



SEYMOUR 3660

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF SEYMOUR.



Seymour Structure Plan

Stage 1 Community Consultation Report

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Prepared by:

Mitchell Shire Council





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Executive Summary

The Seymour Structure Plan sets the framework for the future development and improvements to Seymour.

Stage 1 Consultation involved a variety of participation methods and approaches. This enabled Council and the consultant team to acquire a significant range of inputs, suggestions and comments from all members of the local community.

Following the Stage 1 Consultation, the following key themes have emerged;

- **The Goulburn River** – Many respondents have identified that the River presents a significant opportunity for Seymour. It was felt that it is generally underutilised by many local residents and visitors, and can play a key role for the future of Seymour.
- **Access** – Seymour is well located within the context of Melbourne and also has good rail and road links to Melbourne and surrounding areas.
- **Perception** – There is a general feeling that some people from both inside and outside of Seymour can hold negative perceptions of the town. However, engagement with non-locals suggested that these perceptions are far from universally held.
- **Better variety of housing** – Whilst there is a reasonable amount of housing availability within Seymour, the situation could be improved by providing a wider range of housing to cater for individuals of all ages and abilities.
- **More jobs** - Further employment opportunities within Seymour should be encouraged and supported. Employment opportunities will assist with the retention and attraction of people, including young people and families, to live in Seymour.
- **Better education** – There is a need to improve the educational facilities currently available within Seymour.
- **Military history** – Seymour has a strong military history background which should be protected, enhanced and promoted.
- **Natural landscapes** – Seymour has a great country feel and benefits from the surrounding beautiful natural landscape; and it is important that this is protected.
- **Town centre** – Seymour offers a strong town centre and good range of retail opportunities, but that some larger national retailers should be attracted to the town



1. Introduction

Mitchell Shire Council has commenced the development of the Seymour Structure Plan which provides the direction for future growth, development and changes to the Seymour township for the next 15 to 20 years. The structure plan process involves identifying the current issues facing a township, constraints, opportunities, community aspirations and township requirements.

Seymour was identified in the State Government's Hume Regional Growth Plan as 'a location that has the potential to accommodate significant change and develop into a significant employment centre of the next 30 years, accompanied by an increasing resident population' and the structure plan is being undertaken in this context.

The structure plan will be prepared with the involvement of the local community, businesses, investors, government agencies and technical experts. A structure plan sets appropriate directions and opportunities for change that ensures an area can be environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the community feedback received during the Stage 1 Background and Issues Consultation (Stage 1 Consultation) period.

3. Stage 1 Consultation Approach

Stage 1 Consultation involved a variety of participation methods and approaches. This enabled Council and the consultant team to acquire a significant range of inputs, suggestions and comments from all members of the local community. An extensive consultation exercise which involved a range of events was undertaken to capture the view and opinions from a broad range of people and groups.

Consultation Approach

The following was undertaken to consult with the community:

- Online Forum – An online forum was hosted for the duration of the consultation period (www.seymour3660.com.au). The online forum provided a moderated space for the community to express what was important to them about Seymour, what they would like to see take place in the town and any views or options they had on the town.
- Face to face surveys – Surveys were undertaken in Seymour in November and December 2015. The respondents were drawn randomly from across Seymour. This primary research was undertaken to explore the characteristics, behaviours, needs and expectations of the community.



- Community Events - 'Taste of the Goulburn' food and wine festival, a Community BBQ and the monthly Seymour Market. Ward Councillors, Council officers and members of the consultant team attended these events in October and November; providing opportunities for visitors to find out about the structure plan process and give feedback and ideas on what can be done for Seymour. Blackboards, asking people *What do you like most about Seymour?* and *What would you like to change about Seymour?*, were used as tools to engage consultation participants in conversation and share thoughts on these questions throughout the events.
- Community Workshops – Two workshops (24th November 2015 & 2nd December 2015) were undertaken; providing an opportunity for people to be informed on the structure plan process and provide feedback on a range of matters associated with Seymour.
- School Visits – Council staff visited Grade 3 / 4 and Year 8 pupils at Seymour College to seek their views on Seymour.
- Stakeholder Meetings – Council officers and the consultant team have undertaken several meetings with representatives of a variety of stakeholder groups and interested parties across Seymour.
- Community Liaison Group – A Community Liaison Group has been established through a publically open nomination process to provide ongoing advice to the project team and to help guide the development of the Structure Plan for Seymour. The group is also responsible for acting as community champions to build the capacity of the wider community to understand the project.
- Submissions - Submissions have been received during the consultation period.
- Service and Facility Provider Agency Workshops. Four workshops (Education and Training, Transport, Health and Community Facilities, Drainage and Water) were undertaken with critical service and infrastructure providers and public agencies.

4. Summary of Participation

The table below provides a summary of the attendees.

