



## traralgon activity centre plan: background reports community infrastructure and social needs analysis

prepared by capire consulting pty ltd

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## **appendices**

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appendix 2 – consultation results

appendix 3 – indicative community infrastructure hierarchy



# 1 introduction

Capire Consulting Group has been engaged by Hansen Partnership to undertake the community infrastructure and social needs assessment for the development of the Latrobe City Council's Traralgon Activity Centre (TAC) Plan for Traralgon's CBD. The TAC Plan is a framework that will guide future development in the Traralgon CBD. It comprises both a Structure Plan and an Urban Design Framework. The TAC Plan will build on previous studies endorsed by the local community to help guide development in the CBD for the next 20 years.

For the purpose of this assessment the following definition of community infrastructure has been used<sup>1</sup>:

*Community Infrastructure is public and private, State, Council and non-Council facilities (e.g. cultural buildings, recreation buildings, passive and active open space) which accommodate community support services, programs and activities (e.g. preschool service, child care, youth services, aged services, community meetings, sporting competition, informal recreation, cultural activities, education activities, emergency services, community support, etc.)*

This background report identifies key issues and opportunities associated with community infrastructure and social needs in Traralgon CBD and surrounding areas.

## 1.1 methodology

The community infrastructure and social needs assessment has largely been undertaken through desktop research. The following activities have informed this analysis:

### 1. strategic analysis

An analysis of relevant state government policies associated with community services and infrastructure as well as relevant local level strategies, policies and plans.

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<sup>1</sup> ARS Research (2008) Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas, p.2.

## **2. demographics**

An analysis of existing and future demographic data to understand current population structure and future anticipated changes to demographics in Traralgon.

## **3. desktop audit of existing facilities**

A review and mapping of existing community, open space and recreation facilities in the study area and the surrounding Traralgon area.

## **4. consultation**

Interviews and workshops with key agency representatives, Council staff and community representatives to discuss issues, challenges and opportunities relating to community infrastructure and social needs in Traralgon.

## **5. benchmarking**

Community infrastructure benchmarks have been developed for the Growth Areas Councils of Melbourne. These have been identified against existing community infrastructure in Traralgon to determine if community infrastructure meets the needs of the current and the future Traralgon population.

## **6. needs analysis**

An analysis of social needs and community infrastructure gaps that have emerged during activities 1 to 5 above.

## **7. key findings**

Identification of a preliminary hierarchy of facilities and services to be located in TAC, opportunities to accommodate future facilities and services, as well as recommended strategies, actions and principles to inform the structure plan and urban design framework.



## 1.2 site context

Traralgon Activity Centre incorporates the Traralgon CBD and some residential areas surrounding the CBD. It is bounded by Mabel St to the west, Gordon Street and Traralgon Creek to the north, Princes Highway to the east and Princes Highway to the south and includes some residential areas south of the train line between Hyland Highway, Queens Parade and Traralgon Creek. The study area is identified in Figure 1.

Traralgon is the largest town in the City of Latrobe and has become a commercial, services and entertainment hub for Latrobe and the wider Gippsland region. Traralgon has experienced recent population growth, with the annual growth rate above seven per cent between 2001 and 2006 (ABS Census, 2006). Traralgon is also a relatively affluent community compared to other townships within the City of Latrobe (ABS Census, 2006).

Residential growth is expected to continue, if land supply matches demand. Currently, residential development in Traralgon is limited due to land constraints surrounding the town (coal to the south, floodplains to the north and major pipeline infrastructure also to the north).

Key services and facilities located within the Traralgon CBD include:

- the civic precinct located between Kay and Grey Streets which includes the Latrobe Performing Arts Centre, the Traralgon library and Council service centre and the Maternal and Child Health Centre;
- Two primary schools: Grey Street and St Michael's Primary Schools; and
- An outdoor swimming pool, Hubert Osborne Park, a croquet club and childcare centre.

Other significant features surrounding the CBD include:

- The Traralgon Creek Corridor;
- The Train Station Precinct; and
- Victory Park and Newman Park along with the miniature railway.

## 1.3 report limitations

Due to budget and time constraints, the community infrastructure and social needs assessment for the Traralgon Activity Centre (TAC) Plan has been undertaken primarily through desktop analysis of existing



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local-level policies, strategies and plans, a desktop audit and analysis of benchmarks with some consultation and a study area tour.

As such, there has been no in-depth analysis of existing community infrastructure and its capacity to expand, nor has there been an in-depth analysis of growth projections and community infrastructure needed to accommodate future anticipated growth for the wider Traralgon district.





# traralgon activity centre plan

base map  
1:2500

## legend



DRAFT

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## 2 strategic analysis

### 2.1 state government policy

The following State Government Policies have been reviewed as part of the community infrastructure and social needs assessment:

- Melbourne 2030 (2002)
- Melbourne 2030: Melbourne @ 5 million: A Planning Update (2008)
- A Fairer Victoria: Standing Together Through Tough Times (State Government of Victoria, 2009)

In relation to community infrastructure, Melbourne 2030 and Melbourne @ 5 million and A Fairer Victoria (2009) state that:

- Community infrastructure should be located in central locations and accessible by walking or public transport;
- Community infrastructure needs to be responsive to local needs and the local community;
- Co-location and community hubs should be encouraged to facilitate community access; and
- Community infrastructure is to be flexible and adaptable and allow for a range of uses by different community groups.

### 2.2 latrobe city council policies and plans

A strategic review of local plans, policies and strategies has been undertaken, with particular focus on community infrastructure, open space and recreation. A full summary of the strategic review is detailed in Appendix 1. An overview of the local policy strategic review is presented below.

The following plans have been reviewed as part of the community infrastructure and social needs assessment:

- Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley
- Latrobe City Council Plan 2009-2013
- Latrobe City Council MSS
- Public Open Space Plan (2007)
- Latrobe Healthy Urban Design Good Practice Guide



- Latrobe Performing Arts & Convention Centre Feasibility Study CPG (2009)
- Traralgon Station Precinct Master Plan, Community Consultation Summary (Coomes Consulting)
- Traralgon Structure Plans - Traralgon, Final Report (2007)
- LaTrobe Transit Centred Precincts, Traralgon Town Summary, David Lock and Associates (2006)
- Library Strategy Plan 2006-2011
- Latrobe Positive Ageing Strategy 2007-2021
- Latrobe City Positive Ageing Plan 2009 – 2012
- Latrobe City Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2006)
- Traralgon Outdoor Recreational Plan (October 2006)
- Newman Park Miniature Railway 20 Year Development Vision (2003)
- Playground Strategy 2005 - 2021
- Latrobe City Council Disability Action Plan 2009 – 2010
- Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Action Plan 2010-2013
- Latrobe City Council Traralgon Indoor Aquatics and Leisure Centre Feasibility Study Feasibility Report (March 2010)
- Traralgon – A Better Place to Be Project – Evaluation Report (January 2010)
- Destination Traralgon Safe Streets Summit, Report & Initial Responses, Traralgon CBD Safety Group (December 2008)
- The Feasibility Study for CCTV in Traralgon Entertainment Precinct, MGN Consultancy (2009)
- Traralgon Safe Streets Summit Report (2009)
- Court House (and Post Office) Traralgon, Victoria, Conservation Management Plan (September 2009)
- Early Years Infrastructure Plan DRAFT Background Reports (2010)

The key findings from the review of local policies, strategies and plans are as follows:

### **Recreation and Open Space**

- Open space provisions throughout Latrobe City should be aligned with per capita ratios in other regional towns of Victoria;
- Open space provision identifies that local level open space should provide for 0.5 ha within 500m radius of households; residential areas should have access to district level open space within a 3km radius; and each town with a population over 5,000 people should have a regional level open space within the town boundary; and
- Recreation and open space should be accessible to all and a range of facilities should be available for a range of recreation activities (both active and passive). It has been identified that where necessary, facilities should be consolidated to improve access and quality.

### **Neighbourhood Design, Safety and Amenity**

- Neighbourhood clusters of essential services should be encouraged across Latrobe City and particularly in Traralgon;
- The Healthy By Design Guide and the MSS identify that good design helps to promote healthy communities. As such, community centres and open spaces should be accessible and promote walking and cycling. Community centres should be located within 400-800m of all new developments and be of mixed use;
- The Traralgon Town Summary as part of the Latrobe Transit Centred Precincts recommends that housing be located within the town centre and that aged care housing also be located in areas close to the town centre where services and retail are accessible; and
- Safety, especially at night has been identified as a major issue. A Traralgon CBD Safety Committee has been established and has developed programs to help tackle safety issues. Programs that have concluded or underway include increased security at taxi stands, Nightrider service, increased police presence, staggered closing hours of nightclubs and a feasibility study for CCTV in Traralgon Entertainment Precinct. While perceptions of safety have improved, significant issues remain, especially around drinking (including underage drinking) and maintaining amenity in the streets surrounding the nightclubs.

### **Future Plans for Facilities and Infrastructure**

- Liveability is a key outcome in the Council Plan. This aim is to achieve liveability by providing essential services and innovative amenities, services and facilities to the community;
- The Community Vision identifies that Latrobe City should continue to be an important commercial hub for Gippsland with continued focus on education, health and community services and facilities;
- A feasibility study for the Latrobe Performing Arts and Convention Centre has been undertaken. Based on this feasibility study, Council resolved to develop the new Latrobe Performing Arts





and Convention Centre in Morwell. Council has also agreed that the current Latrobe Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon will be retained and maintained;

- The train station precinct will undergo significant re-configuration to improve connections and access links between surrounding areas and the station precinct, as part of the current Station Precinct Masterplan project;
- Library facilities in Traralgon are adequate. Libraries in Latrobe have identified a need to enhance the support provided to special needs groups such as senior citizens, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), disability, indigenous and youth;
- Age-friendly infrastructure should be encouraged where possible to improve access to services and facilities as well as around town and improve amenity through the Healthy By Design principles;
- In terms of access, all new facilities should meet the Australian Standards to ensure accessibility and functionality and it is important to ensure that facilities are safe and accessible for all;
- The draft Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Action Plan 2010-2013 identifies a need for CALD community groups to have access to Council halls and venues including Senior Citizen Clubs;
- A feasibility study is currently being conducted for the Aquatic and Leisure Centre and will be considered by Council at a forthcoming Council meeting;
- The Traralgon Court House (and Post Office) is a significant heritage building and should continue to be used by the community. A Conservation Management Plan for the Court House has been developed and adopted by Council; and
- The Early Years Infrastructure Plan is currently being prepared. Background reports identify that current capacity of early year's services is adequate to meet current population demand.

## 3 demographics

### 3.1 current population

Demographic data has been drawn from the Community Profile, Latrobe City Council and from the ABS Census. ABS estimated resident population for Traralgon Statistical Local Area (SLA) is 30,206 (ABS, 2009).

The table below presents demographic data and a summary of this data for the Traralgon Structure Plan area incorporating the township of Traralgon and compares this data with Traralgon – Traralgon East, Latrobe City and Victorian population data.

