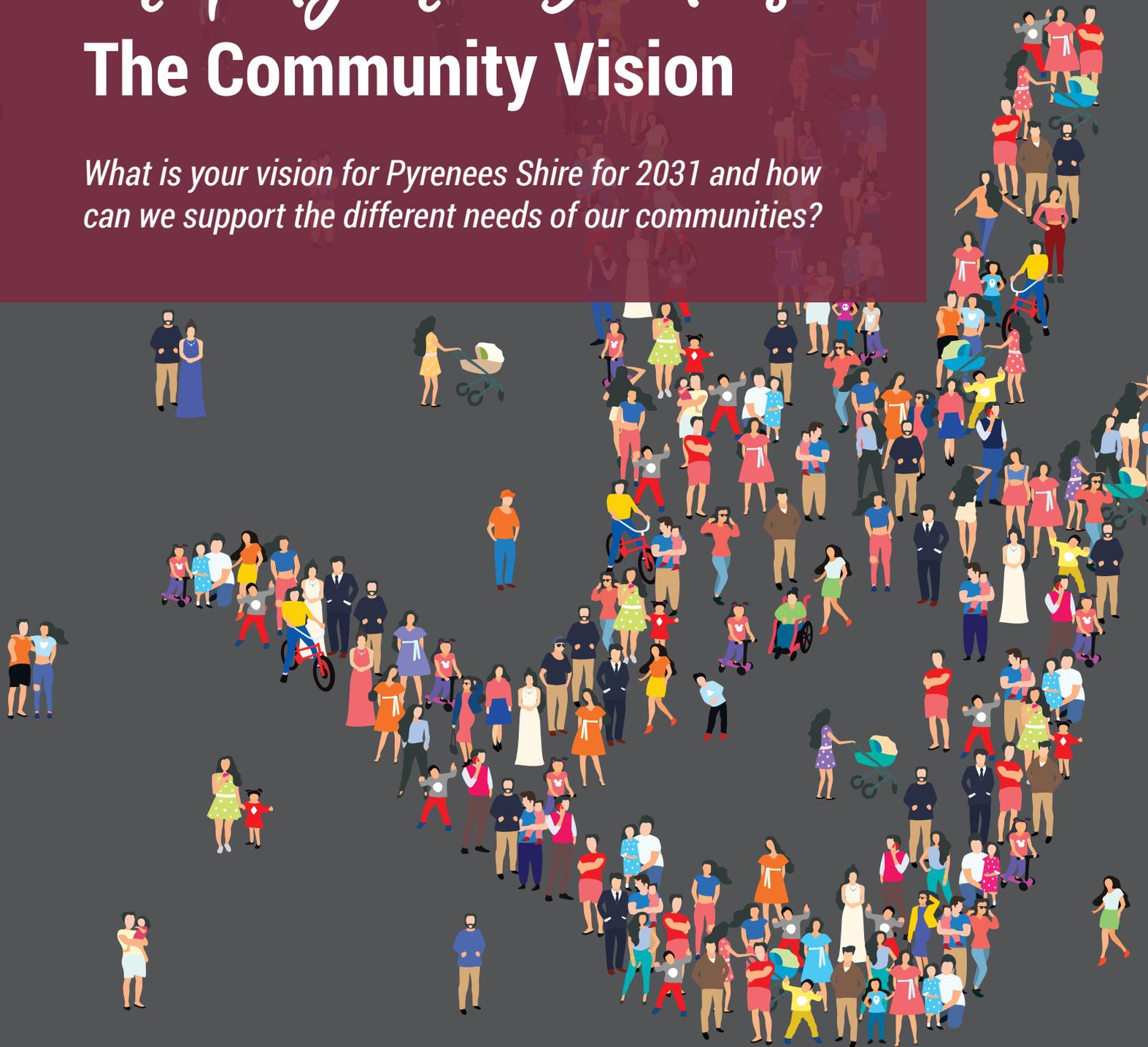




**Pyrenees**  
Shire Council

# Shaping The Pyrenees The Community Vision

*What is your vision for Pyrenees Shire for 2031 and how can we support the different needs of our communities?*



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## Acknowledgement of Country

We in Pyrenees Shire acknowledge the Traditional Owners past and present of the Wadawurung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar, and Wotjobaluk nations as traditional custodians of the land which forms the Pyrenees Shire. We recognise that sovereignty over the land has never been ceded, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to honouring the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the elders and people of these nations and acknowledge their continuous connection and contribution to our land, water and community.



## Our Vision

Our Vision is for inclusive, **happy** and **healthy connected** communities that create sustainable and **welcoming** townships, natural environments and rural areas.

We attract diversity through promoting innovation, growth and partnerships while addressing climate and community needs such as reliable and responsive infrastructure, affordable services and housing whilst protecting our natural environments.