Event	Approach	Outcome
Face to face interviews	Randomly selected face to face interviews with residents of Seymour.	237 Interviews undertaken
Taste of the Goulburn	Provide people with an opportunity to be informed of the Structure Plan process and complete a survey.	15 surveys completed

Community BBQ	Provide people with an opportunity to be informed of the Structure Plan process and complete a survey.	8 surveys completed
Seymour Market	Provide people with an opportunity to be informed of the Structure Plan process and complete a survey.	29 surveys completed
Community Workshops	Two workshop events with the community.	12.30pm 24 November 2016: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 people attended • 1 survey completed 7.00pm 2 December 2015: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 people attended • 14 surveys completed
School Visits	Meeting with pupils of Seymour College to seek their views.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 3/4 - 16 students attended • Year 8 - 22 students attended
Stakeholder Meetings	Meetings with Stakeholder groups in Seymour.	<p>Meetings were held with the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seymour Business and Tourism • Sustainable Seymour Network (incl. BEAM, TSWW and Beyond Zero Emissions) • Seymour Agricultural & Pastoral Society • Kings Park Committee, Australian Light Horse Memorial Park Committee & Seymour Historical Society • Bushland Park Committee • Puckapunyal Base Representatives
Community Liaison Group	Creation of a Seymour community reference group, through an open nomination process, to liaise with throughout the preparation of the Structure Plan.	A total of 12 members of the public were chosen to be part of the Community Liaison Group First meeting took place in February 2016 and subsequent meetings will follow.
Submissions	Enable people to make representations to Council.	A total of 5 submissions were received throughout Stage 1.
Service and Infrastructure Agency Workshops	Workshops related to the provision of public services and infrastructure in Seymour, as relevant to the Structure Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Training • Transport • Health and Community Facilities • Drainage and Water



5. Key Findings

5.1 Face to face interviews

Metropolis Research was commissioned by Mitchell Shire Council to undertake door to door interviews with residents of Seymour to explore the characteristics, behaviours, needs and expectations of the community. In late November and early December 2015 a total of 237 door to door interviews were undertaken. A summary of the results follows.

- The results show that a significant proportion of the community has lived in Seymour for ten years or more, which is consistent with its somewhat older age structure.
- The characteristics that respondents reported liking most about Seymour include those that define the country town nature of Seymour; including the country/semi country lifestyle, the Goulbourn River, the natural environment, the healthy lifestyle and the location. Being close to families and friends, and the cost of housing were also commonly identified aspects respondents like about Seymour.
- Respondents identified that the key issues of importance at present within Seymour are employment and job creation (21.9%), main street issues/commercial issues (20.3%), safety and crime issues (13.5%), and activities, services and facilities for youth (12.2%).
- Respondents were asked to rate their agreement with a range of statements about Seymour, which was broken up into six broad categories. Agreement was rated from 0 (strongly disagree) to 10 (strongly agree). The highest and lowest responses for each category were:
 - The character of Seymour
 - *Natural landscape of Seymour attracts residents to town and should be protected, especially if town grows (7.97)*
 - *I believe there are issues with family violence and assault in Seymour (7.06)*
 - Housing in Seymour
 - *Future residential growth in Seymour should only be considered if it brings quality housing, improves public transport, community facilities, jobs, etc. (8.65)*
 - *People living on large residential lots should not expect access to urban services like public transport, footpaths, open space reserves, shops in the local area (4.85)*
 - Seymour Town Centre
 - *The Goulburn River is well connected to the town (7.49)*
 - *Seymour needs another local shopping centre outside main Town Centre (5.84)*
 - Community Services and facilities
 - *Seymour has adequate active public sports grounds for kids (8.01)*
 - *There is adequate entertainment for young people in Seymour (3.27)*
 - Transport aspects of Seymour
 - *Walking to the shops is direct and easy from my/our house (8.00)*
 - *The Seymour train station has sufficient car parking for local commuters (6.07)*
 - The local economy and jobs
 - *I believe there are social issues for youth in Seymour due to lack of jobs (7.74)*
 - *Seymour has adequate local jobs (2.23)*



- The car was identified as the most common method of journey to work (69%), followed by multiple methods (13.9%) and walk/cycle (7.6%). The most common reasons for not using the Seymour train service for work or leisure travel were that the train service doesn't go where they need to go (13.1%), the frequency of services (8%) and that the train service is too slow (7.6%).
- Respondents were asked to identify all locations at which the household currently shops for a range of shopping types. These included daily shopping needs (e.g. bread, milk etc.), grocery shopping, clothing and comparison shopping (eg: music, books) larger household goods shopping (e.g. white –goods) and dining out and entertainment. The results show that Seymour town centre and the Anzac Avenue local centre were the primary location for daily and grocery shopping of respondents. Seymour town centre was also identified as the most commonly used centre for clothing and comparison good shopping, larger household goods shopping, as well as dining out and entertainment.

5.2 Community Workshops

Two community workshops were undertaken (12.30pm 24th November 2015 & 7pm 2nd December 2015) to present the key elements of the Seymour Structure Plan process and seek out what matters to the community in terms of what they value about Seymour now, what could be improved and challenges and potential solutions.