Table 1 - Demographic data for Traralgon as compared to Victoria

Category (% of total population, family or household)	Traralgon Structure Plan (%)	Traralgon – Traralgon East (%)	Latrobe City (%)	Victoria (%)	Summary
Proportion of population who identify as Indigenous	1.1	1.0	1.3	0.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher proportion of people who identify as Indigenous living in Traralgon and Latrobe City as compared to the Victorian average.</li> <li>The proportion of people born overseas is significantly less than the Victorian average, but still makes up over 10 per cent of the population.</li> <li>Higher proportion of one parent families than the Victorian average.</li> <li>Higher proportion of one person households than Victorian average.</li> <li>Lower proportion of households</li> </ul>
Proportion of people born overseas	11.1	11.1	13.2	23.8	
Proportion of families with one parent	18.2	17.6	18.9	15.4	
Proportion of households with one person	26.4	26.0	27.0	23.6	
Proportion of households who are couples with dependents	43.5	43.8	42.0	46.9	



Category (% of total population, family or household)	Traralgon Structure Plan (%)	Traralgon – Traralgon East (%)	Latrobe City (%)	Victoria (%)	Summary
Proportion of households of couple without dependents	36.9	37.2	37.8	35.9	<p>who are couples with dependents than Victorian average.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slightly higher proportion of couple households without dependents.</li> </ul>
Proportion of population aged 0-4	7.3	7.1	6.2	6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Slightly higher proportion of children aged 0-4 years and youth aged 5-17 years.</li> <li>Slightly lower proportion of people aged 65+ than the Victorian average.</li> </ul>
Proportion of population aged 5-17	19.1	19.2	19.3	17.2	
Proportion of population aged 18-64	61.0	61.1	60.4	62.9	
Proportion of population aged 65-84	11.1	11.1	12.6	12.0	
Proportion of population aged 85+	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	
Proportion of persons earning a low income (less than \$400 per week)	42.4	42.1	48.2	41.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traralgon earns slightly higher wages than the wider Latrobe area.</li> </ul>
Proportion of persons earning a high income (\$1000+ per week)	17.4	17.6	14.9	17.1	
SEIFA Index	982.7	985.3	950.7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wider Latrobe region is more disadvantaged than Traralgon – Traralgon East. The Traralgon Structure Plan is also considered proportionally more disadvantaged than Traralgon – Traralgon East.</li> </ul>



## 3.2 future population

By 2031, the population of Latrobe City LGA is expected to reach 90,700, with Traralgon – Traralgon East's population expected to exceed 35,000.

Below is a snapshot of key population changes expected for the City of Latrobe and Traralgon – Traralgon East:

- Latrobe wide, the number of people aged over 65 is expected to increase by 4,912 (33.3 per cent), and represent 16.3 per cent of the population by 2021.
- In Traralgon – Traralgon East, the number of people aged over 65 is expected to increase by 1,784 (37.5 per cent), and represent 15.2 per cent of the population by 2021.
- In terms of household size, Traralgon – Traralgon East will experience a slight increase in lone person households, from 25.7 per cent in 2006 to 27.7 per cent of all households by 2021.
- In the wider Latrobe LGA, couples without dependents is forecast to increase by 2,320 households, representing 29.6 per cent of the total householders.
- Couple families with dependents are also predicted to increase by 793 households in Latrobe City, comprising 27.3 per cent of all households in 2021, compared to 30.0 per cent in 2006.
- In Latrobe City by 2021, 10-14 year olds is forecasted to continue to be the most populous age group, with 5,476 persons aged 10-14 years.
- In Traralgon – Traralgon East, the number of people aged below 15 is forecast to increase by 1,248 and will represent 20.9 per cent of the total population.

## 4 desktop audit of existing infrastructure

An audit of existing community infrastructure including recreation and open space facilities has been undertaken. The focus of the audit was on the Traralgon CBD (the study area) and also included facilities in the surrounding areas. Table 2 and Table 3 list the community infrastructure found in the study area and the area surrounding Traralgon CBD.

Table 2 – Community infrastructure in the study area (Traralgon CBD)

Facility Type	Facility
Open Space and Recreation	<p>Traralgon Swimming Pool (outdoor 50 metre pool)</p> <p>Traralgon Croquet Club (1 court area used twice weekly)</p> <p>Hubert Osborne Park (passive open space)</p> <p>Kay Street Gardens</p>
Community and Cultural Facilities	<p>Latrobe Performing Arts Centre (incorporating Traralgon Town Hall)</p> <p>Traralgon Library (includes some municipal offices and service centre)</p> <p>Kath Teychenne Centre (Community Centre with offices for a number of community organisations including the Traralgon Historical Society, Veterans Association, the Eisteddfod Committee, the City of Latrobe Band and the Toy Library)</p> <p>Traralgon Court House</p>
Early Years	<p>Traralgon Community Toy Library (run from the Kath Teychenne Centre)</p> <p>Kay Street Preschool (Latrobe City Council owned)</p>



	Traralgon Maternal and Child Health Centre (Latrobe City Council owned)
<b>Primary Schools</b>	Grey Street Primary School (State Government Primary School) St Michael's Primary School (Catholic Primary School)
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Traralgon Police Station

Significant community infrastructure in the area surrounding the Traralgon CBD was identified and is detailed in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – community infrastructure in wider Traralgon area

Facility Type	Facility
<b>Open Space and Recreation</b>	Traralgon Tennis Centre (24 courts and function room) Catterick Crescent Reserve (active and passive open space) Traralgon Indoor Sports Stadium (5 basketball/netball/badminton courts) Traralgon Lawn Bowls Club (3 bowling greens) Returned Services League (including lawn bowls facilities – 2 bowling greens) Traralgon Recreation Reserve (passive and active open space) Duncan Cameron Memorial Park (passive and active open space) Agnes Brereton Park (passive and active open space) Harold Preston Reserve (passive and active open space)





	<p>Victory Park and Newman Park (passive open space)</p> <p>Body and Soul Fitness Centre (private group fitness gym)</p> <p>Traralgon Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre (private – includes a 25m indoor pool with 4 lanes, cricket, volleyball and netball facilities)</p> <p>Traralgon Creek Corridor</p> <p>Skate Park</p> <p>Other reserves and recreation facilities not shown on map in figure 2, but considered significant recreation facilities for the Traralgon community:</p> <p>Kevin Lithgo Reserve</p> <p>Traralgon West Sports Complex</p> <p>Traralgon Golf Course</p> <p>Traralgon Racecourse</p>
<b>Community and Cultural Facilities</b>	<p>VRI Hall (hall for community use)</p>
<b>Early Years</b>	<p>Traralgon Early Learning Centre and Mapelson Drive (Latrobe City Council run - to be combined as one early year's hub)</p> <p>Traralgon Playgroup (private playgroup)</p> <p>Traralgon West Playgroup (private playgroup)</p> <p>Pax Hill Preschool (Latrobe City Council run)</p> <p>Sara Court Preschool (Latrobe City Council run)</p>

	<i>Note: there are also other Council-run and private LDC and Kindergartens in the Traralgon District that have not been included in the audit, but examined in the strategic review.</i>
<b>Primary and Secondary Schools</b>	<p>Stockdale Road Primary School (State Government Primary School)</p> <p>Liddiard Road Primary School (State Government Primary School)</p> <p>Latrobe Special Developmental School (State Government School for children aged 4 to 18 years with moderate to severe intellectual disability)</p> <p>Traralgon Secondary College (State Government Secondary School)</p> <p>Lavalla Catholic College (Catholic Secondary School)</p> <p>Kosciusko Primary School (State Government Primary School – NOT SHOWN ON MAP IN FIGURE 2)</p>
<b>Emergency Services</b>	Traralgon Fire Station
<b>Senior Citizens</b>	<p>Traralgon Senior Citizens Centre (Monomeath)</p> <p>Traralgon East Senior Citizens Centre</p> <p>Senior Citizens Activity Centre (40 Park Lane Club Rooms)</p> <p>Senior Citizens Activity Centre (Queens Parade)</p>
<b>Adult Education</b>	<p>GippsTAFE (under construction)</p> <p>ESL program (for adults and children run out of Liddiard Road Primary School)</p>

The geographical location of these facilities is found in Figure 2.

Figure 2 – geographical location of community infrastructure in Traralgon



traralgon activity  
centre plan

Community Infrastructure  
Audit—Traralgon Activity  
Centre and Surrounds



j: 3126 v: 21/05/10

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#### Open Space / Recreation Facilities

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 Traralgon Tennis Centre                        | 10 Osborne Park   |
| 2a Catterick Crescent Reserve                    | 11 Traralgon Croquet Club                               |
| 2b Traralgon Indoor Sports Stadium               | 12 Victory Park & Newman Park                           |
| 3 Traralgon Lawn Bowls Club                      | 13 Body and Soul Fitness Centre (private)               |
| 4 Returned Services League (includes lawn bowls) | 14 Traralgon Indoor Sports and Aquatic Centre (private) |
| 5 Traralgon Recreation Reserve                   | 15 Traralgon West Sports Complex                        |
| 6 Duncan Cameron Memorial Park                   | 16 Traralgon Creek Corridor                             |
| 7 Agnes Brereton Park                            | 17 Skate Park   |
| 8 Harold Preston Reserve                         | 18 Kay Street Gardens                                   |

#### Community and Cultural Facilities

- |                            |
|----------------------------|
| 19 Latrobe Performing Arts |
| 20 Traralgon Library       |
| 21 Kath Teychenne Centre   |
| 22 Traralgon Court House   |
| 23 VRI Hall                |

#### Emergency Services

- |                             |
|-----------------------------|
| 24 Traralgon Police Station |
| 25 Traralgon Fire Station   |

#### Early Years

- |   |
|---|
| 26 Traralgon Maternal Child Health                  |
| 27 Kay Street Preschool                             |
| 28 Traralgon Playgroup Inc                          |
| 29 Traralgon Early Learning Centre                  |
| 30 Mapelson Drive Preschool                         |
| 31 Traralgon West Playgroup inc                     |
| 32 Traralgon Toy Library (at Kath Teychenne Centre) |
| 33 Sara Court Preschool                             |
| 34 Pax Hill Preschool                               |

#### Primary and Secondary Education

- |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|
| 35 Grey Street Primary School         |
| 36 St Michael's Primary School        |
| 37 Stockdale Road Primary School      |
| 38 Liddiard Road Primary School       |
| 39 Latrobe Special Development School |
| 40/41 Traralgon Secondary College     |
| 42 Lavalla Catholic College           |

#### Senior Citizens

- |  |
|--|
| 43 Traralgon Senior Citizens                                 |
| 44 Traralgon East Senior Citizens                            |
| 45 Senior Citizens Activity Centre (40 Park Lane Club Rooms) |
| 46 Senior Citizens Activity Centre (Queens Parade)           |

#### Adult Education

- |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| 47 ESL program                    |
| 48 GippsTAFE (under construction) |



## 5 consultation results

Consultation has been undertaken with key local agency representatives and Council staff including face-to-face interviews, telephone discussions and workshops.

Interviews were undertaken with key Council staff from the following departments:

- Children's and Family Services;
- The Youth Council; and
- Community Development.

