



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Romsey Emerging Options Paper (EOP) Webinar Questions from 8 March 2022

1. **In prior dealings I have had with Western Water, Western Water advised that current infrastructure was insufficient to manage in a year that was at or above average rainfall - how has the structure plan taken into account the need to expand the sewerage plant infrastructure and maintain the 1,000m buffer between sewerage ponds and residential development. The Structure plan document is silent on expansion of this infrastructure asset. - see Option 3 of structure plan.**
  - a. It is important to note that Council has not currently prepared a draft structure plan for Romsey at this stage. This is the second phase of community consultation to help inform the development of a draft structure plan.
  - b. The Emerging Options Paper (EOP) does identify that the Romsey Recycled Water Plant (RRWP) is currently nearing capacity and a significant upgrade of the plant is planned (P.46). The RRWP buffer area is also currently under review by Greater Western Water and the draft structure plan when developed will need to consider this buffer area. The settlement boundary as per Option 3 does not mean residential development will occur within this buffer area and Option 3 identifies the RRWP as a constraint to any future development to the east of Romsey. Residential land uses cannot occur within the buffer area but other land uses such as industrial land could be located within the buffer area and this is also considered by the EOP.
  - c. Council will continue to work with Greater Western Water in developing the draft structure plan so any future growth in Romsey is appropriately accounted for and does not impede on Greater Western Water's ability to operate and treat waste water.
2. **Given your own Romsey issues and Opportunities Paper 2018 (p 15/20/31/32) page 32 5.1 TOWNSHIP CHARACTER, HOUSING AND HERITAGE ISSUES: 1. "There is high quality agricultural soil and an open rural character existent between Romsey and Lancefield, located at the northern edge of the Romsey township. This area may experience pressure to be developed for housing, but is considered of high agricultural, character and amenity value in its current rural form." – how is expanding the town boundary (option C) not absorbing this quality land? And/or affecting the large farming operations that will neighbour the option?**

Council notes that conflict between residential properties and agricultural properties already exist in the east of Romsey. We agree this needs further consideration.



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Option 3 outlined within the EOP does identify the loss of agricultural land as an issue to any expansion in both options 2 and 3. Buffers between residential development and agricultural uses must be addressed under the both State and local planning policies. A growth scenario similar to option 3 would have various matters to consider such as the existing township interface on the east side of Romsey and Council is seeking community input on their thoughts on this option.

3. **Is land being set aside for a secondary school that will eventually come or will it need to be built on the then outer boundaries of the town. This then will cause traffic issues.**
  - a. The EOP acknowledges a strong desire by the community for the provision of a secondary school within Romsey. The Department of Education and Training (DET) undertook community consultation and the [Romsey Secondary Education Planning Review](#) in 2018 regarding planning for education facilities in Romsey. This followed up an earlier [study in 2013](#). The EOP discusses that the 2018 DET report found that there was not enough students to offer year 7-9 at Romsey Primary School or Years 7-12 in the short to medium term. Current population projections will not be enough to justify the provision of secondary school services at this time. The draft structure plan will provide an opportunity to review likely population figures based on settlement boundaries and projected land supply and demand.
  - b. The DET notes there is sufficient land at the existing Romsey Primary School to accommodate a P-9 school if it was developed. Future land could be acquired by the DET if a need was found.
  - c. Council is working with DET to ensure the [Romsey Secondary Education Planning Review](#) is publically available.
4. **I have a sizable property in the farming Zone. Currently rural living zones provide a buffer between the farming zone and residential zone - do any of the proposed options include an extension of the rural living zone, if so where will this occur, if not, how will council manage issues arising from the residential farming zone interface?**

The EOP does not outline proposed zoning changes at this stage. The detail of potential interfaces between any existing land use and a new settlement boundary which includes surrounding agricultural land. Council is looking for community feedback on all options and input on any concerns the community may have. The loss of productive agriculture land either in the Rural Living Zone and the Farming Zone are a consideration that will inform the draft structure plan.



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5. **Has this review looked at the empty buildings that are no longer being used? There needs to be some policy developed to address these as they are an eyesore and preventing new businesses to be introduced.**

A structure plan can ensure the right mix of zones and overlays occur to encourage investment. A structure plan cannot force owners to develop or demolish empty buildings. It can however seek to address urban design, services and infrastructure within Romsey's town centre.

6. **The issues and opportunities paper is over 3 years old and there have been significant changes economically and socially that impact the current community cohort. How is this issues opportunities data reflective of the draft structure plan?**

The purpose of the EOP is to provide a link between what was heard from the community through the Issues and Opportunities Paper (2018) and to touch base with the community regarding Romsey's future. The survey on Council's Have Your Say page asks if the issues previously identified are still important to the community. The draft structure plan has not yet been created and Council is seeking feedback from the community through this EOP consultation regarding changes both economically and socially.

7. **How can you argue that development is appropriate to the town character? Options B and C are not. Romsey issues and Opportunities Paper 2018 (page 31) 21.08 BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE "Regulation and protection of the rich heritage features and values, such as those found in Romsey, are critical to ensuring development outcomes are sustainable and respectful of the character of the town. Key to this is retaining the compact form and character of Romsey's town centre." The last sentence says it all.**

- a. State and Council Policy identifies that Romsey will grow into a Large District Town. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy in 2019 and State Government approval of this policy in late 2019.
- b. Council is seeking community input through the EOP process regarding emerging options for Romsey. Council notes the EOP is not currently suggesting any extension to the Romsey town centre. Section 3.2 of the EOP looks at the town centre, building on from the Issues and Opportunities Paper and 5.7 of the EOP seeks comment from the community regarding the Romsey town centre.



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- 8. Pathways have been an issue for a long time and it is taking far too long to sort this out. The Lomandra estate has been around for over 7 years and only now has a pathway been built to connect it to existing pathways. If this is a priority, why has that taken over 7 years?**
- Many of the Shire's towns have a long and rich history and it is fairly common for regional towns to develop in the absence of the delivery of common urban infrastructure items such as footpaths, kerb and channel and street lights.
  - Romsey is a good example of this where many of its streets have been developed historically without footpaths. Council recognises this historic issue and has developed a [Shire-wide Footpath Plan](#) (2018). This provides guidance to where Council invests its budget to address gaps in the footpath networks across all of its towns and informs Councils 2017-2027 Council Plan. Council's [Financial Plan 2021-2025](#) outlines where Council will spend money on capital works.
  - Council now requires all new developments to contribute to footpaths and other infrastructure in Romsey through the Development Contributions Plan.