The first part of each workshop asked participants to answer a series of questions relating to Seymour and the workshops resulted in a wealth of information being generated which will be able to input into development of the structure plan. A brief summary of the most popular responses received to each question is provided below.

Question 1: What do you most value about Seymour now?

- Good accessibility to Melbourne and other nearby areas
- People (country feel, friendly)
- Natural environment (parks, walking tracks, river)
- Military and railway history
- Health and education facilities

Question 2: If you could change anything about Seymour, what would you change?

- Better use of the Goulburn River and Goulburn Park
- Improve transport connections within and to/from Seymour
- The current attitude and perception of Seymour
- Better promotion of existing events/facilities
- Increased variety of housing

Question 3: If you had a magic wand, what brilliant idea do you think could positively change the future of Seymour?

- Improve accessibility
- Improve and enhance the use of the Goulburn River
- Increase the range and type of businesses
- Provision of new community facilities
- Improve the physical appearance of Seymour



Figure 1: Community Workshop in progress

The second part of each workshop focussed upon a range of topics, and participants were asked to outline positive aspects along with existing and future issues relating to the topic. A brief summary of each topic is provided below.

Economic Development and Tourism

Participants outlined that Seymour has good access by road and rail, and has a significant tourist potential with the offer of the Goulburn River and the town's military history. Tourism events throughout the year (such as the Alternative Farming Expo) also assist in attracting people to the town and surrounding area.

To improve economic development and tourism within Seymour a range of ideas, including the creation of new employment opportunities, increasing the range of shops, improving internet connectivity and a creating a connection into the Great Victorian Rail Trail were suggested.

The image, look and feel of Seymour

The Goulburn River was identified as a key part of the image of Seymour. The botanical gardens, Australian Light Horse Memorial Park, Bushland Park and existing heritage buildings were also recognised as positive aspects of Seymour's look, feel and identity.

Participants felt that the lack of connectivity between the town and the Goulburn River could be improved, as the town somewhat 'turns it back' on the Goulburn River.

The image of Seymour as a location with significant stock of social housing was also raised, and that more should be done to try and improve this to ensure that Seymour does not experience any further decline.



Community and Recreation Facilities

There are a wide range of community and recreation facilities within Seymour. These facilities are generally well used by the local population. Popular facilities include the sporting and leisure facilities, local parks and gardens and the local skate park.

Although the existing sporting facilities are being well used, more could be done to extend the range of sporting activities available within Seymour. It was noted that people struggled to find adequate facilities to play certain sports such as hockey and soccer.

Participants were concerned about the lack of youth facilities and also felt that existing facilities could be enhanced through maintenance work or enabling a wider range of uses to take place (e.g.; promoting the use of existing community buildings to enhance the availability of activities for young people).

Housing

It was generally accepted that Seymour is a relatively affordable place to live, however there were concerns over the quality of some of the town's housing stock.

Whilst there is also a relatively diverse range of housing available, more should be done to provide for all types of accommodation needs, including for the increasing proportion of elderly residents. It was felt that a new retirement village or other types of new housing could help provide more options for existing residents as well as helping to attract new residents and increase the overall population of Seymour.

Transportation

The proximity and ease of access to Melbourne was recognised by participants as a key advantage of living in Seymour. Participants supported the existing connections via rail (Seymour train station) and road (Hume Freeway). Some individuals also outlined how easy via car it was to get in and around Seymour.

However, some aspects of the existing rail service were also disliked by several participants. This related to car parking facilities at Seymour rail station (limited), pedestrian access, and safety at the station. Individuals also felt that the existing service should be increased and expanded to different parts of the region.

Many participants felt that the current bus service was unsatisfactory, due to the lack of services and lack of connections with the train timetable.



5.3 Stakeholder Group Meetings

Seymour Business and Tourism

Council and its economic and tourism development consultant, Urban Enterprise, met with the local chamber of commerce, Seymour Business and Tourism. The purposes of the meeting were to introduce the Seymour Structure Plan process to the group and to allow Council's consultant to conduct a workshop with the group exploring economic and tourism development issues in Seymour.

Key outcomes, issues and opportunities arising from the workshop discussion included:

- That business success is often a result of the personal efforts, commitment to customer service, or particular strengths of the business' owners and employees
- Good quality accommodation businesses are doing well and there seems to be demand for a good value and quality product.
- Statutory planning and Catchment Management Authority restrictions are an impediment to growth; in particular the flood zoning and overlays and also inappropriate zoning
- Seymour is well located in Victoria – accessible to the goldfields, snowfields and Goulburn food bowl; has good weather ("The good weather starts in Seymour"); has a decent hospital; vibrant social life – especially for sports; and is the closest town to Melbourne on a major river.
- There are approximately 5 retail vacancies in the town.
- Branding and perception are really holding Seymour back; people will work in Seymour but they won't live there. Additionally, there is a lack of relatively modern and good quality housing – especially in locations that people don't find undesirable because of the neighbours. The cheap housing and associated community tarnishes the image and perceptions of Seymour.
- The town lacks certain facilities and features that would attract families to settle or visit; there is little for kids, no cinema, and the Goulburn River is not capitalised on.
- In terms of tourism, Seymour suffers from not being prominent in people's minds on the tourism map (in part due to its 'position' in the recently retired 'jigsaw Victoria tourism map' on the edge of the Daylesford region)
- There is a need for a 'larger hardware store'; a retirement village; a 3.5 to 4 star hotel; and an improved food and dining offer.
- Logistics; equine; food and wine; Mangalore Airport and the Goulburn River – could all offer potential for economic growth and development.