A Community and Services workshop to discuss key issues associated with community infrastructure and social needs was held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 and was attended by representatives from the following organizations, agencies or groups:

- Latrobe Community Health
- Dept of Education & Early Childhood Development
- GippsTAFE
- Morwell Senior Citizen's Group
- Disability Service Officer (Latrobe City)
- Tourism Education
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Planning & Community Development
- Breed Street Clinic
- Principal St Michael's School
- Community Support (Latrobe City)

A community forum was also held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March from 7-8.30pm. A further 16 community members and business representatives attended to discuss issues and opportunities for the TAC Plan.

From these consultations a number of issues have been identified and are presented in key themes below. Appendix 2 provides an in-depth recording of consultations.



## 5.1 young people

- There is a lack of social opportunities including safe, affordable and dedicated spaces or diversionary recreation or entertainment options for youth in Traralgon CBD;
- Currently youth congregate at the McDonald's carpark, Hubert Osborne Park at night or at the Skate Park which is perceived as unsafe for youth as it is secluded;
- The skate park was identified as 'out-of-the-way' with limited opportunities for passive surveillance and does not get used by all young people;
- Youth skaters in carparks was identified as a safety issue and alternatives should be sought; and
- Youth drinkers, including those under the legal drinking age were felt to be an issue in Traralgon. It was considered that diversionary activities would help to address this.

## 5.2 safety

- Safety on weekends and at night was felt to be a widespread issue which many associated with the entertainment precinct and the drinking culture on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights;
- Safety in Traralgon CBD is currently being addressed through the Traralgon CBD Safety Committee who are working to improve infrastructure, policy and transport and to raise safety awareness (actual and perceived) across the CBD with their main concentration on the entertainment precinct; and
- Improved lighting was suggested, especially in some dark alleyways and car park areas.

## 5.3 access and transport

- Public transport and community transport options were felt to be limited and not flexible or frequent enough to encourage use, especially connections between buses and trains and train arrivals into Traralgon (from Melbourne);
- Walking in and around the CBD was felt to be accessible due to close proximity of services, but further improvements could be made to ensure appropriate connections to encourage walking. This includes between Victory Park and the CBD as well as connections between the Station Precinct and the CBD. Another crossing identified as needing improvement was Breed Street between St Michael's Primary School and the Swimming Pool;



- The provision of a late night bus service called 'nightrider' was felt to have been successfully trialled in 2008 for six months, but ceased as funds were not available to continue its operation.
- Cycling infrastructure was felt to be limited and unsafe due to traffic and congestion as well as the angled parking and glass on the bike paths. Kay Street walking and cycle path was felt to be a good example of path infrastructure; and
- The need for safe, secure and appropriate car parking was a strong theme evident throughout the consultations.

#### **5.4 improved amenity, public open space and community facilities**

- Improved amenity in the CBD was felt to promote use of Traralgon and the town centre, but suggestions were made around improvements to infrastructure and greenery in the CBD;
- Some suggested more public toilets in the CBD as well as baby change facilities;
- It was also felt that more green enclaves with shelter and seating could be constructed in the CBD to improve amenity and retail or working experience in Traralgon;
- Suggestions were made for more informal recreation opportunities in Traralgon and surrounding edges;
- The Creek Corridor was felt to be an important asset and views across this creek from the north-east corner of the CBD could be explored;
- There was support for an indoor aquatic centre in Traralgon; and
- Osborne Park could be enhanced through better facilities.

#### **5.5 new and emerging communities in traralgon**

- It was identified that there is a lack of appropriate or dedicated facilities for emerging CALD communities in Traralgon; there is a significant Sudanese population who would like access to a facility for events and festivities, yet finding an affordable or appropriate venue is difficult.; and
- It was identified that while Traralgon has a relatively more affluent community than other towns in Latrobe, Traralgon still has pockets of disadvantaged communities who need targeted services to improve liveability.

## 5.6 community spaces

- It was identified through consultations that there is a lack of facilities for youth and for CALD communities. During consultations it was identified that both CALD and youth have limited opportunities to meet safely. It was felt that this does not need to be a separate space, but could be part of a multi-use community hub; and
- No other community members or agency representatives identified a gap in community facilities and meeting space.

## 6 community infrastructure and open space provision benchmarks

Community infrastructure benchmarks have been determined for growth areas of Melbourne by ASR Research (2008)<sup>2</sup>. As Traralgon is undergoing significant growth and the Traralgon CBD is a service centre for the surrounding town, these growth area benchmarks have been used as a guide.

Community infrastructure has different catchments depending on the type of service. For example, primary schools generally have a local catchment, whereas libraries and larger recreation facilities such as an outdoor swimming pool have a regional catchment. Based on ASR Research (2008), a Community Infrastructure Population Hierarchy has been identified which determines appropriate community infrastructure based on population numbers. Appendix 3 provides an overview of community infrastructure hierarchies.

The Level 2 hierarchy identifies a population of between 10,000 and 30,000 people. As Traralgon's estimated resident population for 2009 is just over 28,000 (ABS Census, 2009), Level 2 has been identified as most relevant to Traralgon. However, given that Traralgon CBD is a service, commercial and entertainment hub for the broader Traralgon community, it is important to consider the higher order facilities such as a library and recreation facilities. Considering both Level 2 and the higher order facilities will therefore ensure that the Traralgon CBD continues to cater to the surrounding community while continuing to service residential areas located in and close to the CBD.

### 6.1 benchmarks for existing population and community facilities

The following table provides an overview of community infrastructure benchmarks for the Traralgon CBD and surrounds.

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<sup>2</sup> ASR Research (2008) Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas, p. 135



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**Table 4 – Community infrastructure benchmarks for Traralgon<sup>3</sup>**

Service / Facility	Recommended provision level (based on benchmarks established for Growth Areas, ASR Research, 2008)	Current provision within Traralgon CBD and surrounds	Adequacy of current community infrastructure in Traralgon according to benchmark requirements
Library	1 per 30,000-60,000 people	1  (Traralgon Library)	Above
Neighbourhood House Program	1 per 20,000 people (current Metropolitan Melbourne ratio)	1  (Kath Teychenne Centre)	Adequate

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<sup>3</sup> ASR Research (2008) Planning for Community Infrastructure in Growth Areas, pp 120-134.



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Service / Facility	Recommended provision level (based on benchmarks established for Growth Areas, ASR Research, 2008)	Current provision within Traralgon CBD and surrounds	Adequacy of current community infrastructure in Traralgon according to benchmark requirements
Multi-purpose Community Centre <sup>4</sup>	1 per 8,000 to 10,000 people	1  (Kath Teychenne Centre)	Below
Community Meeting Spaces	Venue capacity 1200+ people per 20,000 population	5 (in Traralgon Activity Centre)  (Court House – 4 x small meeting rooms; Grey Street Primary School; Kath Teychenne Centre – 1 x 30 people space; Latrobe Performing Arts Centre – 3 x space with	Below  (While Traralgon CBD has a number of community meeting spaces, there is a lack of spaces to cater for meetings

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<sup>4</sup> Various models of multi-purpose community centers exist. In general, the term refers to the provision of a series of multi-functional spaces of various sizes (class rooms, hall or large functional space, meeting rooms), as well as some level of administrative or office space for use by agencies and outreach programs as well as facility staff. Many multi-purpose community centers can also incorporate early-years services and spaces, allied health, planned activity groups, cultural activities and recreation activities (ARS Research, 2008). A feasibility study would need to be undertaken to determine usage options based on community need.





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Service / Facility	Recommended provision level (based on benchmarks established for Growth Areas, ASR Research, 2008)	Current provision within Traralgon CBD and surrounds	Adequacy of current community infrastructure in Traralgon according to benchmark requirements
		combined capacity of 614; VRI Hall – 1 x hall for 200 people)	between 30 and 100 people).
Government Secondary School	1 Government secondary school per 25,000-30,000 people	1 Government Secondary School (Traralgon Secondary College)	Above
Government Primary Schools	1 Government primary school per 8,000-10,000 population	4 Government Primary Schools (Grey Street PS, Liddiard Rd PS, Stockdale PS and Koscuisko PS)	Above



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Service / Facility	Recommended provision level (based on benchmarks established for Growth Areas, ASR Research, 2008)	Current provision within Traralgon CBD and surrounds	Adequacy of current community infrastructure in Traralgon according to benchmark requirements
Kindergarten (4 year old programs) <sup>5</sup>	New Council of Australian Government (COAG) provisions:  1 x 15 hours of kindergarten per 4 year old child	6 Kindergartens  (Kay St Preschool, Traralgon Early Learning Centre, Pax Hill Preschool, Sara Court Preschool Cameron Street Preschool and Cumberland Park Preschool)	Above
Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Centre	Desired - none identified. Actual - 1 dual MCH facility (assuming 20 sessions per week) for every 280 children aged 0 years	1 facility with 4 nurses  (Traralgon MCH Centre)	Above

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<sup>5</sup> This benchmark exercise has only looked at four year old kindergarten provisions to take into account recent changes to the COAG provisions (15 hours per week for each 4 year old). Private kindergartens were not included as these are private businesses and Council has little control over future services and provisions. Private kindergartens are also generally reluctant to give out information as they are businesses and the information is commercially sensitive. The Children's Services Infrastructure Project is currently examining all early year's services across the entire municipality. For further information, refer to reports associated with this project.



Service / Facility	Recommended provision level (based on benchmarks established for Growth Areas, ASR Research, 2008)	Current provision within Traralgon CBD and surrounds	Adequacy of current community infrastructure in Traralgon according to benchmark requirements
		In 2006, there were 336 aged 0 years.	
Multi-purpose Aquatic Leisure Centre (Level 4)	1 Council Aquatic Leisure Centre per 30,000 – 60,000 people	None  (feasibility study currently being conducted, 1 x private 25 metre, 4 lane indoor pool located in Traralgon; 3 indoor facilities in Latrobe City including Moe, Morwell and Churchill)	Below for Traralgon  Above for Latrobe City
Low order passive open space reserves	2.5 to 4 ha of passive open space per 2 kilometre radius	3 open space reserves within 2 kilometre radius of Traralgon CBD (study area)  (Victory Park, Newman Park, Osborne Park)	Above
Active Open Space	1 active open space reserve (8 ha per active	9 reserves (Traralgon-wide)	Above



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Service / Facility	Recommended provision level (based on benchmarks established for Growth Areas, ASR Research, 2008)	Current provision within Traralgon CBD and surrounds	Adequacy of current community infrastructure in Traralgon according to benchmark requirements
Reserves	open space reserve) per 6,000 people	(Traralgon Recreation Reserve, - Traralgon West Sports Complex, - Apex Park, Catterick Crescent Reserve, Duncan Cameron Reserve, Kevin Lythgo Reserve, Harold Preston Reserve, Agnes Brereton Reserve, Glenview Park, School Ovals in Traralgon)	
Tennis courts	1 court per 2,500 people or 1 x 24 court facility (with pavilion per region)	1 x 24 court facility with pavilion (Traralgon Tennis Centre)	Above
Netball courts	1 outdoor netball court per approximately 3,500 people	10 courts (Agnes Brereton Park)	Above



