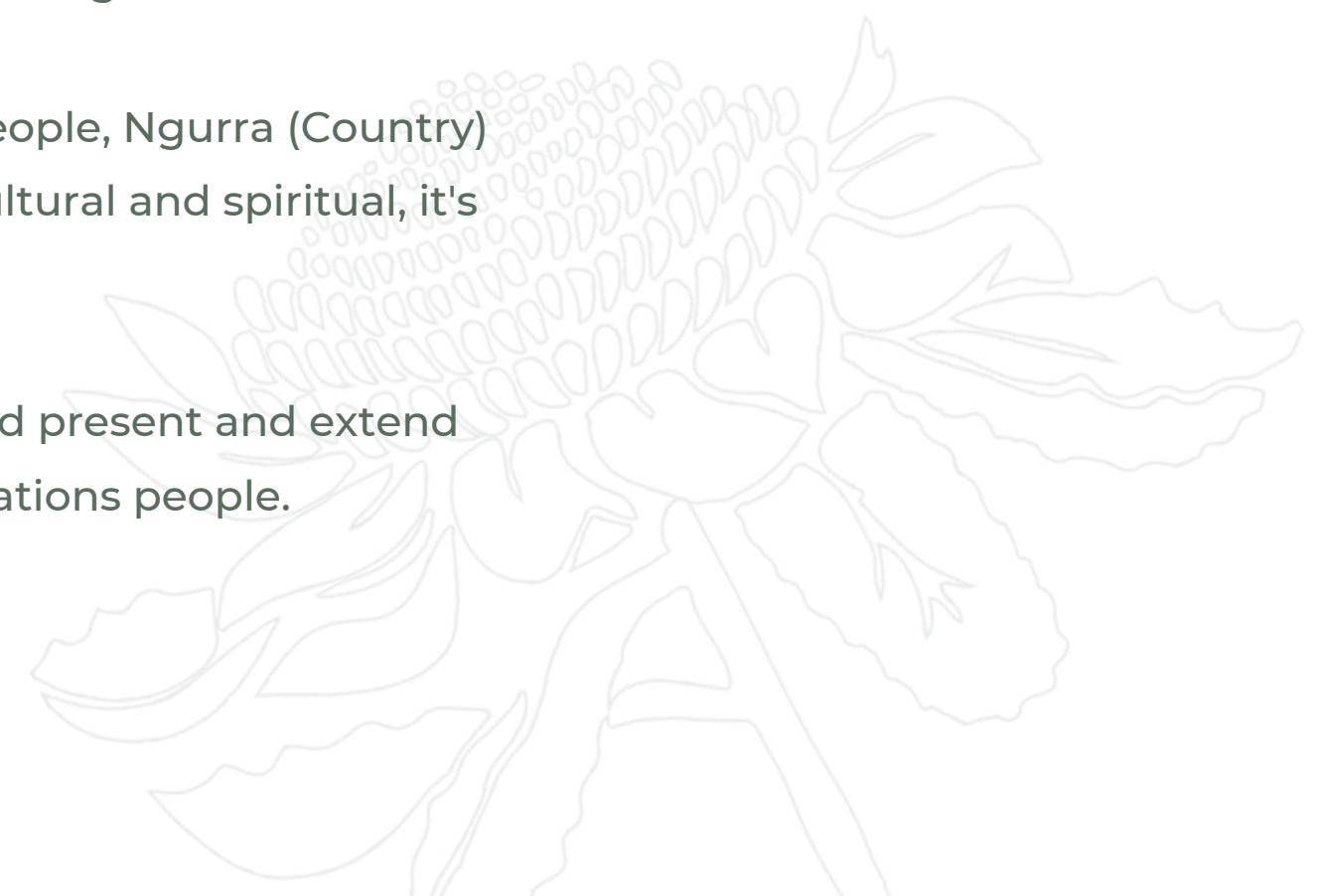
# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Wingecarribee Shire Council acknowledges the Gundungurra and Tharawal people as the Traditional custodians of this place we now call the Wingecarribee Shire.

Wingecarribee Shire Council recognises the continuous and deep connection to their Ngurra (Country) and that this is of great cultural significance to Aboriginal people, both locally and in the region.

For Gundungurra and Tharawal people, Ngurra (Country) means everything, it's physical, cultural and spiritual, it's belonging.

We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend that respect to all First Nations people.



# The way forward...

Together, we're shaping the future of the Shire, and knowing the best way forward for your village starts with identifying the character that makes it unique, and understanding the values and priorities that matter to members of the community.

To achieve this, we've worked in close consultation with the Robertson community since October of 2021. This draft of the Robertson Village Place Plan represents the culmination of that extensive research and community engagement, including on-line feedback, a Place Audit, SWOT analysis and Visioning Exercise.

It takes into account the defining features of the Village Centre and 'Square Mile', pinpointed by community-members, from natural landscapes to buildings, activities and amenities. And it paints the picture of an holistic, community-led vision for meeting the housing, economic, social and cultural needs of the village community, for years to come.

By working collaboratively, we can ensure what the people of Robertson want, will guide decision-making about future plans for the place where they live and work. Together, we can develop plans to protect, enhance and build-upon the aspects locals love.

For the Robertson Village to be revitalised and continue to thrive, practical planning of future housing, infrastructure services, cultural needs, and investment, is required. Together with the Robertson community, we've come up with this road map for growth, in the way locals want to see it take shape, informed by the ideas and expectations community members have shared with us in the consultation process.

More and more people are drawn to the quality of life we enjoy here in the Southern Highlands and the village of Robertson offers a lifestyle that is truly unique. Well located in proximity to the coast as well as neighbouring villages and townships, Robertson is renowned for its artisan industry and locally grown produce, charming boutique retail and rich heritage, as well as its pristine natural areas.

A planning approach that will preserve those appealing characteristics of village life in Robertson has been ensured by listening to what the community values and envisions for their future. Together, we've identified so much potential for making the experience of being part of the Robertson community even better, and set out a clear pathway to take us there.

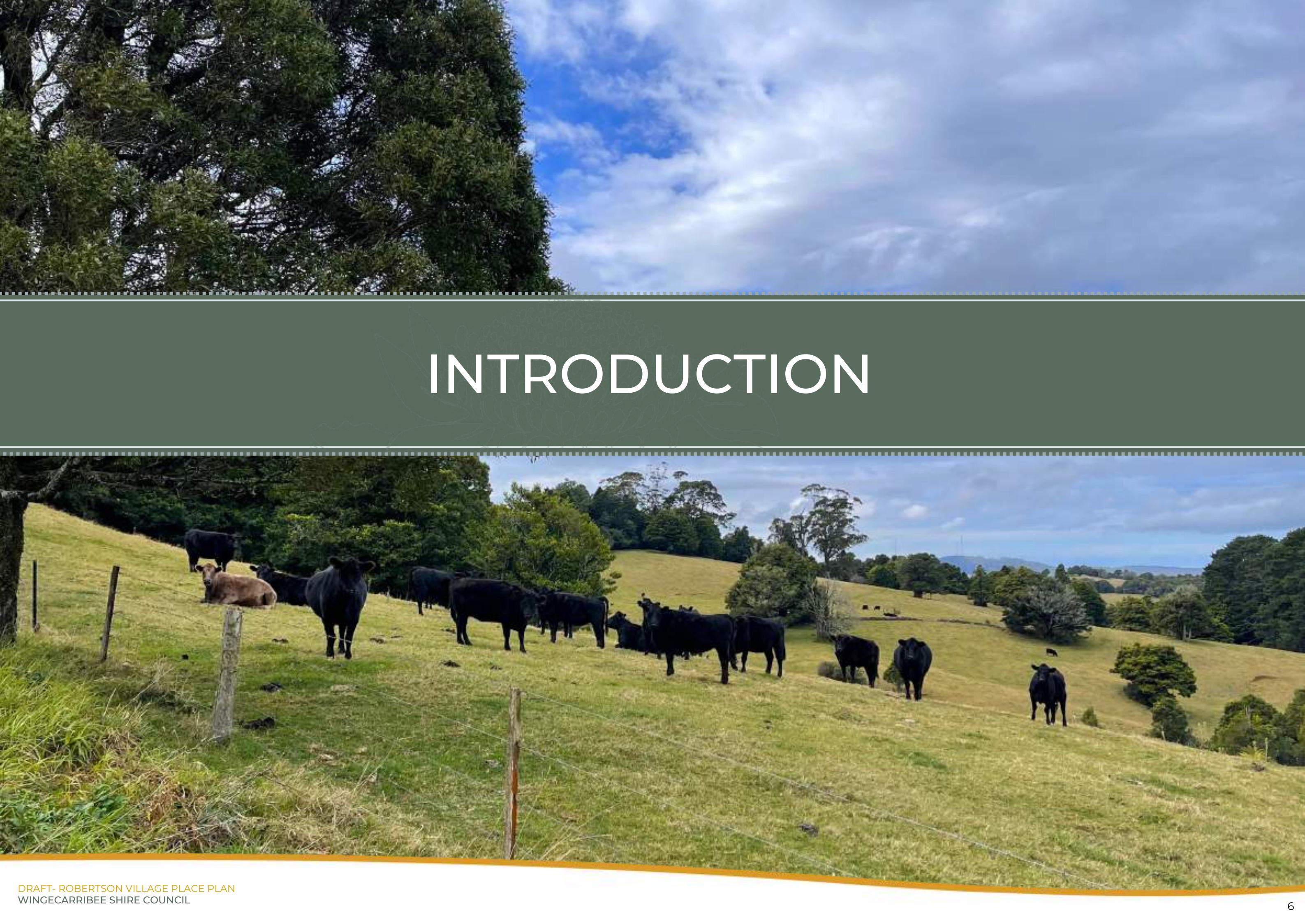
We thank the many residents, business owners, and other stakeholders, who have contributed to the formulation of this thoughtful and innovative strategy for creating a bright and sustainable future for your village, with a real sense of place.



Viv May  
Administrator



Lisa Miscamble  
General Manager



# INTRODUCTION

# From then to now...

The land that we now know as the village of Robertson is located on the traditional lands of the Gundungurra and Tharawal nations. Robertson's proximity to the coast and connection to neighbouring areas in the Southern Highlands resulted in Robertson performing as a "passing-through place" for many clans. The unique rock formations of the escarpment and dense rainforest areas which were later referred to as Yarrawa Brush, hold many sites that are sacred to the local First Nations community.

The obstacle of clearing the untamed rainforest areas saw the land being avoided for some time despite settlements emerging on neighbouring lands in the Southern Highlands over a period of forty years. However, the dense vegetation and high levels of rainfall were seen as a sign of fertile soils and the favourable proximity to the Illawarra region earmarked the land for future agricultural purposes. 'The Robertson Land Acts' was therefore passed in 1861 which made the occupation of the Yarrawa Brush permissible and forced the local First Nations community off their traditional lands.

The land was later cleared to make way for a village, which was initially named Yarrawa but changed to Robertson to pay tribute to Sir John Robertson who was central to the Crown Lands Alienation Act of 1861. The richness of the red soil of Robertson is believed to have supported the extension of the Southern Highland's dairy industry and enabled the cultivation of many crops, with cabbages and potatoes being particularly successful.

The fertile lands also attracted many new residents to the area and with this other establishments gradually emerged in the village, such as hotels, butchers, bootmakers, auctioneers, local schools, churches, a police station, post office and the School of Arts. The introduction of services further improved village life and the economic success of Robertson, with Macquarie Pass being completed in 1898 and the railway line opening in 1932, which connected Robertson to Unanderra and Moss Vale.

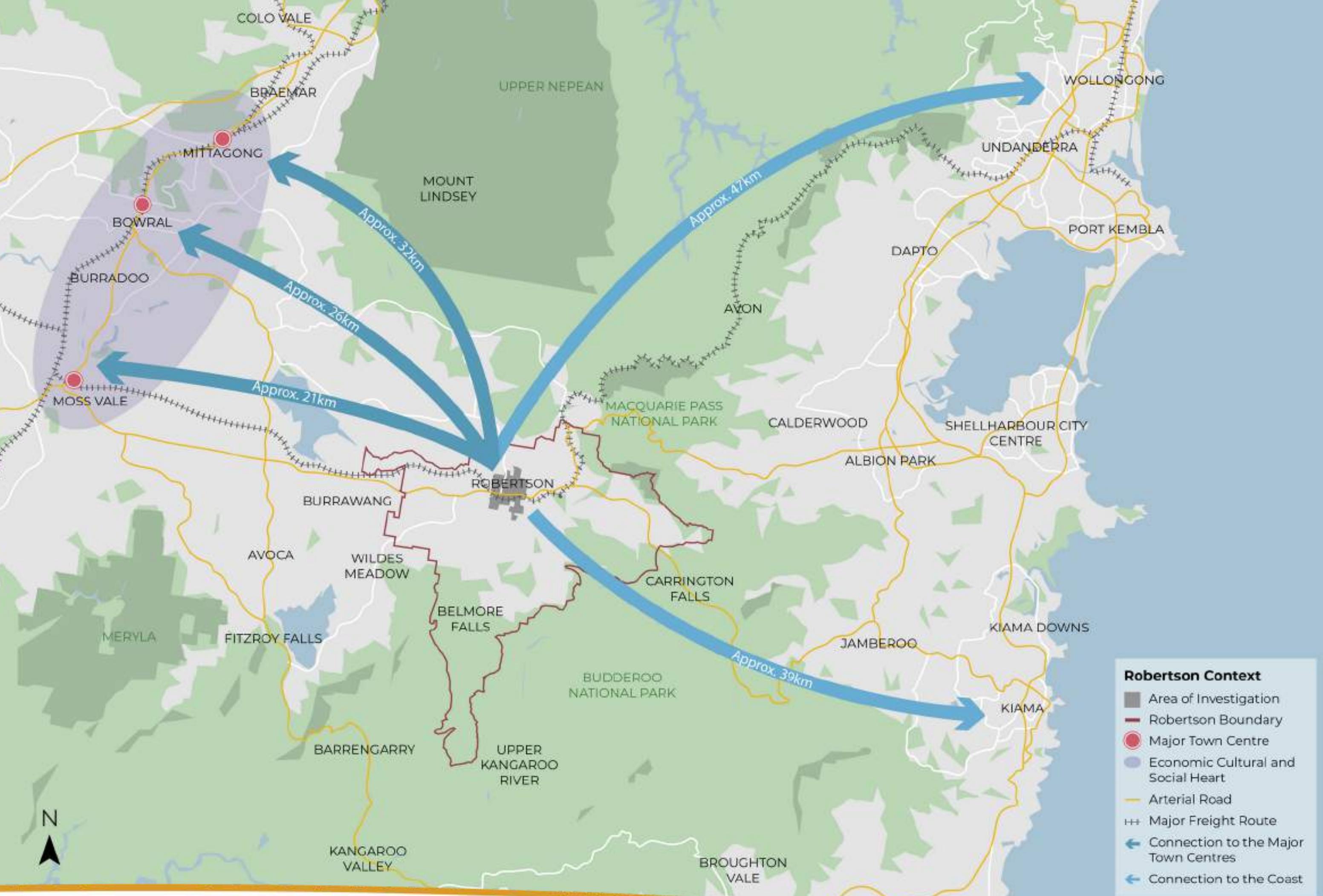
Today, Robertson continues to be an attractive and supportive centre that echoes the country charm of the Southern Highlands. The proud history of the village is celebrated by our community through annual events like the Potato Festival and Robertson Show, which was first held in 1880. The surrounding agricultural lands and views to natural areas also provide a scenic backdrop which reinforces Robertson's identity as an idyllic country village.

Along with Robertson's cherished natural areas, agricultural lands and historical assets, the village continues to have a booming arts and culture scene with Robertson offering a boutique shopping and dining experience where visitors and residents can enjoy local produce and artisan products. There is a long history of Robertson having a supportive and inclusive neighbourhood and our community continues to be proud to call Robertson home and share their history and the offerings of the village with visitors who are passing through the centre.

*Information sourced from 'A History of The Berrima District' by James Jervis and The Village of Robertson's website (<https://robertson.nsw.au/history.html>) which was compiled with the assistance of Helen Tranter and Quentin Waters for the Robertson Community Information Centre Project 2018.*

*Images sourced from Australian University - Open Research Library, Robertson History Group and the Robertson Cheese Factory (<https://www.robertsoncheesefactory.com.au/>).*









# Robertson's Local Character

## What is local character?

Local character is not only defined by an area's built form but is also heavily influenced by other contributing characteristics that make a place distinctive. This can include a Place's topography, development patterns, gateway treatments, contributory or heritage buildings and landscapes, views and vistas, natural elements, activity and the community.

Understanding the difference between these site-specific attributes and how they interact with one another is important when attempting to identify the overall character of a place. In doing so, this information can be used to inform future place-based planning decisions and to not prevent development, but to ensure that when it occurs that it respects and enhances the recognised local character.

