



TALBOT & DISTRICT OUR COMMUNITY 2030



OUR COMMUNITY PLAN

The Talbot & District Community Plan 2030 sets out the community's vision for the next ten years.

Developed and owned by the community, the plan captures the community's voice for what is most important for them.

Community planning commenced in October 2019 and was completed in April 2020.

Residents in and around Talbot and district were invited to share their input into the planning process in a variety of ways:

- an online survey
- community postcards
- a drop in session
- a focus group
- roving interviews
- a community workshop; and
- draft plan feedback processes.

The Talbot & District Community Plan is a community owned plan that captures community aspirations across a broad range of areas (not just local government). This project was delivered with funding from the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund.



OUR VISION

In 2030 Talbot & district will have:

- ✓ sewerage
- ✓ a growing and sustainable population
- ✓ strong community connections
- ✓ well maintained and protected heritage and community buildings
- ✓ a vibrant economy
- ✓ high speed internet
- ✓ access to local health and wellbeing services
- ✓ volunteers of all ages
- ✓ an arts and culture precinct
- ✓ well-attended primary school and pre-school; and
- ✓ strong connections and communication with Council.

OUR TOWN

Talbot is located 15 kilometres south of Maryborough, 50 kilometres north of Ballarat and 130 kilometres north west of Melbourne.

Talbot and district has its own Primary School and Preschool, community halls, sporting facilities, golf course, museum, pool, post office, local doctor, library and a range of small businesses.

Talbot has two successful monthly markets that bring a large number of visitors to the town.

Our History

Talbot was settled in the Victorian gold rush and was most populated in the 1850's and 1860s. Today Talbot has a population of 442 (ABS Census, 2016). The town retains many historically significant buildings today: the Old Court House, the Primitive Methodist Church, the Talbot Town Hall and the Court House Hotel to name a few.

The Talbot walking tour map identifies over 40 sites and buildings.



“We love living in Talbot. The natural environment is to be treasured. The history of the little gold town is special and forever a drawcard for visitors, family researchers, etc.”

“Talbot’s future is severely compromised by lack of sewerage.”

CENSUS SNAPSHOT



POPULATION: 442

- Male: 57.2%
- Female: 44.2%



AGE

- Median age in Talbot: 55 years (Victoria 37 years)



DWELLINGS: 258

- 19.4% of dwellings were unoccupied (Victoria 11.7%)
- Median weekly rent: \$123 (Victoria: \$325)



HOUSEHOLDS

- 54.5% were family households
- 41.6% (84 people) were living in single person households (Victoria 24.7%)
- 4% were group households
- 7.8% of households had no car



EMPLOYMENT

- 45.1% worked full-time (Victoria 57%)
- 32.3% worked part-time (Victoria 31.4%)
- 14% were unemployed (Victoria 6.6%)
- 8.5% were away from work (Victoria 4.9%)



INCOME

- In Talbot 42.3% of households had a weekly household income of less than \$650 (Victoria 20.3%) and 0% of households had a weekly income of more than \$3000 (Victoria 15.5%)



INTERNET

- 25.5% of households in Talbot did not have access to internet (Victoria 13.6%)

IN TALBOT & DISTRICT WE LOVE...

- The friendly/nice people
- Community connections/participation
- Peace and quiet
- Good facilities
- Small country town feel
- History and heritage
- Markets
- Medical car service
- Local Doctor
- Talbot Provodore
- Central location
- Talbot Primary School
- Acceptance of diversity

KEY ISSUES/CHALLENGES

- Lack of sewerage connection
- Population decline
- Attracting families
- Ageing population
- Climate change
- Restoring/retaining history and heritage
- Loss of local business
- Ageing school facilities/keeping school open
- Access to health care services
- Lack of activities for children and young people
- Road upkeep/safety
- Volunteering
- Red-tape and lengthy planning processes
- Promotion of tourism
- Public transportation
- Access to high speed internet



OUR KEY PRIORITIES

- 1 **OUR COMMUNITY**
- 2 **OUR ECONOMY**
- 3 **OUR ENVIRONMENT**
(BUILT & NATURAL)
- 4 **OUR LEADERSHIP**

OUR COMMUNITY

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

STRONG SOCIAL CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. Offer and promote regular community activities and events that provide opportunities for strengthened social connections in Talbot and district.
2. Support and maintain community groups and clubs in Talbot and district.
3. Plan together with children and young people to offer regular low cost-no cost activities/programs/ events in Talbot.
4. Offer regular arts, music and culture opportunities for residents of all ages.
5. Develop a dedicated public facility at the library that offers residents computer and Wi-Fi internet access and print and scanning services.
6. Design and offer a playgroup at the Talbot Primary School.

A HEALTHY, SAFE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY

1. Explore ways to improve access to chemist services for Talbot and district e.g. home delivery options/local pick up location.
2. Maintain medical care services for Talbot and district residents who require support with accessing medical appointments.
3. Advocate for improved access to quality health and wellbeing services in Central Goldfields Shire.
4. Maintain and seek to expand quality GP services in Talbot.
5. Seek funding for the development of a community gym for Talbot and district residents.
6. Promote and deliver regular health and wellbeing activities in Talbot and district, especially those focussed on ageing residents.
7. Develop shared fire plans and strategies for checking in on neighbours in fire danger periods e.g. phone tree set-up.
8. Broadly promote recreation facilities that are available in Talbot e.g. pool, tennis courts etc.
9. Review pool use/fees and opening times and trial ways to increase pool use by all age groups of the community.