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Service / Facility	Recommended provision level (based on benchmarks established for Growth Areas, ASR Research, 2008)	Current provision within Traralgon CBD and surrounds	Adequacy of current community infrastructure in Traralgon according to benchmark requirements
Lawn Bowls	1 lawn bowls facility (4 greens) per 40,000 people	2 facilities (5 greens)  (Taralgon Bowls Club and Traralgon RSL)	Above
Senior's Groups	None identified  Access to 1 large space for Senior's Groups to be provided in Level 1 or 2 multi-purpose community facility	4 x Senior Citizens Centres or Senior Citizen Activity Centres  (Traralgon Senior Citizens Centre (Monomeath); Traralgon East Senior Citizens Centre; Senior Citizens Activity Centre – Queens Parade; Senior Citizens Activity Centre – Park Lane Club Rooms)	Above





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Service / Facility	Recommended provision level (based on benchmarks established for Growth Areas, ASR Research, 2008)	Current provision within Traralgon CBD and surrounds	Adequacy of current community infrastructure in Traralgon according to benchmark requirements
Youth Facilities	Youth friendly spaces designed as part of Level 1 multi-purpose community centres (1 centre per 8,000 people)	None	Below
Arts and Cultural Facilities	1 co-located performing arts facility per 40,000-60,000 people  1 performing arts / exhibition / convention centre per 50,000 – 200,000	1 Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon  (Latrobe Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon)  2 other Performing Arts Facilities in Latrobe City  (Kernot Hall in Morwell; Moe Town Hall. Other smaller facilities in Churchill, Morwell	Above for Traralgon  Adequate for municipality



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Service / Facility	Recommended provision level (based on benchmarks established for Growth Areas, ASR Research, 2008)	Current provision within Traralgon CBD and surrounds	Adequacy of current community infrastructure in Traralgon according to benchmark requirements
		and Monash university are used as performing arts facilities, however; these smaller facilities not dedicated performing arts spaces.)	

## 6.2 future population growth and community infrastructure implications

The population of Traralgon – Traralgon East is expected to reach 35,000 by 2031. Below provides a snapshot of future anticipated population growth for Traralgon – Traralgon East and implications for community infrastructure and social planning.

Table 5 – future population growth and community infrastructure and social planning implications

Anticipated population growth for Traralgon – Traralgon East (.id, 2010)	Implications for community infrastructure and social planning in Traralgon
The number of people aged over 65 is expected to increase by 1,784 to represent 15.2 per cent of the population by 2021. Between 2021 and 2031, the number of people aged over 65 is expected to increase by 1,078 to represent 16 per cent of the population.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased number of activities and programs for the older age group</li> <li>Appropriate and diverse housing to allow for ageing in place</li> <li>Improved walkability and locating housing close to appropriate services and facilities</li> </ul>
A slight increase in lone person households is expected rising from 25.7 per cent in 2006 to 27.7 per cent of all households by 2021. By 2031 this figure is expected to rise to 29.9 per cent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate housing for smaller household size</li> <li>Appropriate spaces and facilities to encourage social interaction</li> </ul>
Couples without dependents are forecasted from 27.2 per cent total households in 2006 to 28.4 per cent in 2021 and 28.8 per cent in 2031. Couple families with dependents are expected to decline from 31.2 per cent of all households in 2006 to 28.9 in 2021 and 27.7 per cent in 2031.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An increase in couple families without dependents also shows a decline in household size</li> <li>Social interaction opportunities for professional couples without dependents</li> <li>Improved amenity as couple without dependents may have higher amenity expectations.</li> </ul>



Anticipated population growth for Traralgon – Traralgon East (.id, 2010)	Implications for community infrastructure and social planning in Traralgon
<p>The number of people aged under 15 years is forecast to increase by 1,248 between 2006 and 2021, representing a rise in the proportion of the population to 20.9%. Between 2021 and 2031, the number of people under 15 years old is expected to increase by 1,251, representing a similar proportion of the population.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Higher proportion of children aged under 15 years will mean continued demand for early year's services, schools and youth facilities</li></ul>

## 7 needs analysis

A needs analysis has been undertaken to determine key findings from the community infrastructure and social needs assessment. The implications detailed in the analysis below are drawn from strategic analysis, demographic analysis, community infrastructure audit, and consultation undertaken in previous steps of this project. The current gaps in community infrastructure are drawn from the synthesis of all of the above activities.

Table 6 – needs analysis in determining community infrastructure gaps in traralgon

Assessment Criteria	Implications for community infrastructure in Traralgon
Strategic Analysis	<p>The focus for Traralgon CBD is on creating a liveable and accessible community through improving access to key services and facilities in the CBD.</p> <p>Key Points to emerge include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Traralgon continues to be an important commercial and community hub for the Gippsland region;</li> <li>▪ Improve walkability and cycling options;</li> <li>▪ The Station Precinct is to undergo significant changes and improve connections between the precinct and CBD;</li> <li>▪ Access to halls and meeting rooms for CALD community should be encouraged;</li> <li>▪ The Traralgon Court House is a significant heritage building and should continue to be used by the community;</li> <li>▪ A feasibility study for the indoor Aquatic Centre is currently being undertaken to investigate its need and the best location;</li> <li>▪ The new Performing Arts and Convention Centre will be located in Morwell and the current Latrobe Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon will be retained and maintained; and</li> <li>▪ Safety issues are being addressed through various initiatives, but improvements could be made to lighting and street activation.</li> </ul>





Assessment Criteria	Implications for community infrastructure in Traralgon
Demographics	<p>Traralgon has undergone significant growth in recent years and growth is expected to continue.</p> <p>Key points from the demographic analysis, using 2006 ABS Census statistics, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Traralgon is a relatively affluent town, as compared to other towns in Latrobe City;</li><li>▪ Over 10 per cent of people living in Traralgon were born overseas;</li><li>▪ There is a higher proportion of one-parent households in Traralgon as compared to the Victorian average;</li><li>▪ There is a higher proportion of households with one person;</li><li>▪ Traralgon has a slightly higher proportion of children aged 0-4 years and youth aged 5-17 years than the Victorian average; and</li><li>▪ People aged over 65 years will represent 16.3 % of the population (as compared to 12.6 currently).</li></ul>
Community Infrastructure Audit	<p>An audit of existing infrastructure identified key facilities in the CBD and surrounding area.</p> <p>Key observations for the audit were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ There is a cluster of community facilities around the Library, MCH centre and Latrobe Performing Arts Centre and 2 primary schools nearby as well as the outdoor pool;</li><li>▪ Reserves, open space and active recreation is well dispersed around the CBD; and</li><li>▪ Victory Park and the Creek Corridor as well as Kay Street boulevard are significant community assets.</li></ul>

Assessment Criteria	Implications for community infrastructure in Traralgon
<b>Consultation Results</b>	<p>Consultations including interviews, workshops and community surveys identified the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There is a gap in youth facilities and services;</li> <li>▪ Safety is an issue that needs to be addressed;</li> <li>▪ Car parking and access are big issues hindering people's ability to access key services and retail;</li> <li>▪ Increasing amenity in the CBD and improving connections between the CBD and key locations will help improve access; and</li> <li>▪ There is a gap in accessible spaces for CALD communities to meet and socialise.</li> </ul>
<b>Community Infrastructure Benchmarks</b>	<p>The following gaps in community infrastructure in Traralgon have been identified using Growth Area benchmarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-purpose community centre</li> <li>▪ Community meeting spaces</li> <li>▪ Youth facility</li> <li>▪ Council Aquatic Leisure Centre</li> </ul> <p>Future population growth identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A continued need for early year's and youth facilities and services;</li> <li>▪ Focus on improved amenity, access and ageing in place for 65 plus age group; and</li> <li>▪ Decreasing house size and the need for social interaction opportunities for lone-person households and professional couples without dependents.</li> </ul>



## 8 key findings

### 8.1 recommended social planning principles

The following social planning principles should inform the structure plan and urban design framework for the TAC:

- Community facilities should be co-located with compatible services, to improve access and service coordination and delivery;
- The current civic precinct is considered to be the community services hub – any new community facility should be co-located and integrated into this existing hub;
- Any new community facility should be well connected by walking and cycle paths and be close to public transport connections;
- Walking and cycle options to existing community facilities should be enhanced to encourage healthy living;
- Passive surveillance should be encouraged around community facilities and open space;
- Connections between key assets of Traralgon should be enhanced, including connections from the Traralgon CBD to Victory Park and the Station Precinct;
- Open space in and around Traralgon CBD should be of high quality and have appropriate facilities to encourage community use (i.e. shelter, seats and BBQ areas);
- Facilities to cater to a range for ages and different community groups, including the growing CALD community, should be encouraged;
- Flexible community spaces should be incorporated into any new community facility to allow for different uses and allow facilities to adapt to changing community needs; and
- Improved amenity across the Traralgon CBD should be enhanced to encourage greater use of community spaces.

## 8.2 community infrastructure in the TAC

On the basis of the community infrastructure and social needs assessment the following gaps in facilities have been identified for consideration in future planning for the Traralgon Activity Centre:

- Youth-focused recreation opportunities;
- Multi-purpose community centre including meeting spaces or space for CALD communities and the wider Traralgon community; and
- An indoor aquatic and leisure centre.

A key decision that impacts directly on the community infrastructure and social needs assessment is the feasibility study of a Council Indoor Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Traralgon currently being undertaken. This study is likely to be considered by Council in the oncoming months and will inform the Directions Report to be developed as part of Stage 2 of the Traralgon Activity Centre Plan project.

At its Ordinary Council Meeting of 7 June 2010 Council resolved to construct a Performing Arts and Convention Centre on the Kernot Hall site in Morwell and that the existing facilities on the Traralgon Civic Complex be retained and maintained appropriately. This resolution will also inform the Directions Report to be developed in Stage 2 of this project.



appendix 1  
strategic review

The following provides a full summary of Latrobe City Council's plans and strategies examined in the strategic review:

### ***Latrobe 2026: The Community Vision for Latrobe Valley***

The Latrobe 2026 Community Vision was facilitated by Latrobe City Council with input from a range of community members, organisations and agencies. The Community Vision is based on three broad themes: Sustainability, Liveability and Leadership. A number of objects and associated actions have been developed under common headings. These include Economy, Natural Environment, Built Environment, Our Community, Culture, Recreation, Governance, Advocacy and Partnerships and Regulation and Accountability.

The Community Vision identifies that residents would like to continue to see Traralgon as a commercial centre of Gippsland, with continued focus on education, health and community services and facilities. The Vision also identifies a community aspiration for a liveable and sustainable community through high quality recreation and cultural facilities and a natural environment that is nurtured and protected.

### ***Latrobe City Council Plan 2009-2013***

The Council plan is part of a framework of corporate and strategic planning tools that are helping to achieve the Latrobe 2021 vision. Alongside the Latrobe City Council Plan are the Latrobe City Annual Business Plan and Annual Budget.