## What is Robertson's Local Character?

Robertson is recognised as possessing a distinctive local character that is cherished by the community and is renowned for attracting high numbers of visitors. The First Nations and agricultural heritage of Robertson, the thriving artisan industry, picturesque landscapes and its strategic proximity to the coast and neighbouring natural areas, are some of the characteristics that are recognised by our community as collectively contributing to the highly valued character of Robertson.

The word cloud below captures the characteristics that are thought to significantly contribute to the unique identity of Robertson, by the local community.

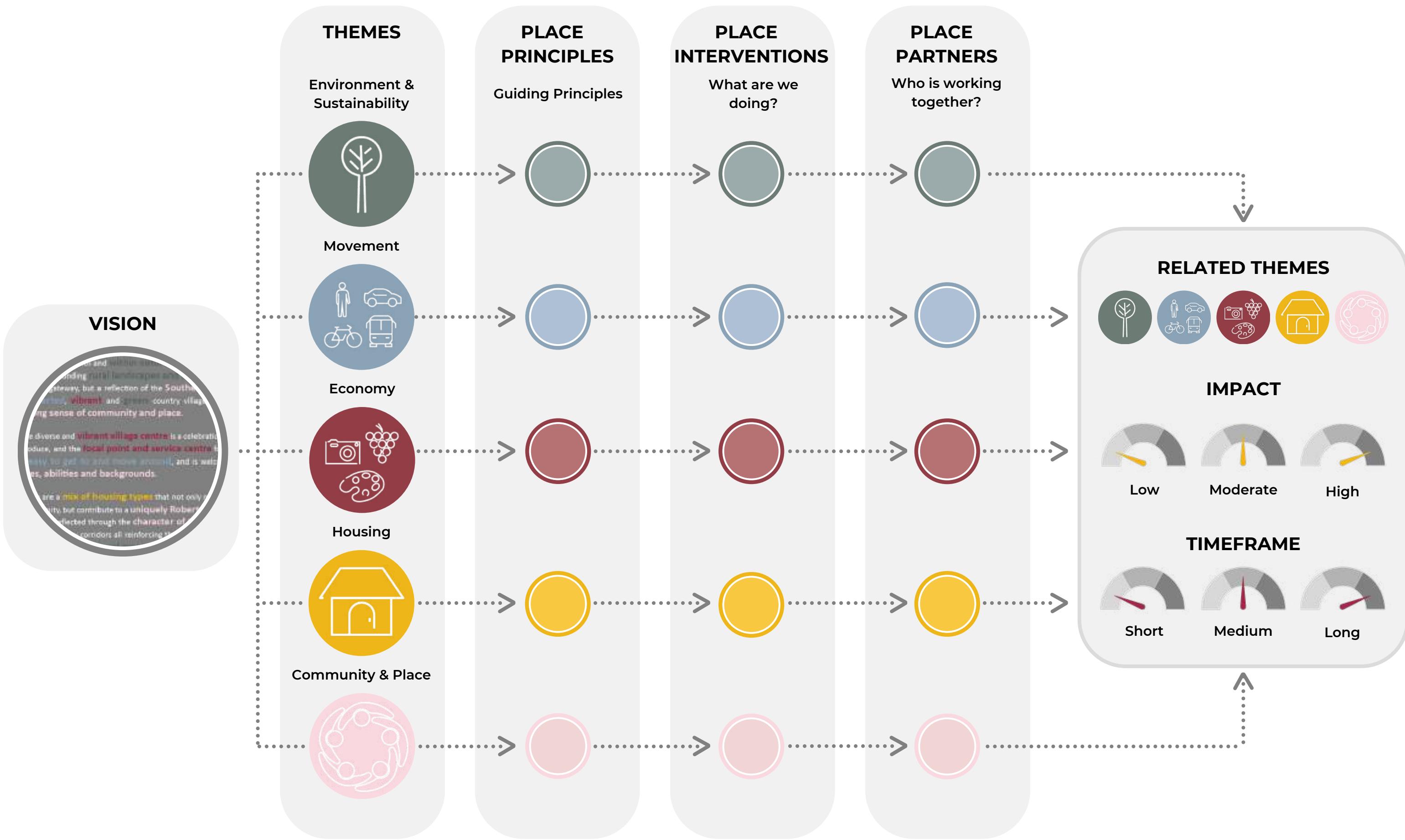


## What is a Place Plan?

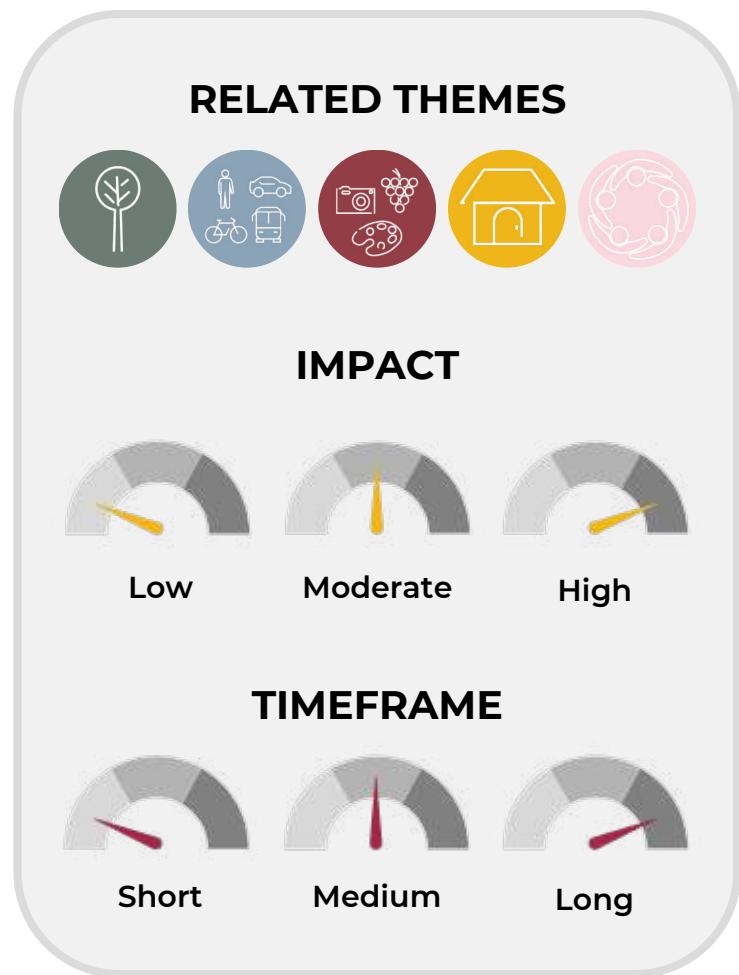
Council has been working closely with our community to develop a community-led strategic plan for Robertson. The Draft Robertson Village Place Plan is a holistic place-based plan which addresses the housing, economic, social and cultural needs of the Robertson community, both now and into the future. The Place Plan is intended to celebrate what we love about Robertson, enhance the existing village centre and also create new opportunities that work towards the long-term vision.



# How to use the Place Plan?



# How to use the Place Plan?



## RELATED THEMES

Under each of the five Place Principles, being Environment and Sustainability, Movement, Economy, Housing and Community and Place, a series of Place Interventions have been identified. However, despite the interventions being categorised under one of the five Place Principles, we acknowledge that a number of these interventions also relate to either one or more of the other Place Themes. The implementation table, therefore calls out related themes per Place Intervention as a means to visually communicate this relationship.

## IMPACT

While the Place interventions are recognised as contributing to the delivery of the vision for the Robertson village centre, the classification of the impact of each Intervention will assist in the identification of priority projects and “quick wins”. The impact of each Place Intervention has therefore been graded and placed on a scale which ranges from low, moderate to high impact.

The grading of the Place Interventions has been completed through an assessment of a number of considerations, such as their benefit to the whole village versus specific community groups, improvements to safety and community life and the complexity of the delivery of the intervention.

## TIMEFRAME

An indicative timeframe has been identified for each Place Intervention, which takes into account the approximate time that would be required to facilitate the organisation of proposed works with relevant agencies and the time it would take to carry out the works required.

- Short Term = 2 to 5 years
- Medium Term = 5 to 10 years
- Long Term = 10 to 20+ years.

# Messages from the Community

(What we heard during the exhibition of the Draft Place Plan)

*"I whole heartedly approve the overall sentiment and purpose of the plan which is to keep our village alive in the present and ensure it's future is sustainable."*

*"The interventions offered are key to getting the balance of housing right and especially if design principles are clearly set out so that the highly valued character of Robertson is preserved."*

*"We have some wonderful natural resources within our village (creek area, remnant rainforest) and nearby (the waterfalls etc). I agree those in the village should be made much more accessible for public usage and recreation and preservation."*

*"The shared path at Hampden Park is an excellent idea, and a good priority to have."*

*"The idea of gateways at each end of Hoddle Street is great as well as more street furniture."*

*"The interventions offered are key to getting the balance of housing right and especially if design principles are clearly set out so that the highly valued character of Robertson is preserved."*

*"I am pleased that the plan acknowledges the need to protect the historical character of the village."*

*"...too many young and aged leaving Robbo because no viable housing for them. Housing must fit in with Robertson."*

*"The idea of a community square next to the CTC would also be really welcome as it already acts as an information point."*

*"Facilitating Caalong Creek public pathways. Great idea!"*

*"By providing more, Robertson won't just be the place visitors drive through to get to Moss Vale or Bowral"*

*"Crossings on Hoddle St and traffic calming is key to invigorate a community hub/High St feel to Hoddle St."*

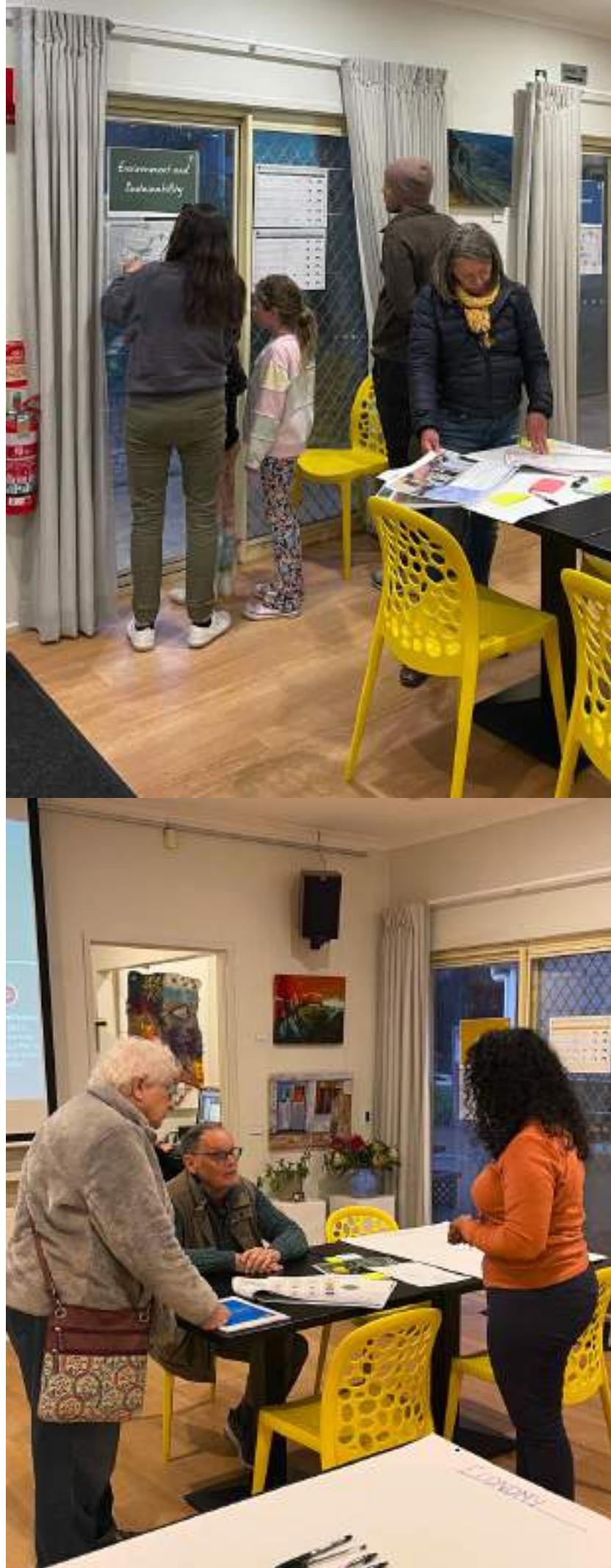
Maintaining the green theme of Robertson is important, and providing for more sustainable development themes to improve energy usage are important.

*"Thanks for all the time and care devoted to developing this plan and having a strong consultation program in place."*

*"Review of the DCP enabling increased building height, reduce setbacks to encourage commercial development that is more reflective of the most valued heritage buildings in the village."*

*"I would love to see First Nations acknowledgments and signage and interpretations in the village alongside its colonial history."*

*"When we moved here we were amazed at how access along the creek was not public. Robertson is a very difficult village to move around in, unless you're using the main street."*



# Top Priorities

(What we heard from the community during the exhibition of the Draft Place Plan)



## Environment and Sustainability

### A) Native Flora and Weed Control

"Native trees, plants and landscaping should be used exclusively in public areas because they are beautiful, unique and better suited to climate now and in the future".

"Interventions to restrict the presence of weeds would be welcome".

'Potential for restoring patches of TEC's in reserves and riparian corridors of Caalang Creek and Hampden Park'.

### B) Environment Awareness Education Program

"I think education programs are important for new generations of people (e.g. at the school) but for mature residents we are, or should be, aware of the importance of sustainability".

"Engagement and supporting education opportunities and seek First Nations cultural knowledge is always going to be a benefit."

### C) Climate Action in Robertson

"Climate action should be a high priority in all urban planning decisions".

"Providing for more sustainable development to improve energy usage is important".

"Maintaining the green theme of Robertson is important, and providing for more sustainable development themes to improve energy usage are important.'



## Movement

### A) Hampden Park Shared Path

"Getting a footpath on the northern side of Hoddle Street is crucial to the town being more accessible for all!"

"The shared path at Hampden Park is an excellent idea, and a good priority to have."

"...construct a safe footpath along the frontage to Hampden Park in the near future..."

### B) Hoddle Street Traffic Calming Solutions and Crossing Opportunities

"...it would greatly improve access to, and visibility of, CTC Robertson if there was an additional crossing near the CTC – between the CTC and Meryla Street. It would also increase safety for visitors."

"Crossings on Hoddle St and traffic calming is key to invigorate a community hub/High St feel to Hoddle St."

### C) Active Transport

"When there is no safe place to walk except on roadways, people will drive for local errands increasing our carbon footprint and compromise the mental, social and physical benefits of a walking."

"...if the bike and walking tracks intersect and provide a way for residents to access all parts of the village, it would have a positive impact."

# Top Priorities Continued

(What we heard from the community during the exhibition of the Draft Place Plan)



## Economy

### A) Thriving and growing 7 days-a-week economy

*"Growth in the population of the town to the threshold necessary to attract a grocer, large enough to provide weekly household needs..."*

*"...keep the village alive in the present and also ensure its sustainable future".*

*"Robertson needs further business to provide services and goods for residents and visitors".*

### B) Electric Vehicle (EV) charging

*"Electric vehicle charging would be great to attract the growing number of e-vehicles on the road."*

*"I think EV charging will have a higher impact particularly as EVs become cheaper to own and run."*



## Housing

### A) Increase of residential density and variety of housing in the village centre

*"Housing options are needed for Robertson residents to age in place."*

*"This is vitally important for all reasons described but must be short term goal. Too many young and aged leaving Robbo because no viable housing for them..."*

*"I love the large blocks, but I would also like to see tasteful medium density in particular areas."*

*"For residents to age in place, we need more options for them to move away from large blocks/farms and for our children, we need other options that are affordable for them to stay close to family."*

*"We must reduce the use of motor vehicles by stopping Urban Sprawl."*



## Community and Place

### A) Development of a Master Plan for Hampden Park

*"Hampden park plan would give youth at Robertson a real place to play. This would be used by young and old and help to build community."*

*"... it would be fantastic if the whole community supported a renewed skate park. However, it has to be a good one! State of the art!!"*

### B) Protecting and Enhancing Character

*"Maintain Robertson's rural character while giving it a basis to have a more mixed economy."*

*"More resources, more creativity, more focus on holistic approach to the town - focus on niche artisan agricultural context."*

*"...we also support the strategies in the Plan for exploring First Nations cultural knowledge, adding more place appropriate public art to the village, promoting the heritage of Robertson and other strategies that encourage arts and culture engagement and opportunities."*

### C) Community Square

*"The idea of a community square next to the CTC would also be really welcome as it already acts as an information point."*

*"...would strongly support this becoming a community space to extend the community precinct."*

*"It would be great to get access to the vacant block next to the CTC for community purposes."*





# VISION AND THEMES



# Vision

**Situated on top of the escarpment, Robertson is a contemporary country village that has grown with and within nature. The village has an intrinsic connection to the surrounding rural landscapes and natural areas, and is not only the eastern gateway, but a reflection of the Southern Highlands charm! It is a connected, vibrant and green country village with a unique identity and strong sense of community and place.**

The diverse and vibrant village centre is a celebration of local arts, culture and produce, and the focal point and service centre for the local community. It is easy to get to and move around, and is welcoming for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

There are a mix of housing types that not only meet the diverse needs of the community, but contribute to a uniquely Robertson identity. The agricultural roots are reflected through the character of the village, with buildings, open spaces and view corridors all reinforcing the connection to the surrounding rural landscapes and natural areas.