- 9. Does the sustainability and resilience theme take into account community feedback from the Cool Changes work council did last year?**

Yes, Pg. 45 of the EOP outlines that Cool Changes: Lancefield and Romsey September 2021 was a considered document. Council is happy to hear community feedback on sustainability issues.

- 10. What efforts are MRSC making to actively engage with traditional owners to better understand what the significance is and what protections might be required for the 5 mile creek location? (along with the environmental impacts of green pathways for animal movement, locals know there are plenty of resident natives that use this area, that will be affected by it being turned into a park) Romsey issues and Opportunities Paper 2018 - (page 21) 3.1.4 HERITAGE ABORIGINAL HERITAGE The Wurundjeri people are the traditional owners of the land in the Romsey area and are the Registered Aboriginal Party under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006. Based on the information available, all of Five Mile Creek, Deep Creek and Dry Creek have been identified as areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity. Further work and consultation with the Wurundjeri must be undertaken to determine the significance of these areas and to identify any potential artefacts or sights of cultural significance that may require protection.**

Council continues to actively engage and consult with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung as part of the Romsey EOP and future draft structure plan. A Wurundjeri Cultural Values Report will also be finalised and will inform the draft Romsey Structure Plan similar to what has been completed for the Gisborne Futures project.



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- 11. With the large increase in dog ownership during the pandemic, there is a need for more provision for our dogs. The off lead areas are lacking compared to other towns and areas. Please could you look into expanding and improving these.**

Council welcomes feedback relating to any open space the community feel should be considered in the creation of the draft Romsey Structure Plan. Council is also undertaking work on its Open Space Strategy (<https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/About-Council/News/Have-Your-Say/Open-Space-Strategy>) which is looking at Council's current and future open space requirements to service the Shire's existing and growing community. Council also has a [Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021](#) which informs the locations for off lead areas in the Macedon Ranges Shire.

- 12. In 2009 the Romsey ODP said the population of Romsey would grow to 5095 people and need 650 houses to accommodate this. I would like to know what is the current population and how many houses how been built since that report? With this growth the report indicated the need for improvements and facilities/amenities to support that population growth. I would argue while the population has grown, the improvements and facilities/amenities have not. Can you please discuss.**

- a. The current estimated population of Romsey (excluding land outside of the current township boundary) as of 2020 is 4,315 people (<https://profile.id.com.au/macedon-ranges/about?WebID=230>). The [Romsey Structure Plan Economic Assessment](#) (November 2021, prepared by Tim Nott) outlines a likely population between 4330 and 4720 in 2021.
- b. The Romsey ODP was implemented in 2012. The number of approved dwellings from 2012 on average until 2019 was 87 dwellings per year. The total number of dwellings approved from 2012 – 2019 was 618 dwellings. Further information on residential land demand and supply can be viewed in the [Macedon Ranges Residential Land Demand and Supply Assessment](#) (2020, Urban Enterprise).
- c. Council seeks to improve services and facilities where possible in line with Council's annual budgets. Development contributions as per the [Romsey Development Contributions Plan](#) (2012) has also been captured from development. A review of the Romsey Development Contributions Plan will also occur following on from the [Draft Romsey Structure Plan project](#).

- 13. Is the residential density going to be mandated in this plan? You mention 850 sqm and 1500sqm developers are going to want 650sqm will this be excluded.**

The Romsey EOP does not mandate a density but explores emerging options for Romsey. Part of this is shown on pg. 52 - 53 which explores growth scenarios at certain



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residential densities and how much land might be required to service the population. Council is seeking feedback on these options. The draft structure plan when created will look into specific outcomes and controls following on from the EOP. A review of neighbourhood character is part of the draft structure plan process. The community will have another opportunity to input into the draft structure plan via consultation.

**14. The Draft structure plan reads and imposes that in order to meet the community demand with regard to infrastructure, development is required to increase revenue and enable the demand, however this contradicts the principal outlined in the local government act 2020 whereby "The Local Government Act 2020 requires councils to develop an integrated, longer-term and transparent approach to planning that supports councillors in leading strategically, rather than focusing on operational issues" if the Macedon shire council cannot invest in the town based on current/existing revenue stream (outlined in the 20/21FY annual report) then community members should not be subject to a land grab. The community is seeking infrastructure not additional housing.**

- a. State and Council Policy identifies that Romsey will grow into a Large District Town. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy in 2019 and State Government approval in late 2019.
- b. The EOP is looking towards Romsey's future which includes infrastructure provision. The EOP does not argue that infrastructure would not be provided if there is no additional housing growth. The EOP does explore discussion relating to desired services such as an aquatic centre and secondary school. Current reviews for these types of facilities have nominated ongoing work and a desire to hear back from the community regarding these facilities.

**15. Is it possible to have some of option one some of option two and some of option three? if so how do you submit this option.**

Yes - Council welcomes written submissions to the EOP which can be either e-mailed or posted to Council. Submissions can be made via:

- Send a written submission to PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444.
- Dropped at any of Council's offices including the Romsey Hub
- Email [strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au)



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**16. If the owners of the existing commercial sites wont develop them why would you not give some one else the opportunity. A few land owners are keeping the town down. Why not give others the opportunity?**

The Romsey Structure Plan when approved cannot force or compel to owners to sell or develop existing commercial sites. The EOP explores the town centre of Romsey and identifies possible improvements and enhancements that could occur. Feedback from the community regarding this discussion is encouraged and welcome.

**17. Can you please confirm what commitment council can actually provide with the 'benefits and facilities' that are highlighted in the plan if residents conceded to changing the town boundary? Are you obliged to deliver these 'benefits' if options B or C are implemented? Or are these just projections?**

- a. The EOP is seeking community input into emerging options for Romsey. The Romsey Structure Plan will guide development of the town to 2050. The options outlined are only options and are not recommending or promising set outcomes. They all have pros and cons and are useful to simulate discussion and feedback from the community regarding thoughts on these outcomes.
- b. The paper also explores previously highlighted community desires and the current thinking or discussion around being able to provide these to the community such as the provision of a secondary school or aquatic centre. The outcomes from the future Romsey structure plan will inform future planning on providing these services and future advocacy.

**18. So the industrial land is going to compete with the residential areas?**

The EOP is exploring the future settlement boundary for the township including where the location of existing industrial and industrial zoned land is located. The options outlined are high level to inform the formation of the future draft structure plan. The location of industrial zoned land for the township and future residential land are important considerations. The EOP is seeking community input on their thoughts on the potential outcomes for Romsey.