The Council Plan follows the strategic objectives set out in the Council vision and builds on these objectives to develop specific actions. Those that are relevant to the Community Infrastructure and Social Needs assessment are those actions that fall under liveability and include the following sub-headings:

- Recreational Liveability
- Community Liveability
- Cultural Liveability

Also relevant is the Community Capacity Building objective which includes:

- Advocacy and Leadership
- Partnerships and Inclusiveness

Under each objective are a set of indicators to guide the success of the Council Plan. Those indicators include the following that are relevant to this report:

- Recreation Liveability:
  - Align usable park/open space per hectare per capita, with other regional Victorian cities.
  - Increase the recreation facilities community perception, relative to other regional Victorian cities.
  - Increase the public areas appearance community perception, relative to other regional Victorian cities.
  - Increase the participants at recreational and leisure facilities to decrease user subsidies.
- Community Liveability:
  - Increase the community perception rating of Latrobe City liveability.
- Cultural Liveability:
  - Increase the number of arts and cultural facilities.

## Municipal Strategic Statement

### *21.08 Liveability*

#### *“Council Vision*

*Latrobe City Council will consider planning applications and make decisions in accordance with the following vision:*

- *To promote and support social, recreational, cultural and community life by providing both essential and innovative amenities, services and facilities within the municipality.*
- *To enrich the vibrancy and diversity of community life through promoting and supporting recreational services and facilities.*
- *To enhance the quality of residents’ lives by encouraging positive interrelated elements including safety, health, education, quality of life, mobility and accessibility, and sense of place.*
- *To support arts and cultural opportunities that contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of community life.”*

### *21.05-6 Specific Main Town Strategies – Traralgon*

- *Establish neighbourhood clusters in key locations as outlined in the Traralgon Structure Plan and encourage basic goods, services, community services and facilities in these clusters.*

#### *Public Open Space Plan (2007)*

The Public Open Space Plan was developed in close connection to the Council Plan. The four key objectives of the open space plan are diversity; accessibility; connecting the community; and, sustainable.



Key principles used in the development of this plan include the following:

**Diversity:** variety in facilities and include both passive and active recreation facilities as well as community amenity space and nature conservation.

**Accessibility:** appropriate distribution, location and access opportunities of open space across the municipality including the following open space distribution levels:

*“Provision in residential areas:*

***Local** - The majority of houses in residential areas should have access to a minimum of 0.5 hectares of public open space within a 500 metre radius.*

***District** - The majority of houses in residential areas should have access to district level public open space within a 3 km radius.*

***Regional** - Each town with a population of over 5,000 should have regional level public open space within the township boundaries.*

*Council recognises that in rural areas larger land holdings and town based recreation facilities meet the local level needs of rural residents”.*

**Connecting the community:** community groups and organisations who play an active role in managing facilities should continue to receive support from Council and ensure appropriate facilities for the community.

**Sustainable:** supporting public open space in Latrobe to become nature conservation sites. Increase of open space provisions in subdivision development as well as more streamlining of lease and license arrangements associated with areas of open space.

#### ***Latrobe Healthy Urban Design Good Practice Guide (June 2008)***

This guide recognises the importance of design in creating healthy communities and has been derived from the Heart Foundation's *Healthy By Design* Guide (2004). The guide identifies a number of design principles associated with residential development; community centres and open space and path networks.

For community centres, the guide identifies that a community centre should:

- Be located within a walking distance (400-800 meters) of all new developments;

- Encourage community involvement in designing community spaces;
- Be of mixed use and with active street frontages;
- Encourage public art; and
- Be accessible and promote walking and cycling.

In terms of designing appropriate open space and path networks the guides identifies the following principles:

- Well arranged seating provided at intervals;
- Passive surveillance of paths should be encourage; path user's should be visible and be able to be seen at all times;
- Shade should be encouraged, but not obstruct sightlines;
- Paths connect and appropriate facilities along paths be provided; and
- Lighting should be used appropriately to encourage use.

#### ***Burden of Disease Study, DHS (2001)***

The Department of Health (now Department of Human Services) conducted a study in 2001 into regional and Local Government Area differences on a selection of burden of disease (BoD) indicators. The results show the Latrobe City community is characterised by a higher prevalence of cancer, mental disorder and cardiovascular disease. Consequently, Latrobe City residents have significantly lower life expectancy rates. This highlights the need for greater focus on health and wellbeing including the need for well designed and walkable communities (as indicated in the Healthy By Design Guide (2004)). An overview of the results from The Burden of Disease Study (2001) for Latrobe City is detailed in Table 7 and Table 8 below.

**Table 7 Life Expectancy and Selected Disease Rates for Males in La Trobe City, 2001**

Measure	All of Victoria	Latrobe
Life Expectancy 1997-2001 (in years)	77.4	75.2
Disease All causes (per 1000 population)	143.0	169.8
Malignant cancers	30.1	36.9
Mental disorders	19.6	22.9
Cardiovascular diseases	25.5	30.1

**Table 8 Life Expectancy and Selected Disease Rates for Females in La Trobe City, 2001**

Measure	All of Victoria	Latrobe
Life Expectancy 1997-2001 (in years)	82.7	80.9
Disease All causes (per 1000 population)	129.1	152.0
Malignant cancers	26.2	29.7
Mental disorders	19.7	22.4
Cardiovascular diseases	22.4	27.3

***Latrobe Performing Arts & Convention Centre Feasibility Study, CPG (October 2009)***

A feasibility study for the Latrobe Performing Arts and Convention Centre (LPACC) has been undertaken to determine the need, scope and scale of the LPACC. In this report, two options were identified as most appropriate: (i) Corner Kay and Church Streets, Traralgon and (ii) Adjacent to Kernot Hall, Morwell. The report identifies that both sites have the same operating costs, with Morwell likely to accommodate more visitors due to its ability to host larger events in a function room. It would cost 2.5% less to build in Traralgon and the net cost to Council in year 1 would be 6% less in Traralgon.

As indicated in Council Minutes from 6 April 2010, this feasibility study was released for public comment on December 8 until February 24. During this time, a total of 496 submissions were made. All but one supported the need for a performing arts facility in Latrobe. However, some questioned the need for a convention centre to be included with this facility. A total of 48 individual submissions were in favour of the facility to be located in Traralgon and 12 were in favour of it to be located in Morwell. Three were neutral in respect to the preferred location. Another suggested that instead of a new facility, money should be spent on upgrading existing facilities in Moe, Morwell and Traralgon. Also part of submissions were 433 'pro forma' letters in support of the facility to be located in Traralgon. It was also indicated that an additional 78 of these 'pro forma' letters supporting Traralgon as a preferred site were forwarded to Council, but that there was no record of receipt.

On Monday 7th June, 2010, Council resolved to develop the new Performing Arts and Convention Centre in Morwell. Council has also resolved to retain and maintain the current Latrobe Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon.

## **Traralgon Station Precinct Master Plan, Community Consultation Summary, Coomes Consulting (February 2009)**

A series of consultation activities were undertaken in February 2009 to understand issues associated with the Traralgon Train Station and station precinct. Participants were also given the opportunity to provide a vision for the precinct and possible ways to achieve the vision. Key issues associated with the precinct include a lack of parking facilities for a range of users include commuters, staff, users of the Indoor Sports Centre, VRI Hall, inappropriate location of the visitor centre (too noisy and not visible to passing traffic), poor lighting and security around the precincts and access difficulties for cars, pedestrians and cyclists.

To improve the precinct, it was suggested that the area could accommodate (among a myriad of suggestions) a community hub, art gallery, childcare centre, improved public toilet facilities, internet café, recreational activities for adults, gardens or children's playground, green open space, consolidated recreation use including indoor pool/gym area/dancing and upgrade, redevelop or remove VRI hall.

### ***Traralgon Station Precinct, DRAFT Master Plan (January 2010)***

The Draft Master Plan for the Traralgon Station Precinct brings together background studies and assessments, design principles and implementation and development feasibility. It presents a number of opportunities for the precinct based on the community consultation and identifies that proposals for the precinct that will attempt to:

- Locate at least 60 more dwellings in the precinct
- Create an intermodal transport interchange
- Improve safety and quality
- Improve north-south links and with surrounding areas of the precinct
- Potentially increase commercial, education and retail floor space

### ***Traralgon Structure Plans - Traralgon, Final Report (August 2007)***

The Latrobe Structure Plans have been developed to guide growth and development in the four largest towns of Latrobe, including Traralgon. The Structure Plan for Traralgon identifies the issues, values and constraints include the following:

- Future growth of Traralgon is constrained due to coal in the south, major pipeline infrastructure to the north and floodplains to the south;
- There is a need for more housing in Traralgon and this report identifies several growth areas on the fringes of the town;
- The town centre should accommodate more office space and retail floor space and should avoid dispersion and dilution and be concentrated in the existing CAD boundary;
- Neighbourhood clusters should be encouraged in the north, south-east and south-west; and
- Transport should be re-examined to incorporate developments to the north and south of Traralgon.



***Latrobe Transit Centred Precincts, Traralgon Town Summary, David Lock and Associates (June 2006)***

Traralgon Urban Renewal Framework sets out the following directions based on transit centred urban renewal principles:

- Direction 1 - The Station: High quality public transport facilities
- Direction 2 - The Local Streets & Paths: An effective movement network
- Direction 3 - The Station Surrounds: Transit-centred & urban lifestyle development
- Direction 4 - The Town Centre: A vibrant activity centre
- Direction 5 - The Precinct Edge: More housing close to transport & services

Under 'Direction 4 – The Town Centre' the report identifies that:

- The centre contains a mixture of predominantly retail, office, civic and education uses. It contains no residential accommodation (although it is bounded by predominantly detached houses to the north and west).
- The report also identifies a number of locations within the town centre that could accommodate new housing or development.

'Direction 5 – the Precinct Edge' also presents an opportunity to:

- Locate aged care housing in this area to encourage the aged to live close to shops and transport.

***Library Strategy Plan 2006-2011***

The Latrobe City Council Library Strategy Plan (2006-2011) outlines trends nationally and internationally in Library Services, the current service profile of Library Services in Latrobe, strategic actions for the next five years and the synergy of this plan with the vision for Latrobe.

The plan identifies that the Library in Traralgon is approximately 1100sqm and is open 7 days for 37 hours per week. The plan also identifies a number of actions across all four libraries within Latrobe. This includes the following which relates to increasing access to the library by marginalised groups:

- Enhance the library's support for groups within the community with special needs including senior citizens, CALD, disability, indigenous communities and youth.
- The plan does not specify the need to redevelop or expand the library in Traralgon. It does suggest the option of locating a library in the intergenerational hub at Churchill.

***Latrobe Older Persons Strategy 2007-2021***

The Latrobe Older Persons Strategy 2007-2021 identifies that an additional 12,000 people aged 60 years and over will be living in Latrobe City by the year 2021. As such, changes to support services, access as well as sporting and health needs will bring both challenges and opportunities in terms of community infrastructure. The Strategy has identified eleven key principles which have helped guide the development of the Positive Ageing Plan (see below). The principles include the following points relevant to this current background report:

- Understanding Population Change: Latrobe City Council commits to a proactive approach to population

change through research, strategic planning and effective engagement of stakeholders in needs assessment;

- Social Support: Latrobe City Council will contribute to the well-being and independence of older people by providing a range of community services and working in partnership with other organisations to enhance the social support system.
- Health and Well-being: Latrobe City Council will, in partnership with other community stakeholders, actively seek to improve health outcomes for older people, and enhance opportunities for healthy lifestyles.
- Urban Planning & Development: Latrobe City Council commits to building an age-friendly city including implementation of age-friendly principles into all aspects of urban planning and development.

