

ITEM 2 DAPTO TOWN CENTRE PLAN 2017-2027

The *Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027* sets a vision and strategies to guide the future of Dapto for residents, businesses, community groups, Wollongong Council and State Government agencies over the next 10 years. The draft *Dapto Town Centre Plan* was exhibited between 6 March and 3 April 2017, receiving overwhelming support via a comprehensive community engagement program. A vast amount of valuable feedback was received with over 1,400 comments informing the process. The Plan was developed in partnership with the Dapto Futures Group, a volunteer community group, who made a significant contribution to the plan content and community engagement.

The *Dapto Town Centre Implementation Plan* accompanies the *Dapto Town Centre Plan* and has been informed by feedback received during the public exhibition. The Implementation Plan contains a comprehensive list of actions to be delivered in a staged manner by Wollongong Council and its partners. It is recommended that Council adopt the final *Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027* and note the accompanying Implementation Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1 The Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027 be adopted (Attachment 1).
- 2 The Dapto Town Centre Implementation Plan 2017 be noted (Attachment 2).
- 3 The Dapto Town Centre Plan Engagement Report be noted (Attachment 3).
- 4 A letter of thanks be sent to each member of the Dapto Futures Group acknowledging their commitment to preparing, refining and promoting the Plan.

REPORT AUTHORISATIONS

Report of: Renee Campbell, Manager Environmental Strategy and Planning
Authorised by: Andrew Carfield, Director Planning and Environment - Future City and Neighbourhoods

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027
- 2 Dapto Town Centre Implementation Plan
- 3 Dapto Town Centre Plan Engagement Report
- 4 Summary of Submissions

BACKGROUND**Location and Characteristics of Dapto Town Centre**

The Dapto Town Centre is an important commercial area situated 15km south-west of Wollongong City Centre. With the West Dapto Urban Release Area emerging, Dapto has the potential to become the destination for future West Dapto residents and also a more attractive meeting place for both local and surrounding communities. Located on the Princes Highway, the Dapto Town Centre is focused on the triangle area formed by Dapto Mall, the Dapto Station and Dapto District Library. Dapto Square has the potential to be the centre of Dapto's social and community life. The Centre currently provides a wide range of retail, commercial and social services, and is a main shopping destination for the region.

The Dapto Town Centre has a mix of land use zones. Most of the central area alongside the Princes Highway is zoned as business zones, which include B2 Local Centre, B3 Commercial Core, B4 Mixed Use and B6 Enterprise Corridor. An IN2 Light Industrial zoned corridor is located to the west of the Princes Highway central area. In addition, the town centre business area is surrounded to the east and south by land zoned R3 Medium Density Residential, RE2 Private Recreation and RE1 Public Recreation. A strip zoned RU2 Rural Landscape and E3 Environmental Management (creek corridor and flood affected area) lies to the north-west of the business and industrial area, which provides an environmental backdrop for the Dapto Town Centre.

Currently, the Centre has a mix of height restrictions according to different land use zones. The height control for B3 Commercial Core zoned area alongside the Princes Highway is set at 30m, while the B2 Local Centre zoned land in front of the Dapto Station has maximum building height of 20m. Most of the other areas of Dapto Town Centre have a height control of 11m, which includes lands zoned R3 Medium Density Residential, B4 Mixed Use, B6 Enterprise Corridor and SP2 Infrastructure (to the south of Fowlers Road), with the remaining area having height restriction of 9m. The Centre also has 10 heritage sites, all of which are located along the Princes Highway or the railway corridor.

The West Dapto Urban Release Area is expected to accommodate more than 19,000 new homes and over 55,000 people in the next 50 years. West Dapto will have its own new town centres which will provide the local community with amenities for convenience. This will create competition for the Dapto Town Centre, so it is important for the Centre to offer a point of difference to emerging West Dapto centres and provide more than just convenience to attract both residents and visitors. The Dapto Town Centre possesses many potential opportunities for revitalisation, with a clear vision and key strategies being detailed within the Dapto Town Centre Plan.

Draft Dapto Revitalisation Strategy 2006

In 2006, Council prepared the Dapto Town Centre Revitalisation Study with planning consultants Rohan Dickson + Associates. The study included the preparation of a preferred Master Plan to address urban related economic and social concerns, with the primary role to review town centre planning controls. This study was not finalised after the public exhibition period. The 2006 study consultation themes, the work undertaken by the local Neighbourhood Forum and what we heard from community engagement activities underpins the Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027.

Preparation of the *Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027*

Preparation of a town centre plan for Dapto is listed as a project in Council's Annual Plan 2016-17 and forms part of the Urban Renewal and Civic Improvement Delivery Stream of the Land Use Planning team.

Council officers began meeting with the Dapto Futures group in March 2015 which involved setting future aspirations for the Dapto Town Centre, visioning and crafting of a community survey focused on the Dapto Square Space. The Dapto Futures Group consists of representative of Neighbourhood Forum 8, the Dapto Chamber of Commerce, Dapto Leagues, Dapto Showground, Dapto Mall, Careways, Illawarra Housing Trust and residents. Council officers and Councillors have continued to meet with the Dapto Futures Group on a monthly basis to work together to co-create strategies and refine priorities detailed in the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan.

Council undertook pedestrian counts in March 2016 to analyse how people were using the Dapto Town Centre. Pedestrian counts recorded the number of people moving through the streets and where people stopped to spend time in the town centre. This data showed significantly higher numbers of people were counted inside Dapto Mall, rather than on the streets of the town centre, with 66% of people inside on a weekend. These counts have been considered in the analysis of the Dapto Town Centre Plan.

A Safety Audit was undertaken in March 2017 in response to community concerns which were raised in the Dapto Futures Survey around anti-social behaviour in Dapto Square. The Safety Audit provided guidance on how to improve the look and the feel of Dapto Square as well as setting out a number of short and longer term recommendations to encourage more community users into the space.

During the plan preparation phase a Councillor briefing session was held on 5 December 2016, a workshop with Councillors was held on 7 February 2017 and a post-exhibition Councillor briefing session took place on 15 May 2017.

The draft Dapto Town Centre Plan was exhibited between 6 March and 3 April 2017. The methods and results of the community engagement are summarised in the 'Consultation and Communication' section of this report and comprehensively documented in the Engagement Report (Attachment 2).

PROPOSAL

The *Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027* (the Plan) is a plan for everyone who lives, works or visits Dapto Town Centre (Attachment 1). The Plan seeks to guide change through infrastructure and public space improvements, planning policy amendments and community partnerships. The Plan is a 10-year strategy but proposes actions to be staged over the short, medium and longer term.

The Plan sets a vision for the Town Centre: *In the future, Dapto Town Centre will be a friendly, inclusive and healthy place that has pride in its history and embraces a growing population.*

The Plan identifies the need for provision of enhanced streets and public spaces, where walking is made easy. The Plan also places emphasis on the need for better connections to West Dapto and renewed, better appointed recreation spaces. The Vision is broken down into three vision statements aiming to inform and prioritise change in Dapto Town Centre:

- Our unique and welcoming place,
- A pedestrian friendly centre, and
- An attractive and vibrant centre.

Each of these Vision statements is supported by a number of accompanying strategies which provide more detail about how the community's Vision will be achieved and Key Steps which set out actions to be undertaken to realise the future potential of the Dapto Town Centre Plan. It is intended that these strategies and key steps will guide future infrastructure improvements, new and renewed development proposals and programs and partnerships to ensure future investment in Dapto is aligned with the community's aspirations.

There are many possible ways to achieve the Vision for Dapto's future and the strategies provide a framework by which to assess emerging actions and proposals on their merits, as well as motivating and empowering community leaders and entrepreneurs to meaningfully invest time and money into Dapto Town Centre.

The 'Key Steps' in the Plan are integrated within the accompanying Implementation Plan 2017 (Attachment 2) which sets out a program for delivery. The strategies and key steps outlined in the Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027 are summarised in Table 1.

Vision Statement	Strategy
Our unique and welcoming place	In the future, open spaces and recreation areas in Dapto Town Centre provide meeting places that are lively with a variety of activities taking place. Dapto's history and heritage is visible and shared, and along with its natural setting, contributes to Dapto's unique identity.
A pedestrian friendly centre	In the future, Dapto will be a people - prioritised town centre, with slower vehicle speeds and fewer barriers to people walking. Dapto will offer a choice of accessible, safe and inviting walking routes that connect key destinations providing health and environmental benefits.
An attractive, vibrant centre	In the future, Dapto will attract a mix of people by providing opportunities for residential, commercial and employment growth. The Town Centre will be beautified, with wider footpaths, street trees and quality buildings that provide many interesting shopfronts.

The *Dapto Town Centre Implementation Plan 2017* (Attachment 2) has been developed to complement the *Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027* and to clearly communicate priorities and target delivery timeframes. The Implementation Plan provides a greater level of detail for each of the Key Steps (actions) outlined in the Dapto Town Centre Plan. The Implementation Plan identifies performance measures, a project leader, project delivery stream, partners, estimated costs, priorities and target dates for delivery for each action.

The deliverables of the Implementation Plan have been produced in collaboration with the responsible Council Divisions. The purpose of the Plan is to ensure actions are delivered in a strategic and collaborative manner to achieve the best possible outcomes. The Implementation Plan is therefore a 'living' document and will change and adapt over time.

It is recognised that not all of the actions can be delivered by Council. Businesses, government agencies and community groups have an important stake in making the town centre an interesting, fun, healthy and safe place to be and the Plan provides guidance and strategies for anyone planning development or delivering programs and services in Dapto. The Plan can be used by stakeholders to advocate for changes, seek funding sources, change perceptions and inspire enthusiasm for new ideas.

CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

The draft Dapto Town Centre Plan was exhibited between 6 March and 3 April 2017. A list of engagement methods carried out prior to and during the exhibition period is provided below (refer to Attachment 3 for more information).

Engagement Methods

The following activities were carried out during 2017 to gather information about Dapto and seek the community's opinion of the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan:

- Council officers attended meetings held on a monthly basis with the Dapto Futures Group from March 2015.
- Dapto Futures Group prepared and distributed an online survey asking residents, workers and visitors why they visit Dapto, how they get there and what they would like to see in Dapto in the future with a focus on Dapto Square.
- The project was promoted on Council's social media platforms and included posts on Facebook and Twitter.
- A project specific webpage posted information about the draft Plan, upcoming activities, displayed photographs of elements of the Town Centre and allowed visitors to download the Plan.
- Hard copies of the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan were available at Dapto, Unanderra, Warrawong and Wollongong Libraries and at the Customer Service Counter in Council's Administration building.
- An Information Kiosk was held inside Dapto Mall on Saturday 18 March 2017 allowing people to speak with Council officers and put forward their ideas for Dapto. Information was also available at the Information Kiosk relating to the proposed extension of Baan Baan Street.
- Council officers visited Koonawarra and Dapto Primary Schools on 16 March 2017 and 22 March 2017 respectively as well as Dapto and Kanahooka High Schools on 8 March 2017 and 21 March 2017. Activities with the students included gathering information on friendly and unfriendly places, places students visit in the Town Centre as well as what they would like to see in Dapto. Council officers also ran these activities with a school breakfast program run at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre by Careways.
- Advertisements appeared in the local newspapers on Saturday 4 March in the Illawarra Mercury and Wednesday 15 March in the Advertiser. The Plan also received positive media coverage.
- A graphic flyer was produced designed to be colourful and eye-catching that encouraged people to visit the Information Kiosk and to view the draft Plan online.

- 943 letters were sent via post to landowners and business owners and tenants within the study area.
- Letters were sent to 40 key stakeholders and agencies, including State government agencies, transport providers, local community groups and State MP Anna Watson and federal MP Stephen Jones.
- Council officers attended the Aboriginal Reference Group meeting on 22 February 2017. The draft Dapto Town Centre Plan was discussed as an agenda item at the meetings of the Active Transport Reference Group on 14 March 2017 and Heritage Advisory Committee on 28 March 2017.
- Council officers attended the Neighbourhood Forum 8 meeting on 8 March 2017.

Results of exhibition and common themes

A large volume of feedback was received from the community and stakeholders across various engagement mediums (surveys, online comments, written submissions and conversations etc). Highlights included collecting **1,426** comments about the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan, **2,100** visits to the webpage, **882** downloads of the draft Plan and **12** written submissions. Overwhelmingly, the community confirmed support for the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan. No formal objections were received.

