



RYE TOWNSHIP PLAN PROGRESS REPORT (JULY 2024)

Rye is a bayside township of approximately 8,000 permanent residents and a place where seasonal flux plays a significant role in how it functions. A popular destination during the warmer months, it sees a surge in residents, campers, visitors and day-trippers making the most of the coastal environment. However, this also puts pressure on the local facilities to the point where the congestion is both unsafe and undesirable. During the winter months, the pace and vibrancy of the township subsides considerably making it difficult for local businesses to survive.

The township of Rye is currently primarily residential with commercial ventures focused along Point Nepean Road. Recent trends in house purchases indicate that there is a steady increase in people moving to Rye to take advantage of the lifestyle benefits it has to offer.

The Township Plan needs to respond by providing a framework which supports greater housing diversity, and diversification of the commercial, retail, recreational and tourism offering throughout the Township as a whole. It needs to establish itself with a unique identity and sense of place that sets it apart from other townships on the Peninsula.

The Rye Township Plan was adopted by Council on 24 August 2015.

VISION

The vision of the Rye township is focused on the following principles:

- *Preserving the natural environment and promoting Rye as a demonstration Township for sustainability and eco-living,*
- *Improving connections for pedestrians and cyclists,*
- *Building on existing culture and heritage to promote a sense of place and local identity,*
- *Creating a revitalised public domain to establish a thriving destination across all seasons.*

OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the plan are underpinned by the following four themes:

1. Support and enhance local coastal ecology

- Protect and re-vegetate the existing dune scape to prepare and adapt to sea level rise.
- Expand coastal ecology and green corridors through planting of local indigenous vegetation within the streetscape to reduce hard



surfaces, improve bio-diversity and connectivity between existing green spaces.

- Enhance visual and physical connectivity to the Bay.
- Apply an integrated approach to water quality management and apply best practice standards to stormwater management for improved water quality, safety and aesthetics

2. Maximise liveability by applying local adaptive climate improvements

- Provide carefully considered placement of plantings and furniture elements/ screens to reduce impact of strong northwesterly winds on Point Nepean Road, Foreshore Park and Napier Plaza.
- Provide surfaces that limit summer heat build up and that promote sustainable infrastructure and the environment.
- Manage micro-climates by providing canopy trees to improve pedestrian shade protection and canopy cover from the summer heat whilst maximising solar access through the year.
- Promote adaptability to respond to peak parking and environmental pressure.

3. Support and promote low emission activities and infrastructure

- Select materials with low embodied energy, high recycled content, local provenance, high durability, long service life and low maintenance.
- Encourage design for pedestrian and bicycle use to minimise contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Promote integration of renewable energy sources into existing and new infrastructure.

- Apply energy efficient fittings to existing and new infrastructure

4. Apply best practice water quality solutions

- Improve the health and water quality of our waterways by applying best practice standards to education, collection, filtration and re-use of water.
- Harvest stormwater to irrigate parks, reduce flooding and protect waterways.
- Install water efficient fittings and water saving devices to existing and new council infrastructure to conserve ongoing water use.
- Generate flood mapping information to inform planning decisions and reduce flooding risks.
- Provide path access between the beach and foreshore camping/parking to protect the natural foreshore environment.
- Minimise contaminants to stormwater eg. sewerage, wastewater and other nutrients, by tracing the contaminants back to their source and remediating
- Improve stormwater run-off water quality with the application of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) approaches - bio-swales, and raingardens, and permeable surfaces - to meet best practice water quality objectives for reuse and/or discharge to receiving waters



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS STATUS UPDATE

PROJECT	PROJECT DETAILS	LEAD AGENCY	STATUS	COMMENT	
ADVOCATE AND PROMOTE					
A1	Advocate for a new traffic distribution network	Establish action group, preparation of mud maps and a briefing for position plan for the Southern Peninsula.	Council Traffic and Transport	Underway	The traffic network distribution network will be further investigated as part of the Integrated Transport Strategy which is under development.
A2	Promote local pop-up events and markets	Appoint project manager and liaison officer.	Council Destinations, Recreation and Community Connections	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.
A3	Promote community implementation of aspects within Rye Township Plan	Appoint project manager and liaison officer.	Council Strategic Planning	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.
A4	Establish and maintain advisory group to oversee township plan rollout	Appoint panel members and establish structure.	Council Strategic Planning	Underway	Community engagement is undertaken as part of each individual project.
COASTAL					
A5	Rye Campground configuration	Creation of re-configured camping ground to include	Council	Underway	A rationalisation of the Rye Western Camping area is to be undertaken to provide a higher



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		coastal re-vegetation/tree planting/lawn shelters/lighting/new amenities/wayfinding.	Infrastructure Projects		<p>standard of foreshore camping in the newly reconfigured area.</p> <p>Works include amended campsite layouts providing a larger area, new electrical and water services, new access roadway for compliant fire vehicle access and new firefighting services through the area.</p> <p>A Tender for construction has recently closed. It is anticipated this construction contract will be awarded early 2024, with works to commence following the 23/24 Summer Camping Season.</p>
A6	Foreshore Promenade	Re-configure car parking and entries, creation of a promenade (incl. paving/decking/drainage/tree planting/lighting/electrical services/furniture/seats/bins/bubblers/wayfinding signage/art)	Council Infrastructure Projects	Underway	Detailed design of the Foreshore Promenade is currently underway with delivery planned to be commenced in 2024 following the summer tourist season. The Foreshore Promenade will provide a sense of arrival as the main 'gateway' to the foreshore.
A7	Foreshore Park	Re-configure car parking and entries, upgrade of park (incl. paving/drainage/tree planting/lighting/electrical services/furniture/seats/bins/bubblers/wayfinding/signage/picnic shelters)	Council Infrastructure Projects	Underway	<p>It is proposed to replace the eastern car park next to the pier with public open space. Works will include networks of paths, seating, BBQ facilities and landscaping.</p> <p>Detailed design is currently underway with delivery planned to be commenced in 2024 following the summer tourist season.</p>