## The Community Vision Journey

The process of developing the community vision started with a postcard questionnaire that was mailed out to all households in the Pyrenees Shire. The postcard asked residents three questions:

- What are your hopes for the Pyrenees Shire for 2031?
- What do you love about your community?
- What would you change about your community?

129 responses were received from people in a number of age brackets and from postcodes right across the Shire. Around the same time, Pyrenees Shire Council called for expressions of interest for participants to be involved in a Community Panel to work together to develop a Community Vision and Priorities/Aspirations for the Council Plan and other Council strategies. 79 Expressions of interest were received and a shortlist of participants were selected by an external consultant.

The Community Panel was formed of 30 residents and landowners across the Shire who were broadly representative of the community in terms of age, gender, location, field of occupation and cultural background. The Community Panel's task was to develop a community vision, to describe what the Pyrenees region will be like as a place to live, play, work and visit in the future. The key question for the Community Panel was:

- *What is your vision for Pyrenees Shire for 2031 and how can we support the different needs of our communities?*

External facilitators, Liminal by Design were engaged to help the group deliberate on the community vision over three five-hour sessions. A wide range of economic, social, demographic, environmental, information was presented to the Community Panel to inform their thinking. The group had a blank page report and worked together to write the Community Vision report from scratch, reaching at least 80% consensus for each section.



## Engagement and Visibility

In 2031, The Pyrenees Council have...

### Motivated and inspired community engagement and involvement, by:

- Utilise active community groups and encourage new and under-represented groups to participate in driving actions (e.g. environmental, arts, health, youth)
- Identify and encourage community involvement in the creation, prioritisation, delivery and ownership of unified action plans
- Ensuring wide representation of community diversity in gender, age, culture and occupation (for example, nominate a Youth Councillor to target this under-represented part of the community)
- Encourage input and feedback from a wide section of the community by providing opportunities to engage both in person and online in council activities / meetings
- Engagement of small and large businesses through effective support and communication
- Expert advice and resources are provided to educate and assist community groups in developing action plans that better meet the vision objectives, and support community groups in framing local actions within the vision
- Annually convene a Community Consultative Group to review and oversee the implementation of the Community Vision
- Key environmental impacts (i.e. biodiversity, people, liveability) are considered and addressed during creation of action plans.

### Providing transparency and accountability, through:

- Regular updates on current projects including detailed information (e.g. delivery timelines)
- Information used to inform council decisions including research and what effective community consultation took place as part of the decision-making process
- Clearly describe concrete goals and actions to deliver community vision
- Accessible updates via a broad range of communication channels to reach groups and individuals within our community (e.g. website, email, e-newsletters, paper newsletters, notice boards)
- Ongoing engagement with community in the creation, prioritisation, delivery and ownership of unified action plans.



## People

The health and wellbeing of our communities is paramount.

- All Pyrenees Shire communities have facilities and services that encourage & support community connectedness, and intergenerational connections; including investing in creative arts, activities and events.
- We're prepared for emergencies like pandemics.
- Our history is preserved, acknowledged and recorded.
- We have access to an extensive quality community / health service & facilities for all ages.
- Communities are empowered to embed social & cultural diversity in all decision making.
- Communities have facilities and activities that support exercise for physical & mental health for all ages.

## Building / Planning / Residential Growth

Communities are thriving. Growth is underpinned by universal connectivity, access to technology, advanced services and sustainable education facilities.

We've evolved through building opportunities that continue to encourage development while retaining the "country charm" and businesses that make the Pyrenees Shire unique.

Our residential and farmland is used productively and sustainably by embracing innovation and change. We provide opportunity through a balanced use of our land while meeting the contemporary needs of our community. We pride ourselves by growing our townships and settlements, whilst retaining the economical potential of our agricultural regions.



## Environment

Pyrenees Shire has taken action on climate change and reduced negative impacts across the Shire.

The Pyrenees Shire has an abundance of conserved natural resources which are highly valued and protected by the local community and visitors.

The community, including indigenous groups, are actively engaged with environmental initiatives through innovative programs (e.g. bushfires plans/management) and services (e.g. recycling).

Environmental sustainability, such as water availability, underpins growth considerations.

Advocating for environmental preservation to be considered foremost in the context of future extractive activities, such as mining.

There is a biodiversity regenerative program for nature reserves.

## Encouraging Economic Development

By 2031 Pyrenees Shire has supported significant economic development that is based on the following principles:

- Supporting 'Healthy towns' by developing new and existing infrastructure (e.g. NBN, shop fronts) in the business precincts, to encourage the relocation or start-up of businesses.
- Supporting 'Healthy regions' by encouraging growth in regional business (i.e. agi-business, tourism, etc.) through access to services (i.e. power)
- Ensuring economic planning and business development considers the climate with a push towards carbon-neutrality across the shire.
  - Bio-diversity.
  - Minimising the use of non-renewable resources.
  - Climate variability (droughts, rain events/flooding).
- Drawing on the geographical and location advantages enjoyed by the Shire.





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