The 12 written submissions received are as follows:

- Transport NSW;
- Roads and Maritime Services (RMS);
- Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH);
- NSW Disability Council;
- Dapto Chamber of Commerce and Development;
- Dapto Futures Group; and
- Community (six).

A summary of the submissions is contained in Attachment 4.

Some of the main themes are briefly discussed below. For more information please refer to the attached Engagement Report (Attachment 3).

The most common themes identified from the feedback were:

- Increasing the number and variety of shops and services;
- Making Dapto Square feel safer and more attractive;
- Encouraging more events, markets, and artwork in the town centre;
- Appreciating and sharing the stories and history of Dapto; and
- Easing traffic congestion in the centre and making the main street more pleasant.

Other popular themes included desire for more artwork in the town centre, improvements to access for people with a disability, parents with prams and older people, more outdoor dining, restaurants and cafes, more cultural events and activities, improved recreation offers, making history and heritage more visible in the town centre and greening the town centre by adding trees and landscaping.

Changes to the draft Report and Implementation Plan following exhibition

A small number of minor changes were made to the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan (the exhibited version of the Plan) to produce the final version of the Plan (Attachment 1). These changes were mainly aesthetic, to improve the flow and clarity of the messages with the Plan and no major changes to the intent or direction of the Plan have been made.

Aligned with previous town centre studies and the draft Vision for Dapto Town Centre, a bid for budget to undertake a Shopfront Grant Program and Dapto Town Centre Pilot Projects was proposed for the 2017-18 financial year. These projects were reported to the community as part of the draft annual plan and budget.

Following the extensive community engagement undertaken to inform the project, clear priorities were identified around the renewal of Dapto Town Square to promote a high quality space and safe town centre. In response it is recommended that the budget be adjusted to support the Dapto Town Square Renewal (refer items 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 of accompanying Implementation Plan) (Attachment 2), and to defer the Shopfront Grant Program to align with a future Main Street Renewal. Project budget for Pilot Projects remains a priority for the 2017-18 budget. This change has been included in the report to Council on the 2017-18 Annual Plan.

PLANNING AND POLICY IMPACT

The Dapto Town Centre Plan project contributes to the delivery of the Wollongong 2022 goal 'We are a healthy community in a livable city'. It specifically delivers on the following:

Community Strategic Plan	Delivery Program 2012-2017	Annual Plan 2016-17
Strategy	5 Year Action	Annual Deliverables
5.1.6 Urban areas are created to provide a healthy living environment for our community	5.1.6.1 Review planning controls for priority locations	Continue to progress the Dapto Town Centre Planning Study

The Dapto Town Centre Plan and Implementation Plan are supporting documents under Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. Supporting documents include Council's endorsed strategies, plans, master plans, town and village plans, precinct plan and action plans that include short, medium and long-term outcomes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027 provides a vision for the future of the centre and sets direction for future planning and infrastructure priorities. The Dapto Town Centre Implementation Plan provides more detail on actions, including staging, targeted delivery dates and estimated costs (refer to Attachment 2). Future design work and investigations will inform more detailed costings. The Implementation Plan will be used to inform annual planning priorities and budgeting processes. Currently many actions require funding through the annual planning process – the role of the Implementation Plan is to align actions to strategic aspirations, clarify priorities and give weight to funding proposals, including Council's budgeting processes and grant funding proposals.

CONCLUSION

The *Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027* is a strategic document that will be used to shape the future of the Dapto Town Centre over the next 10 years. The *Dapto Town Centre Implementation Plan 2017* coordinates the delivery of actions within the Town Centre Plan and will be refined and updated in accordance with the strategies of the Town Centre Plan as required.

The Dapto Town Centre will continue to grow over the next 30 years with the neighbouring West Dapto Urban Release Area. This growth highlights the need to create a Centre that meets the shopping and service needs of its residents but also one that attracts people to visit and spend time and allows for social interactions through activating and improving public space. A variety of community engagement activities and forums has highlighted community support for the direction of the Plan and future investment in the Centre. It is recommended that the *Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027* be adopted.



Dapto Town Centre Plan

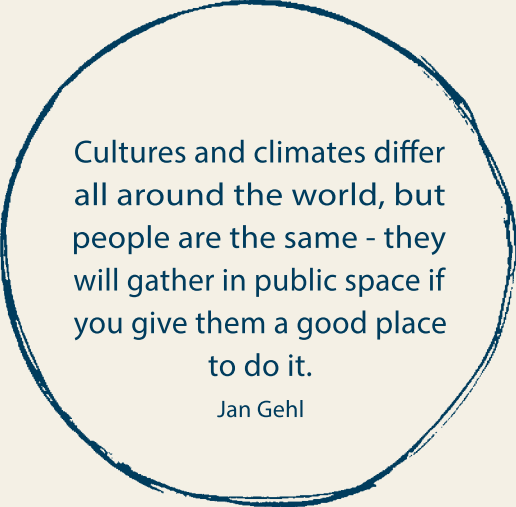
2017 - 2027

Acknowledgements

Wollongong City Council would like to show its respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land to which this Plan applies, of Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This Plan was developed in partnership with the Dapto Futures Group - representatives of the Dapto Chamber of Commerce, Neighbourhood Forum 8 and interested community members. Wollongong City Council would like to acknowledge the time and effort and the ongoing contribution of these groups and their partners to the revitalisation of Dapto.

Wollongong City Council would like to thank members of the community who contributed to this plan by providing feedback in engagement activities.



Cultures and climates differ
all around the world, but
people are the same - they
will gather in public space if
you give them a good place
to do it.

Jan Gehl

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Introduction

The role of this Plan

The Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027 is a Plan for everyone who lives in, works at or visits Dapto.

The Plan sets a strategic direction to deliver the following Vision:

- Our unique and welcoming place
- A pedestrian-friendly centre
- An attractive, vibrant centre

Future projects for the Dapto Town Centre, whether driven by Council, the State Government, businesses, or community groups should consider the strategies within this Plan, as they have been informed by community and other stakeholder feedback and are aligned with the community's Vision for the future of Dapto Town Centre.

A focus on public space

The Dapto Town Centre Plan emphasises the need to make public spaces welcoming and attractive. Fundamental to the success of a place is attracting people to visit, interact and spend time in public areas.

Successful town centres put people and public life at the forefront of planning.

Interesting streets are lined with a mix of shops and interesting displays. They provide places to enjoy a coffee or some food. Popular places are designed to allow for children to play and with areas to simply sit, relax and soak in the atmosphere.

By analysing how the Dapto Town Centre functions from the perspective of the people who use it, this document plans for a refreshed and inclusive town centre that displays all of the above attributes.



Background

Reviewing Dapto Town Centre Revitalisation Strategy 2006

In 2006, Council prepared the Dapto Town Centre Revitalisation Study with planning consultants Rohan Dickson + Associates. The primary role of the Study was to review town centre planning controls. This study was not finalised after the public exhibition period.

This report builds on the 2006 study and consultation themes, as well as the work undertaken by the local Neighbourhood Forum, and what we heard from community engagement activities.

Alignment with Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan

Dapto is classified as a 'Major Urban Centre' in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Plan (Department of Planning and Environment 2015).

The Dapto Town Centre is named as a regionally-significant centre offering a wide variety of high-order services and is a focal point for future jobs and housing growth.

Developing the Dapto Town Centre Plan 2016

To inform this project, a lot of data was collected about how people walk around and use the town centre. The quality of public streets and places has also been assessed. This data is presented in the 'Analysis section' and will be used to measure change into the future.

The Draft Dapto Town Centre Plan was placed on public exhibition between 6 March and 3 April 2017. A wide variety of community engagement activities were carried out prior to and during the public exhibition, and over 1400 comments were received (including 790 survey responses).

What we heard from the community

The comments received during the community engagement were mostly supportive of the Draft Dapto Town Centre Plan.

The most common themes identified in the feedback were the desire to see more shops and services in Dapto, making Dapto Square feel safer and more attractive, reducing traffic congestion and celebrating Dapto's heritage and history. For more information see the Dapto Town Centre Plan Engagement Report.

In late 2016, the Dapto Futures community group ran a survey of Dapto residents and visitors and collected an amazing 790 responses.

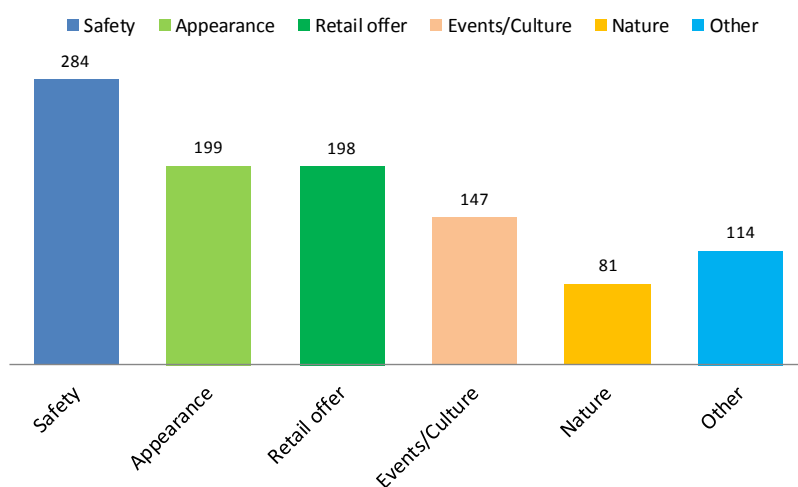
The survey asked questions about why people visit Dapto, how they get there and focused on what people would like to see in Dapto Square. The most common themes are shown in the graph below.



Dapto Square, facing west.

What is one thing you would change about Dapto Square?

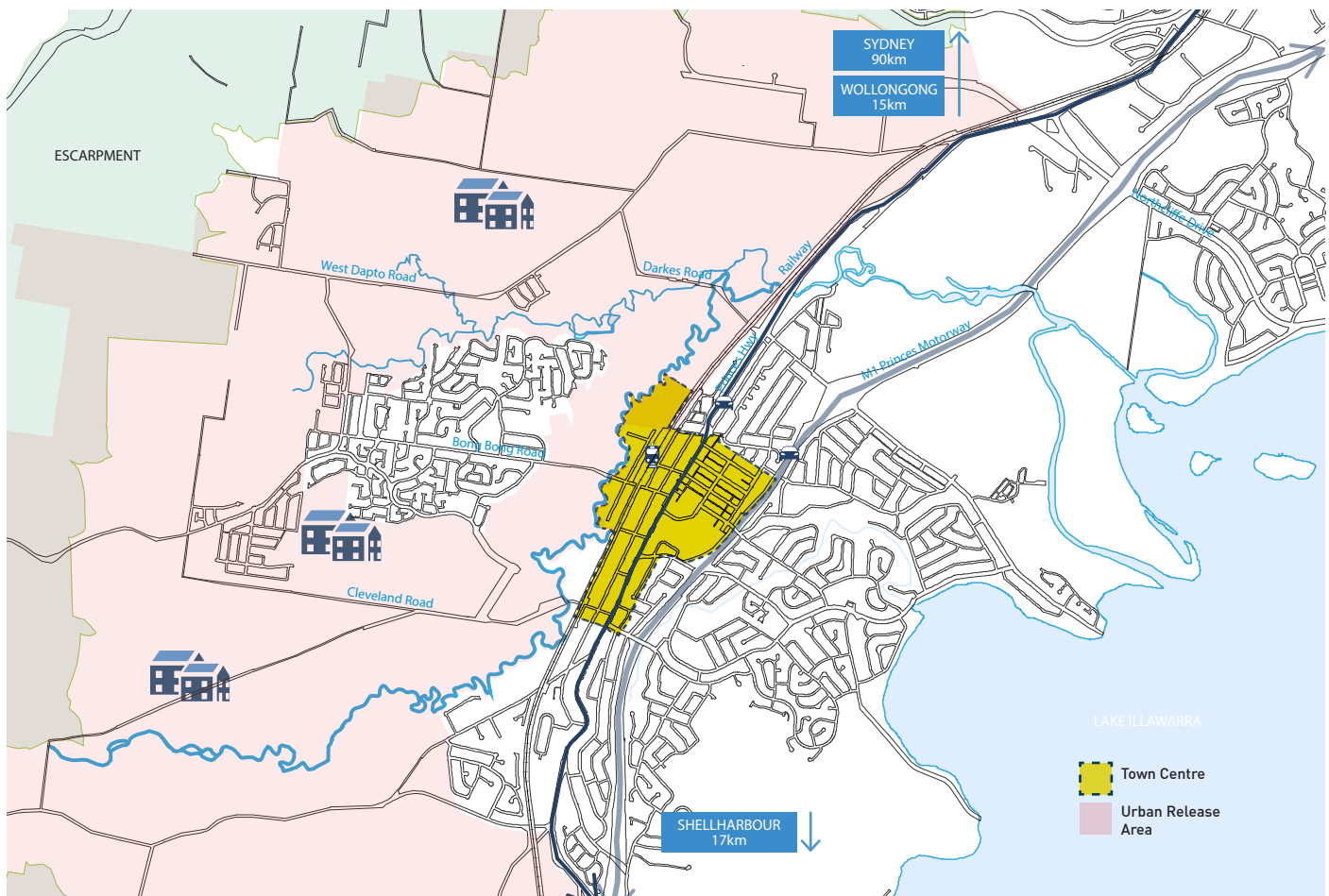
Top priority for the Square...