Robertson is an attractive, inclusive and sustainable place, that's biggest strength lies within the community. It is a contemporary country village and a celebration of what is great about the Southern Highlands.

## Themes



### Environment and Sustainability

A sustainable village that grows with and within nature.



### Movement

A village that is easy to get to and move around, and is welcoming for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.



### Economy

A vibrant village centre with a contemporary country charm, the eastern gateway to the Southern Highlands.



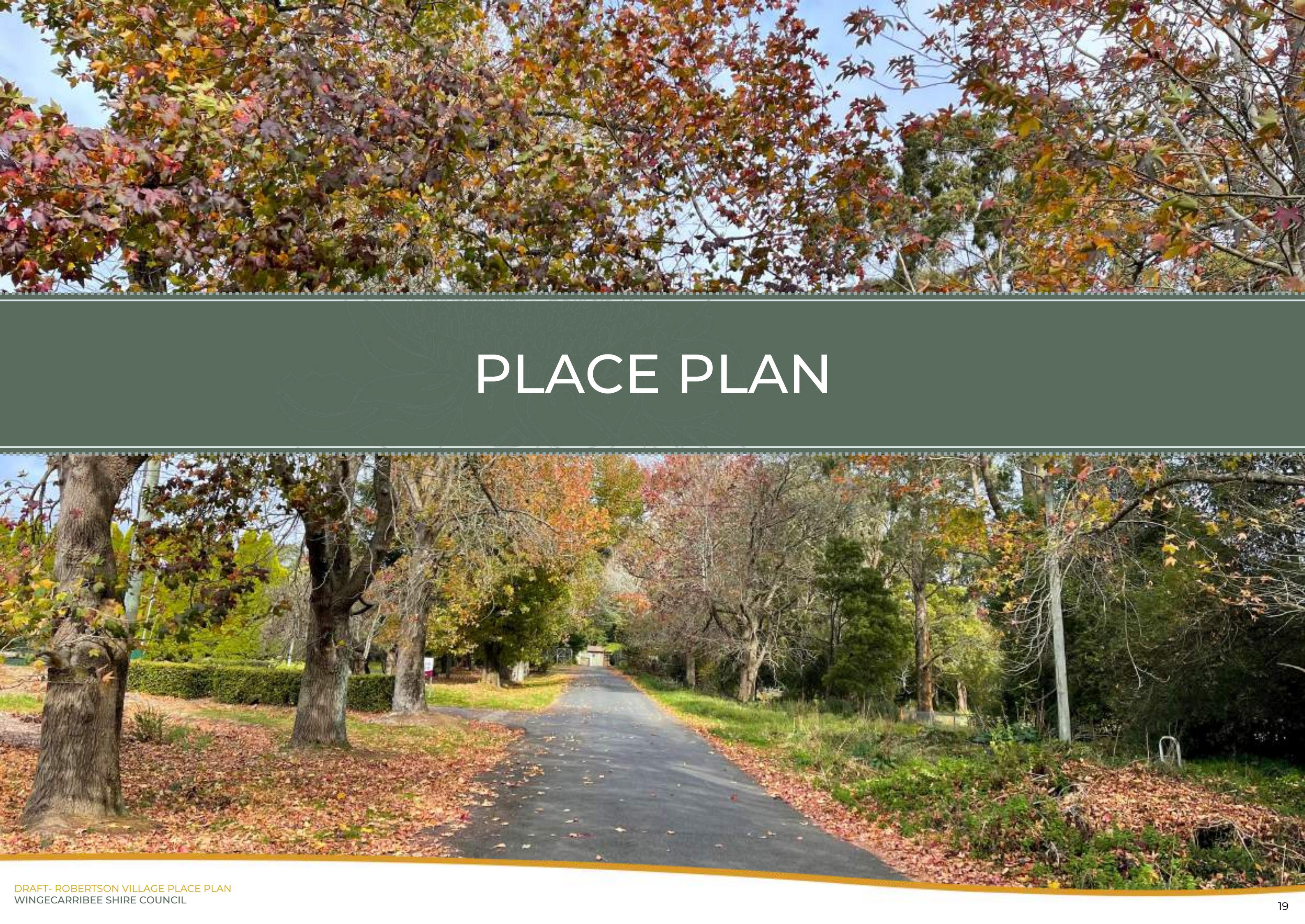
### Housing

A mix of housing types that meet the diverse needs of the community and contribute to a uniquely Robertson identity.



### Community and Place

A strong sense of identity, community and place.



# PLACE PLAN



## 1.0 Environment and Sustainability

### *A sustainable village that grows with and within nature.*

Robertson is renowned as the 'green village' of the Southern Highlands. Its high value natural areas like the Robertson Nature Reserve and Robertson Basalt Tall Open Forest, the tall mature trees throughout the village, rich basalt-derived soil and Caalang Creek, not only have an important environmental function but also contribute to the unique character of the village, with rolling rural landscapes forming the backdrop of Robertson. This theme explores ways in which these natural assets can be celebrated, strengthen the ecosystem, and support the movement network and social and economic activities in the village centre.

The village possesses an abundance of natural features and endless rural landscapes, which are home to many species of native fauna. Climate change and natural disasters in the last few years have impacted the quality of green open areas and waterways in the area. The maintenance and enhancement of the existing green open spaces and waterways is essential for the community to be able to enjoy the essence of the green village.

Therefore, this theme aims to ensure the ongoing sustainability and quality of natural areas in Robertson, and enhance the ecological and biodiversity value of Robertson. Whilst acknowledging Council has a key role, the local community can also make a significant contribution in maintaining and enhancing the environment and sustainability of the Village.

#### **What we heard...**

*"Robertson is the green heart of the highlands and this should be maintained above all else."*

*"The lush rainforest, the dramatic escarpment and green pastures define Robertson and nurturing the balance between these three elements is critical to the longevity of Robertson's character."*

*"The green areas around Robertson which are essential to its character and also essential to its economic and cultural future need to be protected."*



## ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY - DRAFT



— Area of Investigation

++ Railway Line - Major Freight Route

Robertson Station

Flood Planning Area

Unformed Road Reserve

Recreation Space

Existing Vegetation

Robertson Nature Reserve

Existing Rainforest Walking Track

\* Improve access to and quality of green and blue infrastructure. (ES1)

--- Potential Active Transport Loop (ES2)

— Potential Public Access / Ownership (ES3)

▲ Reported Koala Sightings (ES4)

■ Clearing of invasive weeds along high-risk pathways (ESS and ES7)

— Improve the hydrological, biodiversity and corridor value of riparian areas. (ES6)

→ Maintain and improve the water quality of riparian areas.

# Map Detail

ES1

## *Improve Access to Green and Blue Infrastructure*

Green and Blue Infrastructure means the network of green open spaces and the waterways, including trees, parks, nature reserves and the creek, which are present in the centre of Robertson. At the moment, parts of the creek and open areas are not completely under public ownership. Our community have voiced the importance of having access to these natural assets to enjoy the essence of Robertson. The map identifies a few priority areas where action can be taken to improve access to these natural areas.



Caalang Creek

ES2

## *Potential Active Transport Loop*

Our community desires pedestrian access from one side of the creek to the other. The map identifies a loop around the village, along the creek corridor, which if balanced sensitively with its environmental qualities, could be used for recreational purposes or for active transport purposes.

ES3

## *Potential Public Access/Ownership of Caalang Creek*

Currently, parts of Caalang Creek are under private ownership. The creek cuts through the centre of town, creating access barriers and leaving it underutilised. By bringing the creek into public ownership, this could enable the creek to be a community asset and assist in realising the proposed Active Transport Loop.



Robertson Station - Identified as one of the high-risk pathways in Robertson.

ES4

## *Koala Sightings*

These are areas where Koalas have been seen and reported. The mature trees in Robertson and native vegetation attracts Koalas and other native animals to the area.

ES5

## *ES5 Clearing of Invasive Weeds*

Invasive weeds are non-native, unwanted plants, that harm or prevent the growth of native vegetation, by competing with them for resources. They can also pose a risk to public health, wildlife and agriculture in some cases. In order to promote growth of native trees, it is important to regularly clear invasive weeds.

ES6

## *Riparian Areas*

Riparian Areas are the interface between land and the creek. The area around the creek is flood prone and not safe for residential development. However, it could be used as public open space and incorporate walking tracks and recreational / community use.

ES7

## *High-risk Pathways and Sites*

High-risk pathways include major waterways, railway corridors, motorways, highways and major roads. High-risk sites include stockpiles, nurseries, showgrounds and markets. In order to protect valuable assets, it is critical that high-risk pathways and sites, in relation to spread of weeds, are locally managed and regularly monitored.

1.1

## *Improve the quality of and access to the natural areas, open spaces and waterways so that they are inviting, easy to get to and enjoyable public places.*

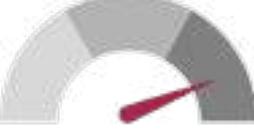
The Robertson community identified the need to explore opportunities to strengthen the connectivity of the existing green and blue infrastructure, as several areas around the village centre are underutilised or overgrown such as the reserve at the corner of May Street and Main Street, which has a direct pedestrian connection to High Street. As the creek is not entirely in public ownership, it creates connectivity barriers and prevents the community from experiencing the calmness of this natural asset.

This Place Principle identifies a number of Place Interventions that seek to significantly improve access to Robertson's green and blue infrastructure, to assist in the delivery of a high-quality connected green open space network, and improving the usability of natural areas that contribute to the existing character of the village.

The following Place Interventions aim to:

- Improve accessibility to Caalang Creek and other natural areas for the community to experience the calm and peace of nature.
- Improve regeneration of landscapes and riparian corridors, ensuring long-term sustainability of the natural areas of the village.
- Control and manage invasive weeds in the area, which impact the growth of native vegetation.
- Mitigate biosecurity risks in high value natural areas, like Robertson Basalt Tall Open Forest and Robertson Rainforest.



| PLACE INTERVENTION  | PLACE PARTNERS  | RELATED THEME   | IMPACT   | TIMEFRAME  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1.1.1 Bring the Caalang Creek and its surrounding areas into public ownership through different methods.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) -           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business and Property</li> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> </ul> </li> <li>Affected Private Property Owners</li> <li>Community Groups</li> </ul>   |       | <br>High      | <br>Long    |
| 1.1.2 Conduct annual biosecurity risks and impacts inspections on high priority natural assets, along high-risk pathways and sites in accordance with Council's Local Strategic Weed Management Plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) -           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> </ul> </li> <li>Affected Private Property Owners</li> <li>Community Groups</li> </ul>  |    | <br>Moderate  | <br>Short   |
| 1.1.3 Advocate to Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to clear invasive weeds and undertake re-vegetation of appropriate plant species along the Robertson railway corridor.                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) -           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> </ul> </li> <li>ARTC</li> <li>Transport for NSW</li> <li>Community and Business Groups (Support)-           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robertson Heritage Committee</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |   | <br>Moderate | <br>Short  |
| 1.1.4 Participate in opportunities to control weed growth and revegetate parks and reserves, areas along the riparian corridor, with native vegetation.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Groups (Lead) – Landcare Group and Robertson Environment Protection Society</li> <li>Council           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> </ul> </li> <li>Robertson Public School</li> </ul>   |   | <br>High    | <br>Short |
| 1.1.5 Participate in landscape and riparian regeneration to improve the quality of Caalang Creek and reclaim the underutilised open spaces as community assets.                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community and Business Groups (Lead) – Landcare Group, Robertson Environmental Protection Society and Regen Action</li> <li>Affected Private Landowners</li> <li>Council (Support)           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> <li>Development and Property</li> </ul> </li> <li>Crown Land</li> <li>External Agencies</li> </ul> |   | <br>High    | <br>Short |

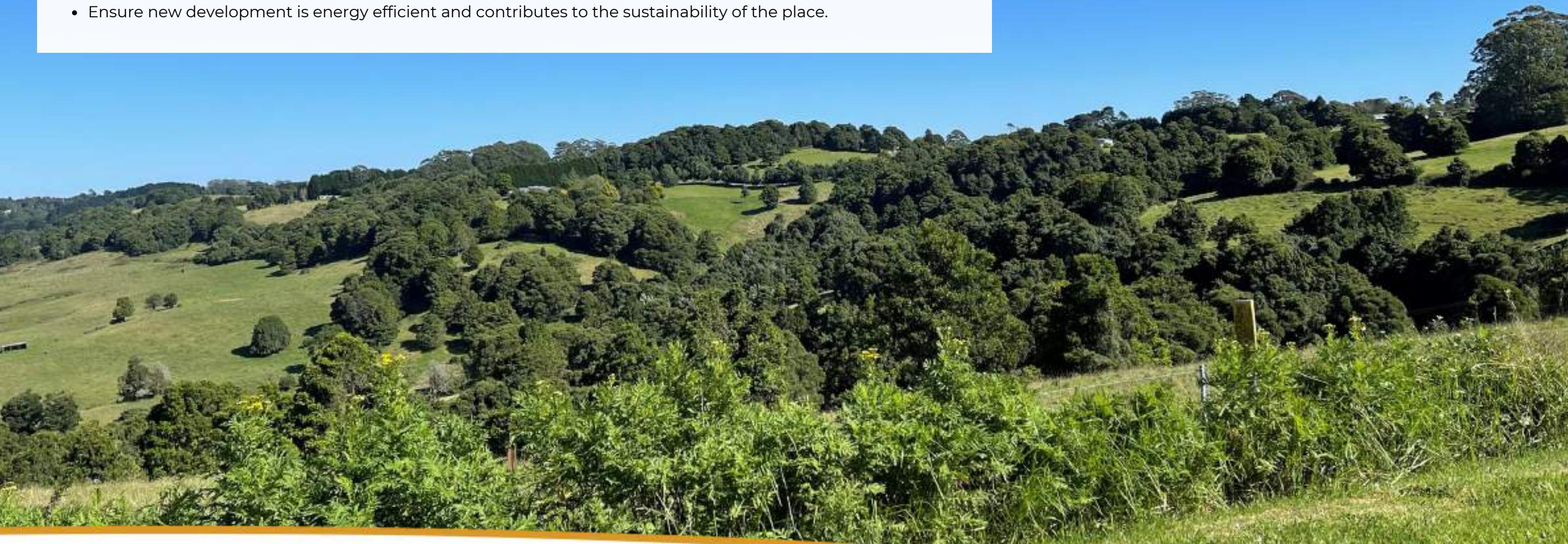
## *Ensure that the Robertson environment is resilient and continues to enhance the green identity of the village.*

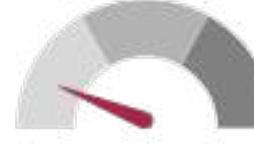
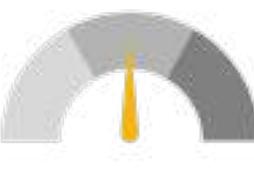
The climate and weather-related challenges faced in the last few years reinforce the need for places to be resilient and bounce back. Responses to these challenges should support long-term sustainability, ensure longevity of a place and improve its liveability.

The village is renowned for its natural areas and waterways that play an important ecological function and significantly contribute to the green identity of Robertson. In order to protect and strengthen these high value areas, it is important that Robertson continues to explore good design outcomes that actively prioritises sustainability and resilience.