Sustainable Seymour Network

Council and its consultant team met with the Sustainable Seymour Network, which is made up of BEAM, The Seymour We Want (TSWW) and Beyond Zero Emissions. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the Structure Plan process, and to seek input from the Sustainable Seymour Network on key issues and opportunities for Seymour.

Key issues and opportunities raised by Sustainable Seymour Network included:

- The possibility of making Seymour an innovation town, to become a pioneer in renewable energy practices.
- Educational opportunities within Seymour are very important, along with the retention of the existing population.



- Need to maximise the utilisation and promotion of existing assets within Seymour.
- Improving the existing rail trail to make it more accessible.
- Make Seymour more cycle-friendly to encourage people to undertake this mode of transport.
- Implement the findings from the Seymour We Want 'Bright Ideas' survey and quickly take action to address related and other issues of importance.

Seymour Agricultural & Pastoral Society

Council and several members of the consultant team met with Seymour Agricultural & Pastoral Society in December 2015 to discuss key issues and opportunities relating to Seymour. A summary of the feedback received is outlined below:

- Agricultural industry in Seymour is thriving at present
- Local farmers have had to adapt their farming patterns, in part due to market conditions, which has resulted in the diversification of products and offer.
- People are selling their farming products online, but a limited/poor broadband connectivity is reducing the ability to undertake this form of marketing.
- Sometimes there can be unnecessary barriers (such as requiring a planning permit to undertake a certain operation or sell items) which prevents innovative businesses from achieving their full potential. A more flexible approach could overcome this.
- Some individuals feel that the Council do little/nothing to assist local businesses.
- There is an opportunity to create a 'brand' around the products made in Seymour (similar to the 'Yarra Valley' brand); for example the Society would like to leverage off of the Goulburn River Valley wine appellation for the benefit of food producers in the region.

Kings Park Committee, Light Horse Park Committee & Seymour Historical Society

Council and the consultant team met with members of the Kings Park Committee, Australian Light Horse Memorial Park Committee and the Seymour Historical Society in December 2015. A summary of the feedback received is provided below.

- Kings Park is a multi-purpose sporting venue which is used throughout the year. The Park is also the home ground for the local cricket and AFL team.
- A total of 13 user groups participate at Kings Park.
- Non-sporting events also take place in Kings Park. The biggest event which takes place is the annual Alternative Farming Expo, which takes place over the third weekend of February. This attracts up to 40,000 visitors. There is also a caravan show held in the Park every two years, which attracts up to 6,000 visitors.
- Kings Park has BBQ facilities and a boardwalk near the river. However, the boardwalk is underutilised at present.
- Light Horse Park is generally underdeveloped, but recent funding has enabled the erection of information boards in the park.
- The Light Horse Park Committee felt that they sometimes struggle to attract grants due to other sites in Seymour.
- Light Horse Park has a rich history and offers the potential to be a key tourist attraction for Seymour.
- Seymour Historical Society is a small group of volunteers who have an interest in the history of Seymour.



- Seymour Historical Society is currently exploring the opportunity of erecting a new building for the Society to operate from.

Issues/opportunities for Seymour

- There is a need to maximise the utilisation of the Goulburn River.
- Seymour has a significant military history. Whilst it offers a range of different attractions, there is limited collaborative working between the different interest groups.
- Better integration between the interested parties in Seymour could attract more visitors.
- The rail trail could be extended to attract people to Seymour and allow local people to use it more frequently.

Bushland Park Committee

Council's Project Manager for the Seymour Structure Plan met with representatives of the Bushland Park Management Committee. As part of the meeting, a site tour was conducted of Bushland Park and other key features including new housing estate off Hume & Hovell Road, Light Horse Park, the Light Horse Park industrial precinct (on the south side of Goulburn Valley Hwy), Delatite Road crossing of Whiteheads Creek, the new rural living estate on south side of Kobayboyn Road; new housing areas on Tarcombe Road; a potentially ideal housing site to the north east of the northern unmade stretch of Delatite road; and Pioneer Park. A follow-on discussion was had concerning key issues and opportunities in Seymour.

Key issues and opportunities raised by the Bushland Park Committee representatives included:

- Seymour lacks a town hall facility or space capable of accommodating cinema screenings, a dance or public meeting – with available alternatives not suitable for such events.
- Education could be a strong opportunity for the town and Seymour should look to examples such as Kaniva, where the school is well integrated with the surrounding rural economy.
- There ought to be a plan for utilising the Seymour East Primary School site to the benefit of the community.
- The committee representative contributed to the work that had been completed and communicated to Council by a local community member to identify a network of paths and trails around and within Seymour, including those which would link Bushland Park with Telegraph Park and beyond.