"I'd like it [Dapto Square] to be cleaner. Sometimes it doesn't feel like a safe place to walk through"

"The best people I've met in my life have been in Dapto. Let's encourage them to stop in the square instead of walking on by."

Links to West Dapto



Dapto as an urban centre has a large capacity for growth. Dapto will need to provide a point of difference to emerging West Dapto centres.

Links with West Dapto Urban Release Area

The West Dapto Urban Release Area is one of the largest new greenfield housing areas outside the Sydney Metro area and is expected to house over 55,000 people over the next 50 years.

Dapto is ideally positioned to meet the regional centre needs of this new population. However, providing efficient east-west connections between Dapto and West Dapto is very important.

It is important to attract West Dapto residents to Dapto for shopping, essential services and recreation.

West Dapto will have its own new town and village centres, which will provide convenience for local residents. Dapto Town Centre will therefore need to offer more than just convenience to attract shoppers and visitors.

Dapto Town Centre needs to grow with the population by providing adequate capacity for more retail and service growth and additional opportunities for leisure, community and cultural pursuits. Refreshing Dapto's streetscape could also assist with attracting more businesses and visitors to the Town Centre.



New homes proposed in West Dapto Urban Release Area



Additional people living in West Dapto Urban Release Area

The Dapto Town Centre

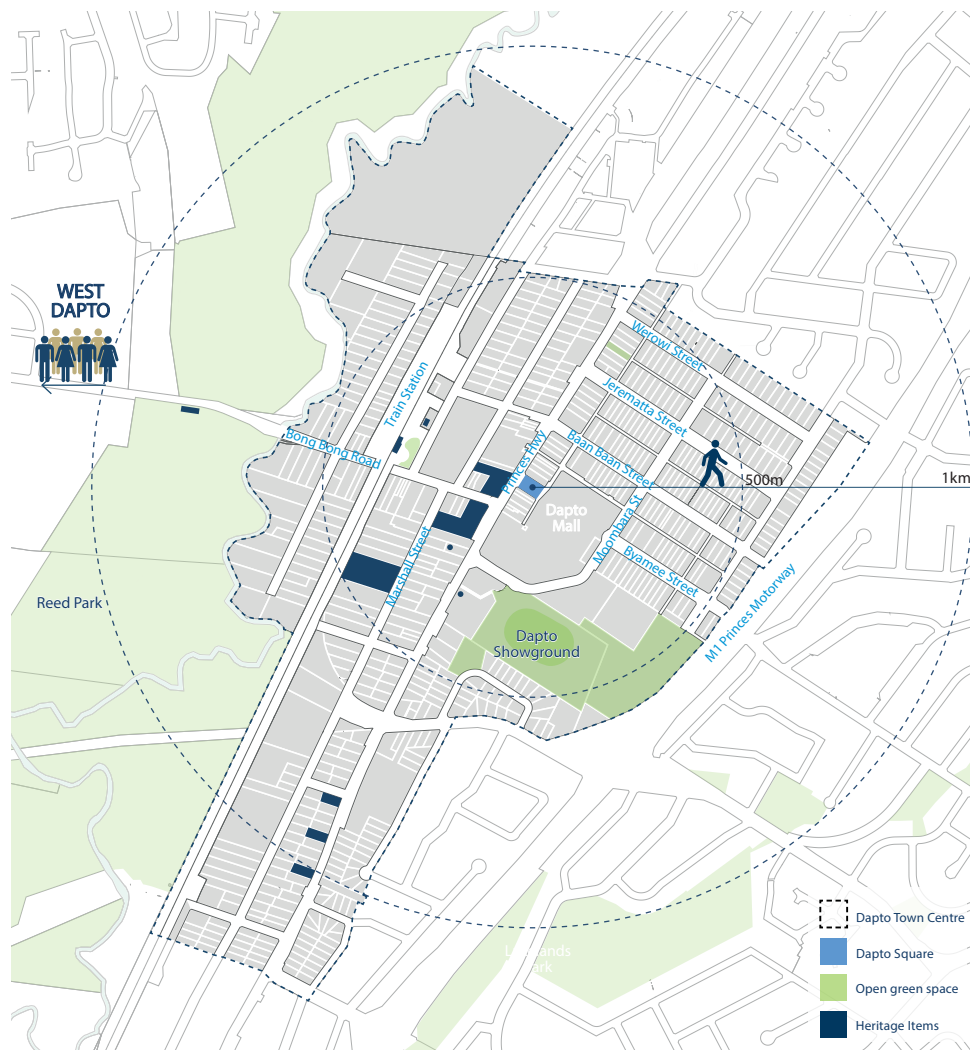
Indigenous people have lived in Dapto and cared for Country for thousands of years. The Illawarra Escarpment, Mullet Creek and Lake Illawarra are especially important cultural and resource sites.

In the 1800s, the original Dapto Town Centre was located in Brownsville, and serviced a farming population dispersed over a wide area. With the coming of the railway line in 1887, the area's businesses relocated to be near the railway station, taking with them the name 'Dapto'. The former town centre was renamed Brownsville.

The larger Dapto Town Centre enabled new social connections from the coming together of a number of rural villages including Avondale, Yallah, Marshall Mount and Kembla Grange.

During the 1970s, there was a significant shift in retail offer with the opening of Dapto Mall. Dapto now provides a mix of large (big box) and small-scale retail along the Princes Highway and Bong Bong Road, as well as popular Sunday bric-a-brac markets at the Showground.

The largest job sectors in the suburb of Dapto are health care & social assistance, followed by retail, and manufacturing.



The people

Dapto has a population of 22, 933 people in 2011*

Dapto has a higher proportion of children and young people, compared many suburbs in Wollongong LGA. Dapto is also home to a relatively large proportion of people aged 65 and older. Age is important when considering housing and service needs.

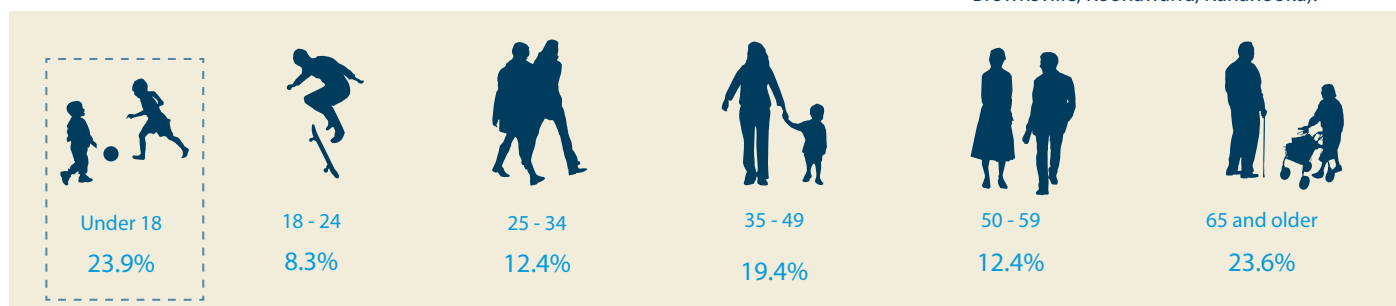
83% of people in Dapto live in a detached dwelling (separate house) mostly with three bedrooms. 16% of people live in medium-density housing and very few people (0.4%) live in high-density housing (defined as blocks three storeys or higher).

West Dapto is forecast to primarily provide detached homes with some medium-high density in and around some centres.

3.2% of the suburb population are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, representing the third largest Indigenous population in Wollongong.

Dapto has a smaller percentage of people born overseas (17.8%) and people with a non-English speaking background (7.7%) than Wollongong LGA.

*(2011 Profile Id Areas Dapto-Penrose-Brownsville, Koonawarra, Kanahooka).



About Dapto

Dapto has evolved over time from a natural area to a series of farming villages and is now a large urban centre. Population growth will continue this evolution.

Buildings and places contribute to our understanding of Dapto, and public places should tell stories about its history and ongoing evolution.

'Dapto' is an indigenous word meaning 'water plenty'.

Dapto has a rich Aboriginal, cultural and built history requiring preservation and celebration

Interesting buildings and places are scattered throughout the Town Centre. These buildings are generally 'hidden' behind alterations or disrepair. Dapto's public spaces too, could interpret stories unknown to many, and other successful town centres have been able to share their unique features in the streets and plazas through art, street furniture, events, and in other creative and informative ways.

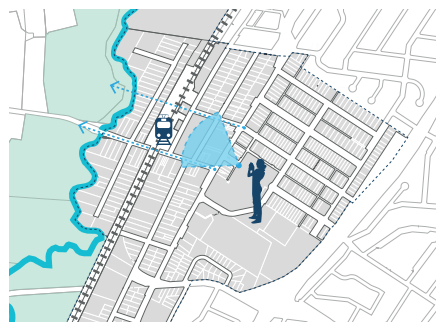


Indigenous artwork on the Ribbonwood wall. Artists N.Thomas, L.Brown, Trainees S.Brown, L.Bloomfield.

A town centre with strong visual connections to the escarpment setting.

The escarpment provides a dramatic backdrop to Dapto Town Centre, reinforcing its natural setting. It is important to the identity and overall quality of the town.

Views are generally protected by the existing road corridors, however providing places to enjoy these views is also important.



Despite the origins of its name, water is not a noticeable feature of the Dapto Town Centre. Mullet Creek is an asset that is disconnected from the centre.

Did you know, Dapto?

Dapto Radio Astronomy

Revolutionary astronomy revealing the secrets of the sun was undertaken at a Dapto dairy farm.

The observations of scientist John Paul Wild at Dapto Dairy completely changed our understanding of the sun.



Famous Sporting Identities

Dapto has a strong sporting tradition, with many famous sports stars originating from the area. William "Bill" Beach was an international rowing champion in the late 1800s.



Illawarra Cattle Breed

The Illawarra is a cattle breed originating in Dapto, and remains one of the top ranking dairy cattle breeds in Australia today. Dapto has a long farming history and was the food basket of the region for a very long time.



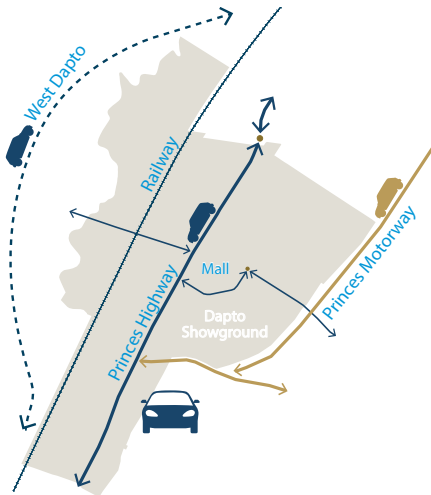
For more stories visit: www.facebook.com/DaptoHistoryInPhotos

A traffic dominated town centre

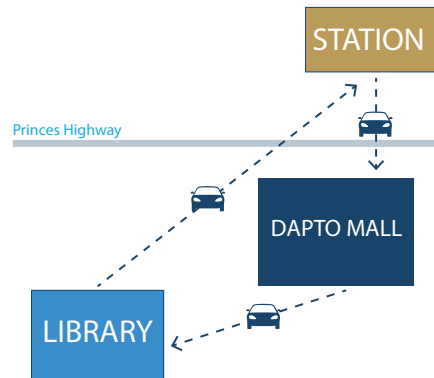
Prioritising cars over people

Successful streets are an important part of a vibrant town centre. They need to accommodate public life (e.g. footpaths for people walking, seats for resting, trees for shade, lights for safety) as well as catering to transport functions. Dapto's busy traffic has a significant impact on how people use and experience the Town Centre.