**19. Option 2 and Option 3 are based upon development clustered around Five Mile Creek. In prior dealings with Western Water, Western water advised that high levels of pollution in the Romsey South Drain were attributable to untreated sewerage and other pollution emanating from current residential development in Romsey. The Romsey South Drain discharges into Five Mile Creek. Five Mile Creek in turn discharges into Deep Creek in a location where our property spans Deep Creek. We put to Western Water that a discharge of any water, treated or otherwise was an actionable nuisance because of some unique attributes of our title. After taking legal advice Western Water determine that it would not**



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**discharge any water into the Romsey South Drain and instead truck treated water to other locations. The issue of pollution emanating from the current Romsey residential footprint is not yet resolved. So we do not revisit this issue, how will council manage any risk of a these developments proposals?**

- a. Waste water treatment and infrastructure is the responsibility of Greater Western Water in Romsey. Pg. 46 of the paper outlines Greater Western Water's current plans for Romsey. Council cannot comment on operational matters for GWW. Noting this, the EOP has been informed by GWW and any draft structure plan will be informed in consultation with GWW and all service providers.
- b. Any future development must ensure it does not adversely impact on waterways and Greater Western Water would have the ability to impose conditions to any development approval to ensure adequate infrastructure is provided.
- c. The EOP outlines integrated water management solutions could be explored in the draft structure plan to help manage stormwater runoff on Five Mile Creek and Deep Creek. Community feedback on this is welcomed

**20. The pub and the abandoned supermarket are zoned commercial but have not been commercial for many years. Thus the zoning is incorrect. The council should apply a 'use it or lose it' approach to the zone. In other words, if the owners won't function commercially and won't sell to someone who might, the land should be zoned another way.**

A structure plan can ensure the right mix of zones and overlays occur to encourage investment. The Victorian Planning System does not enable the type of approach suggested, the zoning controls should best reflect the strategic intentions for the land. The community is welcome to put forward feedback if they believe there is merit in considering a different zone for this land.

**21. It is now 2022. The June 2021 census data will be available in June 2022. The options paper says that Romsey, by 2036, could be 10,000 (large district town). The 2016 census has Romsey as 4746 persons. Between then and now, we have seen:**

- the entire Lomandra Estate development,
- substantial infill housing on Stawell, Roger, and Murphy Sts and some southern blocks.
- estate agents reporting significant increased demand recently from metro buyers due to Covid 19-related changing work patterns

**Although the census data area covers an area including the town and beyond, the numbers outside the town are small.**



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**Romsey town population may be already closer to 10,000 than expected. Will there be a review of target dates for the completion of the structure plan, to use census data in June 2022 and plan accordingly - even if there is an impact on your delivery timeline?**

- a. The current estimated population of Romsey (excluding land outside of the current township boundary) as of 2020 is 4,315 people (<https://profile.id.com.au/macedon-ranges/about?WebID=230>). The [Romsey Structure Plan Economic Assessment](#) (November 2021, prepared by Tim Nott) outlines a likely population between 4330 and 4720 in 2021. Growth rates for Romsey have over the last 10 years been fairly stable. There is currently no available data or projections to suggest a significant change in growth rates since the last ABS estimate in 2020.
- b. The draft Romsey Structure Plan project will run for many more years before a final structure plan and planning scheme amendment will be finalised. There will be more opportunity for new data sets to be explored and incorporated including from the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The opportunity to inform the draft structure plan on the latest census data will be undertaken. Please note the difference for online census data for the Romsey township and Romsey district which the town in part services.

**22. Paul stated that Option 1 has a significantly greater bushfire risk - this comment appears to present a bias against Option 1 and in favour of other options. This is not borne out by Figure 22 of the Structure plan paper - can Paul provide further detail.**

The figure 22 is informed by the [Bushfire Assessment Report](#) by Obliqua Pty Ltd which seeks to inform the EOP and draft Romsey Structure Plan. Council welcomes feedback on the community's thoughts on this matter.

**23. What level of growth is required to provide for the following? What studies have been undertaken in relation to this?**

- **Provide a high school site so that parents do not have to commute their kids to Sunbury or Wallan each day.**
  - **Create employment opportunities close to town in the south of the town.**
  - **Provide growth so local retail such as pubs and cafes can be viable.**
- a. Pg. 36 outlines discussion regarding the provision of a secondary school and the reviews undertaken by the Department of Education.
  - b. The [Economic Assessment Review](#) by Tim Nott (2021) reviews the economic factors of Romsey. This reviews the land around Greens Lane currently zoned Commercial and Industrial. Council is seeking feedback regarding this land on pg. 61 – 63.
  - c. The Economic Assessment Review listed above reviews retail options in Romsey.



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**24. Will the background reports that have informed the Emerging Options Paper be available to the public? E.g. the Tim Nott report?**

Background reports can be found [here](#) under the Emerging Options Paper and Documents drop down box. Alternatively, a hard copy can be made available for anyone who requests one.

**25. Why is there no option for no expansion?**

- a. State and Council Policy identifies that Romsey will grow into a Large District Town. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy in 2019 and State Government approval in late 2019.
- b. The EOP (pg. 54-56) outlines option 1 for a scenario in which the nominate population growth is considered within the existing township boundary.

**26. Where is the allocation of land for a future secondary school? So if this is the plan going out to 2050 or so then any secondary school proposed in the future won't be in walking distance of most of the town causing more traffic problems in the future.**

- a. See question 3 above.

**27. Given there will be no pool, will the council waive permit fees for Romsey residents building their own pools?**

- a. No. Payment of required fees is not within the scope of the Romsey EOP or Romsey Structure Plan.
- b. Council outlined an Aquatic Facility Feasibility Study is listed as one of Council's [priority projects for 2022](#) to seek government funding. The EOP on pg. 36 outlines that the last review in 2013 acknowledged community desire for a pool but the financial implications was beyond the realistic capability of the Shire at the time. The study can be found [here](#).

**28. Can someone confirm the driver behind the growth plans? The presenter seemed to suggest that the growth is driven by what the community has said they want in terms of facilities and services!! Surely that cannot be the case?? What is the real reason for this drive for growth of the town??**

The [Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy](#) (2011) is the guiding document for population growth in the Macedon Ranges Shire. It nominates Romsey to grow into a Large District Town. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy in 2019 and State Government approval in late



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2019. The draft Romsey Structure Plan seeks to inform on how this growth is to be achieved while maintaining the values and character of Romsey. The EOP does not state facilities and services will be achieved with a certain population but rather explores the constraints with current projects such as a secondary school or indoor pool.

