



Romsey Structure Plan

Previous information:

- Majority of the township and surrounds has been partially cleared of native vegetation and highly modified since European settlement.
- There is sparse cover of native vegetation across the Romsey area with some Plains Grassy Woodland within roadside areas and some Stream Bank Shrubland along Deep Creek. The ranges on the eastern and western sides of the township provide a highly visual landscape and visual setting to Romsey.
- High quality agricultural land to the north of the township is utilised for farming purposes.
- Planning policy requires retention of a separation or break between Romsey and Lancefield.
- Five Mile Creek traverses the township and is a significant feature and asset of the town used as a passive recreation corridor but public access is limited due to private ownership.
- Deep Creek is an ephemeral watercourse on the town's eastern boundary.
- Romsey South Drain is a narrow drain capturing stormwater runoff and directing it to Deep Creek.

What we have previously heard:

Consultation to date identified Five Mile Creek as a valued asset with a desire to improve accessibility to the corridor to allow residents to interact and utilise the open space to improve their health and well-being. There was also strong support to keep a clear separation between the Romsey and Lancefield townships and encourage town growth on the southern side where soils are less fertile and serviceability easier.

New information and evidence:

- The township benefits from a legacy of notable avenues of exotic trees along Main Street that extend into and through the township providing a sense of arrival and identity.
- The town centre has wide, gridded streets, some street trees and discontinuous footpaths with variable surfaces. Many of these streets have grassed verges with swale drains, rather than kerb and channel, contributing to the town's valued rural character. The ranges on the eastern and western sides of the township provide a highly visual landscape and visual setting to Romsey.
- Increasing the population of the town will result in a need for additional open space and linkages.
- Analysis of existing open space highlights a number of areas where open space is already deficient particularly in the south-west and south-east areas of town.
- There is a reasonable amount of tree canopy within the study area and further planting would assist the town's character, climate resilience and biodiversity.



Landscape and Natural Environment

Landscape and natural environment map:



How the Structure Plan could respond:

Settlement Principles

The Settlement boundary should be guided by the following principles:

- Maintain settlement boundaries and a visual break between Romsey and Lancefield.
- Ensure growth does not impact on the visual and environmental setting of the township.
- Carefully consider any township expansion into agricultural land.

Potential Responses

- Continue to implement the Five Mile Creek Masterplan.
- Explore opportunities to acquire land/rezone land along the Five Mile Creek to the east of Main Street, creating a permanent walking and cycling path along the creek in public ownership.
- Explore the creation of a public meeting place/space in the town centre such as near the church.
- Ensure growth does not impact on the visual and environmental setting of the township.
- Identify opportunities to use native species to revegetate creeks and encourage restoration in appropriate locations.
- Extending the Avenue of trees along the Melbourne - Lancefield Road, and renewing awareness of the Avenue of Honour with signage and additional canopy trees.
- Prioritising planting along Barry Street to create a new landscape corridor contributing to the rural character of the town.
- Undertake further studies to investigate protection

of large canopy trees in the township to retain the landscape values.

- Encourage the planting of native and indigenous plantings in public and private spaces subject to the consideration of bushfire impacts.
- Encourage development along Five Mile Creek to interface with the park and trail.
- Rezone incorrectly zoned existing open spaces to Public Park and Recreation Zone.

Opportunities for Romsey's Landscape Include:

- Maintain existing trees and replace senescing ones, particularly along the Melbourne-Lancefield Road.
- Expand street tree planting throughout the town building on the legacy provided by past generations. Plant a large spreading canopy tree in the centre of the main roundabout to mark this important junction.
- Expand a network of continuous, connected paths to improve the walkability of the town. Ensure use of materials that reinforce the rural character such as asphalt or compacted gravel, rather than concrete.
- Ensure public realm works including street designs respond to, and reinforce, the valued rural character including street cross sections with grassed verges and swale drains.
- Use bluestone kerbs and asphalt pavements in new street works in the town centre.
- Implement programmed park improvements like the WSUD works in Five Mile Creek.
- Review and rationalise signage, furniture and other roadside elements to improve the township amenity, image and arrival experience.

Have your say

Do you agree with the Potential Responses outlined?

Do you agree Five Mile Creek provides an opportunity to focus open space, habitat and biodiversity activities?

Do you agree that maintaining the landscape break between Romsey and Lancefield is important?

Should there be opportunities for more greening of the town?