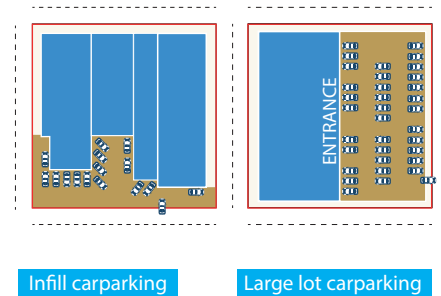
A town centre very busy with traffic



Roads and car parks invite driving between close places



Convenient carparking at a cost to the pedestrian experience



Strong road network but traffic becomes a barrier to walking

Dapto Town Centre supports a well-structured network of roads and lanes. However, current traffic acts as a barrier to safe and comfortable walking.

The main roads are noisy and footpath areas are in poor condition, negatively affecting the look and feel of the centre. Under a business-as-usual scenario, as Dapto grows, more serious congestion issues are likely to arise.

Inconvenient public transport offer

The town centre offers opportunities to travel by both bus and rail. However, walking connections from public transport nodes are poor and bus stop infrastructure (seating and weather protection) is lacking.

Cycle network bypasses the Town Centre

The cycle network sits at the edge of the Town Centre, and does not feed into or connect to key destinations. There is limited infrastructure (such as secure bike parking) in the Town Centre to support cycling.

Key destinations seem further away

The Town Centre's poor pedestrian environment gives the perception that walking distances are a lot longer than they really are. There are many conflict points between people walking and vehicles, such as wide driveway crossings.

Drive, arrive, park. Repeat.

The town centre currently offers convenience for people travelling by car. This encourages driving between nearby destinations generating even more traffic. As traffic levels increase, this convenience for people driving will decrease, highlighting the need to make walking short distances a more attractive option.

At - grade parking dominates the streetscape

Vehicle convenience comes at a cost, having a negative impact on the quality of the streetscape. Some shops only have entries from their rear car parks, making the main street uninviting and pedestrian access more difficult.

Car parks are an opportunity for renewal

Large areas of sites are covered by car parking, often in front of shops and buildings. These arrangements reduce opportunities for other uses such as outdoor dining, green space or welcoming building entries. The larger car park areas currently act as land banks and present opportunities for infill development in the future to cater for the projected growth of the Town Centre.



Some shops place more emphasis on car parking than a welcoming street presentation.



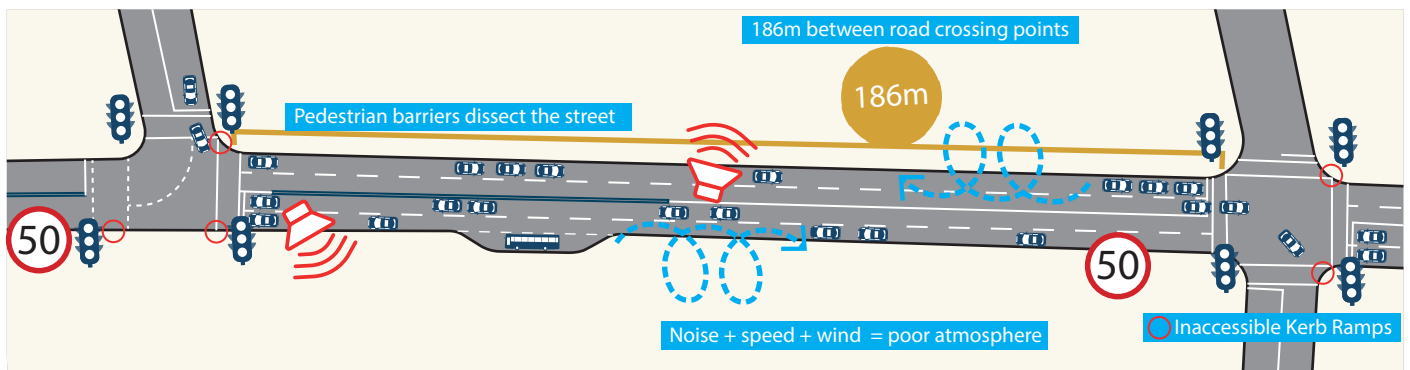
At-grade car parking is an obvious feature of the Dapto streetscape.

A compromised walking environment

Accessibility and amenity at risk

Everyone walks at some stage in their journey. Improving walkability benefits everyone, but especially people with a disability, parents with prams and children, and elderly people. Dapto is generally flat which lends itself to being a walkable town centre. Dapto also has many laneways, used as important walking connections.

The rhythm of streets are dictated by traffic



The Princes Highway has a good scale, however the busy traffic is impacting the amenity of the street. Ideally, the Highway should act as the main street attracting people to stop and visit Dapto with plenty of interesting and active shopfronts.

Barriers such as pedestrian fences, lack of crossing points, inaccessible kerb ramps coupled with long wait times to cross the road, creates an unfriendly walking environment.

Streets lack comfort, pleasant atmosphere and experiences

Dapto Town Centre offers a good range of retail and services, but is largely lacking in elements that provide an inviting and safe environment. These elements include comfort, activity and protection from traffic and weather.

Noise and pollution generated by the constant traffic has a negative effect on the Centre's atmosphere, as does the intimidating volume and speed of cars moving through. The footpath areas offer little respite from this busyness. Dapto has few street trees, and seating is sporadic and in poor condition. The Centre can get hot, and there is no provision of water (bubblers or fountains).

Dapto also has few high quality shopfronts that invite people to window shop and contribute to an attractive streetscape.



This laneway is a convenient shortcut, but offers no shade or footpath.



An inactive street frontage which is unpleasant to look at and encourages people to hurry past.



There are not many places to cross busy roads nor many cues for vehicles to slow down.



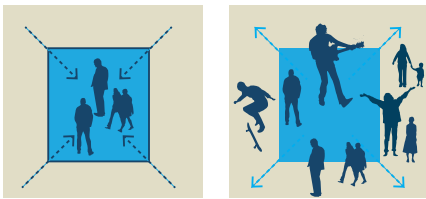
An active street frontage which is pleasant to look at and spend time beside.

Busy town centre where activity is indoors

Resulting in a streetscape lacking public life

While Dapto Town Centre is very busy, activity mostly happens within buildings. With most people indoors, Dapto's streets feel deserted, and can seem unsafe. Greater interactions between buildings and the outdoors can create more active and lively streets.

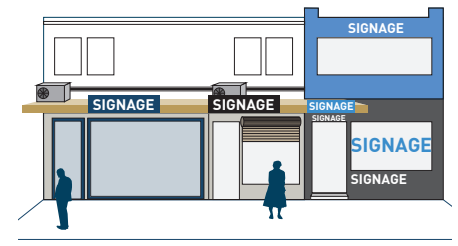
Activity takes place indoors, leaving streets empty



A lot to offer, based around the consumer



Shopfronts are a vital part of the street environment



Activity is internalised

Streets are vital to the appearance and function of town centres. They make up the majority of public space, however their role in shaping town centre experiences is often not fully appreciated.

Dapto Town Centre currently attracts a large number of people, however these people are notably absent from the streets and public spaces.

The Town Centre lacks offers that invite activity outside of buildings and into streets and public spaces. An example of this is illustrated by the current scarcity of outdoor dining opportunities within the Town Centre.

A town centre providing attractive retail and service offers

Dapto offers a diverse mix of retail, medical, government services and community facilities. There are opportunities for Dapto to capitalise on housing growth by attracting new retail types such as household and electrical goods (bulky goods) to the Town Centre.

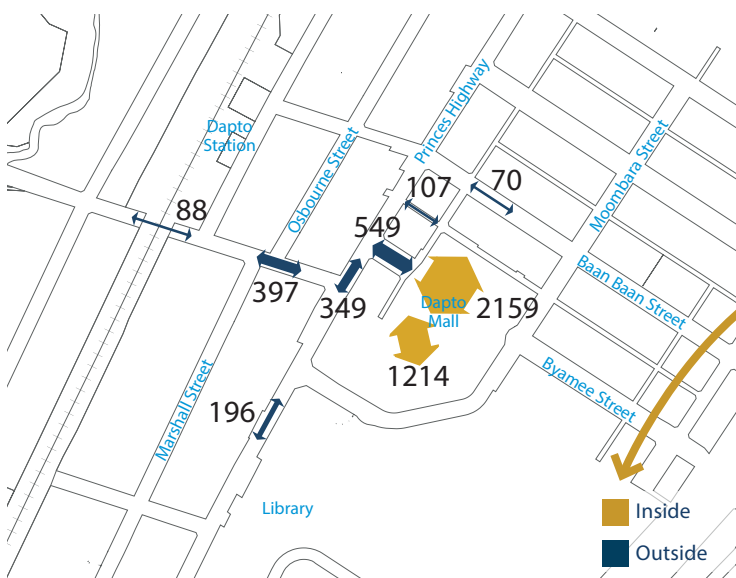
Lacks recreation, play and green spaces

Open space, recreation and play elements sit on the periphery of the Town Centre, with weak pedestrian connections to and between destinations. The Town Centre does not provide opportunities to play or hang out that are cost free.

Shops close themselves off to the street

The variety of retail and services available in Dapto attracts people to the town centre, but most shopfronts are designed with limited interaction with the street. Many shopfronts are blank or opaque with oversized signage which together create a dull and uninviting streetscape. Car parking in front of buildings also impacts negatively on the streetscape overall.

People are drawn to well-kept, detailed and appealing shops. Attractive and transparent shopfronts that include direct access from the street are good for business, increase the value of neighbouring businesses and improve the quality of the street and the look of the whole Town Centre.



Number of people counted in Dapto Town Centre on a weekend day

66% of people were counted inside Dapto Mall

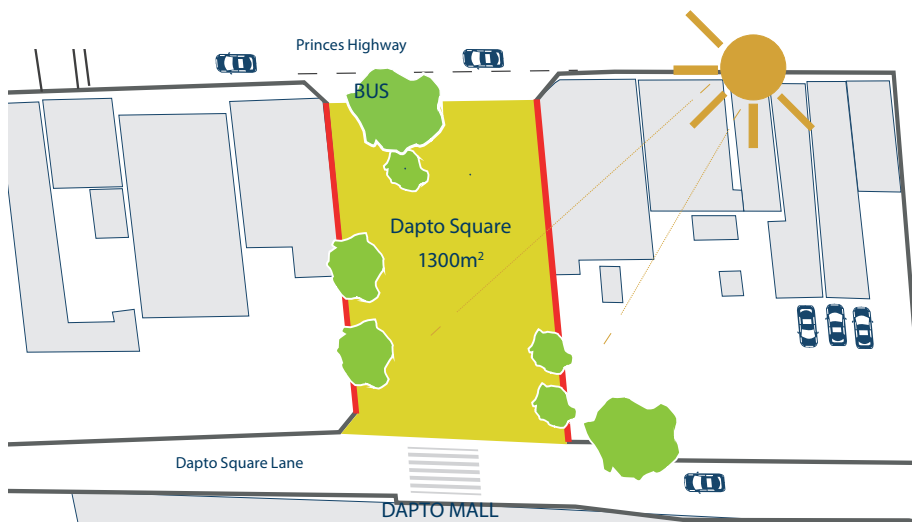


An underutilised Town Square

With the potential to become a meeting place

The Dapto Town Square is a large public space located at the heart of the Town Centre. This space provides an opportunity to establish a community meeting place that displays a strong identity.

Dapto Square is the largest, open public space in the Town Centre



The Square is underutilised and the absence of people across such a large space gives the perception of the area being an unsafe place.

The Square is well-connected, contains a bus stop and is close to retail offers, services and a series of laneways.

Facing west, the Square is hot in summer, with the only shade along the edges and no water available.

A sense of community spirit is present as the Square already supports a time capsule and community led memorial. However, the Square lacks an identity and things to do, such as play.

Buildings located along the edges do not interact with or open up to the Square. There are many people close to the Square, but very few people within it.

313
pedestrians walk
through Dapto
Square on a
weekday



The large expanse of paving creates a sparse environment with limited opportunity or incentive for activity.



The interface between buildings and the Square is poor, with no or limited interactions.

The role of town squares

Town squares offer protection against cars, the weather and the busy pace of urban areas. Well-designed town squares operate similarly to parks, offering comfortable places to sit, rest, eat, read, play and interact. Importantly, they also introduce green spaces and nature into centres.