The actions within the Strategy emphasise the need to incorporate Healthy by Design principles into key planning and strategy development. There is also an action around the development of community facilities that encourage intergenerational activities as well as increasing access to lifelong learning opportunities.

#### ***Latrobe City Positive Ageing Plan 2009 - 2012***

The Latrobe City Positive Ageing Plan 2009-2012 has developed a vision which stipulates the need for older people to be recognised and provided with appropriate services to maintain their health and wellbeing:

*"All older people living in Latrobe City are recognised and valued and feel that they live in a safe, attractive city that provides them with the information, support and services they need to maintain a healthy lifestyle".*

Principles have been developed to guide the actions and implementation of the Positive Ageing Plan. They include recognition of the contribution older people make to the community, being proactive to respond to population change, increasing opportunities for older people to access education and employment, providing a range of community services, appropriate housing and accommodation, encourage active involvement of older people in community life, providing appropriate transport options, improve health and wellbeing, building an age-friendly city, active participation and / or representation by older people and lastly, being proactive with communication.

The actions developed under the Positive Ageing Plan include improving access and facilities as well as the build environment and infrastructure and working with community and organisations to increase support and opportunities within the community.

#### ***Latrobe City Recreation and Leisure Strategy (2006)***

The Latrobe City Recreation and Leisure Strategy identifies a number of key principles, objectives and strategic actions to promote and support recreation facilities and services in Latrobe City and encourage "vibrancy and diversity of community life".

Relevant principles include:

- There shall be a diverse range of accessible recreation facilities and services, and open space areas available across the City.
- The provision and allocation of recreation facilities and services shall be equitable according to age, gender, cultural background and ability.

- Recreation and leisure facilities and settings shall provide safe and supportive environments for participants.
- The provision of recreation and leisure facilities shall maximise shared usage and flexibility to meet changing community needs and aspirations.

#### ***Traralgon Outdoor Recreational Plan (October 2006)***

The Traralgon Outdoor Recreation Plan specifies key actions to specifically address recreation facilities including sports facilities and sportsfields in Traralgon. Key Directions for recreation in Traralgon have been identified against the Recreation and Leisure Strategy 2006 principles.

These directions for Traralgon identify that, where necessary, sports facilities will be consolidated to improve access and Council will work with sporting clubs in Traralgon to ensure the facilities are safe and encourage involvement. The plan also specifies that Master Plans for Traralgon reserves will facilitate sharing of facilities between clubs and encourage passive recreation facilities and active reserves.

All nine reserves included in the Master Plan section fall outside of the Traralgon Activity Centre and therefore are not discussed in detail in the background report.

#### ***Newman Park Miniature Railway 20 Year Development Vision (2003)***

This submission identifies the 20 year vision of the Gippsland Model Engineering Society's aims and aspirations for the Newman Park Miniature Railway complex and outlines the need for more storage space. The miniature railway has become a well-recognised tourist attraction and has an active society who plays a direct role in maintaining and operating the complex.

While Newman Park sits outside the study area, the importance of strong links between the park and the CBD are paramount to encourage greater tourist access and local use of Newman Park and the CBD. It will also be important to ensure these access routes are safe and facilitate walkability.

#### ***Playground Strategy 2005 - 2021***

The Playground Strategy 2005-2021 guides the provision of playgrounds within Traralgon. The strategy recognises that there are 53 playground sites in Traralgon that are managed by the Council or Crown Committees of Management. This includes eight sites where play equipment has been removed. The strategy identifies that in 2004, there was 1 playground for every 130 children under the age of fourteen years.

The Strategy recommends a number of priority playgrounds where equipment should be replaced. The only playground that falls within the study area – Hubert Osborne Park, has not been identified as a play area that will need to be replaced, upgraded or improved in the five year period from 2006-2011.

#### ***Latrobe City Council Disability Action Plan 2009 – 2010***

The Action Plan states that: "Latrobe City has a strong commitment to ensuring that the infrastructure and services it provides are accessible to all members of the community". To achieve this, the Action Plan identifies a number of actions to improve access.

Those relevant to this community infrastructure and social needs include:

- Investigate options and prepare an action plan to improve efficiencies and design of the front counter



areas at all service centres and libraries, ensuring they meet the Australian Standards in terms of accessibility and functionality.

- Maintain safe and accessible Senior Citizens Centres that meet the needs of Latrobe City residents, encouraging utilisation by varied community groups.

### ***DRAFT Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Action Plan 2010-2013***

The Draft Cultural and Linguistic Diversity Action Plan 2010-2013 has the purpose of recognising, valuing and supporting culture and linguistic diversity within Latrobe City. It identifies Council's role is to assist where possible in addressing local needs, advocating on behalf of these groups and work closely with settlement providers.

The Action Plan identifies that 5.9% of the total population of Latrobe City speak a language other than English at home. Morwell and Churchill have higher numbers of residents who do not speak English well or at all. The Plan also identifies that Traralgon and Churchill have the highest concentrations of migrant and refugee arrivals between 2001 and 2006. While data on migrants and refugee arrivals exists, the Action Plan identifies that Department of Immigration and Citizenship data do not account for recent migrants or refugees who have first arrived in another municipality and have since moved to Latrobe City.

The Action Plan specifies the need to identify the needs of diverse communities by being aware and by understanding the local demographics and population projections to inform social planning.

A number of actions under section 2.5 specify the following:

- Promote the use and hiring of Council facilities by cultural and linguistic diverse community groups and associations;
- Manage and maintain Latrobe City halls and venues for the social and cultural use of the community;
- Maintain safe and accessible Senior Citizens Centres that meet the needs of Latrobe City residents, encouraging utilisation by varied community groups; and
- Conduct regular user group meetings in relation to Latrobe City cultural facilities to identify operational and development opportunities.

### ***Latrobe City Council Traralgon Indoor Aquatics and Leisure Centre Feasibility Study Feasibility Report (March 2010)***

A feasibility study into the provision of an indoor aquatic facility in Traralgon is currently being undertaken to identify whether such a centre is needed, the likely impact of a new facility on other leisure centres in Latrobe and the best location for a new facility.

### ***Traralgon – A Better Place to Be Project – Evaluation Report (January 2010)***

Traralgon has been receiving funding from the National Community Crime Prevention Program (NCCPP). As part of the requirements at completion of the funded period, an evaluation was undertaken to assess the meeting of NCCPP funding requirements and to provide information and advice to Latrobe City Council, and specifically the Traralgon CBD Safety Committee, on issues which will underline the next stage of the community safety strategy.

*A Better Place to Be* was a program of safety strategies, undertaken within the Traralgon CBD in 2008 and 2009, largely by the Traralgon CBD Safety Committee using funds received from NCCPP. The four objectives were:

- To reduce the incidence of property damage within the Traralgon CBD Entertainment Precinct;
- To increase the availability of safe and accessible transport;
- To reduce assaults, improve amenity and perceptions of safety within the Traralgon Entertainment Precinct; and
- Reduce incidence of consumption of alcohol in public including by the young.

The report brings together achievements over the two years and also draws on responses from community and business representatives. The report identifies that the *A Better Place to Be* project has been successful and effective and has been useful in building partnerships between key stakeholders. Businesses report higher level of satisfaction with safety initiatives. However, during the Youth Summit 2009, young people have expressed greater concern with safety issues.

***Destination Traralgon Safe Streets Summit, Report & Initial Responses, Traralgon CBD Safety Group (December 2008)***

The Traralgon Safe Streets Summit was held in Traralgon on Monday 13 October 2008 and was attended by 26 young participants, mostly aged between 18 and 25 years. These young people either attend or work at the Traralgon Entertainment Precinct. The summit was convened to understand perceptions of safety amongst young people.

The summit identified the "importance of taxi access, police presence, management of venues and infrastructure such as lighting". The report identifies the need for ongoing engagement and communication between young people, police, venue operators and taxi operators.

***The Feasibility Study for CCTV in Traralgon Entertainment Precinct, MGN Consultancy (2009)***

The feasibility study was to identify issues and concerns related to the installation of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) in Traralgon CBD and assess strategies which may complement the installation of the CCTV.

Five sites have been identified as the highest priority for installation of CCTV:

- Car park fronting Kay Street
- Kay Street – between Breed and Franklin Street
- Car park fronting Church Street
- Taxi rank – Seymour Street
- Franklin Street – Post office

Concluding points in the report are as follows:

- *"The consideration of CCTV in the Traralgon entertainment precinct is part of a comprehensive and cohesive community safety strategy"*



- *The Traralgon CBD Safety Group has undertaken a range of other responses and interventions*
- *There is evidence of user patterns which will increase the likelihood of criminal and anti-social behaviour in the entertainment precinct*
- *There is consistency in stakeholder understanding of the areas of most concern and highest priority"*

### ***Traralgon Safe Streets Summit Report (2009)***

The Traralgon Safe Summit, held on the 4th November, 2009 was a follow-up to the 2008 summit (see above) and used a similar methodology to the 2008 summit. From the summit, the report highlights that taxi access, the police presence, management of venues and infrastructure such as lighting continue to be important in improving perceptions of safety. The report also makes a number of recommendations including:

- Increase community engagement and communication opportunities and involvement from a range of age and interest groups;
- Lighting should be improved in alleyways and obscured corners, the CCTV initiative should continue and the Traralgon CBD Safety Committee should lobby for greater police presence;
- Access could be improved and further investigation and lobbying is needed for a Nightrider Service as well as a Traralgon Loop Nightrider service; and
- Programs to address issues of violence, alcohol abuse and cultural antagonisms needs to be addressed and links between Sudanese youth and other groups needs to be investigated further.

### ***Court House (and Post Office) Traralgon, Victoria, Conservation Management Plan (September 2009)***

The Conservation Management Plan for the Court House in Traralgon identifies that the Court House is included on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) and is owned by the Department of Sustainability and Environment but managed by the Latrobe City Council. The report identifies the following as crucial to the ongoing management of the Court House:

- The Traralgon Public Offices should be managed to conserve its relative cultural values for the benefit of future generations. (An important mother-hood statement.)
- The Traralgon Public Offices should be managed to facilitate their conservation-by-use and to facilitate wherever possible its regeneration for an ongoing public/community use. (Use it or lose it.)
- The Traralgon Public Offices should, wherever possible, be provided with and/or allowed to generate financial resources to facilitate its own ongoing maintenance. (Sustainability)
- The Traralgon Public Offices should be conserved to maintain and enhance the visual dominance of the Court House and Post Office in their immediate environs and the remnant original fabric.
- The undeveloped portion of the site adjacent to the Traralgon Court House may be utilised in terms of use and appearance to complement and support a sustainable future for the Court House.