Puckapunyal Army Base

Council and the consultant team met with representatives of Puckapunyal Army Base including both armed forces and social and community services staff working on base. As part of the meeting, a site visit was also undertaken to view the current facilities available on base.

Key issues and opportunities raised by Puckapunyal representatives included:

- As many as 6,000 to 7,000 trainees come through the base each year.
- Military personnel live on the base or within the surrounding towns.
- Seymour provides limited job opportunities for spouses. Spouses require flexible work to accommodate their partners' unpredictable work schedule (i.e. possible re-deployment), family commitments and a transient lifestyle.



- Personnel and families living within Puckapunyal generally feel isolated;
 - Poor transport connections between Seymour and Puckapunyal, particularly for the youth and adults without a driving licence or trainees who lack access to a motor vehicle while completing a training course (some of which can last for several months) on the base. The availability and regularity of existing bus services is undesirable.
 - Access for 'civilians' onto base is difficult, despite a number of public facilities (such as a cinema, squash court, golf course) and the Tank Museum being located there.
- The Tank Museum is operated by an historical society within the Army.
- The base has a primary school which is well regarded. Children who reside off the base also attend the school.
- Links to support services for youth and disabled children are limited and considered negative for families moving to Puckapunyal.

5.4 Submissions

Five submissions have been received throughout the Stage 1 Consultation event. Each submission has been documented and will be considered throughout the structure planning process.

5.5 Questionnaire

A short community consultation questionnaire was administered to seek the views and opinions of the local community in Seymour on their town. Individuals attending the following events were encouraged to complete the survey;

- Taste of the Goulburn
 - Community BBQ
 - Seymour Market
 - Community Workshops
- A total of 67 surveys were completed, of which 47 were completed by people who lived in Seymour.
 - The survey asked people to identify '*what three things do you most like about Seymour*'. A total of 131 responses to this question were received. The three most popular responses were 'country feel' (25 responses), community (21 responses) and the Goulburn River (18 responses). Other popular responses included its location (13 responses), access to facilities and shops (12 responses) and gardens, parks and streetscapes (12 responses).
 - When asked '*What additional shops would you like to see located in Seymour town centre?*' the most popular response was 'A large format store (such as a Big W or Target)', followed by 'A large hardware store (such as Bunnings)' and also 'More clothing variety stores'.
 - Responses to the question '*What key issue would you like the Seymour Structure Plan to address?*' provided a wide range of issues which the Structure Plan should address. A total of 82 issues were identified. The most popular issue was 'More housing development' (8 responses), followed by 'Local job creation' (7 responses) and 'Attracting more businesses' (7 responses). 'Youth activities' (5 responses) and 'Accommodation for older people' (4 responses) were also identified as being key issues.



- When asked '*If you could change anything about Seymour what would it be?*', '*Connecting bike path and trails to the rivers*' (8 responses) and '*Creating more jobs*' (7 responses) were the top responses. Other popular responses included '*The rejuvenation of Anzac Avenue and shopping area*', '*More activities for kids/youth*' and '*Changing negative attitudes and perceptions of Seymour*', and '*More activities for kids/youth*' (all four received 6 responses each).
- The proximity to Melbourne and its strategic location were identified by the respondents as the key features which encourage people to move to Melbourne.
- Respondents consider that a range of housing is needed for the future population of Seymour. Out of 120 responses, retirement villages (31 responses) and detached houses (21 responses) were the most popular answers. Aged care hostels (19 responses), units/townhouses (15 responses), student accommodation (8 responses) and apartments (7 responses) were also identified as being needed for the future population of Seymour. Interestingly, a total of 19 responses stated that 'all' of these housing types were required.
- Respondents were asked to identify positive and negative words used to describe Seymour. Positive words used to describe Seymour included;

➤ *Country town, Community, Friendly, Laid Back, Country, Beautiful*

Negative words used to describe Seymour included;

➤ *Fragmented, Stagnant, Old*



5.6 Blackboards

In addition to the surveys conducted at each of the three community events attended, large blackboards were also set up to enable the community to write comments in response to two questions:

- What do you like most about Seymour?
- What would you like to change in Seymour?

The following tables summarise all of the comments recorded on the blackboards at each event.

Consistent themes were apparent when reviewing the black board comments and the survey responses.

Most of the community like the friendly country feel of Seymour and recognised the distinctive attributes of the Goulburn River and the military history of the town. The train station and good access to Melbourne was also noted. The access to a range of community and recreation facilities was identified as important features. The events held in the town were also seen as a positive from a tourism perspective. Many expressed that Seymour had a strong community feel.

When asked what they would like to change many comments included providing more activities for youth – suggestions of cinemas, BMX tracks, indoor play/entertainment centres, mini golf/bowling, etc. This highlighted the distinct lack of entertainment opportunities currently for youth living in Seymour.