Successful town squares provide a variety of things to do, and businesses leverage off these busy places and will often open out to face the square. Town squares are democratic spaces, that offer space for people to be without having to spend money.

Town squares may also be home to artworks, fountains, gardens and events, and often reflect a sense of community, becoming important focal points and meeting places.



Active town squares encourage people to use public space in a many ways.

Vision

In the future, Dapto Town Centre will be a friendly, inclusive and healthy place that has pride in its history and embraces a growing population.

The following Vision statements aim to inspire and inform change within the Dapto Town Centre into the future.

Our unique and welcoming place



Dapto Town Centre offers a range of recreation spaces that cater well for the community's current and future needs.

Recreation spaces host a variety of activities and invite informal meetings to take place.



Dapto Square is a safe, inclusive and lively meeting place that hosts activities and events.

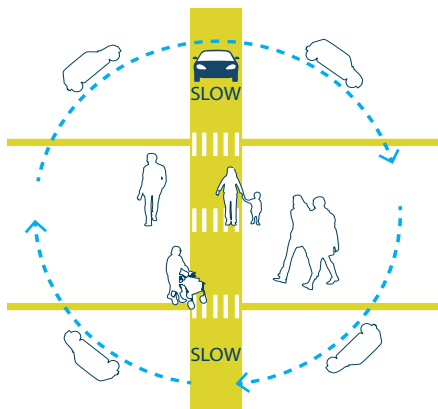
Dapto Square offers a comfortable space to spend time and reflects Dapto's unique identity.



Stories telling the history and heritage of Dapto are shared and continue to shape the identity of Dapto.

Natural features such as trees and water are incorporated into the Town Centre, reflecting Dapto's unique natural setting.

A pedestrian-friendly centre



Traffic in the Town Centre is calmed by reducing the speed and volume of vehicles moving through the centre.

As a result, main streets provide a pleasant pedestrian environment and no longer act as barriers to people walking.

Connections to West Dapto continue to be strengthened, offering improved links with the Dapto Town Centre.



Walking is made easy. Pedestrian routes are clear, accessible and safe for all ages and provide comfort with shade, seating and water.

Public transport patronage is encouraged through the provision of integrated and well-linked services and high-quality infrastructure



Laneways in the Town Centre are inviting public spaces and accommodate a range of activities.

Laneways offer safe and comfortable pedestrian connections within the Town Centre and cater for the shared needs of people walking and driving.

An attractive, vibrant centre



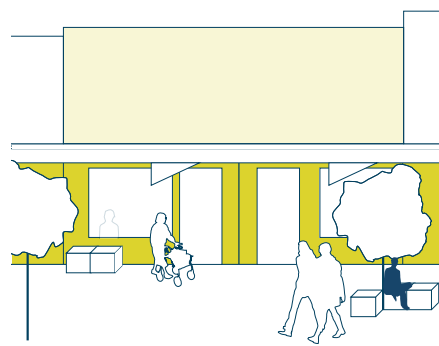
Growth that provides job opportunities, places to live and a diverse retail offer is supported.

The role of the Dapto Town Centre is strengthened, attracting new types of retail and services and establishing a clear point of difference.



Well designed developments are high quality, environmentally sensitive and built to last.

The scale of buildings is well proportioned for Dapto's setting and contributes to an attractive comfortable streetscape.



Streets and public places are beautifully landscaped, host a range of activities and foster a sense of civic pride.

The streetscape boasts street trees and landscape treatments to beautify and increase levels of comfort in the Town Centre.

Strategies

Strategies are intended to align with the community's Vision for Dapto Town Centre.

Strategies provide overarching guidance for a range of Town Centre improvements to be delivered over the next ten years.

Key Steps set out actions to be undertaken to realise the future potential of the Dapto Town Centre.



Dapto Markets, Dapto Showground

Our unique and welcoming place

In the future, open spaces and recreation areas in Dapto Town Centre provide meeting places that are lively with a variety of activities taking place. Dapto's history and heritage is visible and shared, and along with its natural setting, contributes to Dapto's unique identity.



Precedent Images



A play offer provides a reason to visit and spend time in town centres creating a friendly welcoming atmosphere.



Markets bring life, colour and interest and invite people to engage with a place.



Dapto's history and heritage is shared on the streets and in public places.



With a large population of young people, the Dapto Town Centre needs places for teenagers to hang out.



Temporary and permanent water refill stations are installed in the Town Centre.



Public spaces introduce water through elements such as sculpture and play.

Strategies

The following three strategies guide priorities to make Dapto Town Centre a unique and welcoming place

Spaces for recreation

Dapto Ribbonwood Centre opens up and has a welcoming interface with its surrounds.

A new outdoor community space at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre allows a diverse range of programs to spill out and offers a comfortable place to sit, meet and play.

The needs of a growing population of young people are considered in recreation planning (e.g. skate park).

Dapto Showground connects and integrates with the Town Centre, offering a range of recreation and entertainment uses.

Dapto Square - a meeting place

Dapto Square becomes a safe and inclusive central meeting space for people of all ages. It encourages various activities and events to take place.

Dapto Square is renewed to become an attractive and functional space offering seating, shade, water, lighting, colour and reflects Dapto's character.

Buildings along the sides of Dapto Square are built to an appropriate scale, allowing for natural light. These buildings offer a pleasant interface and support uses that interact with the space.

People, places, stories

Intergenerational and cross cultural stories are told and celebrated. These stories reveal insights into the Dapto community past and present, and communicate a sense of civic pride.

Dapto's history and heritage is shared and visible on the streets and in public places, including Dapto Square.

Views to the escarpment form an important part of Dapto's identity with views protected along existing street corridors.

Key Steps

Key steps outline actions linked back to the strategies and will deliver improved outcomes for the Town Centre.

Spaces for recreation

- Encourage Dapto Ribbonwood Centre and Dapto Library programs and community projects to be delivered outside in public places around the Town Centre.
- Investigate opportunities for Dapto Ribbonwood Centre to provide a new outdoor space that is designed to facilitate spontaneous social interactions, such as play.
- Consult with young people in Dapto and surrounding suburbs to understand what infrastructure and programs could be provided to better cater for their needs.

Dapto Square - a meeting place

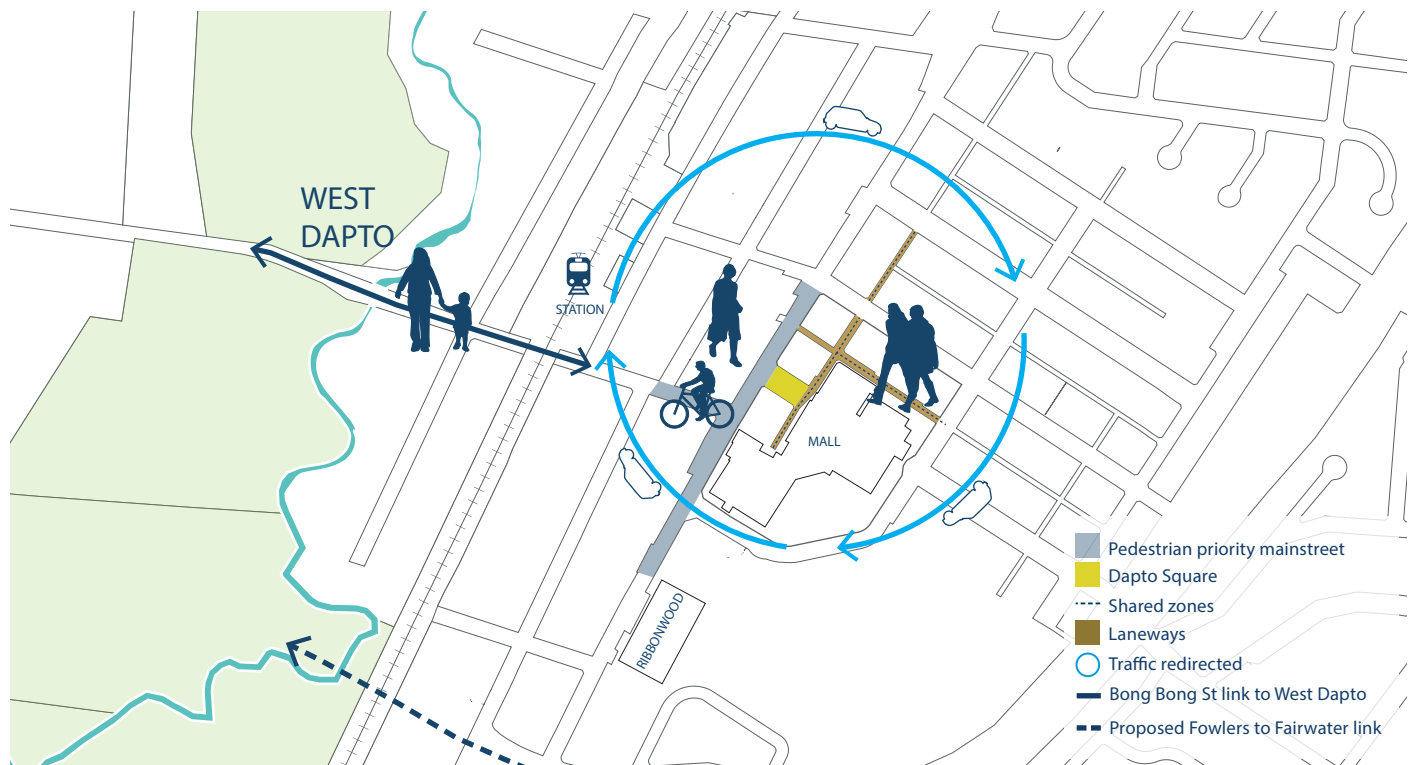
- Undertake a safety audit of Dapto Square to help inform future use and design of the space.
- Re-design Dapto Square to improve comfort and amenity by adding elements such as shade, seating, lighting and public art to increase activity levels. The re-design should incorporate historical interpretation and story-telling.
- Amend planning controls to ensure that buildings and laneways provide a positive interface with Dapto Square (e.g. natural light).
- Support temporary events and activities such as markets, food trucks and performances to take place in Dapto Square.

People, places, stories

- Facilitate community-based projects that focus on celebrating local identity, culture, history and heritage. E.g. "Dapto Stories" Oral History Project.
- Public art tells Dapto's stories in unique and creative ways.

A pedestrian-friendly centre

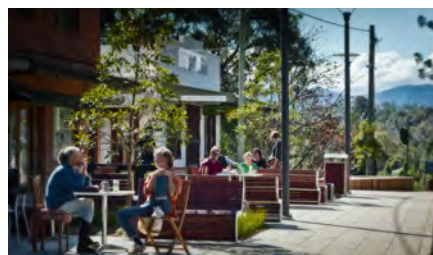
In the future, Dapto will be a people - prioritised town centre, with slower vehicle speeds and fewer barriers to people walking. Dapto will offer a choice of accessible, safe and inviting walking routes that connect key destinations providing health and environmental benefits.



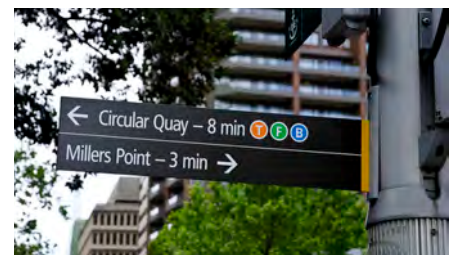
Precedent Images



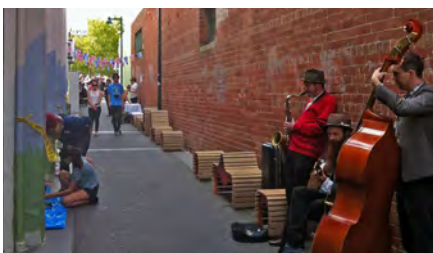
High quality bus stops offer comfort and shade.



Main streets are pedestrian friendly offering places to walk, sit and meet.



Wayfinding assists people walking by providing directions to key destinations.



Inviting laneways provide pedestrian connections and encourage walking.



Buildings open out onto laneways.



Good main streets provide shade, easy crossing points and wide footpaths.

Strategies

The following three strategies guide priorities for achieving a pedestrian-friendly centre.

Redirect traffic moving through the Town Centre to relieve congestion.

Continue to investigate and progress ways to redirect through traffic around the Town Centre to help relieve congestion.

Traffic calming, particularly along the Princes Highway, allows the opportunity to reclaim pedestrian and cycle friendly main streets.