The following Place Interventions identify key opportunities that support the long-term sustainability of the village and aim to:

- Conduct educative programs to increase awareness regarding protection of the environment and incorporating long-term sustainable solutions in the community.
- Protect and support the existing Koala population and other native animals in the village, while protecting and maintaining the environments that inhibit native fauna.
- Ensure new development is energy efficient and contributes to the sustainability of the place.



| PLACE INTERVENTION  | PLACE PARTNERS   | RELATED THEME   | IMPACT  | TIMEFRAME   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1.2.1 Run education programs with the community and local schools to increase awareness and encourage a shift towards protecting and enhancing Robertson's natural areas.                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>Community Groups - Robertson Environmental Protection Society (REPS)</li> <li>Robertson Public School</li> </ul>                     |       | <br>Moderate   | <br>Short    |
| 1.2.2 Engage with the local First Nations community and support education opportunities that look to explore First Nations cultural knowledge and apply traditional land management practices.        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>Local Community and Business Groups</li> <li>Local First Nations community.</li> </ul>   |    | <br>Moderate   | <br>Short    |
| 1.2.3 Plan for and deliver workshops and education that focus on the preparedness for impacts from natural hazards and climate change including bushfire, storms, flooding, earthquakes and landslip. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Development</li> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> </ul> </li> <li>NSW Rural Fire Service</li> <li>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</li> <li>Community Groups</li> </ul> |     | <br>Moderate  | <br>Short   |
| 1.2.4 Support the delivery of Saving our Species project in relation to Robertson Basalt Tall Open Forest and Robertson Rainforest.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Lead)</li> <li>Council - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> </ul> </li> <li>Affected Private Property Owners</li> <li>Community Groups</li> </ul>                      |    | <br>Moderate | <br>Short  |
| 1.2.5 Report Koala sightings on private property to Council under the Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project and Land for Wildlife Program.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community (Lead)</li> <li>Council (Support) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |    | <br>Low      | <br>Short  |
| 1.2.6 Review and reinforce the development controls to include and implement controls and opportunities that contribute to better energy efficiency in new developments.                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> <li>Development Assessment and Regulation</li> </ul> </li> <li>Development Industry</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>                                       |   | <br>High     | <br>Medium |

## *Kreative Koalas*

Kreative Koalas is a sustainability and waste recycling awareness and education program that is run by Action for Agriculture. The koala statues are created by students from participating schools and aim to educate, inspire and lead change in the community to address local sustainability issues through creativity and teamwork.

The program is designed to teach students about the Sustainable Development Goals, environmental leadership and actions, as well as getting the students to paint a koala statue to motivate and remind everyone of their environmental responsibilities. In some schools, the program has inspired their students to take it a step further and help with cleaning up their local creeks and beaches. Robertson Public School has been a member of this program and has achieved some great work in leading the development of young environmental leaders.

More information about the program is available on the Kreative Koalas website (<https://kreativekoalas.com.au/>) and Action for Agriculture page (<https://www.action4agriculture.com.au/>).





## 2.0 Movement

*A village that is easy to get to and move around, and is welcoming for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.*

Strategically situated along a major transport corridor, Robertson is an important hub that provides access to the three major towns of the Wingecarribee Shire being Mittagong, Bowral and Moss Vale and neighbouring coastal areas, such as Port Kembla, Shellharbour and Kiama. This movement corridor however not only supports both freight and vehicular access to and from Robertson, but also enables visitors who are passing through or have come for a day trip or weekend getaway to stop and spend time in the village centre. The centre's grid pattern and topography lends itself to the number of view points within the village that provides a connection to surrounding agricultural lands and lush natural areas that Robertson is renowned for.

While the village centre's grid pattern provides a good foundation for Robertson to be a walkable and connected place, the railway line, highway and creek all cut through the centre significantly hindering connectivity, efficiency and safety. These barriers were identified by our community as the most significant obstacle in the centre, which emphasised the importance to strengthen the movement network to ensure that the village is a mobile, accessible and safe place for everyone. This community insight, along with information gathered through consultation with Council representatives and Transport for NSW, guided the development of the following Place Principles.

Improvements to the movement network will not only enhance access and connectivity but will also play an important role in defining the focal point of the village and contribute to the character of Robertson. It is the intention that these principles guide the delivery of a cohesive movement network that improves how we move from north to south and east to west, supports walking and cycling opportunities and seeks to improve safety and permeability. By further strengthening the movement network to, from and around the village centre, it will promote activity, establish a more inclusive and safer centre that supports social interaction and encourages community ownership.

### What we heard...

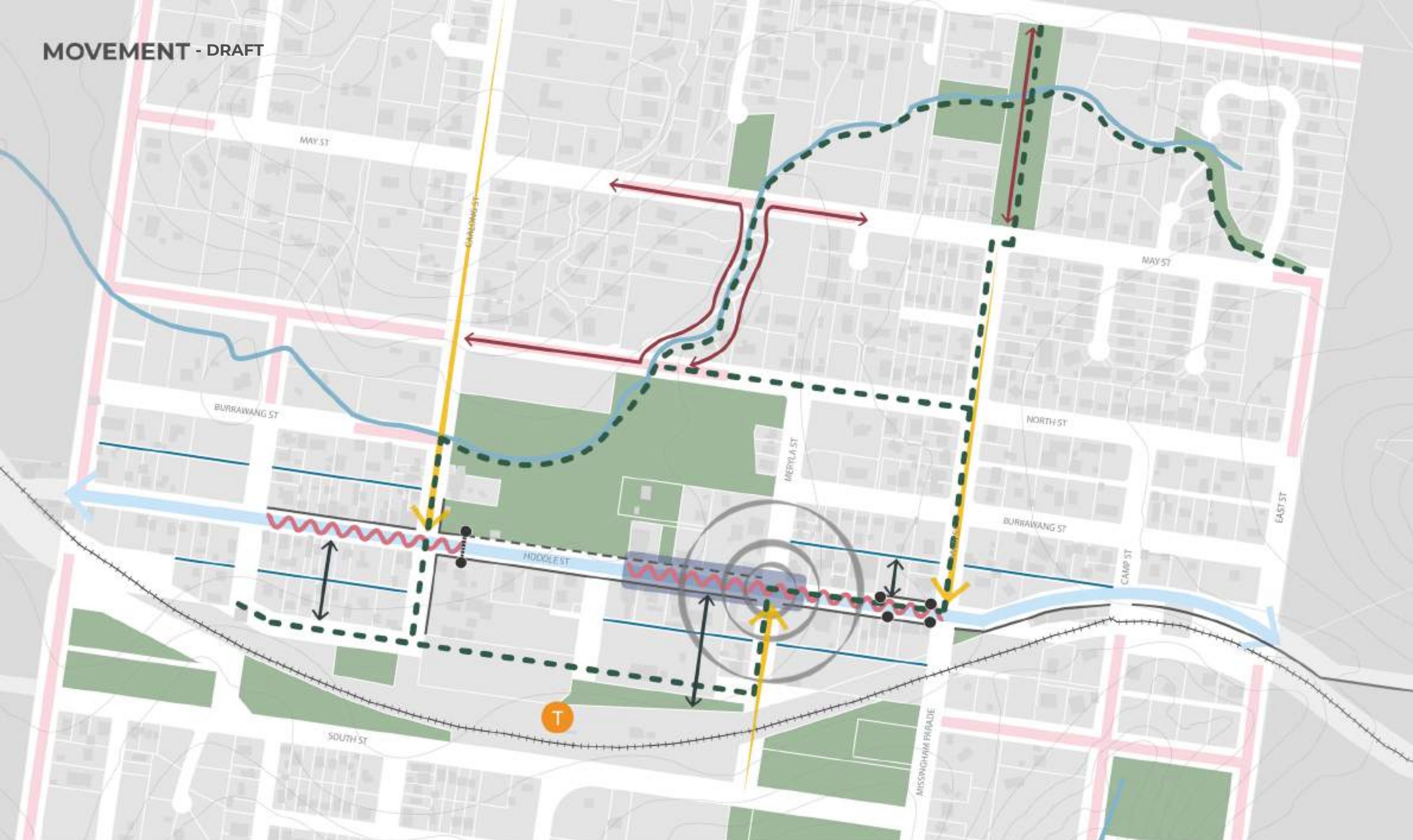
*"More often than not we walk or ride to shops or playground. You often meet people out as well and kids enjoy playing in trees and enjoying others gardens."*

*"We use a car to move around in Robertson because the shops are spread too far apart for walking."*

*"I would consider cycling if the cycle path extended... Feels too risky without a path as the cars go so fast."*



## MOVEMENT - DRAFT



Train Line - Major Freight Route

Robertson Station

Open Space

Existing Signalised Crossing

Existing Pedestrian Crossing

Existing Footpath

Proposed Shared Path

Unformed Road Reserves (M1)

Improved Pedestrian Safety & Priority (M2)

Improved North-South Crossing Opportunities (M2)

Improved East-West Connection to the Coast (M3)

Investigate Access and Servicing From Existing Laneways (M4)

Potential Through Block Connections (M5)

Potential Active Transport Loop (M6)

Investigate Connectivity Opportunities (M7)

Improved Access Into The Centre

Improved Access To The Village Focal Point (M8)

N

# Map Detail

M1

## *Unformed Road Reserves*

An unformed road reserve is a formally identified road that has not been physically constructed, meaning it does not have asphalt or gutters. There are a number of unformed road reserves in the village and there is an opportunity to work with Crown Lands and landowners to investigate the completion of the road corridors to complete Robertson's grid layout and strengthen access and connectivity in and around the centre.



M2

## *Improved Pedestrian Safety and Priority*

The Illawarra Highway cuts through the centre of the village, with high traffic volumes and heavy vehicles significantly impacting on the amenity of the centre and creating a difficult environment for most to cross the street regardless of age or capability. The high volume of cars and trucks moving along the highway, as well as the topography, height of gutters, limited crossing points and inconsistent footpaths, all highlight the need to improve both pedestrian safety and priority on Hoddle Street.

Slowing vehicles down and providing safe crossing points for pedestrians will make Hoddle Street feel less like a highway and more like a 'main street' and provide more of a focal point for the village centre. Council will explore and develop plans for traffic calming solutions along Hoddle Street which will be presented to Transport for NSW for testing. 'Traffic calming solutions' means the introduction of physical safety measures, such as blisters, signage, etc., which manages the speed of cars and makes the driver aware of high pedestrian activity in the centre.



M3

## *Improved East-West Connection to the Coast*

Robertson is situated along a major transport corridor, with the Illawarra Highway running through the centre of the village providing visitors and our community access to the centre, as well as connecting neighbouring towns and villages in the Southern Highlands and coastal regions, such as Port Kembla, Shellharbour and Kiama. To ensure that this important access route is resilient and safe now and into the future, the development of upgrade plans should be advocated and developed in collaboration with Transport for NSW.

M4

## *Investigate Access and Servicing from Existing Laneways*

There are a number of laneways that are currently underutilised in the centre and could be upgraded to assist with access and deliveries for businesses fronting Hoddle Street. Moving this function to the rear laneways will reduce congestion along the highway, making Hoddle Street safer and a more welcoming place for people and cyclists.

M5

### Potential Through Block Connections

'Through Block Connections' mean providing pedestrian access at a point in between buildings to make it easier and quicker for people to walk or cycle to their destination rather than having to walk to the end of the block. Our community have recognised the importance of easy and safe access to businesses and recreational spaces and to respond to this a number of potential through block connections have been identified.

M6

### Potential Active Transport Loop

Active transport refers to types of movement, other than a car, that requires physical exercise to undertake, such as walking or riding your bike, skateboard or scooter. By establishing an active transport loop/path that supports walking and cycling it will not only connect people to different businesses and recreation spaces but it will also promote healthy lifestyles, allow people to have a chat to their neighbours along the way and reduce the amount of times you have to jump in the car for those short trips to and from the village centre.

M7

### Investigate Connectivity Options

The creek has been recognised as a significant barrier as it cuts through Robertson making it near impossible to travel to either end of the village without jumping in the car to drive down to the highway to connect to their destination on the other side of the creek. Our community identified this obstacle and there is an opportunity to investigate connectivity options either for cars, walking or cycling to improve access and connectivity in the centre.

M8

### Improved Access to the Village Focal Point

'Focal Point' means an area in a centre where most of the activity occurs and is often referred to as the 'high street'. A high street supports a higher-level of activity and the buildings and public domain combine to create visual interest and draw people into the centre. Robertson already has a defined high-street area that reflects how traditional country towns and villages were established, with the focal point and country pub located along the 'high street' in the centre of the village.

Ensuring improved access to the village's focal point has been identified by our community as an important consideration, as it will bring more people into the centre, make it safer to access shops and recreation spaces and make the focal point a more attractive and sustainable place that embodies the character of Robertson.



2.1

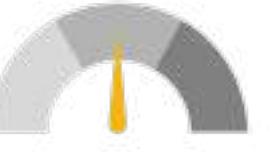
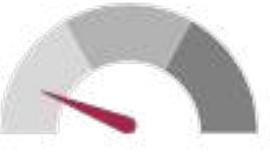
## *Make it easier and safer for people to move to, from and around the village centre.*

The village's unique location to the coast and neighbouring towns, as well as its close proximity to picturesque agricultural lands and lush natural areas, underpins why Robertson is a key destination for visitors and why many call Robertson home. Our community recognises that while the movement network currently supports travel to, from and around the centre, there are a number of safety concerns and limitations in the village's infrastructure network, such as the height of gutters, the location and width of footpaths and the way in which the Illawarra Highway, railway line and Caalang Creek divides the centre.

This Place Principle has therefore been developed to guide the delivery of roads and paths that support connectivity, safety for all and encourages activity to occur. To achieve this the following aims have been identified to respond to the existing movement barriers:

- Ensure the safety and resilience of the east and west connection to the coast.
- Ensure that our roads and paths enhance accessibility by improving safety, wayfinding/navigation and connectivity.



| PLACE INTERVENTION   | PLACE PARTNERS  | RELATED THEME   | IMPACT  | TIMEFRAME   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 2.1.1 Advocate and work with Transport for NSW to develop short and long-term upgrade plans for the Illawarra Highway to improve the broader connection of Robertson.                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport for NSW (Lead)</li> <li>Council - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |    | <br>Moderate   | <br>Short    |
| 2.1.2 Develop plans for traffic calming solutions and crossing opportunities along Hoddle Street and present to Transport for NSW for testing.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>Transport for NSW</li> </ul>   |    | <br>High       | <br>Short    |
| 2.1.3 Review Development Control Plan provisions to require future development to provide through block links where appropriate and upgrade existing laneways for pedestrian and vehicular access. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> <li>Development Assessment and Regulation</li> </ul> </li> <li>Industry</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>            |  | <br>High     | <br>Medium |
| 2.1.4 Investigate the opportunity for the completion of unformed road corridors.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community and Industry (Lead)</li> <li>Council - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> <li>Development Assessment and Regulation</li> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  | <br>Moderate | <br>Long   |
| 2.1.5 Identify and prioritise lighting and signage improvements for the Robertson village.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Groups and Industry (Lead)</li> <li>Council - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>                                      |  | <br>Moderate | <br>Medium |



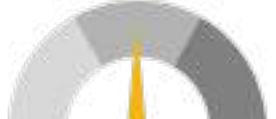
## 2.2

### *Encourage and support greater active transport activity in and around the village.*

A well connected network of cycling paths and footpaths has the ability to reduce car use, creating a more active and healthy community. While the village centre has some existing cycle lanes and footpaths, significant improvements to this network can transform the way people move around Robertson in the future. Our community recognises this opportunity to strengthen walking and cycling in the village as it will improve safety, connect people to different businesses and recreational spaces and allow people to meet others and have a chat along the way.

This Place Principle seeks to improve Robertson's movement network by encouraging a shift in how people move in and around the village centre. To achieve this the following aims have been identified:

- Ensure the safety, accessibility and efficiency of the movement network by establishing a link between key attractors, such as local businesses, civic facilities and recreational spaces.
- Encourage active transport usage to promote healthy lifestyles, social interaction, sustainable movement and the definition of the village focal point.

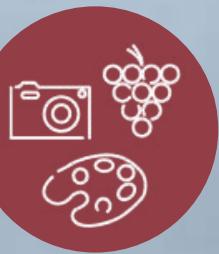
| PLACE INTERVENTION  | PLACE PARTNERS   | RELATED THEME   | IMPACT  | TIMEFRAME   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| 2.2.1 Work with the Robertson Business Chamber to trial an e-bike scheme for local workers in the village to reduce car-parking demand and promote a mode shift towards active transport.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> <li>Assets</li> </ul> </li> <li>Business Chamber</li> <li>NSW Gov. Department</li> </ul>                            |    | <br>Moderate | <br>Medium   |
| 2.2.2 With the opening up of the creek and vegetation corridor to the community, look to introduce paths that support cycling and walking along the creek and in and around the centre to support an active transport loop.                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> <li>Environment and Sustainability</li> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>Community</li> <li>Landowners</li> </ul> |   | <br>High     | <br>Long     |
| 2.2.3 Investigate the introduction of end of line infrastructure (e.g. bike parking, showers, changing rooms, etc) and review the Development Control Plan to encourage commercial developments to provide bike parking and other essential facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>Industry</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>  |  | <br>High   | <br>Medium |
| 2.2.4 Develop a scope of works to construct a shared path along Hoddle Street in front of Hampden Park up to Meryla Street as a priority.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> <li>Community Development</li> <li>Shire Presentation</li> </ul> </li> <li>Industry</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>               |  | <br>High   | <br>Short  |

## *Active Transport Loop*

Caalang Creek has been recognised by the community as a significant environmental asset but also a barrier to movement. Therefore in response to this, a potential active transport loop (shared path loop) along the riparian corridor has been identified to improve walking and cycling connectivity in the Village Centre. This long-term Place Intervention has the potential to be delivered only when future infill development incrementally occurs to properties on either side of Caalang Creek, creating opportunities for public benefit.