### **29. Why is the industrial and residential land both allocated to the same area?**

The EOP outlines a range of options for Romsey to gauge community feedback on those options. The paper does not suggest placing both industrial and residential land in the same location but rather examines the same area south and east of Romsey. This feedback will inform the development of the draft structure plan to which outcomes occur for Romsey. The draft Structure Plan may not reflect purely option 1, 2 or 3 as the role of these options is in seeking community input.

### **30. The current exclusion zone for Western Water is, I believe, 1 km. Am I right in understanding that it is proposed that the zoning be reduced?? Is that correct and if so, what is the proposed now zone?**

Yes, the current Romsey Recycled Water Plant buffer is 1000m. Greater Western Water in consultation with the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) may look in the future to modify this buffer. The buffer area surrounding the Romsey Recycled Water plant is currently under review by Greater Western Water and the EPA. The EOP is aware of this discussion and the constraints the Romsey Recycled Water Plant represents. The draft structure plan will be informed by the buffer area if updated by Greater Western Water. No new zoning or changes are proposed under the EOP but rather the EOP explores options for future development around the recycled water plant.

### **31. Romsey issues and Opportunities Consultation report 2018, Beef produced on a farm in Romsey's north west was known to be of prize winning quality. This farm is now subdivided and the smaller lots are not capable of agricultural production.**

**New residential development should be directed to areas of low agricultural viability**

**Romsey issues and Opportunities Paper 2018 (page 31) 21.13 LOCAL AREAS AND SMALL SETTLEMENTS "Romsey's growth and development towards achieving its role as a large district town and major urban centre will require additional population and the associated supporting infrastructure. Key objectives identified are to protect agricultural land and facilitate sustainable development by limiting residential development to within a defined township boundary."**

**The poorer soil is south of the town. Why are we not prioritising additional expansion to the south?**



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The referenced Submission 3 of the Romsey Issues and Opportunities Paper (2018) is noted. As is Clause 21.13 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme. The EOP presents three options for Romsey which does not mean these are the options the draft structure plan will reflect. The agricultural values around Romsey are noted and reflected in the issues for option 2 and 3. The purpose of the EOP options is to gauge community feedback following on from the Issues and Opportunities Paper from 2018.

### **32. Where is the proposed site for the aquatic centre?**

There is no proposed site for an aquatic centre outlined in the EOP. The paper discusses the work Council is undertaking regarding an aquatic centre in Romsey. Pg. 36 outlines the discussion around an aquatic centre. Council welcomes feedback on this section of the EOP.

### **33. What about traffic management around the proposed commercial district? Wrixon and Stawell Street already have the delivery trucks going through there - surely more traffic will follow in residential areas - the trucks don't come off Main Street to deliver!**

The EOP does not go into detail regarding traffic management but does discuss transport from pg. 39 – 44. A [Transport Issues and Opportunities review](#) is available on the [Have your say page](#). Council welcomes feedback from the community regarding this topic and solutions they wish to recommend.

### **34. When where are why was Romsey designated as a town to be a Local District Town - what was reasoning behind this? What follows from this designation? Can it be commented on in submission?**

- a. State and Council Policy identifies that Romsey will grow into a Large District Town. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy in 2019 and State Government approval in late 2019.
- b. The Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy 2011 (Council's Policy - found [here](#)) outlined the settlement hierarchy and overall direction for urban growth in the Macedon Ranges Shire. This strategy has been implemented into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme in part under clause [21.04](#) and informs the work undertaken for the Romsey Structure Plan.
- c. Romsey is identified at strategy 1.2 of clause 21.04 to: *Encourage the development of Romsey as a large district town. The anticipated population of Romsey is anticipated to be at the cusp of a district town and a large district town.*
- d. A large district town under the Settlement Strategy has a population between 6,000 and 10,000. A submission can be made regarding any aspect of the EOP but



Romsey's role as a large district town is already expressed and in set by existing State and local policy.

- 35. On page 42 of the emerging options paper, a table has been included that lists the required number of residents to support a secondary school as being approximately 28,000. The source for this figure (cited as being a Monash University research project – 20 minute Neighbourhoods) is a paper that was prepared specifically to address the needs new development in the Wyndham area adjacent to Werribee, in an area already well-serviced by schools with 5 government secondary options available within a 10.1km radius. Additionally, the figure of 28,000 is the figure cited in this paper as being the requisite number for a Catholic Secondary School to be built in the area. The same paper cites a population figure of only 7141 being necessary to support a government secondary school.**

**Why has this figure of 28000 been included in the emerging options paper as though this is the population necessary for a secondary school in Romsey when this is clearly based on an entirely different context and also a misrepresentation**

- a. The comment regarding the Monash University research project are noted and was a table used within the discussion regarding viability of businesses and foot traffic on pg 41-42. Without the pg.41 context the table could be read as a threshold requirement for Romsey which is not how it was intended.
- b. The provision of a secondary school is discussed on pg. 36 and subject to the Department of Education's review and consideration. The most recent review of a Romsey Secondary School can be found [here](#). Council welcomes feedback on the EOP regarding matters such as this.

- 36. Could someone explain why (if known) the state govt needs a certain population threshold for a secondary school? I realise it's an investment but there's a need. Shouldn't the investment just be proportional to the need? I might just be missing something but would love to know!**

School provision is subject to the provision by the Victorian State Government who has a criteria for providing schools. This criteria is applied state wide and informs prioritisation for new schools. Council is seeking to engage with the State Government in formulating the draft Romsey structure plan. A draft structure plan will help inform future community infrastructure by authorities such as the Department of Education and Training.

- 37. Are block sizes going to be regulated to stop 400 and 500Sqm blocks?**

The EOP is seeking community input on the future of Romsey including lot sizes within Romsey. Council welcomes feedback regarding the types of housing that will be required



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to service the current and future community needs. It is expected that a range of lot sizes will need to be required to meet the diverse housing needs of the Romsey community.

- 38. I would also like to know more about the population thresholds for a secondary school given that the zoned government secondary school for Romsey (Gisborne) is already at capacity. All primary schools in the area are expanding and some new ones have opened, where are these students going to go?**

Refer to Question 3, which links to the relevant government studies.

- 39. It is very difficult and in some cases, impossible, to run large numbers of livestock with high density living in close proximity. This land is some of the most fertile farming land in Victoria, WHY are you looking to reduce this?**

The land use conflict between residential and agriculture is acknowledged within the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme and is something that will be considered forming the draft Romsey structure plan. Council has outlined a number of options for Romsey and is seeking community input on these options. The options acknowledge the loss of agricultural land as a constraint. The options are not what Council is currently proposing but rather seeking community feedback on. The draft Romsey structure plan will outline Council's proposed settlement boundary and Council will again seek community input on this. Council welcomes feedback on this topic as this is the purpose of the EOP.