Connections to the emerging West Dapto area continue to be strengthened, offering improved links with the Town Centre.

Pedestrians are prioritised in the main streets of the Town Centre.

The Princes Highway and Bong Bong Road will be pedestrian and cycle friendly main streets with comfortable places to walk, cycle, sit and meet.

Main streets are accessible, safe and limit interruptions such as driveways.

Pleasant streets intuitively link key destinations, encouraging people to walk.

Use of public transport is encouraged by providing integrated, well linked services and improvements to transport facilities.

Attractive laneways connect key places and spaces.

Laneways are inviting public spaces that provide pedestrian connections and incentivise walking within the Town Centre.

Laneways transition to shared zones designed to provide space that is safely shared by vehicles and pedestrians.

Buildings bordering laneways take advantage of their location, opening out and engaging with public space.

Key Steps

Key steps outline actions linked back to the strategies and will deliver improved outcomes for the Town Centre.

Redirect traffic moving through the Town Centre to relieve congestion

- Investigate measures to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety at the railway crossing and improve traffic flow.
- Construct Baan Baan Street extension to relieve traffic congestion along the Princes Highway.
- Investigate options to create a 'ring road' around the Town Centre to further relieve traffic congestion and to create pedestrian friendly main streets.
- Construct Fowlers to Fairwater Drive connection to improve East-West links to West Dapto and relieve pressure on Bong Bong Road.

Pedestrians are prioritised in the main streets of the Town Centre

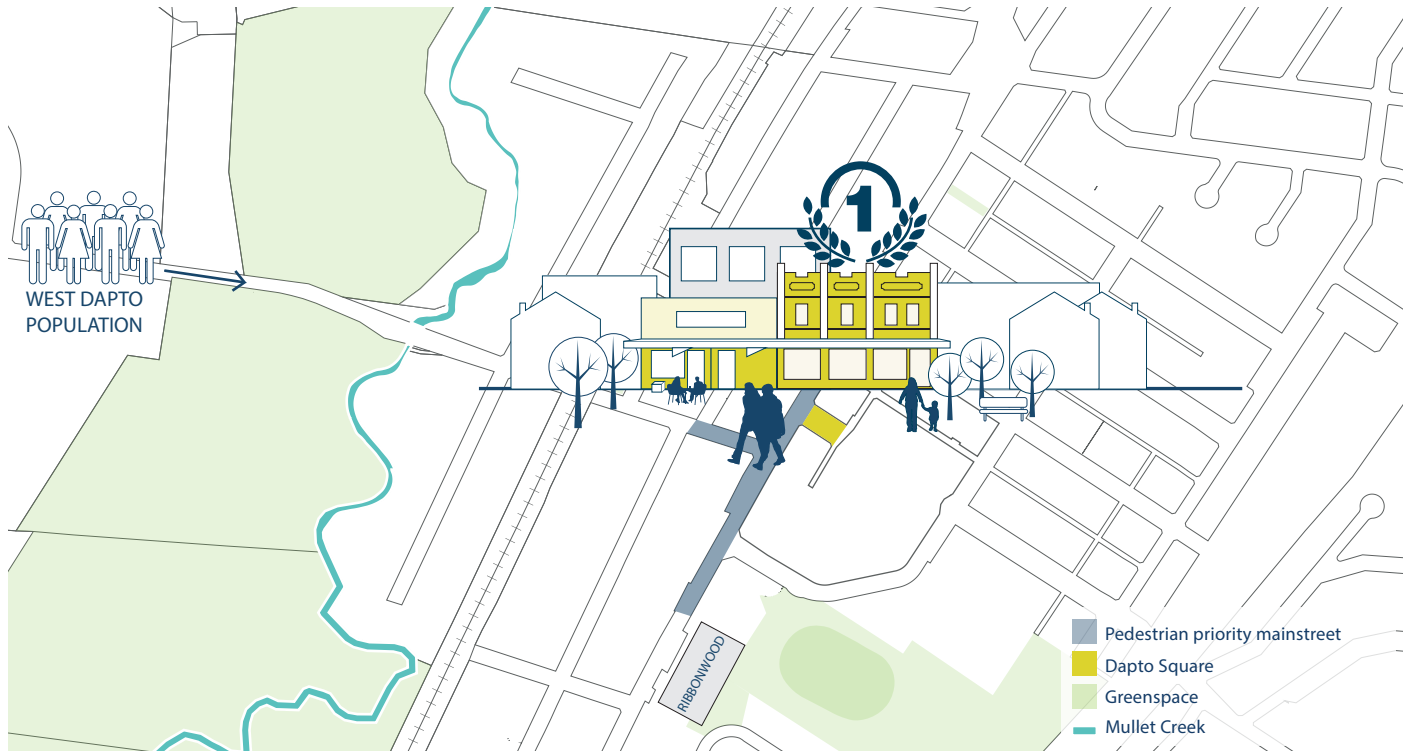
- Deliver wayfinding signage to encourage walking between Ribbonwood and Dapto Station.
- Upgrade bus stops to be more attractive and comfortable and encourage the use of public transport.
- Re-design and upgrade main streets and key walking links in the Town Centre to improve footpaths and infrastructure (e.g. seating, lighting, shade) to make a more accessible, pedestrian-friendly environment.
- Promote walking and usage of public transport by providing high quality infrastructure to support comfortable and convenient use of trains and buses.
- Plan new cycleway to link directly into the Town Centre and provide secure bicycle infrastructure e.g. parking.

Attractive laneways connect key places and spaces

- Re-design laneways in the Town Centre to improve appearance and amenity including footpaths, lighting, seating and landscaping.

An attractive, vibrant centre

In the future, Dapto will attract a mix of people by providing opportunities for residential, commercial and employment growth. The Town Centre will be beautified, with wider footpaths, street trees and quality buildings that provide many interesting shopfronts.



Precedent Images



Narrow shopfronts add interest to the street and encourage walking.



Streets host a range of activities and invite people to stop and spend time.



Renewal starts with less permanent change in vacant and underutilised sites.



Plants and shrubs respond to Daptos' unique natural setting and attract wildlife.



Trees improve the experience of streets and public places.



Landscaping softens the urban environment, introduces colour and improves amenity.

Strategies

The following three strategies guide priorities for achieving an attractive, vibrant centre.

The right growth

Continue to attract higher order services to Dapto Town Centre and establish a point of difference from the new centres of West Dapto.

Capacity for growth in the Town Centre is possible under current planning controls. Future retail, employment and residential growth is delivered by renewal and developing the gaps created by vacant and underutilised sites, such as car parks.

Cater for population increase by attracting a unique offering of retail and services to Dapto Town Centre, supporting and contributing to a vibrant Town Centre.

Design excellence

Promote high quality design of buildings that contribute to an attractive and environmentally sustainable Town Centre.

Buildings are well proportioned, have a comfortable scale at street level and boast well maintained and attractive shopfronts.

All buildings connect with the street. Large scale (big box) developments along main streets incorporate narrow, smaller tenancies with active edges.

Streets as places

A high quality public domain reflects civic pride, with streets in the Town Centre providing comfort, catering for a diverse range of activities and encouraging people to stop and spend time.

The experience of streets and other public places is improved by introducing trees and landscaping to provide relief from heat and to soften hard surfaces.

Introduce trees and shrubs to the Town Centre using local species from the Escarpment, Mullet Creek and Lake Illawarra where practical.

Key Steps

Key steps outline actions linked back to the strategies and will deliver improved outcomes for the Town Centre.

The right growth

- Explore incentives to beautify and make better use of vacant lots and underutilised areas.
- Undertake an economic analysis to investigate ways the Dapto Town Centre can offer a point of difference and support new retail offers.
- Undertake Housing Strategy to understand future housing needs and ensure high quality housing outcomes in and around Dapto Town Centre.
- Work with local business and the Chamber of Commerce to support entrepreneurship, promote economic diversity and investment in the Town Centre.

Design excellence

- Support Town Centre upgrades by introducing a streetscape and laneway improvement program.
- Review Business Centre Development Control Plan (DCP) Chapter and prepare site specific DCP Chapter for Dapto Town Centre to promote high quality, environmentally sustainable and adaptable building design, active shopfronts and high-quality public space.

Streets as places

- A Street Tree Masterplan will guide planting of trees and shrubs within the Dapto Town Centre and make walking links attractive and comfortable.
- Develop a Dapto Public Domain Technical Manual to ensure street upgrades are designed to allow for greater opportunities for easy and comfortable social interaction and activities.
- Design projects and streetscape upgrades to include landscaping and tree planting to provide shade, aesthetic improvements and soft surfaces.
- Continue to support Bushcare sites within the Dapto Town Centre

Where to from here?

Next Steps

The draft Dapto Town Centre Plan February 2017 was prepared by Wollongong City Council with the assistance of the Dapto Futures community group.

The draft Dapto Town Centre Plan was placed on public exhibition between the 6 March and 3 April 2017. Over 1400 comments were collected from Dapto residents, businesses, community groups and other stakeholders. More information on what was heard can be found in the Dapto Town Centre Plan Engagement Report 2017. This feedback was incorporated into the final Plan, and the accompanying Implementation Plan.

The Dapto Town Centre Implementation Plan 2017 elaborates on the Key Steps within this Plan.

The purpose of the Implementation Plan is to guide the delivery of key projects and actions in a collaborative and coherent way to promote best outcomes for the community. As such the Implementation Plan remains flexible and will be reviewed annually.

The Dapto Town Centre Plan is intended to guide change and growth in Dapto for aligned with the community's Vision for the area. In this respect, the Plan will be used to guide projects, including infrastructure, planning and community projects over the next ten years and can also be used as a mechanism to attract grant funds for projects aligned with the Vision and Strategies.

For more information please call the Land Use Planning Team on (02) 4227 7111

The suite of documents



Engagement Report



Implementation Plan



These documents are available on Council's website www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au

DRAFT Dapto Town Centre Plan: Implementation Plan
Last updated April 2017

	ACTION / PROJECT	INFORMATION	PROJECT LEADER	PARTNERS	COST (ESTIMATED)	TARGET PROJECT YEAR (SUBJECT TO FUNDING/RESOURCING)			
						17/18	18/19	19/20	2020 +
	OUR UNIQUE AND WELCOMING PLACE								
1.0	Spaces for Recreation								
1.1	DAPTO RIBBONWOOD CENTRE - PROGRAM DELIVERY	Encourage Ribbonwood Centre and Dapto Library programs and community projects to be delivered outside in suitable public places around the town centre.	LCS	CCED	OPERATIONAL				
1.2	DAPTO RIBBONWOOD CENTRE – OPEN SPACE (EXISTING)	Explore opportunities to improve the comfort and accessibility of Dapto Ribbonwood Centre's existing outdoor spaces (connected to meeting rooms)	LCS	ISP	OPERATIONAL UNFUNDED				
1.3	DAPTO RIBBONWOOD CENTRE – OPEN SPACE (FUTURE)	Investigate opportunities to provide a new outdoor space, accessible to the general public that facilitates spontaneous social interactions such as play or work (eg: provision of wi-fi).	LCS	PR ISP	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
1.4	YOUTH SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE – DELIVERY OF YOUTH PROJECT	Informed by youth-focused engagement, deliver a project/s or service/s that caters to the needs of young people from the area. Links to Actions 2.4- 2.7	CCED	ISP	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
1.5	CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BUSHCARE SITES	Continue to support and expand Bushcare initiatives at sites around Dapto Town Centre. Grow volunteer base for Bushcare program.	ESP	Bushcare volunteers	OPERATIONAL				
2.0	Dapto Square – a meeting place								
2.1	SAFETY AUDIT	Use Safety Audit of Dapto Square (March 17) to help inform the re-design of the Square to facilitate a wide range of future activities and improve amenity in the space. Links to Actions 2.4-2.7	CCED	Dapto Mall, Dapto Futures, Police	OPERATIONAL				
2.2	PUBLIC TOILET STRATEGY/AUDIT	Include Dapto Town Centre in the audits of Wollongong's public Toilets and consider provision of public toilets in Town Centre as part of city wide future strategy.	CCED ISP		OPERATIONAL				
2.3	FACILITATE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES	Identify a process to support and guide temporary events and activities such as markets and performances to take place in Dapto Square.	CCED	PR	OPERATIONAL				
2.4	DAPTO SQUARE RENEWAL – CONCEPT PLAN	Undertake a concept plan for Dapto Square that considers strategic direction set by the Dapto Town Centre Plan, CPTED principles, existing infrastructure (power/water) and community feedback relating to future uses of the space. Redesign Dapto Square to improve comfort and amenity by adding elements such as shade, seating, public art and to increase activity levels (eg: markets) The redesign should incorporate historical interpretation and storytelling.	ESP	CCED, ISP, PR Community groups, Stakeholders	OPERATIONAL \$30,000 FUNDED				
2.5	DAPTO SQUARE RENEWAL – DETAILED DESIGN	Detailed design of Dapto Square following on from Concept Plan.	ISP	ESP CCED PR	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
2.6	DAPTO SQUARE RENEWAL – CONSTRUCT	Construction of Dapto Square upgrade.	ISP	PD/ CW	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
2.7	DAPTO TOWN CENTRE - PILOT PROJECT	Collaborate with the community to deliver pilot projects in the town centre guided by the outcomes of community engagement for the Dapto Town Centre Plan (eg pop up stalls and kiosks, outdoor activities, temporary seating, play and flowerpots etc)	CCED	ESP ISP PR	OPERATIONAL \$60,000 FUNDED				