Negative attitudes and perceptions of the town were raised, in addition to the need to provide more local (youth) employment, more local businesses. The image and poor condition of some areas in the town – Anzac Avenue, some residential neighbourhoods was also raised. From a retailing perspective many raised concern that there was no Bunnings-style hardware shop, larger Big W or Kmart stores – requiring residents to shop outside the town. Issues regarding the poor condition of the Seymour Secondary College buildings were also highlighted – by both adults and youth. Many would like to see a community hub in Seymour and civic presence such as a town hall space. Many acknowledged the beauty of the Goulburn River but were frustrated by the lack of access and exposure of this asset as a tourism feature.

Taste of Goulburn

17th October 2015

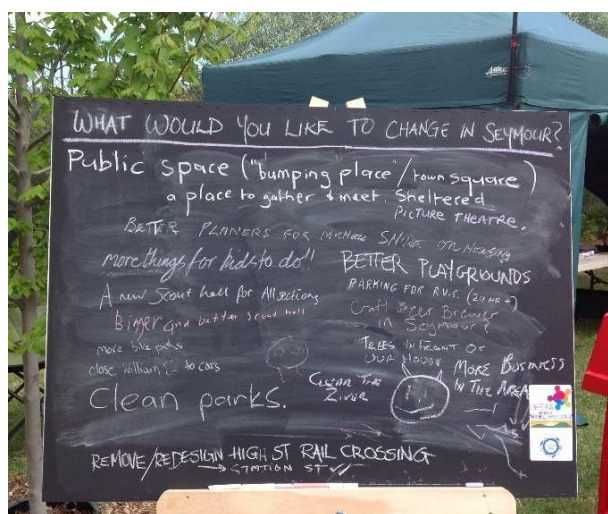
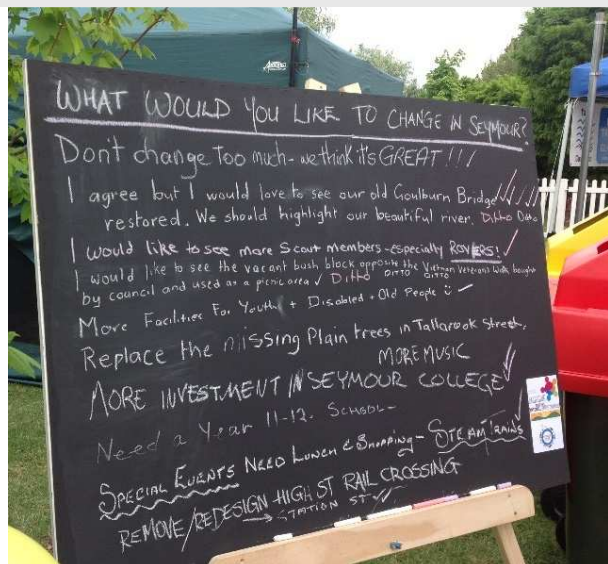
What do you like Most About Seymour?



- Good Town to Live In
- Good train service
- Skate park & Aquatic centre
- Amazing Scout Group
- Rail Hub
- Goulburn River Walk
- Train Conductors - Helpful staff
- Tourism for RV travellers
- Friendly people
- Beautiful Roses
- Beautiful streetscape
- Hidden treasures of Goulburn River
- Have a barby at boat ramp – always clean
- Relax & wine
- Military & Railway history
- Great Racetrack
- Seymour Show
- Events – visitors chance to show case to locals and visitors
- Community – social connection – healthy well being
- New Rovers Crew
- I like the shops
- I enjoy special events
- Great walking tracks
- The carousel
- Good choice of supermarkets & good parking

Taste of Goulburn (continued)

What would you like to change in Seymour?

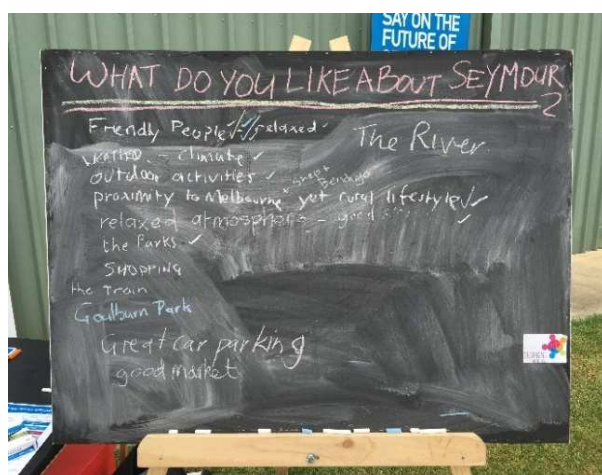
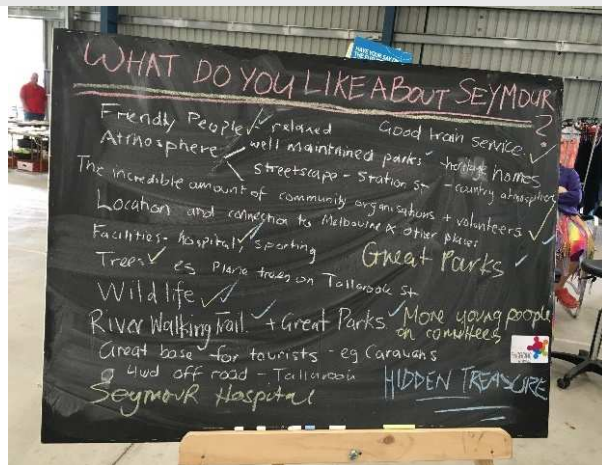