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A8	Rationalise and maintain beach access paths	Path creation, community revegetation.	Council Water and Coasts	Ongoing	This action is ongoing through the development of the Rye Township Plan and operational programs to support community works on the foreshore.
TOWNSHIP					
A9	Napier Street Plaza and Shareway	Creation of Shared Zone and Plaza (incl. paving/drainage/ tree planting (incl. pits/ tree grates/planting/WSUD/ sub-surface drainage/ lighting/ electricalservices/ furniture (seats/ bins, cycle racks	Council Infrastructure Projects	Complete	The Napier Street Plaza has been completed. The works were undertaken in two stages with the latest works including lighting, drainage, carparking, paving and landscape works.
A10	Town Square	Partial removal of existing carpark, creation of a TownSquare (incl. paving/ drainage/ tree planting/lighting/ electrical services/ furniture (seats/ bins,cycle racks, bubblers), wayfinding signage/ art/ kiosk/amenities.	Council Infrastructure Services	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.
A11	Campbell Street Laneway/Shareway	Creation of a Shared Zone (incl. paving/ drainage/ tree planting / pits/ tree grates/ planting/ WSUD/sub-surface drainage/ lighting/ electrical	Council Infrastructure Services	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.



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		services/furniture/ wayfinding signage/ art.			
A12	Bimble/Collingwood/Sullivan Streetscape	Streetscape Upgrade/new at-grade shared crossing/traffic calming measures/ footpath upgrade/ treeplanting (incl. plantings/ WSUD)	Council Traffic and Transport	Underway	<p>A new roundabout has been delivered at Bimble Street as part of the Rye/Tootgarook blackspot project.</p> <p>Compact roundabouts have been constructed at Ozone Street, Field and Shirlow Avenue and Government Road and Waratah Street.</p> <p>There is also an area wide speed limit reduction which covers approximately the area between Dundas Street, Trumans Road Browns and Point Nepean Road and includes speed limit signage (40Km/h area wide), threshold treatments & associated linemarking.</p>
POINT NEPEAN ROAD STREETSCAPE					
A13	Pop-up outdoor dining within selected on-street car parking areas	Temporary bollards and furnishing.	Council Destination experience and Peninsula events	Complete	Following a trial, the pop-up outdoor dining space within on-street carparking areas was removed.
A14	Intersection widening and upgrades to Lyons Street	Civil and infrastructure works.	Council Traffic and Transport	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.



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A15	Intersection widening and upgrades to Dundas Street	Civil and infrastructure works.	Council Traffic and Transport	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.
A16	Intersection widening and upgrades to Hygeia Street	Civil and infrastructure works.	Council Traffic and Transport	Yet to be commenced	A compact roundabout has been constructed at Hygeia Street and Bimble Streets.
A17	Temporary line marking to test traffic arrangements	VicRoads approval and linemarking	Council Traffic and Transport	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.
A18	Formal construction of road – changes on the back of the success for no.5 (above)	VicRoads approval and construction incl. reformed pedestrian pavements, tree planting and drainage	Council Traffic and Transport	Redundant	Approval was sought from the Department of Transport and Planning who did not support this construction.
STATUTORY FRAMEWORK					
A19	Re-instate north south pedestrian link between town square and foreshore	Relocation and upgrading of signalised pedestrian crossing.	Council Traffic and Transport	Redundant	Approval was sought from the Department of Transport and Planning who did not support this construction.
A20	Prepare public domain guidelines for the township area	Prepare RFP and develop guidelines	Council Traffic and Transport	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.
A21	Prepare urban design framework plan for the township area suitable for	Prepare RFP and develop Urban Design Framework	Council Strategic Planning	Complete	The Rye Urban Design Guidelines have been completed and have been implemented into



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	inclusion in the planning scheme				the Planning Scheme via Amendment C275morn which was gazetted on 7 July 2022.
A22	Prepare a parking precinct plan	Prepare RFP and develop parking plan.	Council Traffic and Transport	Yet to be commenced	Subject to budget and staff resourcing.
A23	Amend the Design and Development Overlay	Prepare overlay.	Council Strategic Planning	Complete	Amendment C275morn introduced Schedule 58 to the Design and Development Overlay to the commercial core of the Rye township. The overlay provides design objectives around building heights, setbacks, materials and interfaces with the public realm. The amendment was gazetted on 7 July 2022.
A24	Rezone land within the township area	Prepare rezoning documents	Council Strategic Planning	Complete	Amendment C275morn rezoned residential land in the commercial core to Mixed Use Zone and Commercial 1 Zone as recommended by the Rye Township Plan. The amendment was gazetted on 7 July 2022.