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						17/18	18/19	19/20	2020 +
3.0	People, places, stories								
3.1	BUILD UPON SUCCESS OF ‘DAPTO STORIES’ ORAL HISTORY PROJECT	Stories are added to the online collection that detail perspectives of people from a wide range of cultures and age groups. The oral histories are shared amongst generations and the resource is promoted to a wider audience.	LCS	YOUTH CENTRE, CAREWAYS LOCAL SCHOOLS, AGED CARE FACILITIES, LOCAL RESIDENTS	OPERATIONAL				
3.2	SHARE STORIES IN PUBLIC DOMAIN	Investigate ways to physically and visually represent Dapto Stories in public spaces and integrate into street furniture, landscaping and/or paving.	CCED	ISP LCS	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
3.3	PUBLIC ART PROJECTS	Public art communicates expresses the unique identity of Dapto, both past and present and illustrates the ongoing evolution of the area.	CCED		OPERATIONAL				
	A PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY CENTRE								
4.0	Redirect traffic moving through the Town Centre to relieve congestion								
4.1	ACCESSIBILITY APPRAISALS	Undertake accessibility appraisals to assess quality of infrastructure such as footpath condition & kerb ramps etc Links to Action 5.3, 6.1-6.3	ISP	CCED	OPERATIONAL				
4.2	BAAN BAAN ST EXTENSION	Construct Baan Baan Street extension from Osborne to Railway Street to relieve traffic congestion along the Princes Highway.	ISP		CAPITAL FUNDED				
4.3	FOWLERS ROAD CONNECTION	Construct Fowlers to Fairwater Drive connection to improve links to West Dapto and relieve pressure on Bong Bong Road.	ISP		CAPITAL FUNDED				
4.4	DAPTO TOWN CENTRE RING ROAD - STUDY	Investigate options to create a ‘ring road’ around the Town Centre to further relieve traffic congestion and to create pedestrian friendly main streets. Investigate further the Moombara Street extension.	ISP		OPERATIONAL				
4.5	DAPTO TOWN CENTRE RING ROAD - DESIGN	Design ‘ring road’ around to Town Centre to assist to relieve traffic congestion and to provide pedestrian friendly main streets	ISP		CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
4.6	DAPTO TOWN CENTRE RING ROAD- CONSTRUCT	Construct ‘ring road’ for Dapto Town Centre.	ISP	PD	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
4.7	SAFETY UPGRADE – STATION STREET & BONG BONG ROAD	Investigate measures to improve pedestrian and vehicle safety at Station St and Bong Bong Rd and improve traffic flow.	ISP		OPERATIONAL				
5.0	Pedestrians are prioritised in the main streets of the Town Centre								
5.1	WAYFINDING SIGNAGE	Deliver clear wayfinding signage to guide pedestrian connections to Ribbonwood and Dapto Station. This signage should include walk and cycle times between destinations to encourage active transport modes.	ISP	CCED	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
5.2	BUS STOP - RENEWAL	Re-design & construct bus stops in the town centre to provide more attractive and comfortable public transport infrastructure (eg: provision of high quality bus shelters, landscaping, shade & service information)	ISP		CAPITAL UNFUNDED				

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5.3	MAIN STREET RENEWAL - DESIGN	Re-design and upgrade main streets Princes Highway (Baan Baan to Dapto Ribbonwood Centre) and Bong Bong Road (Osborne to Princes Highway) to improve footpaths and infrastructure (e.g. seating, lighting, shade) to make a more accessible, pedestrian-friendly environment. Dependent on establishing Ring Road (see Action 4.4-4.6 Links to Action 4.1	ISP	CCED	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
5.4	MAIN STREET RENEWAL CONSTRUCT	Construct main street renewal.	ISP		CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
5.5	STATION MASTER PLAN	Advocate for a Station Master Plan to guide the future functionality of the Dapto Train Station addressing the provision of an integrated, well linked and improved transport facility in the town centre	ISP	ESP TfNSW					
5.6	CYCLE WAYS -PLAN	Investigate provision of a new cycle way to link directly into the Town Centre from Reed Park to Dapto Station	ISP		CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
5.7	CYCLE WAYS -DELIVER	Deliver new cycle way linking directly into the Town Centre and priority links to Lake Illawarra	ISP		CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
6.0	Attractive laneways connect key places and spaces								
6.1	LANEWAY PROJECT - CONCEPT PLAN	Undertake a concept design for laneways in the Town Centre (Mall Lane and Dapto Square Lane) to improve appearance and amenity including footpaths, lighting, seating and landscaping. Link to Action 2.4	ESP ISP	CCED	OPERATIONAL				
6.2	LANEWAY PROJECT -DESIGN	Design laneways in the Town Centre to improve appearance and amenity including footpaths, lighting, seating and landscaping.	ISP	ESP CCED	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
6.3	LANEWAY PROJECT - CONSTRUCT	Construct laneway redesign project	ISP	PD	CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
	AN ATTRACTIVE, VIBRANT CENTRE								
7.0	The right growth								
7.1	VACANT LOTS PROJECT -WCC OWNED LAND	Audit Council owned car park & find ways to better use and beautify Council owned car parks and other underutilised areas (eg: trees, landscaping, blank walls, alternate uses) to set the example in the town centre.	ISP	PR CCED ESP	OPERATIONAL				
7.2	VACANT LOTS PROJECT -PRIVATELY OWNED LAND	Explore process and incentives to better use and beautify vacant lots and underutilised areas. (eg: trees, landscaping, blank walls, alternate uses	ESP	CCED	OPERATIONAL				
7.3	ECONOMIC ANALYSIS	Investigate ways the Dapto Town Centre can offer a point of difference and support new retail offers to support growth into the future.	ESP	CCED	OPERATIONAL				
7.4	HOUSING STRATEGY	The Housing Strategy will investigate future housing needs and challenges (e.g. affordability) of Wollongong and will consider Dapto Town Centre and surrounds as a key opportunity area for growth around the train station and retail hub.	ESP		OPERATIONAL				
7.5	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	Business enquires through the Economic Development team Business development services, including Economic Gardening, Business Connect and the Small Biz Bus	CCED	RD ILLAWARRA DAPTO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE	OPERATIONAL				
8.0	Design excellence								
8.1	SHOPFRONT GRANT PROGRAM - STAGE 1 STUDY	Support shop front upgrades by introducing a facade improvement grant program	ESP		OPERATIONAL UNFUNDED				

DRAFT Dapto Town Centre Plan: Implementation Plan
Last updated April 2017

	ACTION / PROJECT	INFORMATION	PROJECT LEADER	PARTNERS	COST (ESTIMATED)	TARGET PROJECT YEAR (SUBJECT TO FUNDING/RESOURCING)			
						17/18	18/19	19/20	2020 +
8.2	SHOPFRONT GRANT PROGRAM - STAGE 2 GRANT DELIVERY	Support shop front upgrades by introducing a facade improvement grant program	CCED		CAPITAL UNFUNDED				
8.3	PROMOTING ACTIVE AND ATTRACTIVE STREETS	Work with and support local business, landowner & Chamber of Commerce to improve the interface between buildings and the street. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education around active frontages and importance of active shopfronts - Inspiration & approvals process brochure - Encourage outdoor dining - Assist local business/landowners navigating approvals processes - Clarify and simplify processes for minor shop front improvements - Support local business awards 	ESP	ED, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, MARKETING	OPERATIONAL				
8.4	WOLLONGONG DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN REVIEW	Review Business Centre Development Control Plan (DCP) Chapter and prepare site specific DCP Chapter for Dapto Town Centre to promote high quality, sustainable and adaptable building design and public space. Include design controls for buildings around the Dapto Square to ensure they provide a positive interface and retain natural light.	ESP		OPERATIONAL (ALLOCATED)				
9.0	Streets as places								
9.1	STREET TREE MASTER PLAN	Commence a Street Tree Master Plan to guide planting of trees and shrubs within the Dapto Town Centre to improve comfort and attractiveness of walking links as well as provide for urban biodiversity outcomes. Landscaping and tree planting forms an integral part of streetscape upgrades to provide shade, aesthetic improvements and soft surface – link to actions 5.5 & 5.6	ISP		OPERATIONAL				
9.2	PUBLIC DOMAIN TECHNICAL MANUAL	Develop a Dapto Public Domain Technical Manual to ensure street upgrades are designed to allow for greater opportunities for easy and comfortable social interaction and activities and provision of consistent and high quality street furniture and landscaping.	ISP	ESP PD	OPERATIONAL				

List of abbreviations (project leaders and partners)

PR	Property and Recreation	LCS	Library and Community Services
ISP	Infrastructure Strategy + Planning	ED	Economic Development
PD	Project Delivery	LUP	Land Use Planning
TfNSW	Transport for NSW		

Dapto Town Centre Plan Engagement Report

April 2017

Acknowledgements

Wollongong City Council would like to show its respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land to which this Plan applies, of Elders past and present, and extend that respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

This Plan was developed in partnership with the Dapto Futures Group - representatives of the Dapto Chamber of Commerce, Neighbourhood Forum 8 and interested community members. Wollongong City Council would like to acknowledge the time and effort and the ongoing contribution of these groups and their partners to the revitalisation of Dapto.

Wollongong City Council would like to thank members of the community who contributed to this plan by providing feedback in engagement activities.

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How to read

This Engagement Report presents the findings of the public exhibition of the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan. This report briefly describes the methods of engagement and summarises the feedback we received across these activities.

The findings of this report have been incorporated into changes to the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017 to create the Final Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027.

This Engagement Report is a summary only of the broad and comprehensive feedback received during the preparation of town centre Plan for Dapto. The feedback received will continue to inform the roll-out of projects and programs across Dapto, including the actions specified in the Dapto Town Centre Implementation Plan 2017. For more information please contact the Land Use Planning section of Wollongong Council.

The evolution of the Dapto Town Centre Plan





Dapto Square, 2016

Executive Summary

Community Engagement Process

The one-month public exhibition for the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan started on 6 March 2017 and closed on 3 April 2017. Wollongong Council, along with the Dapto Futures community group, conducted a series of community engagement activities and a total of 1426 comments were gathered by the end of the exhibition period (including 790 comments collected in an earlier survey).

The public consultation for the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan was successful thanks to active community participation. All comments gathered from the process will inform Council's finalisation and implementation of the Dapto Town Centre Plan.

Support and Opportunities

The comments received recorded majority support for the plan across all engagement methods.

The Dapto community would like to see environmental, economic and social developments in the region, and indicated support for high quality urban growth in Dapto.

Many comments highlighted the lack of retail offer in Dapto and a key theme was increasing the number and diversity of shops and services in Dapto. Some comments referred to Stockland Shellharbour Shopping Centre as an example of successful regional retail shopping destination with high quality dining spaces and expressed a desire for similar spaces, offers and new main street interaction in Dapto.

The community cherish Dapto's history and wanted the Plan to address historical elements such as unique Dapto stories and visible acknowledgment of its heritage.

Generally speaking, the comments indicated that it is time for Council to put resources in Dapto and help the region grow into a liveable place which suits the needs of the

local community. Maintenance and cleaning of existing infrastructure were seen as the first step in achieving a revitalised town centre.

Many Dapto residents stressed the importance of urban beautification such as the streetscape and shopfront upgrading which has been successful in the Albion Park town centre revitalisation. There was significant support for more trees and gardens as well as water features and general footpath upgrades and refreshing of Dapto's tired and old infrastructure.