Example of an Active Transport Loop - Bathurst River Loop, NSW.



## 3.0 ECONOMY

*A vibrant village centre with a contemporary country charm, the eastern gateway to the Southern Highlands.*

Robertson's rich agricultural history is at the heart of the local economy. With a range of boutique cafes, restaurants and stores offering local produce and supporting agricultural industry services, it's no surprise that a majority of Robertson's working population work in retail, tourism and agriculture. Located at the top of the escarpment and at the centre point between the Illawarra and the Hume Highway, Robertson's fertile soils that sustain the local agriculture industry and provide the scenic backdrop to the village, are complemented by a strong tourism industry that continues to grow and support the local economy. With a booming arts and culture scene, the village continues to offer a boutique and distinct shopping and cultural experience.

Robertson's residents are proud of their village and its unique identity and character, which is crucial to its ongoing success. To maintain the strong sense of community in Robertson, there needs to be local jobs, local services and local opportunities with the aim of achieving a better balance between the village's tourism focus and the day-to-day needs of the local community.

With many cherished natural and historical assets, we know that we can boost the local tourism economy by showcasing these existing features, with many of these initiatives able to be led by the local community. It is also important to ensure that we can inspire new business opportunities, and with a clear vision and a contemporary planning framework, this will help Robertson achieve its full potential.

### What we heard...

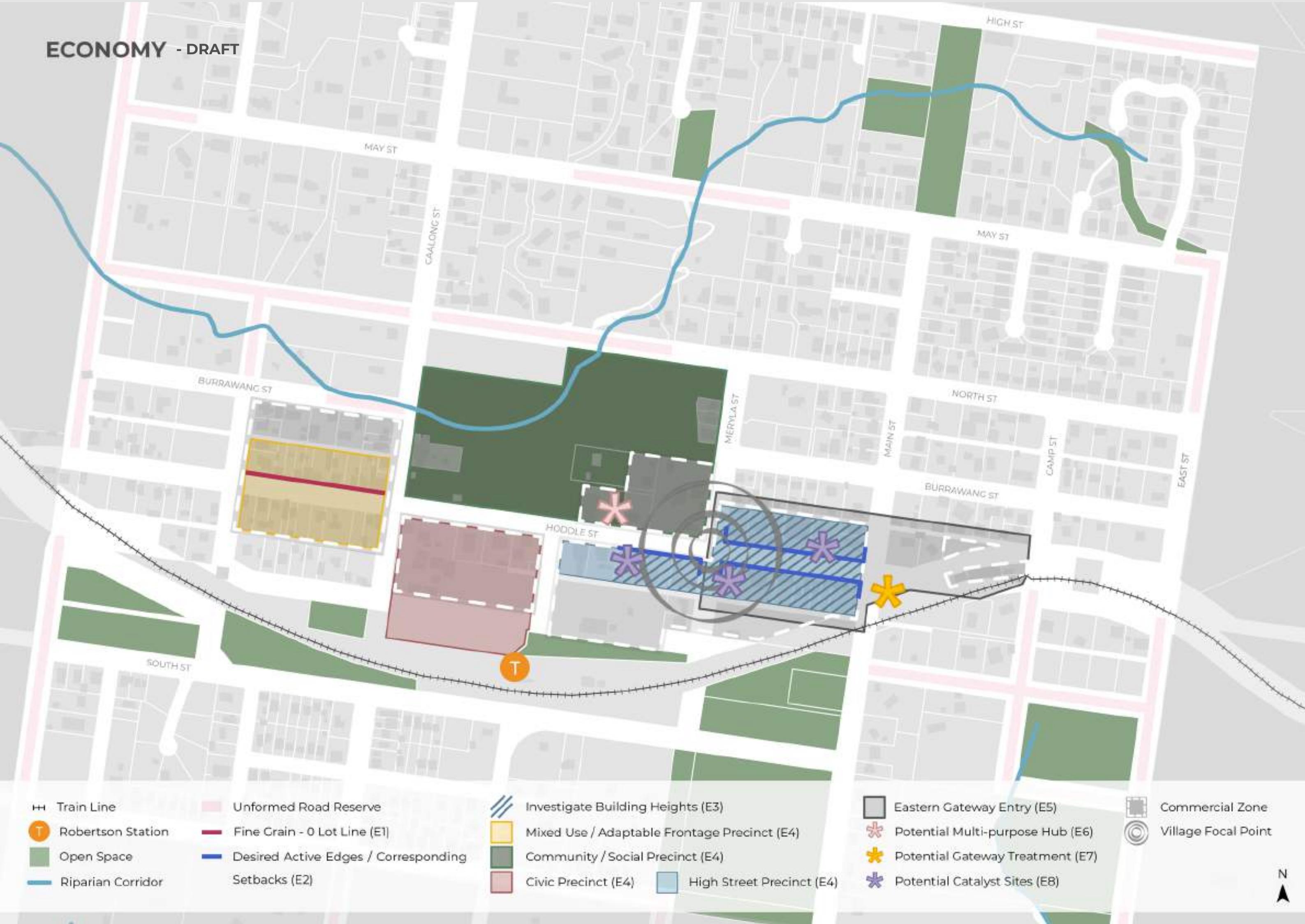
*"The community is creative and productive - numerous agricultural enterprises practising regenerative agriculture are ... enriching life in Robertson with their cafes, bars and shops."*

*"Historically it is a village that is not generic and offers many attractions including valuable nature based experiences, rainforests and waterfalls. It is a thriving tourist destination..."*

*"...its location as a key point between the highlands, the escarpment and the coast, contributes to the character of Robertson."*



## ECONOMY - DRAFT



# Map Detail

E1

## Fine Grain Lots

'Fine grain' means a small and diverse lot pattern that lends itself to a more diverse and interesting street. To make the most of Robertson's existing fine grain lot patterns along Hoddle Street, a Zero Lot Line, where buildings are developed along the front boundary line and not setback from the street, should be encouraged to help create a consistent and more vibrant street front.



Example of Zero Lot Line in Robertson where buildings are located along the front boundary line.

E2

## Desired Active Edges

'Active Edges' are where the space between the building and the street are lively and dominated by people. For example, seating placed out the front of a café or near the footpath, or being able to see into and out of a building from the street. Where active edges are supported by a fine grain lot pattern, this creates a safer and more enjoyable experience for people walking along the street, which can benefit local businesses by encouraging more people to stop and browse the items on offer in the shops and businesses.

E3

## Building Heights

The planning controls that apply to the businesses with the Robertson village area currently allows a 5 metre building height. Some existing buildings such as the Robertson Public House and Kitchen and the red brick building next door at 91 Hoddle Street are taller than 5 metres. To help shape and reinforce the entry point into the village from the east, a change to the building height in this area will be investigated.



Existing building heights along Hoddle Street

E4

## Precincts

By identifying precincts in the business area of the village, we can start to shape the planning controls around these particular uses, as well as encourage investment of like-minded businesses and land uses within these precincts. The following precincts have been identified:

### *High Street Precinct*

'High streets' are typically known as the main part of a town or village where day-to-day services and shops are grouped together. Robertson's existing high street precinct includes a range of cafes, day-to-day goods, and boutique artisan products.

### *Community Precinct*

The Community precinct is located around Park and includes an early learning centre, public toilets, the CTC Robertson, public spaces and the Anglican Church. The Community precinct is located in the centre of the village.

### *Civic Precinct*

The Civic precinct is where some of Robertson's most important buildings and services are located which are essential to the community. This precinct includes Robertson Public School, the Police Station and School of Arts.

### *Mixed-use Precinct*

The fine grain lots within this precinct provides for a range of land uses. Existing dwellings could be transformed into mixed use buildings, with business or shop opportunities at the front of the building, within living areas towards the rear of the building. Our planning controls will be reviewed to ensure they facilitate a mix of uses in this precinct.

E5

## *Eastern Gateway Entry*

As the eastern entry point to Robertson, there is potential to enhance these sites to ensure they provide visitors with a positive first impression and a sense of arrival into the village. The planning controls will be reviewed to consider whether improvements or certain design features should be applied to future development to help reinforce the gateway entry.

E7

## *Gateway Treatment*

Enhancements to Pinkwood Park can reinforce the area as the eastern entry point and act as a gateway into the village. Public art, connection to Country and storytelling opportunities could help the park become an inviting and welcoming place that encourages people to gather and learn more about Robertson's history as they enter the village.

E6

## *Potential Multi-purpose Hub*

There is potential for a Multi-purpose Hub to provide a range of services to the local community. This could include a Visitor Information Centre, flexible working spaces and co-working, a local museum and gallery, and community and social spaces. The Community precinct provides an ideal location for the consideration of a Multi-purpose Hub.

E8

## *Potential Catalyst Sites*

Catalyst sites have the potential to create a significant impact on the Robertson village. It is crucial that the catalyst sites have a positive impact on the built environment in Robertson and that their development results in a built-form that is consistent with the local character. Council will work closely with the owners of the catalyst sites to ensure that any future development makes a positive contribution to the Robertson village.

### 3.1

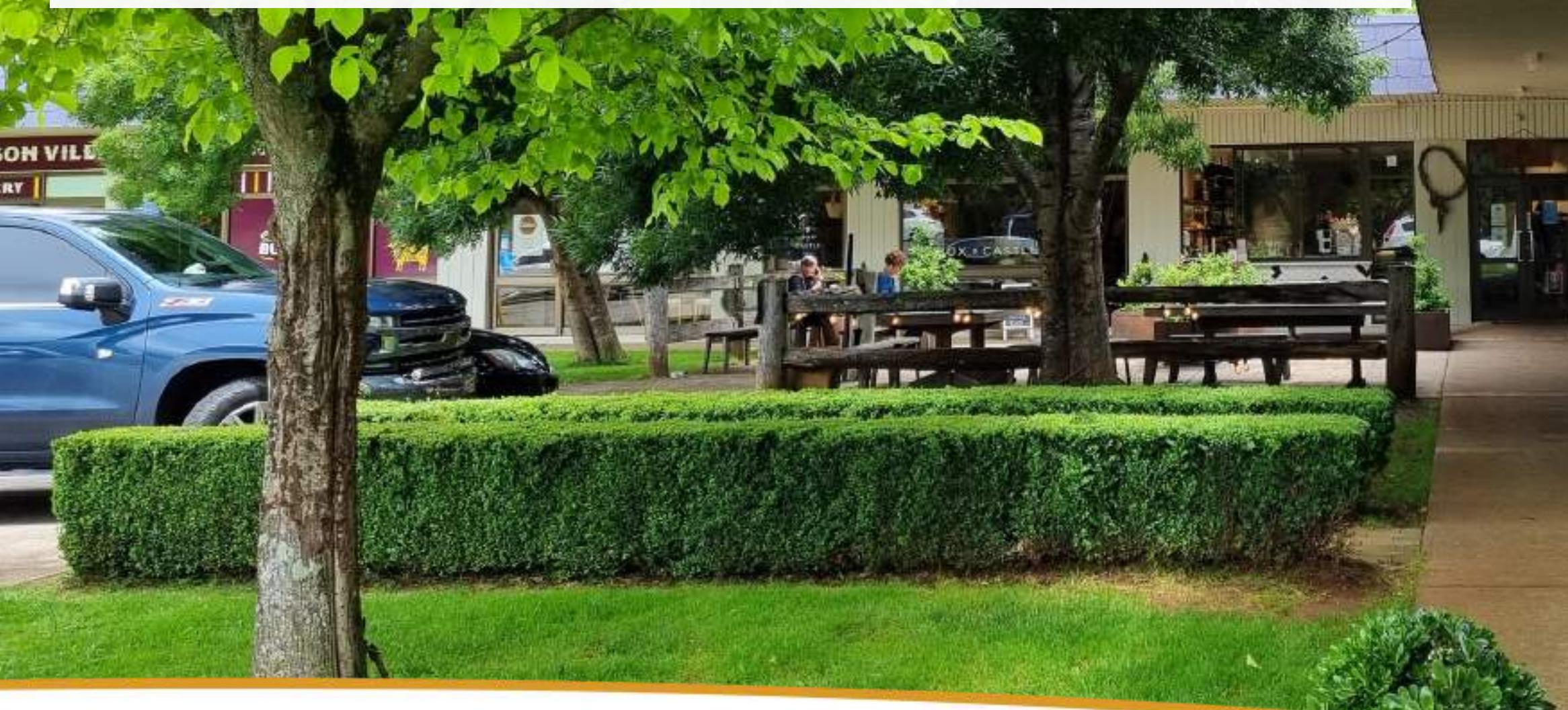
## *Inspire new business and encourage a 7 day-a-week economy.*

Our community told us that they want a self-sustaining village that caters to the needs of local residents, not just visitors. They want local jobs for local people and for existing businesses that service the population to stay viable so that they stay in Robertson. Council can do two key things to achieve this – firstly to encourage more people to live, work and visit Robertson generating more activity and demand for goods and services across all days of the week, and secondly to ensure that the planning controls provide the right environment for existing businesses to grow, and for new businesses to establish and thrive in Robertson.

The local business industry has a role too, by continuing to promote and market Robertson as a place to visit and to also respond to the needs and desires of the local community. By working together and in partnership with local community and industry groups, businesses can lead the way by coming up with new initiatives that benefit the community and the local economy at different times of the day and week.

To achieve this vision, a number of Place Interventions have been identified which aim to:

- Ensure the planning framework facilitates a diverse range of economic opportunities for locals and for visitors.
- Generate increased economic opportunities through more mid-week activity.
- Encourage people typically passing through to stop, shop, see more of Robertson and stay longer.



## Robertson's Local Village Centre

Land use planning and zoning plays an important role in bringing to life the vision for Robertson as a vibrant and successful village centre for locals and for visitors. The village's commercial centre where the shops, businesses and services line Hoddle Street is currently zoned E1 Local Centre. The E1 zone aims to provide a range of retail, business and community uses, encourage more investment in the local area, and to ensure that new development in this zone respects the character and minimises any conflicts with the homes that surround the village centre.

The E1 zone allows a full suite of businesses and services to operate. From veterinary hospitals and medical centres, cinemas, function centres, shops, supermarkets and gyms, the right zoning framework is already in place to see the local economy grow and inspire new business. It also permits dwelling houses and shop top housing, which means that residents could run small businesses from part of their homes, creating opportunities for people to work from home.