- 40. There is no secondary school in the east ward and this proposal wants to expand the town. The kids travel up to one hour to get to school and another to get home. This also happens in Lancefield and riddles creek the response the dept of education is not going to is an easy answer. This planning needs to provide for it and you the planners need to push for it. What is the council going to do and how do we push them on this issue?**

- a. Council will continue to consult with the State Government regarding schools in Romsey. The provision of a school is subject to the State Government providing a school or a private school establishing itself. Refer to Question 3 that provides the links to the previous State Government Reports.
- b. Council can advocate for the provision of a school and feedback from the structure plan project can inform the creation of an advocacy document to raise a new review into secondary school provision in Romsey. Council welcomes feedback on the Community's feedback on the provision of a secondary school in moving to creating a draft structure plan noting Council acknowledges the strong desire of the community raised in the Issues and Opportunities Paper.

- 41. Its clear that there are landholders that oppose the structure plan (which appears to be majority) how will council develop a structure plan if the community doesn't**



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**agree with the options presented. This is a where to from here question if council is committed to "good governance, including a clear vision and culture, transparency, respect, consistency, accountability and responsiveness". Will the required infrastructure be denied?**

Council must prepare a new Structure Plan for Romsey to guide planning policy. This was committed to in the endorsement of the Statement of Planning Policy in 2019. Council is seeking community input through the EOP on developing a structure plan. The EOP invites the community to provide feedback including if they do not accept the options presented. Council welcomes the community to provide input on what the draft Romsey Structure Plan should show.

- 42. A great concern is that the development of additional residences in Romsey is unsupported by adequate transport links. The road South is poor quality and constrained and the distance to freeway is significant from a commuting perspective and the town is not comfortably close to Clarkefield. Surely development of other townships in MRSC is more viable from this perspective?**

Each municipality in Victoria is required to plan for growth by providing at least 15 years of residential land. The Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy 2011 (found [here](#)) outlines and considers the growth of urban settlements within the Macedon Ranges including the capacity of services, infrastructure and constraints to development. Romsey has been identified for some growth as do other towns such as Gisborne, Kyneton and Riddells Creek. The draft Structure Plan will inform future infrastructure needs to support future growth.

- 43. Could the Council please explain why the EOP is based on 120 people from 2005? If there is to be "transparency", doesn't a structure plan need to include a greater sample from current residents?**

It is understood that this question relates to the development of the Romsey Outline Development Plan adopted by Council in 2009. The EOP Paper was informed by the Issues and Options Paper completed in 2018 and various technical documents on Council's website. The EOP is currently out for community consultation.

- 44. If you have not built paths and alike in the past how can you expect us to believe that you will in the future?**

Council footpath works are undertaken as per the [Shire-wide Footpath Plan](#) (2018). Project and project timings have also been informed by the Romsey Developer Contributions Plan. Council's [Financial Plan 2021-2025](#) outlines where Council will spend money on capital works. Council budgets provide for the provision of infrastructure including footpaths. Council does provide paths for residents all over the Shire.



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Continued maintenance and construction are subject to Council budgets. Residents are encouraged to provide feedback on this topic.

**45. It seems the paper talks a lot about the existing infrastructure but not a lot about new parks pools transport etc etc where do I find this. It seems that all these important "infrastructure" is all no not now and when the town grows. Can we not build for the future now?**

- a. The upgrade and provision of infrastructure by Council is informed by Council's current documents including [Budget](#), [Financial Plan 2021-2025](#), [Romsey Development Contributions Plan](#), [Asset Management Policy](#), [Shire-wide Footpath Plan](#), [Walking and Cycling Strategy](#), [Road Management Plan](#), [Open Space Strategy 2013 and Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2018 -2028](#). These documents set out the current strategies and policies regarding the provision of infrastructure and services in Macedon Ranges Shire.
- b. The EOP outlines a number of settlement principles and potential responses for the draft Romsey Structure Plan and seeks feedback on what in the structure plan for Romsey needs to identify in terms of future infrastructure needs.

**46. The EOP suggests 15% of housing will be medium density. Is the other 85% high density?**

It is unclear what section of the EOP this is in reference to. The EOP provides options for growth and is seeking community feedback on this options. It is also seeking feedback on what this growth looks like. No decisions on future density have been made.

**47. Has council pushed for the lengthening of Clarkefield station platform so that more trains can stop? This station needs to be considered with any growth of Romsey or Lancefield?**

No. Council has in the past advocated to the State Government for upgrades and improvements to the Clarkefield Train Station although not necessarily in regards to lengthening the platform. Council's current advocacy projects are provided for in the [Macedon Ranges 2022 Priority Projects Prospectus](#). Council welcomes feedback from the community regarding what infrastructure requirements should be advocated for regarding Romsey.



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- 48. With the only Q&A session being online has left out a significant number of residents that may not have the support to get on to devices to access things like zoom. In-person sessions that have a feedback loop (not like the information session that was one-way-information). I have noted 9 apologies on my street and surrounds because individuals just don't know what zoom is, but are in opposition of any changes to town boundaries.**

Council welcomes all residents to contact Council officers to discuss the Emerging Options Paper. The Online Q and A sought to provide an option to allow residents to connect online at a later time rather than during a drop in session during the day, or at a service centre. Council is also offering one on one phone calls, meetings or face to face discussions.

- 49. What considerations are being made for residents that are unable to join digital engagements or fill out surveys online?**

Council welcomes residents to request one on one meetings, phone calls or in person meetings regarding the EOP. Council has also held two drop in sessions in Romsey for residents to attend. If a resident has missed a drop in session or the Q and A session, officers are more than happy to meet one on one.

- 50. Given the EOP states residents want to maintain "Rural Lifestyle", how does high density metropolitan block sizes maintain that lifestyle?**

- a. State and Council Policy identifies that Romsey will grow into a Large District Town. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy in 2019 and State Government approval in late 2019.
- b. The Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy 2011 (Council's Policy - found [here](#)) outlined the settlement hierarchy and overall direction for urban growth in the Macedon Ranges Shire. This strategy has been implemented into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme in part under clause [21.04](#) and informs the work undertaken for the Romsey Structure Plan.
- c. Council is required to implement a diversity of housing to support the needs of the current and future community. . Council welcomes feedback on what the community feel will maintain the rural lifestyle of Romsey.