As a community facility, the plan identifies that it should be used by a variety of groups for activities of short duration such as meetings, forums, exhibitions and celebrations. It should also have disabled access, basic tea/kitchen facilities and some form of heritage interpretation. Consultation during the development of the

Management Plan identified community concern that the Court House may be used for commercial enterprises including a restaurant, café or bottleshop. Those consulted expressed they would not like to see it taken from the community and used exclusively for such a purpose.

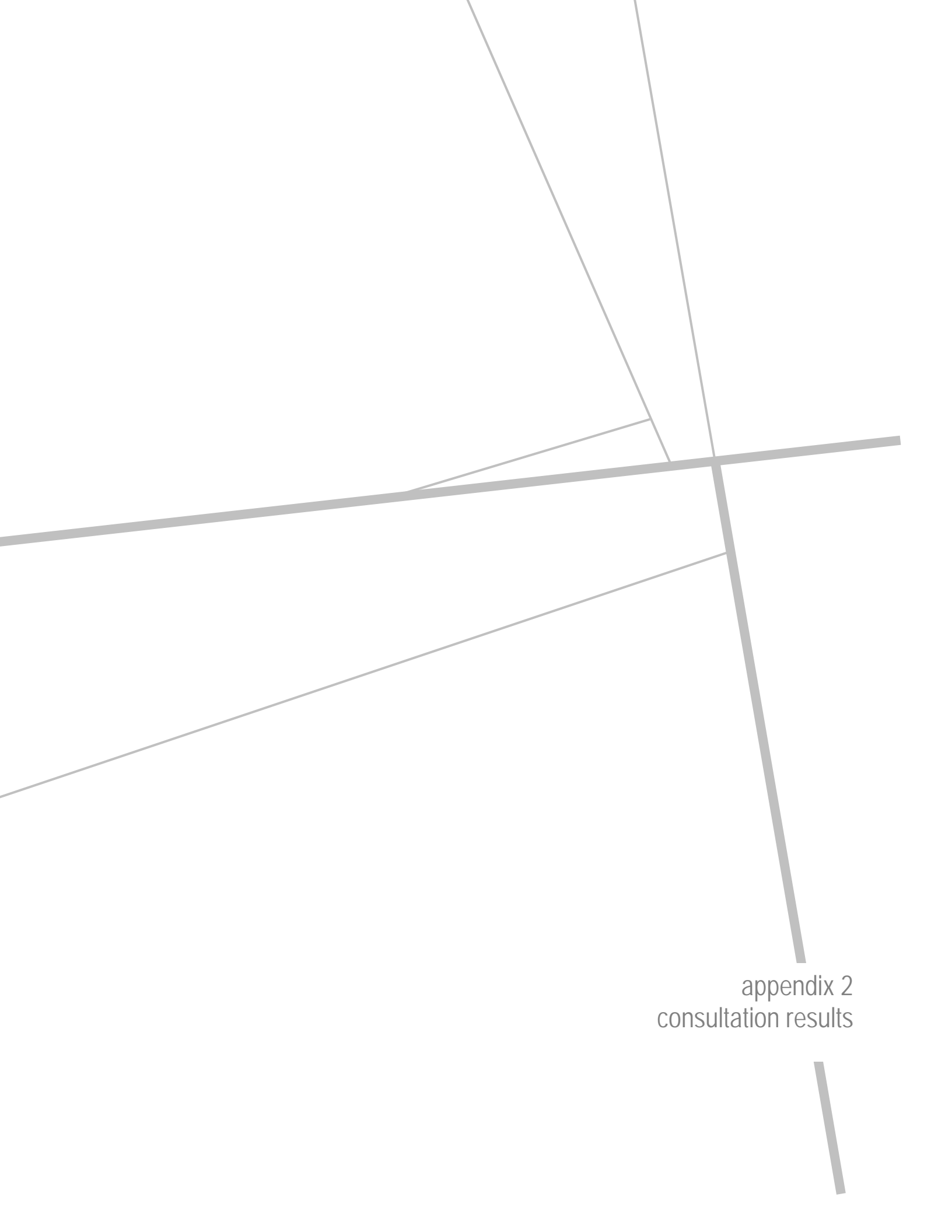
The Conservation Management Plan has identified the potential, however, for the operation of a commercial venture at the Court House if managed in accordance with the heritage and community values of the site as stated in the Plan.

### ***Early Years Infrastructure Plan DRAFT Background Reports (2010)***

The Early Years Infrastructure Plan is currently being prepared. Draft Background Reports to inform this Plan identify key Demographic information and Service Mapping.

The Demographic Profile and Service Mapping reports for the Early Years Infrastructure Plan indicate that:

- There are currently 4 MCH nurses working out of the centralised Traralgon MCH Centre;
- There are a total of 11 facilities providing Kindergarten services in the Traralgon district (private and Council-run) with a combined capacity of 320 places;
- There are a total of 5 facilities offering Long-day care services in the Traralgon district. This includes both private and Council-run facilities. The combined capacity is 346 places;
- Occasional Care is only offered in one location in Traralgon district, the Traralgon Early Learning Centre which will offer a total of 120 places across kindergarten, long-day care and occasional care;
- All Latrobe City kindergartens operate with maximum class sizes of 27 and offer 10 hour of preschool – but have the capacity to extend these hours; and
- Traralgon SLA is a relatively more advantaged area based on the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSED).



appendix 2  
consultation results



This section provides an overview of the key consultation results from the service provider workshop, the community workshop, interviews with key Council staff and the community survey.

## Youth

A high proportion of stakeholders felt that there were limited opportunities for youth in Traralgon, especially for 13-17 year olds. This included activities in the afternoon and weekend. It was identified that currently youth congregate at the Stockland Plaza or at McDonald's as well as the skate park and Hubert Osborne Park (at night) as there is nowhere else for youth to go. It was also felt that the skate park to the north of the CBD is not safe, it is secluded and there is a lack of surveillance. Younger kids and their parents do not feel safe to use the skate park because of its secluded location.

It was also identified that underage drinkers use Hubert Osborne Park overnight and disrupt surrounding residents. It was suggested that security lighting pointing to the park to deter youth from using the play equipment could address this issue. Graffiti and vandalism were raised as issues, but others felt this was minimal.

It was felt that more opportunities for youth could be located in the centre of Town. Some suggested that a skate park could be located in the CBD, while others felt that this would not be supported by the wider community. The lack of a leisure centre or indoor swimming pool in Traralgon was felt to impact on young people. The lack of a cinema close by was also felt to be limiting youth activities. Diversionary activities were suggested as possible ways to keep youth active, involved and off the streets. It was also identified that different ages have very different needs and as a result, services and facilities should cater to all age groups.

## Children's facilities

Children's facilities were felt to be good in Traralgon. In terms of playgrounds, there was felt to be a number of well used play areas surrounding the CBD including the play area at Victory Park and at Hubert Osborne Park.

An Early Years Infrastructure Plan is currently being prepared to reflect recent changes to the number of contact hours for kindergarten aged children (from 10 hours to 15 hours). The new Early Years Centre at Mapelson Drive will



be able to absorb these changes as it currently has room to expand its capacity. It has been modelled on the hub service and is a short drive to the CBD.

In determining a location for the Early Years Centre there were possibilities of expanding the site at Hubert Osborne Park, however, this was not supported by the local community. There was also an option of locating this Centre adjacent to the existing Performing Arts Centre. However, this was also not explored further, due to the possibility of the expansion of the Arts Centre. During consultations it was identified that there will be a need for another facility in the next few years.

The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) facility was said to be good and close to the CBD and shopping for families. The MCH is also a hub for other programs including a Day Stay Program run by Latrobe Health and there is also a baby change facility. Stockland Plaza also has a baby change room which is in the process of getting accreditation.

## **Schools**

It was felt that the primary schools in the Traralgon TAC occupy a large footprint. There are two primary schools: St Michael's Primary School and Grey Street Primary School. However, due to recent federal grants and the associated upgrade of facilities, both schools are committed to stay at their current locations for at least 10 – 15 years for Grey Street PS and 15-20 years for St Michael's.

Traffic and safety issues associated with the schools in the TAC were felt to be important to overcome. This relates to the pedestrian crossing on Breed St (near St Michael's) and car traffic during the drop-off and pick-up times.

## **Parks and Reserves**

Victory and Newman Park are very well used and popular. These two parks are an asset for Traralgon, but it was felt more could be done to incorporate them into the Traralgon TAC.

It was felt that there needs to be better connections between the CBD and Victory Park. The park and CBD is intersected by the Princes Highway making crossing unsafe. It was identified that Kay Street provides a good boulevard for the CBD and an extension of this to connect with Victory Park would help to improve connections.

Hubert Osborne Park has a long history of residents campaigning to keep it. There is an active group of residents who adjoin the park who have fought against developments on the site including the extension of the existing





childcare centre. While Hubert Osborne Park was felt to provide open space close to the CBD, others suggested it was lacking appropriate facilities. It was suggested that this park could have improved amenities including shade, picnic table and BBQ.

It was also felt that there could be more passive recreation opportunities and greater amenity throughout the CBD to allow shoppers, workers and visitors to enjoy the city centre. This could include more seating and greenery within the CBD. It was also suggested that there are smart ways of improving amenity including alcoves, more bins, improved nature strips and better paths and connections across the Traralgon CBD.

## Recreation

It was felt that there are a number of good opportunities for recreation close to the CBD with a range of sports facilities and a large number of active sport associations and sports clubs in Traralgon. It was also felt that there are diverse opportunities including netball, soccer, cricket, bowls, etc. However, it was identified that there are only private gyms located in Traralgon, the main one being Body and Soul to the north of the CBD. There is also a privately-run Traralgon Indoor Aquatic Leisure Centre to the south of the CBD.

There is potential for an indoor recreation centre (including a 50m indoor pool) to be located in Traralgon. This is currently going through a feasibility process.

It was felt that while the Croquet Club is well located, it is used only two days a week. This is a good site and provides a good opportunity for development or expansion of recreation or childcare services.

It was also felt that there are a lot of formal activities and members only type facilities which do not allow for access by the general public. More individual or informal recreation opportunities could be explored.

## Nightclubs

Traralgon has become a nightclub destination for the region. This attracts a large number of youth from across the region and from Traralgon itself during weekends. Concerns were raised about the noise, violence and the aftermaths of drinking (blood and vomit) as well as anti-social behaviour associated with the clubs, especially after closing hours. Safety initiatives as part of the Traralgon CBD Safety Group are currently underway and are working to improve safety around the nightclubs on a number of fronts including infrastructure, security and policy. Initiatives



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included a trial last year of a Nightrider bus, dividing the taxi rank into two separate queues to reduce possible violence, a proposal for CCTV cameras throughout the CBD as well as security at taxi ranks.

Impacts on the amenity of surrounding neighbourhoods were felt to be important. These areas are quiet and are impacted by noise associated with nightclub closing times.

### **Community facilities and services in Traralgon**

It was felt that the current Library service in Traralgon is good, but the building is not inviting and it is drab and old-fashioned. Others also raised the issue that the library is confusing as there are a number of services offered that are not clearly defined. Generally, stakeholders felt that Traralgon has a good range of community services and facilities and the current clustering of community services and facilities (in the civic hub) is important as this improves access.