- Don't change anything – we think it is great.
- I agree but I would love to see our Goulburn Bridge restored. We should highlight our beautiful river (Eight ticks)
- I would like to see more scout members – especially Rovers
- I would like to see the vacant block opposite the Vietnam Veterans Walk bought by Council and used as a picnic area. (4 ticks)
- More facilities for youth and disabled and old people
- Replace the missing plain trees in Tallarook St
- More Music
- More investment in Seymour College (2 ticks)
- Need a Year 11 - 12 school
- Special events – need lunch & shopping
- Steam Trains (1 tick)
- Remove/redesign High St rail crossing/Station St (2 ticks)
- Public Space (bumping space – town square. A place to meet and gather – sheltered.
- Picture Theatre
- Netter planners for Mitchell re: housing
- Parking for RV's – 24 hr
- More things for kids to do
- A new scout hall
- Bigger and better scout hall
- More bike paths
- Close William St to cars
- Clean parks
- Clean the river
- Better playgrounds
- Craft beer brewery
- Trees in front of my house
- More businesses in the area

Seymour Market

21 November 2015

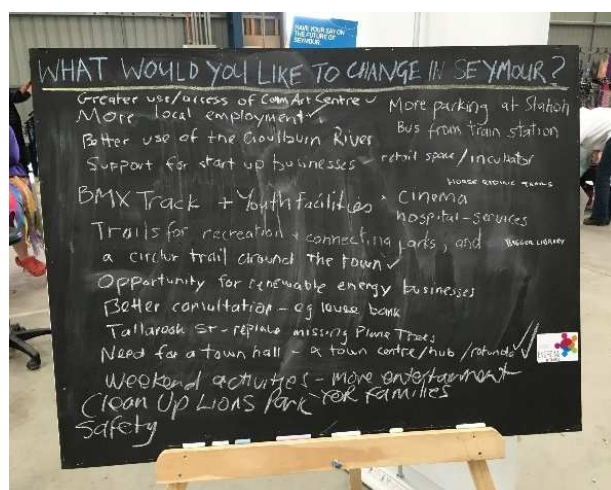
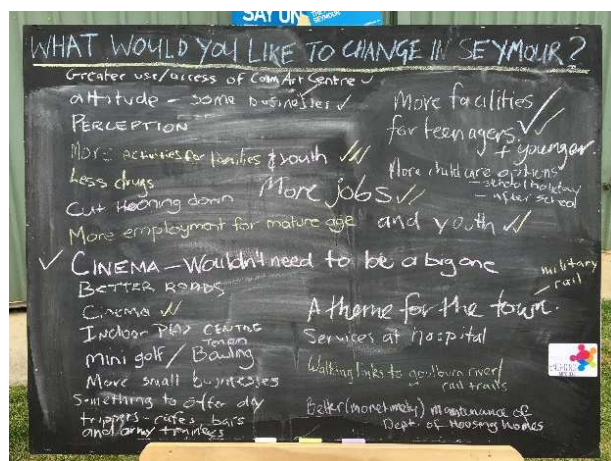
What do you like most about Seymour



- Friendly people, Relaxed
- Atmosphere – well maintained parks, streetscape Station St
- Good train service
- Heritage Homes
- Country atmosphere
- Incredible amount of community organisations and volunteers
- Location & connection to Melbourne and other places
- Wildlife
- Facilities – hospital, sporting
- Great parks
- Trees – Plane trees on Tallarook St
- River walking trail
- More young people on committees
- Great base for tourists – caravans
- Good off road – Tallarook
- Seymour Hospital
- Hidden treasure
- Weather – climate
- Outdoor activities
- Proximity to Melbourne, Shepp & Bendigo, yet rural lifestyle
- Relaxed atmosphere
- The Parks
- Shopping
- The train
- Goulburn Park
- Great car parking
- Good market
- The river

Seymour Market (continued)

What would you like to change in Seymour?