“Our playground need shade for children and families.”

OUR ECONOMY

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

INCREASED TOURIST ACTIVITY

1. Increase tourism in Talbot e.g. through regional arts, food, markets, events and festivals.
2. Promote the museum and increase history/heritage tourism in Talbot e.g. through genealogy/family history.

RELIABLE TELECOMMUNICATION NETWORKS

1. Advocate for 5G connectivity in Talbot and district.

POPULATION STABILITY/GROWTH

1. Advocate for sewage with heritage overlay guidelines for Talbot.
2. Promote the liveability of Talbot and district and sustainably grow its population.
3. Promote and support the Talbot Primary School so it can thrive and grow.
4. Work together with Council, YMCA and the Department of Education and Training to explore sustainable models for the Talbot Pre-School to support its re-opening in 2021 and ongoing future viability e.g. bush kinder model.
5. Seek ways to promote family friendliness and grow the number of families living in Talbot.
6. Advocate for Council to declare the Shire a welcome refugee zone and explore the viability of refugee settlement in Talbot and district.
7. Explore creative subsidised housing models and partnerships that could encourage young families to live in Talbot.

VIBRANT LOCAL ECONOMY

1. Increase passenger rail services to Talbot; especially on weekends.
2. Increase support for and grow local businesses in Talbot.
3. Investigate renewable energy project opportunities for Talbot and district and ensure heritage overlays are applied e.g. hydronic heating in public buildings.
4. Advocate for equitable resourcing/focus on smaller outlying towns.
5. Simplify planning processes and reduce costs and remove red tape and bureaucratic barriers to growth.
6. Advocate for the affordability of rates in Talbot and district.
7. Explore incentives and opportunities to attract new businesses and industry to Talbot and district.

“I love the entrepreneurial enterprises in Talbot like the Provedore, the Observatory, the Gallery and Ralph’s Station Nursery.”

OUR ENVIRONMENT

(NATURAL & BUILT)

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

SAFE, ACCESSIBLE AND WELL-MAINTAINED COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Explore the viability of a shared multi-use sporting facility in Talbot.
2. Upgrade and maintain playgrounds and sporting and recreation facilities in Talbot.
3. Seek funding to update the netball courts at the Talbot football ground.
4. Develop the arts precinct in Talbot.
5. Seek funding for the installation of new toilets at the Town Hall.
6. Maintain the Town Hall; a vital community resource.
7. Install additional drinking taps/water stations in key community spaces.
8. Seek funding for a pool upgrade and shade at the Talbot pool.
9. Seek funding for the upgrade of the caravan park including installation of a dump point.
10. Advocate to Council for regular grading and maintenance of dirt roads and a local roads advisory structure.
11. Seek funding for the extension of walking and bicycle tracks in Talbot and district.
12. Improve footpaths and plan for future footpath needs.

PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF LOCAL HERITAGE

1. Protect and maintain heritage buildings in Talbot and district.
2. Seek funding for the restoration of the Leader building in Talbot.

BEAUTIFY STREETSAPES AND ENTRANCES

1. Beautify and preserve the streetscape in Talbot.
2. Upgrade and beautify signage and town entrance signage for Talbot.

PROTECT, MANAGE AND IMPROVE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

1. Plan environmental sustainability initiatives focussed on less waste, climate action and drought preparedness.
2. Advocate for a stronger focus, clear policies and leadership on climate change action and adaptability throughout Central Goldfields Shire.
3. Advocate to Council for reduced tip fees and longer opening hours.
4. Advocate to Council for improved and regular maintenance of gardens, weeds, roadsides and entrances and for new plantings in Talbot and district.
5. Educate residents about fruit fly in home gardens.

“Maintain the heritage overlay on the town in order to preserve its charm and character and to avoid having inappropriate modern looking developments.”

OUR LEADERSHIP

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND KEY ACTIONS:

ADVOCACY, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNICATION

1. Actively connect with Council's 'champion' for Talbot to ensure leadership and support from Council with the Talbot & District Community Plan and its identified community projects.
2. Actively lead the implementation of the Talbot & District Community Plan.
3. Identify and implement ways to strengthen and maintain communication between residents and Local Government.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

1. Recognise, support and celebrate volunteers and actively encourage the involvement of new volunteers (especially youth) through flexible and creative volunteer offerings.
2. Strengthen relationships and communication between community groups in Talbot and district.

“We are scratching for volunteers.”

“Please visit your smaller towns and talk to residents and families. Listen to what they have to say and do something about the issues they raise.”

PUTTING OUR PLAN INTO ACTION

Implementation of the Talbot Community Plan will be led by the local community.

Central Goldfields Shire Council's 'Champion' for Talbot & district will attend meetings and offer guidance, advice and support wherever possible.

Relevant key stakeholders/project partners will be invited to work with the Talbot community on shared priorities.

An action plan template has been developed to assist with project planning and regular review of community priorities.

Getting involved

If you would like to get involved in making Talbot & District an even better place to live in 2030 contact:

Manager Community Partnerships

Central Goldfields Shire Council
(03) 5461 0610