Health services in Traralgon were felt to be good, but it was suggested that Latrobe Community Health Service is disconnected from other community services and facilities. However, this health service owns its current premises and was unable to find a more suitable location.

Public toilets and baby change facilities or facilities for families with children in the CBD were felt to be important and could be further expanded.

It was identified that Latrobe City Council is the eighth most disadvantaged LGA in Victoria and while Traralgon is relatively more affluent than other towns within the LGA, there is still a broad spread of community members of different socio-economic backgrounds. Catering to these diverse populations was felt to be important in the coming future.

### **Further Education**

A GippsTAFE campus near the train station will be developed by 2011. It will accommodate 200 students over a seven-day week and is looking at spacing classes out (i.e. night classes, weekend classes, etc) to encourage less parking issues. The majority of students attending the TAFE will be local and therefore there will be no need for specialised student housing. Connections across the Princes Highway could be improved to ensure safety. An enclosed and raised pedestrian bridge was suggested.



## **Disability, Access and Parking**

Parking and access was an issue identified by the majority of stakeholders and consultation participants. It was also identified that there could be improvements generally to access across the CBD and improved pedestrian experiences such as enclosed walkways or raised walkways between buildings.

To improve traffic and safety issues, it was felt that there could be better walking and cycling paths. Kay Street and the bike path that runs through the middle nature strip was identified as a well-used, safe and good cycling and walking path that could be replicated in other areas. However, some also felt that there was a lot of broken glass on paths in Traralgon and this has become an issue for cyclists.

## **Transport**

Community bus services are functioning in Traralgon but do not provide a flexible option. It was identified that these services finish at 6pm and have been undertaking the same bus route for the last 10 years.

Others felt that public bus services could be improved. Currently they are focused around shopping, not work or school. Train connections, especially for students travelling to other towns for university, are not coordinated. Likewise, trains arriving in from Melbourne do not arrive before 9am, making it difficult to reach work early. General improvements to connecting transport services as well as improving routes around Traralgon were identified as important to improve access to key services and facilities.

## **Latrobe Performing Arts Centre**

The Latrobe Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon is currently undergoing a feasibility study for redevelopment and expansion. The feasibility study is considering the most appropriate location for a new Arts precinct in the City of Latrobe. It was felt that there are a lot of activities run out of the existing arts centre in Traralgon and there is a very active arts community. It was felt that the performing arts centre is a strong part of Traralgon and is an essential fabric of the town. However, it was also highlighted that the feasibility study is further complicated due to relationships between Moe, Morwell and Traralgon and the parochialism that occurs between the three towns.



## Senior Citizens

The current senior citizens centre at Victory Park is well used and has activities six days a week. It is also open to hire and used by a number of other groups at night. However, it was felt that there are parking issues at the current site. There is also another senior citizens centre located in East Traralgon which is also well used. Any amalgamation of these two citizen centres would be opposed as they are two quite distinct centres and are well attended by a range of Traralgon residents.

## Affordable Housing and Housing Affordability

Issues of affordable housing and housing affordability were raised by stakeholders. Affordable housing is currently concentrated to the east of the CBD. The issue of accessing affordable housing was raised during the consultation and it was identified that the criteria for obtaining such housing is very tight. Housing affordability was also felt to be affecting Traralgon as there is low supply of land and high demand for housing, especially as there has been an increase in the population in Traralgon.

## Emerging and refugee communities in Traralgon and LaTrobe

A number of refugees, notably Sudanese communities, have recently arrived in the Latrobe City with some of these communities settling to the East of Traralgon. Liddiard Road Primary School has become a hub for the Sudanese community with approximately 40-50 Sudanese children currently enrolled in the school. Language classes for children and adults have also commenced at the school and there are reports that these classes have been well received. The most pressing need for this community is affordable and accessible space to gather, meet or run activities. The Sudanese community have been using a church hall in Traralgon and more recently a church hall in Moe. However, a dedicated or more accessible space that also includes facilities for children and families would allow the Sudanese to meet regularly and remain locally, rather than travel distances to have their needs met.

## Community Survey

A Community Survey was available on-line and in hard copy from Council offices. Its purpose was to solicit information from community members regarding Traralgon CBD and their use of the centre along with issues and opportunities. The following provides an overview of the 36 completed community surveys including both hard copies



returned and those completed online (as at 9th April, 2010). Those questions and statements including responses relevant to the community infrastructure and social needs assessment are outlined below.

**Question: “Availability of community services and facilities”**

Just over 47 per cent (17 respondents) felt that availability of community services and facilities was good. Approximately 33 per cent (12 respondents) responded that availability was average while nearly 17 per cent (six respondents) identified availability was very good.

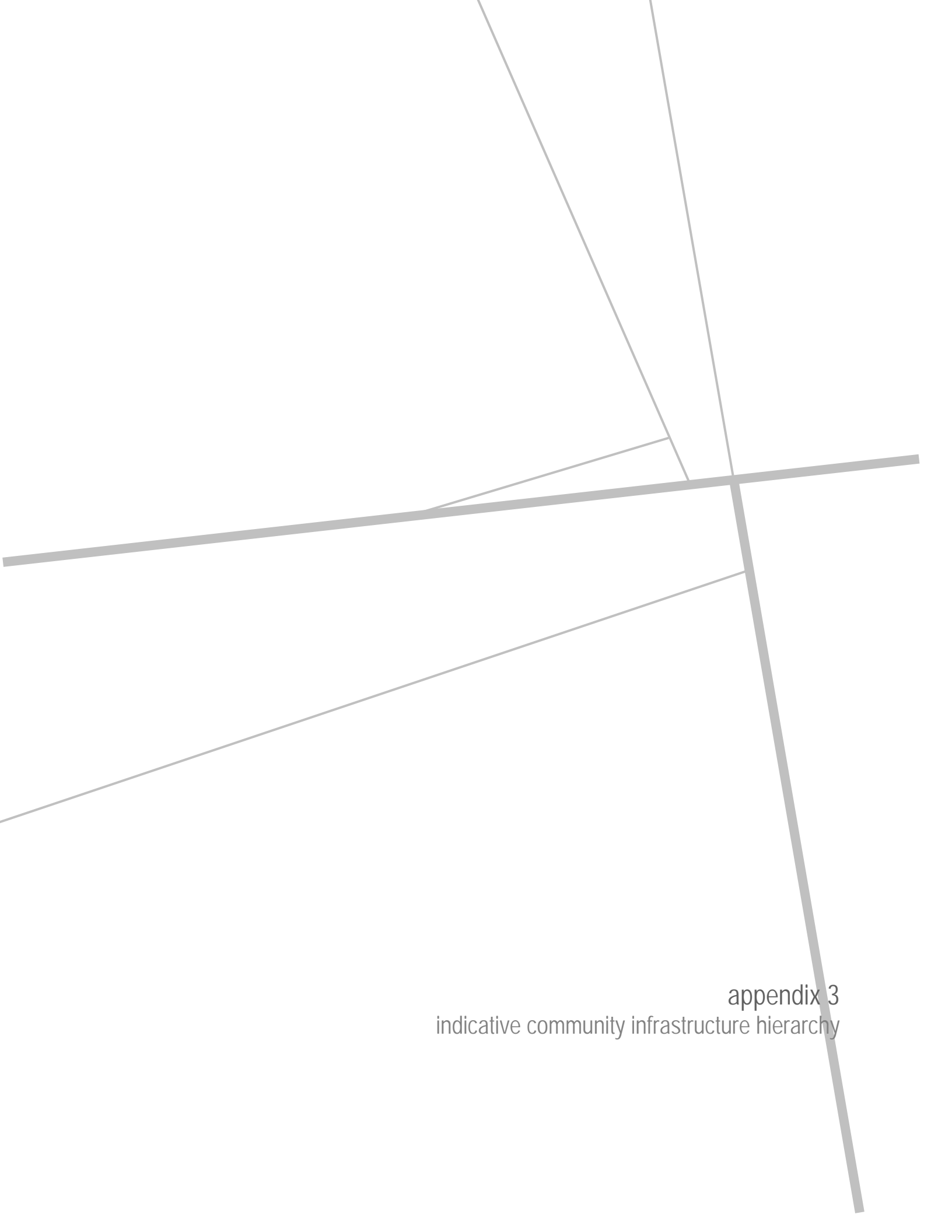
Comments included the need to add more vitality to the Performing Arts area as well as investing more in the civic precinct as its proximity to the CBD is an asset.

**Statement: “Traralgon provides all the services I require”**

Approximately 64 per cent (23 respondents) agreed with this statement while 17 per cent (six respondents) disagreed. A further 11 per cent strongly agreed and five per cent didn't know. One respondent did not answer the question.

Key comments relating to community infrastructure and social needs that emerged from the surveys include the following:

- Need for safer streets and more lighting;
- Issues associated with night-time drinking needs to be addressed, especially safety issues;
- Provision of public toilets, better setting and maintain and improve amenity in the CBD;
- Encourage more cycling and walking by improving pathways, crossings and other infrastructure;
- Youth using the multi-storey carpark is unsafe, an alternative needs to be found;
- More community events could be run in Traralgon including in parks or reserves;
- Retain the Traralgon Theatre (Traralgon Performing Arts Centre) and improve or expand.



appendix 3  
indicative community infrastructure hierarchy



The table below provides an indicative list of community infrastructure based on population hierarchies.

**Table 9 Community infrastructure hierarchy<sup>6</sup>**

Hierarchy	Facilities
<b>Level 1</b>  Neighbourhood Level  <i>Provision ratios up to 10,000 people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Level 1 Active Open Space</li><li>▪ Level 1 Passive Open Space</li><li>▪ Government Primary School / Early Years' Facility</li><li>▪ Level 1 Multi-purpose Community Centre / Neighbourhood House / Community meeting space / Early Years' Facility</li><li>▪ Senior Citizens groups</li></ul>
<b>Level 2</b>  2-3 Neighbourhood Levels  <i>Provision ratios between 10,000 and 30,000 people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Government Secondary School</li><li>▪ Maternal and Child Health Service</li><li>▪ Level 2 Multi-purpose community centre / Community Meeting Space</li><li>▪ Low Order Tennis Facilities</li><li>▪ Low Order Youth Facilities</li></ul>
<b>Level 3</b>  District Level  <i>Provision ratios between 30,000 people and 60,000 people</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Library</li><li>▪ Aquatic Leisure Centre</li><li>▪ Community Arts Centre</li><li>▪ Youth Resource Centre</li><li>▪ Level 3 Multi-purpose Community Centre</li><li>▪ Lawn Bowls Facility</li></ul>

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<sup>6</sup> Based on ARS Research (2008)





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Hierarchy	Facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Level 3 Indoor Recreation Centre</li><li>▪ Higher Order Active Open Space Reserves</li></ul>
<b>Level 4</b>  Municipal Level  <i>Provision for the municipality</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Main Council Civic Centre</li><li>▪ Level 4 Community-based health precincts</li><li>▪ Synthetic Athletics Track</li></ul>
<b>Level 5</b>  Regional Level  <i>Provision for two or more municipalities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Highest Order Performance Arts Facility</li><li>▪ University/TAFEs</li><li>▪ Regional Parks</li></ul>