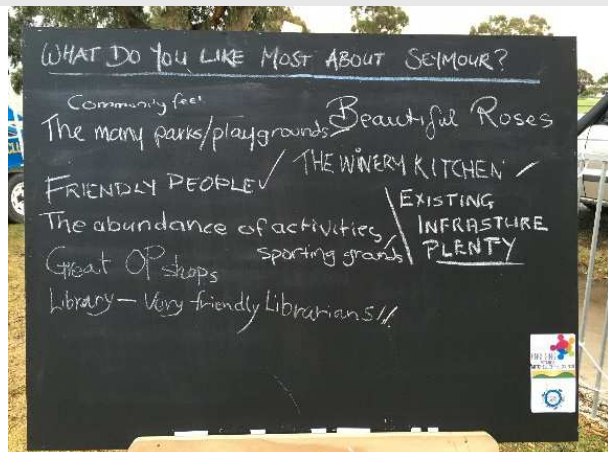


- Greater use/access of Community Arts centre
- Attitude of some businesses
- Perception
- More activities for families & youth
- Less drugs
- More jobs
- More facilities for teenagers & younger – 2 ticks.
- More child care options – school holiday programs, after care
- Cut hooning down
- Cinema – wouldn't need to be a big one
- Better roads
- Cinema – 2 ticks
- Indoor play centre
- Mini golf, ten pin bowling
- More small business
- Something to offer day trippers – cafes, bars
- A theme for the town – military history
- Services at hospital
- Walking links to Goulburn River – trails
- Better (more) maintenance of Dept. Housing homes
- More local employment
- Better use of the Goulburn
- More parking at station
- Bus from station
- Support for start-up business – retail space/incubator
- BMX track & Youth facilities – cinema
- Trails for recreation – connecting parks – circular trail around the town
- Opportunity for renewable energy business
- Better consultation – levee bank
- Need a Town Hall – town centre, hub, rotunda, 2 ticks
- Weekend activities – more entertainment
- Clean up Lions Park for families
- Safety

Seymour Community BBQ

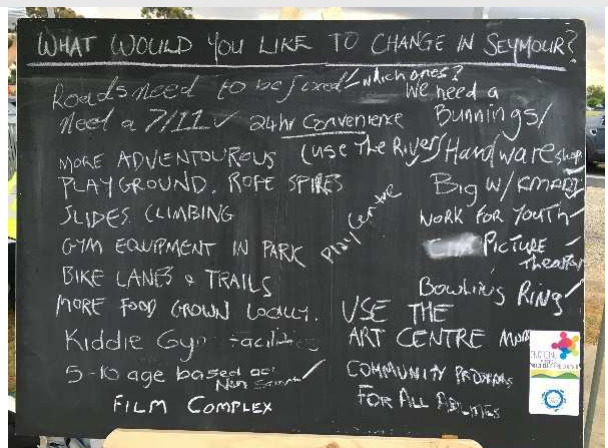
5 November 2015

What do you like most about Seymour?



- Community feel
- The many parks/playgrounds
- Beautiful Roses
- Friendly people
- Abundance of activities- sporting grounds
- Existing Infrastructure – plenty
- Great op shops
- Library – very friendly librarians
- The winery kitchen

What would you like to change in Seymour?



- Roads need to be fixed
- Need a 7/11
- Need a Bunnings - hardware
- More adventure playgrounds – rope spires, slides, climbing
- Play Centre
- Bike lanes
- More food grown locally
- Kiddies gym facilities – 5-10 age base
- Film complex/picture theatre
- Use the arts centre more
- Bowling Ring
- Work for Youth
- Big W/Kmart
- Use the river



5.7 Agency Workshops

Council and the consultant team held four Agency Workshops on certain themes associated with the provision of public services and infrastructure in Seymour.

The Workshops covered the following themes;

- Education and Training
- Transport
- Health and Community Facilities
- Drainage and Water

The workshops enabled Council and its consultants to check, validate and update the background information that had already been collected on facilities and service provided by non-Council entities in Seymour and which will feed through to the Emerging Options and eventual Draft and Final Structure Plans.

5.8 Seymour College

Council meet with pupils from Seymour College in Grade 3/4 and Year 8 in December 2015. This provided an opportunity for the younger generation of Seymour to outline their key issues in relation to the town.

- The general feedback about Seymour from the Grade 3/4 students was positive. The playgrounds, sporting clubs, aquatic centre, bike paths and shopping centre were identified as being very important places for this age group. Many students also had some good suggestions on how these places could be improved, such as providing more stimulating play equipment in the parks and swimming pool.
- The Grade 3/4 students did not have any perceived negative perceptions of Seymour, however there was some debate on the 'bad people' and safety concerns. The students also raised the issue of the condition of the secondary school building in comparison to the primary school building. The students believed that the current playgrounds could be improved with more 'adventure' style equipment and better maintenance. A number of shops were suggested to cater to young kids – overwhelmingly an ice cream shop was mentioned. An indoor play centre, cinema and bowling were also suggested. Many raised the need for better bike paths – trail paths do not connect.
- Year 8 students outlined a strong need to reinvigorate the town and to change the current negative perceptions. An issues of 'two communities' was raised, with students from Seymour College perceived as more disadvantaged and marginalised, given the condition of the school's middle and senior buildings and facilities.
- Year 8 students felt that there is a lack of teen related activities in the town, and that this could be improved by providing activities such as indoor rock climbing, laser tag, ice skating etc. Most of the year 8 students were concerned for safety when walking by themselves in the town and highlighted particular areas in the town where they would not walk. Many considered the appearance of parts of the town to be run down and in need of maintenance and cleaning.