Example of a home business in Tullimbar, NSW



| PLACE INTERVENTION   | PLACE PARTNERS  | RELATED THEME   | IMPACT  | TIMEFRAME  |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| 3.1.1 Review and update the Development Control Plan to implement the Place Plan design solutions and precincts. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>Community</li> <li>Industry</li> </ul>   |   | <br>High       | <br>Medium  |
| 3.1.2 Initiate discussions and work with key partners on the potential Multi-purpose Hub.                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> <li>Community Development</li> <li>Business and Property</li> <li>Assets</li> </ul> </li> <li>Robertson Business Chamber</li> <li>CTC Robertson</li> </ul> |   | <br>High       | <br>Short   |
| 3.1.3 Develop promotions and initiatives to encourage more mid-week activity.                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Robertson Business Chamber (Lead)</li> <li>Business Owners</li> </ul>  |    | <br>Moderate | <br>Short |
| 3.1.4 Seek opportunities to establish Electric Vehicle charging locations within the village.                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Chamber (Lead)</li> <li>Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> <li>Strategic Planning</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |    | <br>Low      | <br>Short |

### 3.2

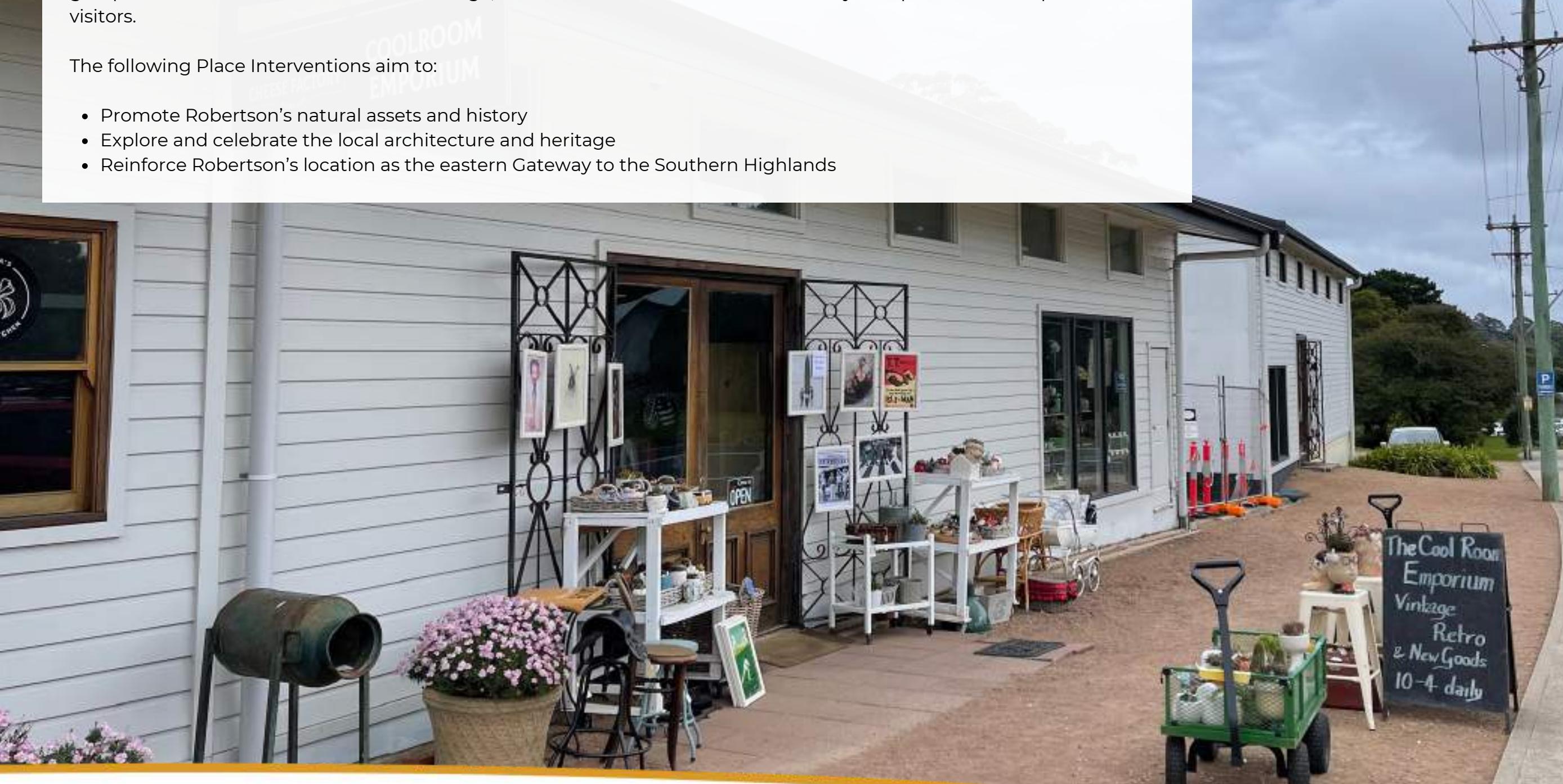
## *Robertson is a destination in its own right which showcases its unique history, heritage and culture.*

Robertson has history and heritage, a distinct local character that results in a contemporary country charm. Its physical location along the main strategic corridor between the coast and the Hume Highway means that it is a place no one passing through can miss. It also has cherished natural assets – waterfalls, a rainforest and rolling rural landscapes which our community recognises as some of Robertson's best but somewhat hidden secrets. There is a desire within the community to share and showcase these assets so that more people can experience Robertson and its surroundings to help grow the local economy. By boosting Robertson's visitor economy, this will provide more jobs and business opportunities, helping to sustain a vibrant and active village and a strong, connected community.

The community and local industry have a key role in achieving this Place Principle. With active community and business groups that have a wealth of local knowledge, these Place Partners can lead the way and provide new experiences for visitors.

The following Place Interventions aim to:

- Promote Robertson's natural assets and history
- Explore and celebrate the local architecture and heritage
- Reinforce Robertson's location as the eastern Gateway to the Southern Highlands

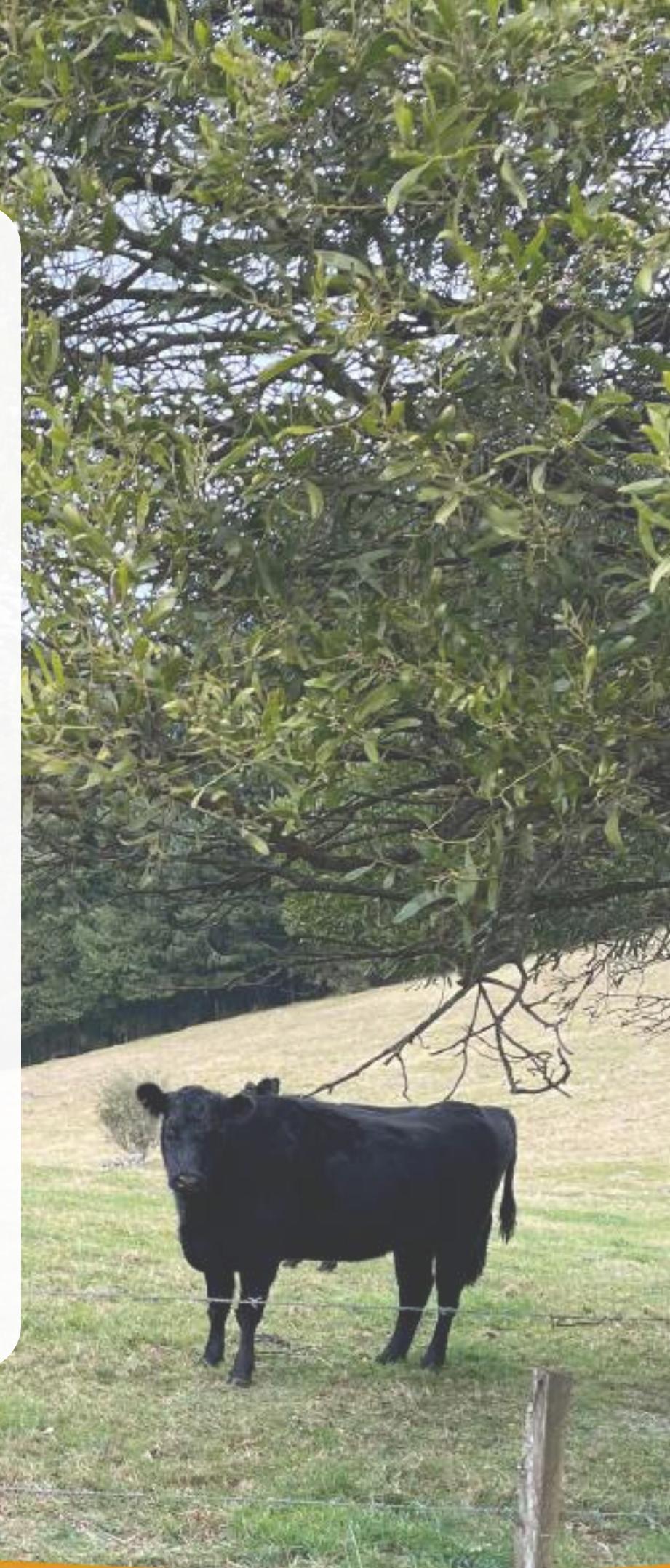


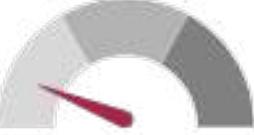
## *Agritourism Opportunities in Robertson*

Agritourism is a term that generally means a tourism-related experience that connects agricultural products, people or places with visitors to a farm. It includes things like horse riding and farm tours, field days, and being able to buy products direct from the farm where they were made.

Imminent changes to the planning controls in Wingecarribee Shire mean that agritourism could now be allowed on certain land and commercial farms in Robertson, opening up new business opportunities for farm owners and new experiences for visitors. A local Robertson ‘food trail’ or ‘adventure trail’ could attract more investment, more visitors, and create new local job opportunities.

More information on opportunities for agritourism can be found on Council’s website at <https://www.wsc.nsw.gov.au/business/agribusiness>.



| PLACE INTERVENTION   | PLACE PARTNERS  | RELATED THEME   | IMPACT   | TIMEFRAME   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| 3.2.1 Launch a history and heritage walking tour with guided and self-guided options.                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Groups (Lead)</li> <li>Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business and Property</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |       | <br>Low       | <br>Short    |
| 3.2.2 Host an annual heritage Open Day during the Australian Heritage Festival week.                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant Landowners (Lead)</li> <li>Community Groups</li> <li>Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business and Property</li> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |    | <br>Moderate | <br>Short   |
| 3.2.3 Create an agritourism business network with cross-promotion opportunities for food and adventure trails. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Chamber (Lead)</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business and Property</li> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>           |    | <br>High    | <br>Short  |
| 3.2.4 Review the planning framework to ensure a range of tourist-related accommodation options are permitted.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>Industry</li> </ul>  |   | <br>High    | <br>Medium |



## 4.0 HOUSING

*A mix of housing types that meet the diverse needs of the community and contribute to a uniquely Robertson identity.*

The growing population of the Shire and desire to live in Robertson requires additional housing in the area. With about 98.9% of the residential development in Robertson being detached single dwellings, there is a lack of housing diversity in the area. Our community has advocated for more housing diversity in order to respond to current pressures and ensure that provisions are made for people to age in place and houses are more affordable for younger families. This is an opportunity to provide new and more appropriate housing types, in particular smaller dwellings in Robertson.

The importance of retaining the existing character of Robertson is identified by our community as a high priority. It is important that a mix of housing types positively contributes to the identity of the village, promotes good design outcomes that reflect the values of our community, and enhances the character of the village while protecting valued local heritage.

To ensure that our housing stock meets the needs of our community now and into the future, the Wingecarribee Local Housing Strategy has not only identified new living areas but has also recognised the need to promote infill development and increase densities where appropriate as a means to facilitate a greater mix of housing types and ensure that our housing stock is reflective of the needs of our communities. The Strategy sets a 50/50 split between infill and greenfield residential development to meet the needs of our growing population over the next 20-30 years. The following Place Interventions will aid in exploring these opportunities for Robertson, to meet the needs of the local community.

### What we heard...

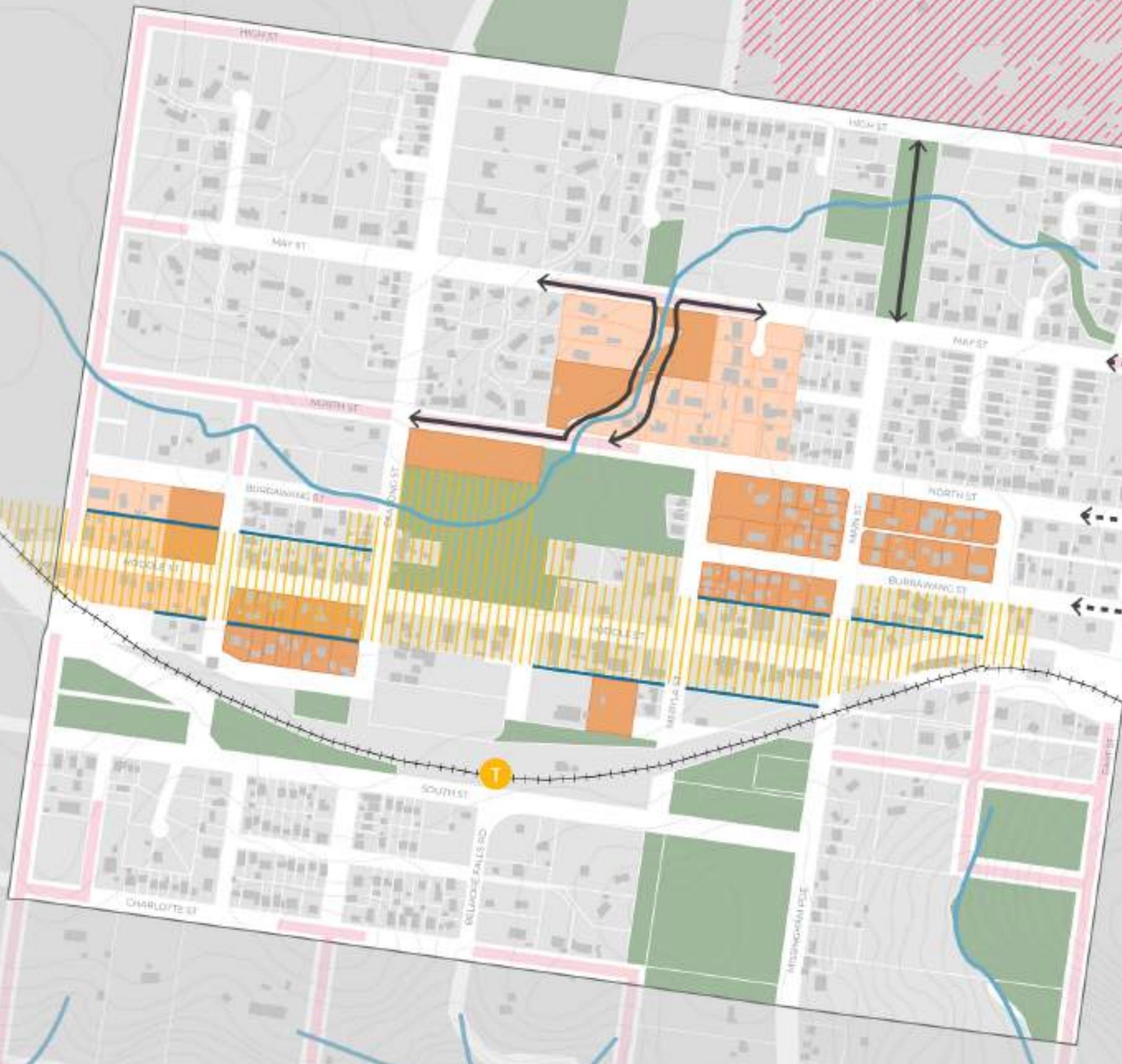
*"Housing diversity is lacking. As residents age, they often require a smaller, low maintenance home. Very few in Robertson."*

*"There needs to be an appealing, character-filled space so older residents have options to stay here closer to the town centre."*

*"Most of those who work in the town have to come in from other areas, and even many business owners cannot either afford or find suitable housing in the town."*



## HOUSING - DRAFT



— Area of Investigation

— Railway Line - Major Freight Route

Robertson Station

Riparian Corridor

— Unformed Road Reserve

— Recreation Space

— Potential Long Term Living Area (H1)

— Potential Residential Infill (H2)

— Further Investigation Areas for Residential Infill (H3)

— Investigate access and servicing from existing laneways.

← Connectivity Opportunities (H4)

↔ Investigate Connectivity Opportunities from the Potential New Living Area.

— Proposed heritage conservation area, subject to draft Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study and Heritage Peer Review 2024.



# Map Detail

H1

## *Greenfield Housing (New Living Area)*

'Greenfield Housing' means large areas of undeveloped land, dedicated for the purpose of residential development. The 'potential new living area' identified on the map is earmarked in the Wingecarribee Local Housing Strategy, as a potential new living area to meet the long-term housing needs of the Robertson community.

H2

## *Potential Residential Infill*

'Infill' development means developing within established underutilised areas in the existing village centre, which has the potential to be further developed. It could also be understood as filling in the gaps, within already developed areas within the village boundary. The parcels of land mapped as 'Potential Residential Infill' are mostly vacant land within the centre of the village, which can be explored for residential development with an aim to provide a variety of housing types and bring natural assets (like the creek) into public ownership, to enjoy the essence of Robertson.

H3

## *Further Investigation Areas*

The areas shown on the map as further investigation areas are those that have land and services available and can potentially be investigated for infill residential development and greater housing diversity within the village square mile. It will require the planning controls to be amended, so that any new development is planned for access and is in keeping with the local character of the village.

H4

## *Connectivity Opportunities*

While exploring potential residential infill development opportunities, it gives us the chance to investigate options to bring parts of Caalang Creek and its surrounding areas into public ownership through different methods. We would then have opportunities to connect May Street and North Street for pedestrians and cyclists, reducing travel times and opening up the village centre. As part of the future planning for the potential new living area, it will also be important to explore opportunities to improve connectivity within and around the village, and to provide strong active transport links back into the village centre.