- 51. Plenty of older farming residents that I've spoken to have said they won't fill out the survey because it doesn't address their concerns... how will you engage rural residents that aren't online?**

Council is seeking feedback from all residents including landowners on land adjoining the township. Residents are welcome to contact Council officers to discuss the project and to



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make a submission. Submissions are not required to be provided online and letters can be posted to Council or dropped at any of Council's offices including the Romsey Hub. The methods of engagement utilised are supported by Council's [Community Engagement Policy](#).

**52. The survey speaks (with bias) to residents in high-density suburban housing, where are the questions that talk to the primary producers and farmers that have quite often been on their land for generations – with some even living on streets named after their families. How will you ensure this engagement is not biased?**

The Romsey Structure Plan project is focussed on the Romsey Township. Council has recently engaged on the project – [draft Rural Land Use Strategy](#) and is still accepting submissions to this project. The survey is provided as one option to provide feedback to this process. Residents are welcome to provide feedback which does not follow the provided survey format.

**53. Can there be an opportunity for residents to speak to Council/Planning in person? Numerous residents of my street don't do modern technology. They miss out on having their voices heard.**

Council welcomes residents to request one on one meetings, phone calls or in person meetings regarding the EOP. Council has also held two drop in sessions in Romsey for residents to attend. If a resident has missed a drop in session or the Q and A session, officers are more than happy to meet one on one.

**54. Can we better understand why the planning team have been so poor in responding to any/all communications. ePathway requests / emails / phone calls are all going unanswered?**

- a. Members of the community are encouraged to provide examples of communication with Council staff regarding the Romsey Structure Plan and EOP process that have gone unanswered to [strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au) The Strategic Planning team seek to respond to all correspondence in a timely manner and we are unaware of any correspondence received to date in regards to the Romsey Structure Plan process that has not been responded to in a timely manner.
- b. Council seeks to respond to all inquiries within a timely manner. If however you feel Council officers have failed to achieve this, please see our [Complaints Policy](#) on how to raise a complaint with Council.



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**55. How invested is the State Government in this process? It is frustrating that Road Maintenance is pathetic. Will there be adequate and timely funding be provided for road maintenance?**

Council is consulting with State government departments and infrastructure providers as part of the EOP. Council undertakes road maintenance and improvement on those roads it is responsible for as set out each year in the [Council Budget](#). Consultation for the 2022/23 budget will be available shortly. In addition Council will soon start consultation on an Asset Plan as a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020*. If residents have concerns about the level of infrastructure investment, it is encouraged that you engage through these avenues.

**56. Gisborne can get a sports centre on top of all the existing council facilities. Romsey keeps getting told we are too small even for a pool or gym or other council facility. What do we need to do for the council to start providing???**

Council seeks to provide a range of services for the community of the Macedon Ranges Shire. Council welcomes feedback regarding the facilities the community want. Council is seeking funding from government to undertake a feasibility study for a pool in Romsey through the [Priority Projects 2022 Prospectus](#). Council undertakes a number of projects to build new and maintain existing infrastructure as set out each year in the [Council Budget](#). Consultation for the 2022/23 budget will be available shortly. In addition Council will soon start consultation on an Asset Plan as a requirement of the *Local Government Act 2020*. If residents have concerns about the level of infrastructure investment, it is encouraged that you engage through these avenues.

**57. I would like to know exactly where our rates here in Romsey are going?**

Council provides an Annual Budget for community review. The current budget can be found [here](#). The annual budget outlines where Council's income which includes rates are spent on expenses. The budget is updated each year and community input into this process is welcome. Council does not have a breakdown specific to Romsey but below is an outline of where rates are spent per every \$100 is generally spent:



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### Council spending per \$100



**58. We already have 2 supermarkets. My question is why is abandoned supermarket still zoned as commercial?**

- Any rezoning is informed by a strategic plan or policy to support the rezoning. The current strategic plan – the Romsey Outline Development Plan supports these areas as commercial. Any rezoning process must follow the process set out by legislation as shown in the [fact sheet](#). Council will ask for feedback related to any change to existing zoning as part of this process and the draft Romsey Structure Plan.
- A structure plan can ensure the right mix of zones and overlays occur to encourage investment. The zoning controls should best reflect the strategic intentions for the land. The community is welcome to put forward feedback if they believe there is merit in considering a different zone for this land.

**59. Are there plans to double the population of any other town in Macedon Ranges?**

- State and Council Policy identifies that Romsey will grow into a Large District Town. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy in 2019 and State Government approval in late 2019.
- The Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy 2011 (Council's Policy - found [here](#)) outlines the settlement hierarchy and overall direction for urban growth in the Macedon Ranges Shire. It includes growth scenarios for Council's largest settlements of Gisborne, Kyneton, Riddells Creek, Woodend and Lancefield.



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**60. Appreciate for time you need to keep moving to questions, but just confirming that all the comments will be recorded and feed into the next steps?**

- a. Yes – comments have been noted and recorded but not treated as submissions. Community members are encouraged to fill out a survey or provide a written submission to the EOP which can be either e-mailed or posted to Council.

Submissions can be made via:

- Send a written submission to PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444.
- Submissions can be dropped at any of Council's offices including the Romsey Hub.
- Email [strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

**61. Romsey is a farming community. Why was Romsey picked for this type of growth considering its lack of infrastructure. Why are areas like Woodend not picked for the same level of expansion?**

- a. The [Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy](#) (2011) is the guiding document for population growth in the Macedon Ranges Shire. It nominates Romsey to grow into a Large District Town. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Statement of Planning Policy in 2019 and State Government approval in late 2019. The draft Romsey Structure Plan seeks to inform on how this growth is to be achieved while maintain the values and character of Romsey
- b. Woodend was included within this process and underwent the development of the Woodend Structure Plan which was adopted by Council in 28 May 2014. More information can be found [here](#).

**62. Its not consultation if questions are shut down where council cannot provide a response. If we struggle to get through questions we may need to schedule an additional question and answer webinar so that council can demonstrate collaboration and effective consultation?**

Council seeks to provide answers regarding the 8 March 2022 Q and A session as part of this document. Follow up questions and discussion are welcome by Council by contacting Council Officers.

**63. There is currently a residential exclusion around the RRWP but option 3 goes right up to the RRWP. Is Council looking to remove the exclusion zone?**

The option 3 buffer acknowledges the constraints imposed by the Romsey Recycled Water Plant. The option area shows an area the town could grow into but the buffer areas around the Romsey Recycled Water Plant would need to be maintained by ensuring sensitive uses, like residential, are not established within any finalised buffer area. Options for within the buffer area could include industrial uses, open space or other



## Romsey Structure Plan

types of uses. Council is seeking the feedback on this option and is in consultation with Greater Western Water.

