



# Romsey Structure Plan

## Previous information:

- Reticulated potable water is supplied through a range of reservoirs, water bores and connection to the Melbourne supply system.
- A gravity fed sewage system which flows to the Romsey Recycled Water Plant services most of Romsey's residential land.
- Septic tanks are used in the LDRZ land in the north east of the town.
- Electricity is provided in high voltage 22kV on overhead powerlines transforming to low voltage via overhead powerlines to homes and businesses. Newer greenfield sites have underground powerlines.
- Reticulated gas is provided to residential lots however the industrial areas on Portingales Lane or Greens Lane are serviced by the gas pipeline network.
- Stormwater infrastructure is provided by both Council and Melbourne Water. There is some variation in the age, condition and design of the infrastructure.
- Flooding is an issue in areas adjacent to the Five Mile Creek.

## What we have previously heard:

Consultation to date identified issues with the quality of mobile and internet connections in the town. Concern was also raised about the high level of car dependence.

## New information and evidence:

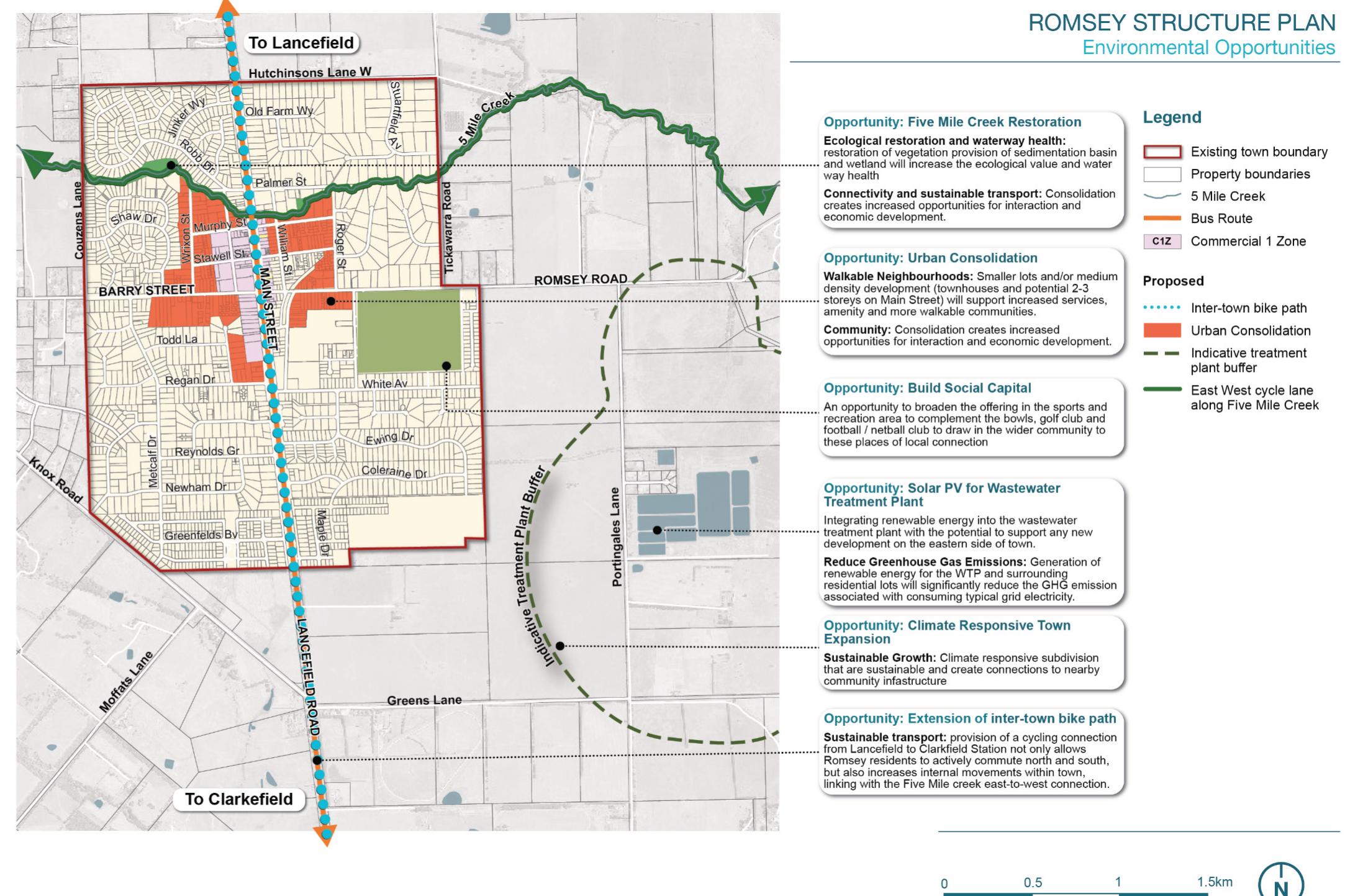
- Greater Western Water (GWW) are planning a significant upgrade of the capacity of the Romsey Recycled Water Plant (RRWP). The buffer from the RRWP to residential development is currently under assessment including the impact of the upgrade.
- GWW's only currently planned future sewer asset in Romsey comprises a proposed branch sewer to provide gravity outfall for the Lomandra and Autumn Views residential estates at the southern edge of town.
  - New sewage infrastructure would be required to service any growth to the south.
  - Significant augmentation of the sewer network through the centre of Romsey may be required to have sufficient capacity to cater for growth to the west.
  - GWW is currently investigating options for the long term water supply for Romsey and Lancefield.
  - The planned upgrade of the RRWP will include additional recycled water storage to better manage recycled water levels across the year. GWW are also progressing Stage 2 of the Romsey Irrigation Upgrade which allows for more recycled water to be supplied to the irrigation site south of the plant.
  - Electricity and gas infrastructure would require upgrades to accommodate additional growth of the town.
  - Fixed line telecommunications services (provided by NBN Co) have capacity for town expansion. Mobile services require consultation with individual carriers.
  - Due to recent population growth and the increased pressures on Romsey (and regional towns) as a result of COVID-19, ensuring development is climate responsive, fosters economic development and creates community is critical.