Example of medium density housing that is in keeping with the character of a place - Renwick, NSW

#### 4.1

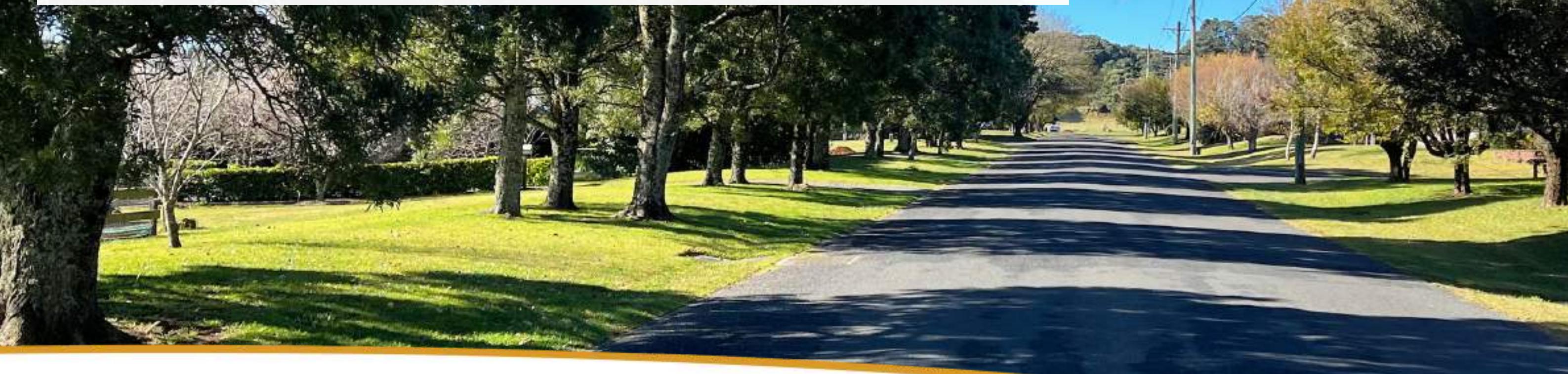
## *Increase residential density in the village centre with appropriate housing choice to meet the needs of the diverse community.*

Our community has identified that there is a lack of diverse housing in the area to cater to the needs of the ageing population and younger families who would like to move to the area. As the rural landscapes and views are precious to them, our community also made it clear that they are interested in densifying the square mile of the village as the priority, ahead of expanding the village boundaries to provide greenfield housing options for the growing population. Therefore, several sites in Robertson have been identified for infill residential development to respond to community needs. These potential infill development sites were strategically nominated based on their close proximity to the village centre, open space networks, services, transport and employment in the area.

Some of the key features that help facilitate increased densities, like large public open spaces (Hampden Park, the Oval etc.), access to essential services, and schools are already existing in the village centre. Banking on these assets and utilising the available land, could help create an exceptional fine grain and vibrant street feel, with a range of housing options supporting greater affordability and catering to the community's needs.

The following Place Interventions aim to:

- Improve housing diversity around the village centre, providing smaller housing types for the ageing population or smaller households.
- Increase densities in the village to increase the population and support local businesses in Robertson, while keeping the population closer to services and transport.
- Maintain the local character of the village while proposing infill residential options.
- Provide a contemporary planning framework to facilitate a range of housing types whilst protecting and enhancing Robertson's character, and allowing flexibility to achieve housing diversity.
- Promote infill development within the village centre, to meet the housing needs of the community and the overall growing population.



| PLACE INTERVENTION  | PLACE PARTNERS  | RELATED THEME   | IMPACT  | TIMEFRAME   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4.1.1 Investigate alternate housing types in appropriate locations (i.e. medium density, shop front housing, community living).   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>Industry Groups</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>  |       | <br>Moderate | <br>Short    |
| 4.1.2 Review the planning framework to facilitate the outcomes identified in the investigation areas.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> <li>Communities and Place</li> </ul> </li> <li>Local Businesses</li> <li>Community Groups</li> <li>Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</li> </ul> |    | <br>High     | <br>Medium   |
| 4.1.3 Review the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan to incorporate a character statement and character controls for any new residential development and alterations to existing development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>Local Business Owners</li> <li>Community Groups</li> <li>Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure</li> </ul>                           |   | <br>High   | <br>Short  |
| 4.1.4 Review the planning framework to allow higher density in the village core and gradually decrease density going towards the outskirts of the village.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>Local Business Owners</li> <li>Community Groups</li> </ul>   |    | <br>High   | <br>Medium |



## 5.0 Community and Place

*A strong sense of identity, community and place.*

Robertson is renowned for its rich agricultural heritage, breathtaking landscapes, thriving artisan industry, local produce and food and beverage establishments. This unique country charm of the village is why many call Robertson home and why the village attracts high numbers of visitors who are either passing through or coming to Robertson for a day trip or weekend getaway. The local community is also highly engaged, with the village being home to a number of community groups and local events, such as the Robertson Show and monthly markets. This community focused atmosphere which is deeply embedded within the village, reinforces Robertson's identity as a supportive and creative community.

Our community emphasised the importance of celebrating this unique character so that we can ensure that Robertson continues to be an attractive, vibrant, healthy, exciting and community focused village, now and into the future. The importance of protecting and enhancing Robertson's local character guides the development of the following Place Principles. These principles look for opportunities for where we can celebrate Robertson's unique identity, strengthen storytelling, boost community assets and protect valued landscapes and buildings. Tapping into Robertson's strong community presence and proud character will ensure the ongoing success of the village, and make sure that future events and development aligns with Robertson's identity which is deeply cherished by the community.

**What we heard...**

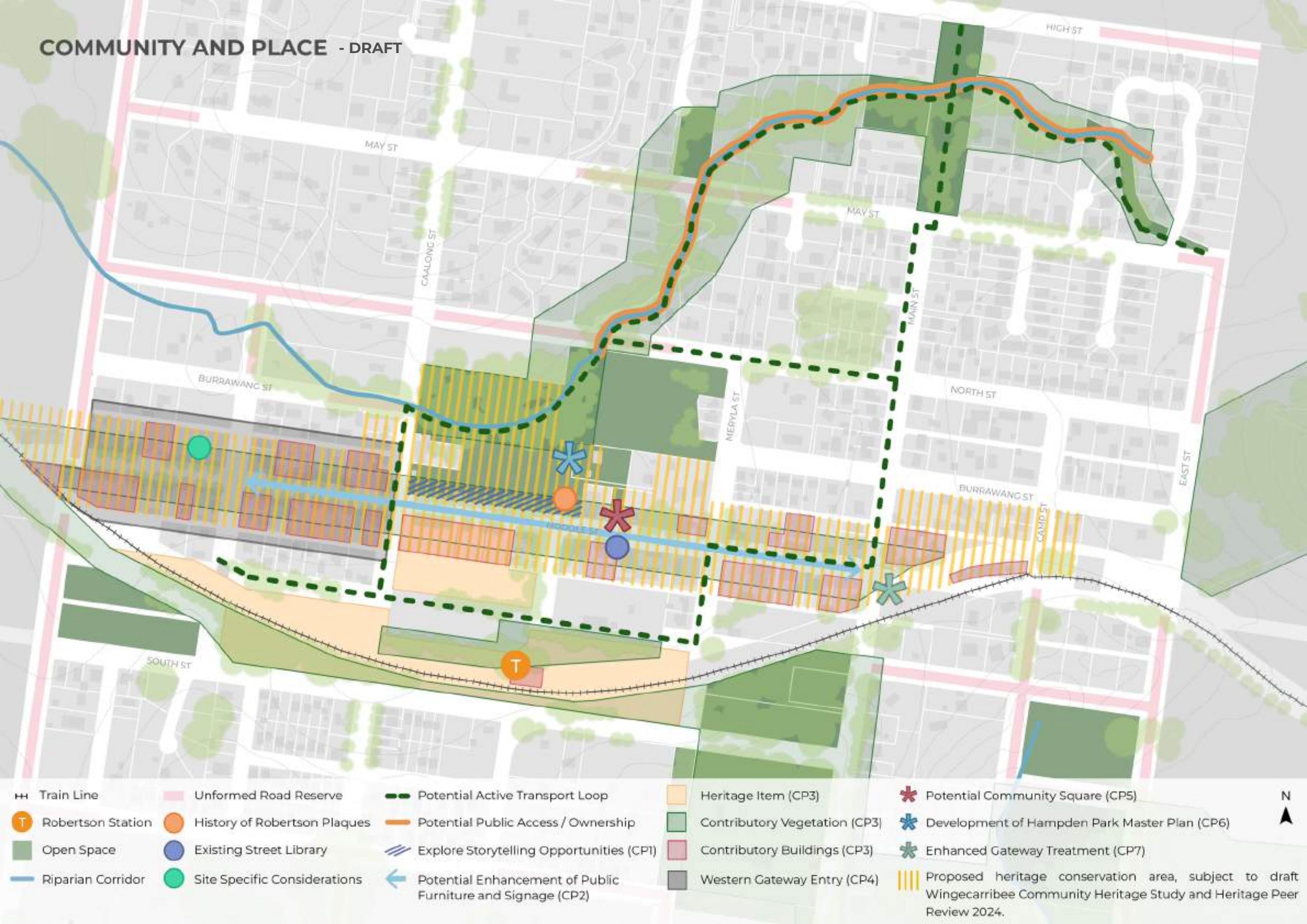
*"The natural settings and areas of Robertson along with the community strength and friendliness with the "old" village charm all contribute to the character of this unique village."*

*"The long strip road down the middle reduces sense of community because walking distances are long, noise is a blight and there is no town square type space with cafes and civic activities."*

*"Robertson has a unique character as you drive in.... A country village with original cottages/buildings from various periods... This is what contributes to its unique personality."*



## COMMUNITY AND PLACE - DRAFT



# Map Detail

CP1

## *Explore Storytelling Opportunities*

Our community recognises that Robertson is located on the land of the Gundungurra and Tharawal nations, with the village having a long First Nations and agricultural history that is highly valued and contributes to the identity of the village. There is an opportunity to tell Robertson's unique history through storytelling to reinforce this sense of identity and create a place that resonates with our community and where visitors can learn about what makes Robertson so special.

CP2

## *Potential Enhancement of Public Furniture and Signage*

Our community told us that it is often difficult to navigate through the village unless you are a local and know where all the hidden gems are. They also told us that there is limited public furniture making it hard to find somewhere to sit to take a load off or catch-up with friends other than going to a café. There is potential for public furniture and signage to be enhanced along Hoddle Street to make the village a more inviting, social and equitable place.



Examples of contributory elements along Hoddle Street.

CP3

## *Heritage and Contributory Buildings and Vegetation*

A number of existing heritage items and contributory buildings are located in and around the centre. These buildings significantly contribute to the character of the village, as their built form echoes the identity of Robertson and the unique country charm of the Southern Highlands. Robertson is also arguably one of the greenest villages, due to its sheer volume of significant mature vegetation. This contributory vegetation is therefore considered to be one of the defining characteristics of Robertson, as it exists around and above every building and is visible from almost all corners of the village.



Western entrance into Robertson

CP4

## *Western Gateway Entry*

As the western entry point into Robertson, there is potential to enhance this gateway to make it as impactful as the entrance from the coast and create a positive first impression of the village that echoes the character of Robertson. The planning controls will be reviewed to consider design treatments for future development that will assist with framing the street and reinforce the western entry.



Example of a design treatment that contributes to the character of Kiama, NSW

CP5

### Potential Community Square

There is potential for a community square in the heart of the village to provide a gathering place for community groups and visitors. This could include a yarning circle, community garden, public furniture, recreational activities or community library. The Community precinct provides an ideal location for the potential community square as it is accessible and is in close proximity to other community focused spaces, such as the CTC, Men's Shed, School of Arts and Hampden Park.



CP6

### Development of Hampden Park Master Plan

The creation of a Master Plan for Hampden Park is intended to guide the development and activation of the reserve. This is proposed to include concept plans for a combined skate park, pump track and basketball/multi-purpose hardcourt facility.



Hampden Park Skatepark, Robertson

CP7

### Enhanced Gateway Treatment

'Gateway Treatment' means to the use of different design techniques to elevate the experience of driving or walking into a place to make it a more memorable journey and also give you a sense of the character of the village. There is a potential for Robertson's eastern gateway to be enhanced through public art, connection to Country or storytelling to transform it into an inviting and welcoming place that reflects the character of Robertson.



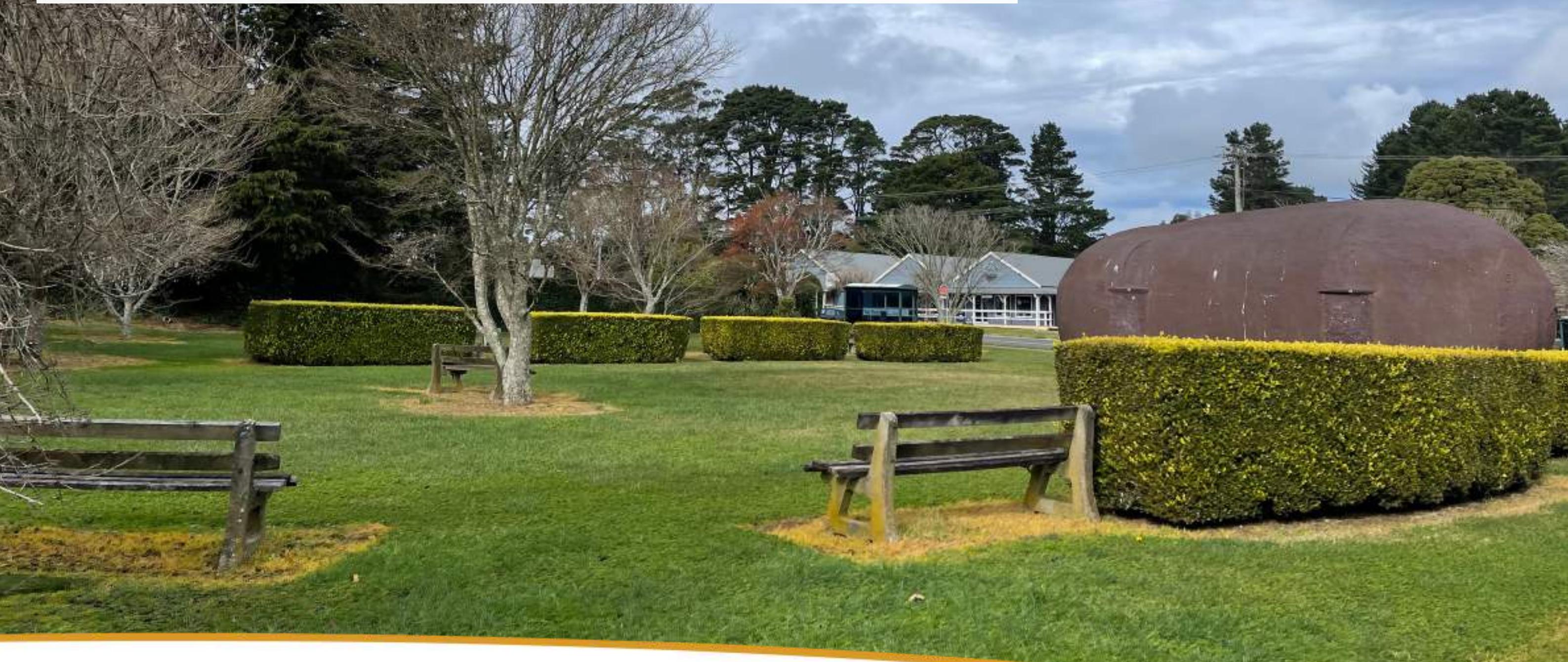
Example of how changing materials impacts the character of a place - Robertson Cheese Factory

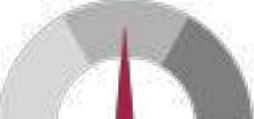
## 5.1

## *Reinforce and celebrate Robertson's strong sense of identity.*

Robertson's local character is highly valued by our community and attracts high numbers of visitors to the village to experience the cherished country charm. Our community told us that this unique local identity is a mixture of Robertson's rich history, lush natural areas, distinctive four season climate, charming buildings and their creative and engaged community. The intention of this Place Principle is to pick up on these distinctive characteristics and look for ways they can be reinforced to celebrate and strengthen the character of the village. To guide the delivery of this principle, the following aims have been identified:

- Tell the unique story of Robertson to develop a stronger connection to Country and Place.
- Reinforce Robertson as the eastern gateway to the Southern Highlands.
- Protect and enhance characteristics in the village that reflect the character of Robertson.



| PLACE INTERVENTION   | PLACE PARTNERS  | RELATED THEME  | IMPACT  | TIMEFRAME   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| 5.1.1 Enhance the entrances into the village to make it more welcoming and in line with the character of Robertson.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Assets</li> <li>◦ Community Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Local Businesses</li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>        |    | <br>Moderate | <br>Medium   |
| 5.1.2 Introduce interactive public art and public spaces that tell the story of Robertson's First Nations and agricultural heritage.                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Community Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Local Businesses</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> </ul>                   |   | <br>Low      | <br>Medium   |
| 5.1.3 Develop a place branding strategy for street furniture and amenities which is both functional and reflects the character of Robertson.                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Assets</li> <li>◦ Community Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Local Businesses</li> <li>• Community Groups</li> </ul> |    | <br>Low     | <br>Short   |
| 5.1.4 Review the Development Control Plan to ensure that views to rural landscapes and contributory buildings and vegetation are protected.                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Strategic Outcomes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>   |  <br>  | <br>High   | <br>Medium |
| 5.1.5 Review the Development Control Plan to ensure that public spaces and new developments are sensibly designed to be sympathetic to the character of Robertson. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Strategic Outcomes</li> <li>◦ Community Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Community</li> </ul>                        |  <br>  | <br>High   | <br>Medium |

## 5.2

### *Bring people together to support a connected, engaged, resilient and inclusive community in Robertson.*

Robertson currently possesses an active community network that is highly valued and focused on encouraging participation, inclusion and celebrating Robertson's cherished local character. Our community recognises the importance of a place being founded on spaces that are healthy, safe, accessible and engaging, in order to bring people together. The following Place Principles look to reinforce this strong sense of community that is evident in Robertson. This is proposed to be achieved by:

- Promoting ways community members can get involved in local community groups and events.
- Initiating planning discussions to guide the delivery great spaces that are welcoming, functional and safe.