**64. The majority of residents live on the minority of the acreage in compact urban areas. How are you balancing the opinions of those that own the majority of the productive agricultural land and their needs?**

The Romsey Structure Plan does focus on the township of Romsey and seeks feedback from all landowners in and around Romsey. The impact on productive agricultural land and their owner's needs is one of those considerations. It has also been considered in the recent project the [Draft Rural Land Use Strategy](#) which is still accepting submissions. A report outlining the feedback received by Council during the EOP will be created and considered by Councillors in moving forward with the Romsey Structure Plan project. Landowners are encouraged to make submissions on how the options within the EOP and any suggestions they may have.

**65. What is RRWP please?**

Romsey Recycled Water Plant.

**66. I moved to Romsey because it was a small town, why is Romsey being earmarked to grow to the size of Gisborne? Surely we need to preserved little towns like Romsey, utilise the land in the current footprint to its full extent and leave the surrounding agricultural land as is.**

- a. The [Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy](#) (2011) is the guiding document for population growth in the Macedon Ranges Shire. It nominates Romsey to grow into a Large District Town. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Statement of Planning Policy in 2019 and State Government approval in late 2019. The draft Romsey Structure Plan seeks to inform on how this growth is to be achieved while maintain the values and character of Romsey.
- b. The townships were each considered in the role it would play within the Macedon Ranges Shire. A number of towns were identified for limited growth as part of this project but Romsey was found to have growth capacity.

**67. Do any of the project team live in Romsey? Its feels like its easy to promote growth of the town if it does not affect any of you.**

No. However the ultimate decision for the Romsey Structure Plan project will be by the Macedon Ranges Shire Councillors who represent the Macedon Ranges Community. The growth of Romsey as previously mentioned was outlined in the Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy and the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme. Officers are progressing the next stage of Romsey by undertaking the structure plan project.



- 68. In a town of over 4000 people 73 people in a discussion is not a lot. How are you going to advise the whole town whats going on and at a time when they can all have their say? after normal work hours**

Council welcomes all residents to provide feedback on the Romsey Structure Plan project. Options to have discussions with Council officers has been provided including one on one sessions and phone calls. Council encourages residents to contact Council officers to discuss options for consultation out of hours.

- 69. The Romsey Recycled Water Plant (RRWP) treats sewage from Romsey and Lancefield and is nearing capacity. Greater Western Water (GWW) are planning a significant upgrade of the capacity of the RRWP.**

**Will the upgrade be in place before any rezoning is put in place?**

Council continues to consult with Greater Western Water regarding its infrastructure in Romsey. This includes the ability to treat waste water of any future development. Development and growth in Romsey is subject to services being able to cope with any increased loading and demand. The Structure Plan will inform this investment.

- 70. Please explain clearly why Romsey was designated as significant local district town ? Is this capable of challenge? Does this mean Council has a goal of increasing town size to exactly what number? Infrastructure road and rail inadequate for increased numbers compared to towns on Calder Fwy side of shire**

The Macedon Ranges Settlement Strategy 2011 (found [here](#)) outlines and considers the growth of urban settlements within the Macedon Ranges including the capacity of services, infrastructure and constraints to development. This has recently been reaffirmed through Council's endorsement of the Macedon Ranges [Statement of Planning Policy in 2019](#) and State Government approval in late 2019. Romsey has been identified for some growth as do other towns such as Gisborne, Kyneton, Woodend and Riddells Creek. The townships were each considered in the role it would play within the Macedon Ranges Shire. A number of towns were identified for limited growth as part of this project but Romsey was found to have capacity. The Romsey Structure Plan seeks to guide Romsey's growth up to the year 2050.

- 71. How is the information collated to ensure that the approach is measurable and the approach/decision by council is transparent as outlined as one of the councils key priorities**

Council will be creating a consultation report responding to feedback received from the Emerging Options Paper. All submissions and survey results will be released to the



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public (redacted to omit personal and identifying information). This will be provided to the community when finalised.

### **72. What is the traffic Plan for proposed commercial district please?**

The [Transport Issues and Opportunities review](#) Movement and Place Consulting (2021) has informed the EOP and is available of the Council's "Have your say" webpage.

### **73. Is there a traffic movement study for the three options. There was one for the ODP ten years ago can one be provided for this?**

The draft structure plan will be informed by technical analysis of the road network capacity. The EOP is still at a high level stage seeking community input on a more finalised outcome for Romsey via the draft structure plan. The [Transport Issues and Opportunities review](#) Movement and Place Consulting (2021) has informed the EOP and is available of the Council's "Have your say" webpage.

### **74. Would be good to enforce stopping the use of engine braking coming into the town. Also with the new estates, there clearly hasn't been sufficient consideration to increased traffic entering the Melbourne-Lancefield Road. Are we waiting for a significant accident (one already has occurred) before this will be addressed?**

- a. The Romsey Structure Plan cannot make decisions regarding engine braking within Romsey. Council has recently completed consultation on a [Mobility and Road Safety Strategy](#) which will inform a draft for consultation shortly. The draft structure plan will be informed by technical analysis on the road network capacity. The EOP is still at a high level stage seeking community input on a more finalised outcome for Romsey via the draft structure plan. The [Transport Issues and Opportunities review](#) Movement and Place Consulting (2021) has informed the EOP and is available of the Council's "Have your say" webpage.

### **75. Has Western Water been asked to reduce the exclusion zone?**

No. Greater Western Water is undertaking their own independent review of the buffers on various water treatment plants, Romsey being one of them. Council would ensure the outcomes of the draft Romsey Structure Plan are conscious of the final buffer area proposed for the Recycled Water plant.

### **76. With all these questions that will not be answered tonight, when will we get answers to them? Also for those who could not attend will you be doing more sessions and in person for those who do not have the technology to join virtually?**

Yes, Council is seeking to provide responses to these questions where possible in this paper. Council officers are happy to discuss the project one on one regarding any



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questions they may have either on the phone or in person. Consultation will also occur again as part of the draft Structure Plan.

**77. How are you proposing the infrastructure issues will be addressed (presuming you can afford more works with the increase of rates with an expanding town boundary/revenue line) as cited in the Romsey issues and Opportunities Paper 2018 - (page 3) The current service offering such as gas, sewer, telecommunications etc., within Romsey needs substantial upgrades to support both the existing and future community**

A survey conducted in Macedon Ranges Shire in May 2021 identified that over 70% of respondents are not satisfied with their current digital connectivity. Council's current advocacy projects are provided for in the [Macedon Ranges 2022 Priority Projects Prospectus](#), one of which is connectivity in the Shire. Any growth within Romsey requires careful planning to not intensify any current issues. A Utility Services review by Cardno (2022) is available on Council's "Have your say" page [here](#). The Structure plan is also needed to help inform investment.