## Sustainability and Resilience

- Council policy documents provide direction in developing a range of options that could be considered in developing the Structure Plan. These include Council's Biodiversity Strategy, Climate Action Plan, Environment Strategy, Heat Response Plan and the Five Mile Creek Masterplan.
- Six opportunities have been developed that would provide a range of benefits to the town related to sustainable

transport, health and wellbeing, lower greenhouse gas emissions (with new development being connected only to electricity infrastructure and not gas), social cohesion, climate action and adaptation, community connection with natural assets, ecological restoration and waterway health and increased climate resilience.

## Environmental opportunities map:



## How the Structure Plan could respond:

### Settlement Principles

The Settlement boundary should be guided by the following principles:

- Promote urban consolidation and a town structure that minimises reliance on vehicles and their subsequent greenhouse gas emissions and walkability to increase health and wellbeing.
- Increase activity within proximity to Main Street to increase economic development and keep benefits within the township.
- Servicing capacity which highlights that growth to the west may be constrained.
- Maintain buffers to waterways.
- Ensure land provision in close proximity to the town to future proof the town's energy and water needs.
- Minimise the size of the town and make the most efficient use of land.

### Potential Responses

- Enhance environmental assets of the town and create a healthy urban forest for shade and urban cooling.
- Increase climate resilience of the town through reduced reliance on electricity and gas from the grid and support for renewable sources of energy.
- Consult with utility providers in relation to proposed township development options and implications for

future infrastructure.

- Best practice examples of integrated water management (IWM), including stormwater management (SWM) and water sensitive urban design (WSUD).
- Manage roadsides as vegetation corridors contributing to biodiversity protection.
- Encourage the planting of species at the edges of town that won't become environmental weeds.
- Protect any identified remnant patches of Plains Grassy Woodland (EVC55).
- Ensure any new development near Five Mile and Deep Creek contributes to biodiversity conservation and improves waterway health and riparian habitat.
- Design new development with climate change in mind including orientation, provision of vegetation and shade canopy and thermal performance.
- Consider opportunities for the circular economy through supporting industry, e.g. reuse of waste water for irrigation.
- Investigate options for a micro-grid to power the growth of the township.
- Install a public electric vehicle charging station in the Main Street.
- Ensuring development is not located on the immediate edges of the creeks to limit impact on water quality.

## Have your say

**What are your thoughts on the opportunities proposed?**