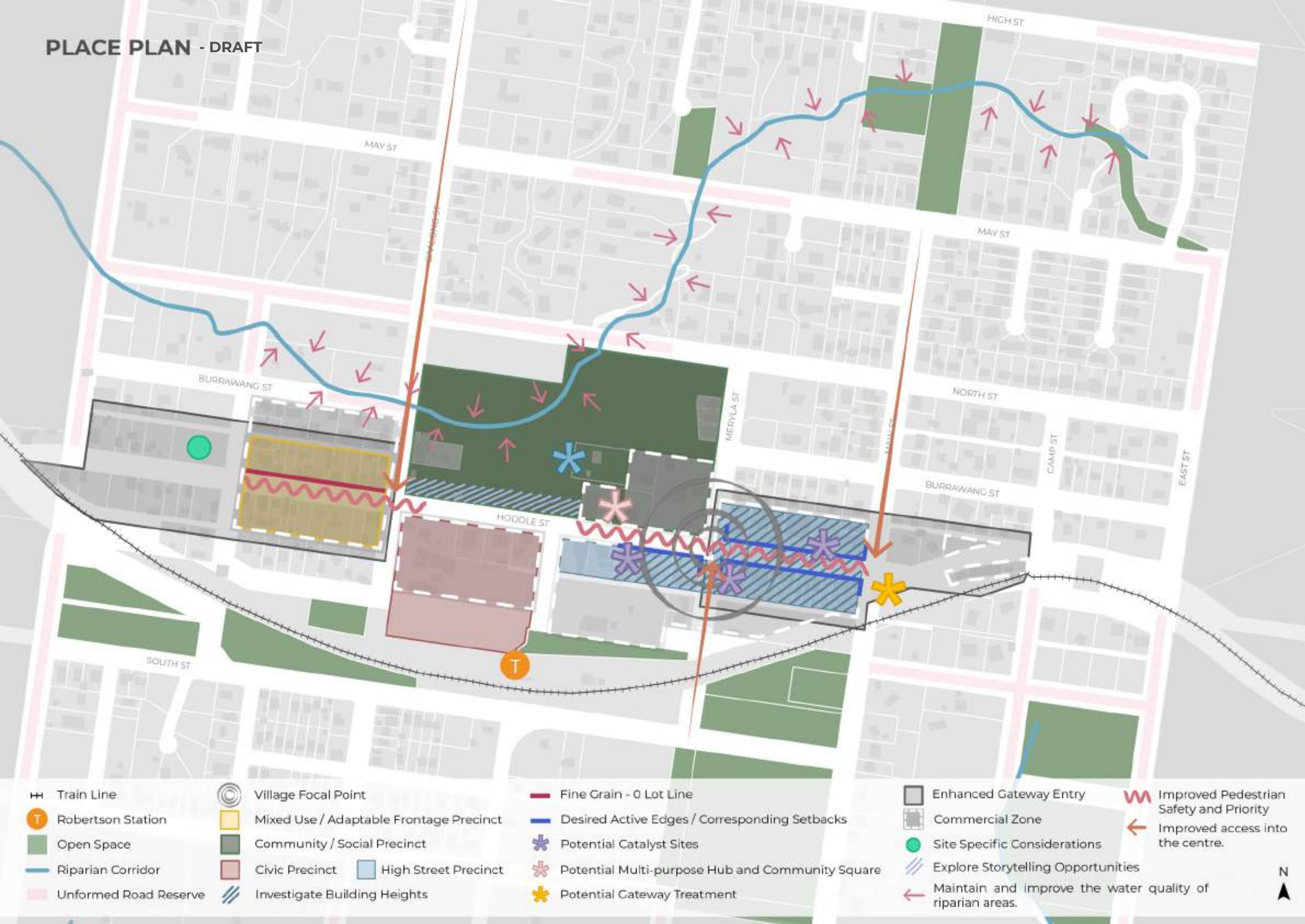
| PLACE INTERVENTION   | PLACE PARTNERS  | RELATED THEME | IMPACT       | TIMEFRAME  |
|--|---|---------------|--------------|------------|
| 5.2.1 Increase awareness of volunteering opportunities through the promotion of the Village of Robertson website and MyShire Community Directory.                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Groups (Lead)</li> <li>Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>   |               | <br>Moderate | <br>Short  |
| 5.2.2 Create a stronger network for resource sharing and value add to these platforms, such as the Robertson e-news and the co-location of Council resources and information sessions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community (Lead)</li> <li>Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> </ul>  |               | <br>Moderate | <br>Short  |
| 5.2.3 Provide street furniture that encourages people to spend time in public spaces in the village.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> </ul> </li> <li>Community</li> </ul>   |               | <br>Moderate | <br>Medium |
| 5.2.4 Develop a Master Plan for Hampden Park to guide the development and activation of the reserve, and work with the community and industry to fast track its implementation.        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> <li>Project Delivery</li> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>Community and Local Sporting Groups</li> </ul>                      |               | <br>High     | <br>Short  |
| 5.2.5 Provide better access to Council services within the village including the Mobile Library, particularly for people with mobility impairments.                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Life and Libraries</li> <li>Library Services</li> </ul> </li> <li>CTC Robertson</li> <li>Community</li> </ul>                                  |               | <br>Moderate | <br>Short  |
| 5.2.6 Investigate the potential for upgrades to community buildings.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assets</li> </ul> </li> <li>Community Groups</li> </ul>  |               | <br>Moderate | <br>Short  |
| 5.2.7 Initiate discussions and work with key partners on the potential community square.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council (Lead) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property Services</li> <li>Assets</li> <li>Community Development</li> </ul> </li> <li>Crown Lands</li> <li>Community</li> <li>Business Owners</li> </ul> |               | <br>Moderate | <br>Short  |

## PLACE PLAN - DRAFT



- Area of Investigation
- Unformed Road Reserve
- Potential Long Term Living Area
- Potential Residential Infill
- Flood Planning Area
- Riparian Corridor
- Existing Footpath
- Proposed Shared Path
- Existing Rainforest Walking Track
- Robertson Nature Reserve
- Investigate Connectivity Opportunities
- Improved East-West Connection to the Coast
- Clearing of invasive weeds along high-risk pathways.
- Investigate Access and Servicing From Existing Laneways
- Improve access to and quality of green and blue infrastructure.
- Improved North-South Crossing Opportunities
- Reported Koala Sightings
- Proposed heritage conservation area, subject to draft Wingecarribee Community Heritage Study and Heritage Peer Review 2024.

## PLACE PLAN - DRAFT



# *Business As Usual*

*What Council will continue to do...*



## *Environment and Sustainability*

- Implement opportunities for revegetation and controlling the growth of weeds in Council managed bushland reserves, along riparian corridors, under the Bushcare and Rivercare program, within Council owned or managed reserves (public land) and crown land, according to approved Plans of Management.
- Promoting a variety of opportunities for the community to be involved in revegetation and biodiversity monitoring initiatives, through newsletters such as Wingecarribee Web and Southern Highlands Nature News.
- Assess and implement planning tools to minimise risk to natural waterways.
- Educate the community regarding Koala education and conservation programs and provide support in conserving and protecting Koala habitat on private land in Robertson.
- Protect existing landscapes and vegetation that contribute to the character of the village and provide cultural and heritage values that are unique to Robertson.



## *Movement*

- Continue discussions with Transport for NSW to advocate for our State roads to be safe, reliable and accessible roads.
- Renewal of existing infrastructure as required.
- Implementation of the Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan.



## *Economy*

- Continue promoting and marketing activities and events such as the Robertson Potato Festival and Robertson Showground.



## *Housing*

- Assess and facilitate appropriate development through Development Assessment and Planning Proposal processes.
- Continue to implement the Wingecarribee Local Housing Strategy.



## *Community and Place*

- Continue to provide the Mobile Library service in Robertson.



# IMPLEMENTATION

# Plan on a Page

## 1.0 Environment and Sustainability



**1.1 Improve the quality of and access to the natural areas, open spaces and waterways so that they are inviting, easy to get to and enjoyable public places.**

1.1.1 Bring the Caalang Creek and its surrounding areas into public ownership through different methods.

1.1.2 Conduct annual biosecurity risks and impacts inspections on high priority natural assets, along high-risk pathways and sites in accordance with Council's Local Strategic Weed Management Plan.

1.1.3 Advocate to Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC) to clear invasive weeds and undertake re-vegetation of appropriate plant species along the Robertson railway corridor.

1.1.4 Participate in opportunities to control weed growth and revegetate parks and reserves, areas along the riparian corridor, with native vegetation.

1.1.5 Participate in landscape and riparian regeneration to improve the quality of Caalang Creek and reclaim the underutilised open spaces as community assets.

### 1.2 Ensure that the Robertson environment is resilient and continues to enhance the green identity of the village.

1.2.1 Run education programs with the community and local schools to increase awareness and encourage a shift towards protecting and enhancing Robertson's natural areas.

1.2.2 Engage with the local First Nations community and support education opportunities that look to explore First Nations cultural knowledge and apply traditional land management practices.

1.2.3 Plan for and deliver workshops and education that focus on the preparedness for impacts from natural hazards and climate change including bushfire, storms, flooding, earthquakes and landslip.

1.2.4 Support the delivery of Saving our Species project in relation to Robertson Basalt Tall Open Forest and Robertson Rainforest.

1.2.5 Report Koala sightings on private property to Council under the Southern Highlands Koala Conservation Project and Land for Wildlife Program.

1.2.6 Review and reinforce the development controls to include and implement controls and opportunities that contribute to better energy efficiency in new developments.

## 2.0 Movement



**2.1 Make it easier and safer for people to move to, from and around the village centre.**

2.1.1 Advocate and work with Transport for NSW to develop short and long-term upgrade plans for the Illawarra Highway to improve the broader connection of Robertson.

2.1.2 Develop plans for traffic calming solutions and crossing opportunities along Hoddle Street and present to Transport for NSW for testing.

2.1.3 Review Development Control Plan provisions to require future development to provide through block links where appropriate and upgrade existing laneways for pedestrian and vehicular access.

2.1.4 Investigate the opportunity for the completion of unformed road corridors.

2.1.5 Identify and prioritise lighting and signage improvements for the Robertson village.

### 2.2 Encourage and support greater active transport activity in and around the village.

2.2.1 Work with the Robertson Business Chamber to trial an e-bike scheme for local workers in the village to reduce car-parking demand and promote a mode shift towards active transport.

2.2.2 With the opening up of the creek and vegetation corridor to the community, look to introduce paths that support cycling and walking along the creek and in and around the centre to support an active transport loop.

2.2.3 Investigate the introduction of end of line infrastructure (e.g. bike parking, showers, changing rooms, etc) and review the Development Control Plan to encourage commercial developments to provide bike parking and other essential facilities.

2.2.4 Develop a scope of works to construct a shared path along Hoddle Street in front of Hampden Park up to Meryla Street as a priority.

## 3.0 Economy



**3.1 Inspire new business and encourage a 7 day-a-week economy.**

3.1.1 Review and update the Development Control Plan to implement the Place Plan design solutions and precincts.

3.1.2 Initiate discussions and work with key partners on the potential Multi-purpose Hub.

3.1.3 Develop promotions and initiatives to encourage more mid-week activity.

3.1.4 Seek opportunities to establish Electric Vehicle charging locations within the village.

### 3.2 Robertson is a destination in its own right which showcases its unique history, heritage and culture.

3.2.1 Launch a history and heritage walking tour with guided and self-guided options.

3.2.2 Host an annual heritage Open Day during the Australian Heritage Festival week.

3.2.3 Create an agritourism business network with cross-promotion opportunities for food and adventure trails.

3.2.4 Review the planning framework to ensure a range of tourist-related accommodation options are permitted.

## 4.0 Housing



*4.1 Increase residential density in the village centre with appropriate housing choice to meet the needs of the diverse community.*

4.1.1 Investigate alternate housing types in appropriate locations (i.e. medium density, shop front housing, community living).

4.1.2 Review the planning framework to facilitate the outcomes identified in the investigation areas.

4.1.3 Review the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan to incorporate a character statement and character controls for any new residential development and alterations to existing development.

4.1.4 Review the planning framework to allow higher density in the village core and gradually decrease density going to towards the outskirts of the village.

## 5.0 Community and Place



*5.1 Reinforce and celebrate Robertson's strong sense of identity.*

5.1.1 Enhance the entrances into the village to make it more welcoming and in line with the character of Robertson.

5.1.2 Introduce interactive public art and public spaces that tell the story of Robertson's First Nations and agricultural heritage.

5.1.3 Develop a place branding strategy for street furniture and amenities which is both functional and reflects the character of Robertson.

5.1.4 Review the Development Control Plan to ensure that views to rural landscapes and contributory buildings and vegetation are protected.

5.1.5 Review the Development Control Plan to ensure that public spaces and new developments are sensibly designed to be sympathetic to the character of Robertson.

*5.2 Bring people together to support a connected, engaged, resilient and inclusive community in Robertson.*

5.2.1 Increase awareness of volunteering opportunities through the promotion of the Village of Robertson website and MyShire Community Directory.

5.2.2 Create a stronger network for resource sharing and value add to these platforms, such as the Robertson e-news and the co-location of Council resources and information sessions.

5.2.3 Provide street furniture that encourages people to spend time in public spaces in the village.

5.2.4 Develop a Master Plan for Hampden Park to guide the development and activation of the reserve, and work with the community and industry to fast track its implementation.

5.2.5 Provide better access to Council services within the village including the Mobile Library, particularly for people with mobility impairments.

5.2.6 Investigate the potential for upgrades to community buildings.

5.2.7 Initiate discussions and work with key partners on the potential community square.

# *Measuring Progress and Implementation of the Place Plan*

The most important part of any Plan is understanding how and when it will be implemented, so that real change occurs. We need to be realistic that we cannot achieve implementation of the Plan all at once and that it will take time and a lot of work to see significant change. This could be due to the need to manage different priorities at any given time, being unsuccessful in receiving grants or funding, or changes in resourcing or leadership within Council or in the community. To help give Council and the community more clarity about what can be achieved and when, this Plan outlines timeframes for the implementation of the Place Interventions. The timeframes identified in this Plan are based on feedback from our community and using our experience at Council about what could be done and when.

When timeframes are coupled with impact, there is an opportunity to achieve some 'quick wins' for the Robertson community by prioritising those Place Interventions that could be delivered in the short term that have a medium to high impact. This could help build momentum and a sense of trust between the Place Partners, reinforcing a commitment to seeing the Plan through.

Where Place Interventions have a medium or long-term timeframe, this doesn't mean work won't begin on them until all the short-term Place Interventions are complete. The long-term Place Interventions are likely to require a number of Place Partners for it to be delivered, or a need to come up with solutions to challenging issues that aren't able to be delivered quickly. It is an acknowledgement that significant change takes time, although we recognise that progress can be made in small increments.

For this Place Plan to be effective, there needs to be accountability from each of the key partners responsible for seeing the Plan through to implementation. This Plan recognises that there are many Place Partners, who by working together can share the responsibility of ensuring that Robertson remains a great place and that the vision of our community becomes a reality.

Council is committed to its role as a key Place Partner. A key part of this commitment is to ensure that once every two years, we catch up with the community in Robertson to discuss the Place Plan and how it is progressing. Together with the Robertson community and other key Place Partners, we will also prepare a Progress Report every two years and report to our elected Council on the progress that has been made.





*Situated on top of the escarpment, Robertson is a contemporary country village that has grown with and within nature. The village has an intrinsic connection to the surrounding rural landscapes and natural areas, and is not only the eastern gateway, but a reflection of the Southern Highlands charm! It is a connected, vibrant and green country village with a unique identity and strong sense of community and place.*



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