**78. Will we receive a response to questions if they are not answered during this webinar? Helen mentioned that all questions will be presented to council how will this be facilitated?**

Council officers have provided a written response to questions asked during the webinar.

**79. Can the consultation timeline be extended to ensure reasonable engagement with offline residents? My Letter arrived well after the first information session.**

- a. Late submissions can be provided to the EOP which can be either e-mailed or posted to Council. Submissions can be made via:
  - Send a written submission to PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444.
  - Submissions can be dropped at any of Council's offices including the Romsey Hub.
  - Email [strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au)
- b. In addition, the consultation material will continue to be provided on Council's website. The project team welcomes ongoing consultation with residents outside of the formal consultation period. Council will undertake consultation again once the Draft Structure Plan is prepared and endorsed for community consultation by Council. If adopted by Council, the Structure Plan must again go through mandatory consultation as part of a planning scheme amendment process to implement the recommendations of the structure plan such as rezoning land where required. This is consistent with [Council's Community Engagement Policy](#) which identifies that each



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community engagement activity must run for at least 28 days unless specified by Council.

**80. Is it possible for the general public to access the State Government's 2013 Feasibility Study and 2019 review re the Secondary School? These may explain more clearly to community members the factors (including what community said it wanted re year levels accommodated) involved.**

Information on the State Government's 2018 review can be found [here](#). The 2013 review can be found [here](#). Council also seeks to continue consultation with the State Government regarding school provision in Romsey, and will continue to do so moving towards the development of a draft structure plan.

**81. Can the deadline for consultation be extended and more opportunities for residents to attend forums organised? I know of many Romsey residents who are unaware of the significance of the structure plan as they have not had time to read a 64 page document.**

- a. Late submissions can be provided to the EOP which can be either e-mailed or posted to Council. Submissions can be made via:
  - Send a written submission to PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444.
  - Submissions can be dropped at any of Council's offices including the Romsey Hub.
  - Email [strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au)
- b. In addition, the consultation material will continue to be provided on Council's website. The project team welcomes ongoing consultation with residents outside of the formal consultation period. Council will undertake consultation again once the Draft Structure Plan is ready. If adopted by Council, the Structure Plan must again go through mandatory consultation as part of the Planning Scheme Amendment. This is consistent with [Council's Community Engagement Policy](#) which identifies that each community engagement activity must run for at least 28 days unless specified by Council.

**82. Why is there no option to develop south on poor quality soil**

Option 3 outlines a potential growth scenario for Romsey. Council welcomes feedback on potential options for growth which have not been specifically outlined in the EOP.



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### **83. In regards to the proposed Medium Density housing, what land size is deemed appropriate to maintain the 'rural lifestyle' mentioned?**

- a. Council is seeking community input on any of these outcomes within the draft Romsey structure plan. Currently, the [Romsey Residential Character Study and Design Guidelines](#) informed the existing planning controls for Romsey under the [Design and Development Overlay Schedule 18](#). This overlay controls medium density type development within Romsey. Council is required to implement a diversity of housing to support the needs of the future community.
- b. However, the EOP is an opportunity for the community to raise any comments they have regarding built form outcomes in Romsey.

### **84. With a station in Clarkefield, surely that's a better candidate for growth than Romsey?**

Clarkefield has not been identified for growth within the Council's Settlement Strategy (2011) given the lack of services and utilities for the town. It identifies that future strategic work is required on the role Clarkefield might play within the Macedon Ranges Shire.

### **85. Gisborne has a population of 14,000 and Kyneton has a population of 7000 and they have secondary schools. Why does Romsey have to have 28,000 to have a secondary school?**

- a. The EOP does not outline the population of Romsey needs to be 28,000 before a secondary school is provided. The figure of 28,000 was derived from the study: 20-minute Neighbourhood - Living local research project. Grodach, C., Kamruzzaman, L., Harper, L. (2020). Monash University. The table 1 on page 42 of the EOP is discussing a review of business viability and foot traffic. The [Transport Issues and Opportunities review](#) provides further exploration of this idea.
- b. Page 36 of the EOP explores the discussion around the provision of a secondary school in Romsey.

### **86. When are the planning team answering emails?**

- a. Members of the community are encouraged to provide examples of communication with Council staff regarding the Romsey Structure Plan and EOP process that have gone unanswered to [strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:strategicplanning@mrsc.vic.gov.au). The Strategic Planning team seek to respond to all correspondence in a timely manner and we are unaware of any correspondence received to date in regards to the Romsey Structure Plan process that has not been responded to in a timely manner.
- b. Council seeks to respond to all inquiries within a timely manner. If however you feel Council officers have failed to achieve this, please see our [Complaints Policy](#) on how to raise a complaint with Council.



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**87. How will the questions not answered tonight be responded to and the answers provided to all participants?**

Council officers have prepared this written response to the Q and A session on 8 March 2022. This will be provided online and circulated to participants.

**88. A late question for the record - what infrastructure do we need so we don't lose power every time the wind blows? Are community batteries part of the structure plan?**

Consultation has been undertaken with Powercor regarding servicing Romsey with electricity. It is acknowledged within the Romsey Structure Plan [Utilities and Services review](#) found that additional supply is required to be connected to Romsey. Additional development for Romsey would be subject to the availability of this. Other alternative options could be considered and Council welcomes community feedback on this topic.

**89. Will Council send the survey to all Romsey residents in Romsey before a decision is made?**

Council has undertaken an extensive mail out to residents informing them of the EOP consultation and welcoming feedback either via the survey or a written submission. Residents are not required to make a submission if they do not wish and Council will progress the Romsey Structure Plan project informed by the feedback received from the EOP consultation.

**90. Is the Romsey council office open?**

Council's Romsey Hub is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 2pm at 96-100 Main Street, Romsey. Council's planning team is located in Gisborne, however on request can attend the Romsey Hub to meet with interested community members.

**91. With all the electricity outages how is this being addressed, we cant support more housing if we cant cope with the current draw on the network!**

Consultation has been undertaken with Powercor regarding servicing Romsey with electricity. It is acknowledged within the Romsey Structure Plan [Utilities and Services review](#) found that additional supply is required to be connected to Romsey. Additional development for Romsey would be subject to the ability to service this. Other alternative options could be considered and Council welcomes community feedback on this topic.