Challenges and Concerns

During the exhibition period, the Dapto community raised concerns on a wide range of issues.

The Dapto Square has long been a controversial public space which is currently underutilised and considered uninviting. Many comments from the consultation identified Dapto Square as an unsafe place with anti-social behaviour and unfriendly design. Improving the safety of the Town Centre was therefore another key theme. The community would like to see the cleaning up of and suitable maintenance works happening in the Dapto Square as the first step to recreate an attractive and vibrant town centre.

In addition, the community was concerned about accessibility, traffic congestion and public transport issues in Dapto and surrounding areas. The draft Plan's vision for improved opportunities to walk around the town centre was generally supported.

A number of comments mentioned the potential connectivity between Dapto Town Centre and the West Dapto Urban Release Area, and supported the possibility of building a ring road system to ease the current traffic pressure on Princes Highway. This would be significant for the future development of Dapto Town Centre and West Dapto, and the sustainable long-term relationship between the two centres.

We used 10 different engagement methods and collected 1426 comments on the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan

Introduction

Dapto is a regionally- significant centre offering a wide variety of high-order services and is a focal point for future jobs and housing growth. The West Dapto Urban Release Area will provide a significant portion of Wollongong's growth, and be home to over 55,000 new residents when complete. West Dapto sits right on Dapto's doorstep, providing many opportunities and challenges for the region.

As part of Wollongong City Council's Town and Village Planning process, a draft Town Centre Plan was prepared for the Dapto Town Centre in 2016- 2017, with the assistance of the 'Dapto Futures' Community Group.

This draft Plan included a Vision for Dapto to ensure it becomes:

- Our unique and welcoming place
- A pedestrian friendly centre, and
- An attractive and vibrant centre

Each of these Vision statements was supported by a number of draft strategies which provide more detail about how this Vision can be achieved.

To test the draft Vision and strategies and align future Dapto Town Centre projects with community aspirations, the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017 was placed on public exhibition seeking the broad community's views and priorities.

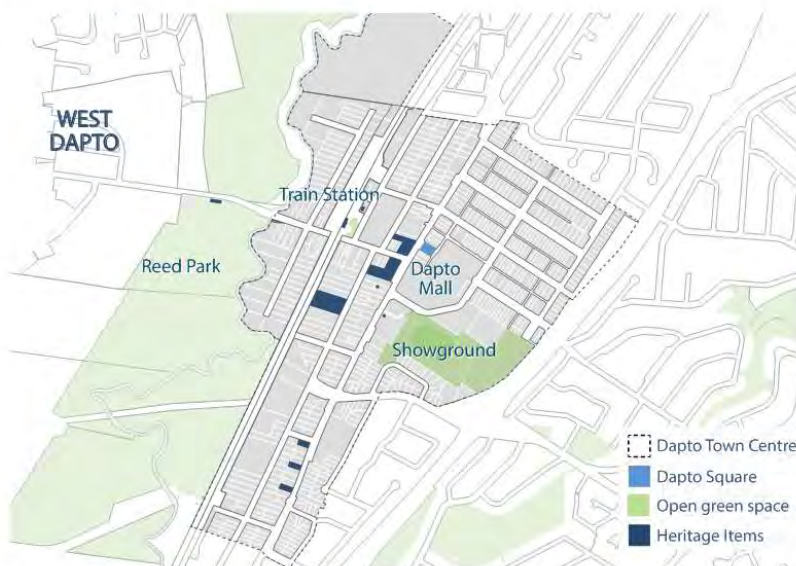
This report summarises the outcomes of this public exhibition (community engagement) period, and is intended to provide an overview of what the community told us they want for Dapto into the future. This feedback can then be used to shape and scope council and community projects and seek funding sources such as grants, and also to measure the success or otherwise of projects into the future.

The information received during the community engagement period will also be used to refine the Draft Dapto Town Centre Plan to create a final plan that provides strategic guidance for the future growth of Dapto.

The final Dapto Town Centre Plan 2017-2027 (the Plan) is intended to be used by everyone who lives, works and visits Dapto Town Centre and will guide change through infrastructure and public space improvements, planning policy amendments and partnerships with a variety of stakeholders. The Plan is a ten-year strategy with actions to be staged over the short, medium and longer term.

The draft Dapto Town Centre Plan was placed on public exhibition from Saturday 6 March to Monday 3 April 2017

The engagement reached thousands of people and we received over 1400 comments!



A map of the Dapto Town Centre Study Area

Community Engagement Objectives

Objectives

The objectives of the engagement process were to:

- Understand community aspirations for the future of Dapto Town Centre
- Test the relevance and support for Town Centre Vision, Strategies & Key Steps and to identify any gaps in the draft Plan
- Raise awareness of Dapto Town Centre Plan and empower groups to achieve the Vision in collaboration with Council

A focus on youth engagement

Dapto and surrounding suburbs have a high proportion of young people with almost a quarter of the population aged 18 or under according to 2011 Census statistics. Because of this, a heavy emphasis was placed on engaging with school students, and Council staff visited and ran activities with a number of primary and high schools in the area.

Achievements

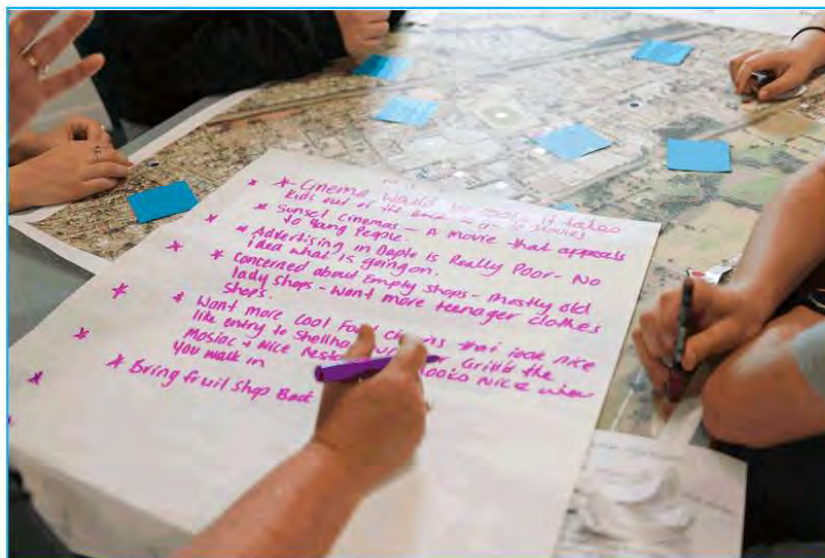
The engagement period collected 1426 documented responses and additional feedback was collected during face to face conversations with community and business owners, residents and school students.

Submissions received overwhelmingly supported the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan and no outright objections to the Plan were received, although many opportunities for improvement across the Town Centre were noted.

Limitations/Suggested Improvements

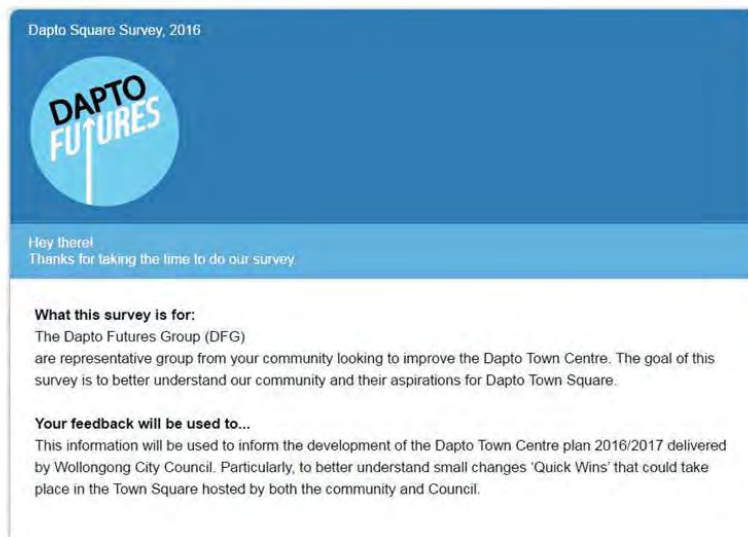
The Engagement Process was designed to be as comprehensive as possible within the relatively short 4 week timeframe. A shortcoming of the process included limited targeted engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Dapto and neighbouring suburbs. Council staff attended the Aboriginal Reference Group meeting on 22 February 2016 and visited schools with a high proportion of Indigenous students. Actions within the Plan will require further community engagement and emphasis and resources should be placed on engaging with the local Aboriginal community as key stakeholders in these actions.

Over 150 school students participated in the engagement process, providing over 500 ideas for Dapto!



Some of the feedback collected from Dapto High School - 8 March 2017

Engagement Methods



Dapto Futures Survey

The Dapto Futures community group prepared and distributed a survey asking residents, workers and visitors why they visit Dapto, how they get there and what they would like to see in Dapto in the future, with a focus on Dapto Square.

The survey attracted a lot of interest with 790 responses received!



Social Media

On 5 March 2017, Council posted a Facebook message to promote the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan. Local businesses and organisations such as Dapto Mall and the Dapto Leagues Club also shared the post with their networks. Overall, the post reached over 23,000 people.

Council also promoted the draft Plan on Twitter, making over 1500 impressions.



Project webpage

The draft Dapto Town Centre Plan was promoted on a project specific webpage on Council's HaveYourSay online engagement platform.

The webpage contained links to download the draft Plan, FAQs, key dates, photos and the option to submit an online feedback form. The draft Plan was downloaded by 846 people and the webpage attracted 2000 views.



Information Kiosk

On Saturday 18 March, from 9am - 1pm, Council staff and Councillors talked to the community at an information kiosk set up inside the Dapto Mall.

A total of 49 comments on the draft Plan were received on the day.

Engagement Methods



School Visits

A Council team of planners and youth and community services staff (including Careways representatives) visited Dapto and Kanahooka High Schools and Dapto and Koonawarra Primary Schools as well as a school breakfast program run at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre by Careways.

Feedback and ideas were collected from over 150 students between the ages of 9 and 17.



Flyer, Newspaper Advertisements & Articles

A promotional flyer was distributed online and in hard copy.

The flyer was designed to be colourful and eye-catching and encouraged people to visit the Information Kiosk and to view the draft Plan online.

Advertisements were placed in the local papers, in the Advertiser on Wednesday 15 March and in the Illawarra Mercury on Saturday 4 March. The draft Plan also received positive media coverage.



Letters

943 letters were sent via post to landowners and business owners/tenants within the Study Area.

Letters were also sent to government agencies such as the RMS, NSW Police, NSW Health, Transport for NSW and the Disability Council amongst others. Letters were also sent to State MP Anna Watson and Federal MP Stephen Jones.



Forums and Reference Groups

Members of the Land Use Planning and Engagement Teams visited the Neighbourhood Forum 8 meeting on Wednesday 8 March.

Council staff presented the draft Plan to the Aboriginal Reference Group on the 22 February, the Active Transport Reference Group on 14 March and was due to present to Access Reference Group meeting on 17 March, unfortunately this meeting was cancelled due to storms and flooding. The draft Plan was presented to the Heritage Advisory Committee on the 28 March.

Feedback - What we heard

Dapto Futures Survey

Throughout the preparation of the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan, Council worked closely with the Dapto Futures community group to develop a collective future Vision for the Dapto Town Centre.

The 'Dapto Futures' group included representation from the Dapto Chamber of Commerce, Dapto Leagues Club, Dapto Mall, Dapto Showground as well as enthusiastic members of the community and local business owners.

The 'Dapto Futures' group developed an online survey that aimed to better understand the community's aspirations for Dapto Town Centre, with a focus on Dapto Square.

The survey was made available online for a period of six weeks from 10 September 2016 to 31 October 2016. The survey was successfully promoted by the 'Dapto Futures' group through their extensive networks via email, on social media platforms and through word of mouth.

The online survey used accessible language and contained graphics to ensure it was suitable for a wide audience.

The survey contained targeted questions designed to clarify how the community currently use the Dapto Town Centre, identify the changes they would like to see in Dapto Square and to understand future aspirations for the Town Centre.

A total of 790 responses were received. Participants were asked to identify their age and responses were received from a wide mix of younger and older people.

Quotes about the Square

"Create a safer space for families..."

"A playground for children would be a great asset"

"Give it a purpose..."

"A place where everyone respects each other regardless of culture"

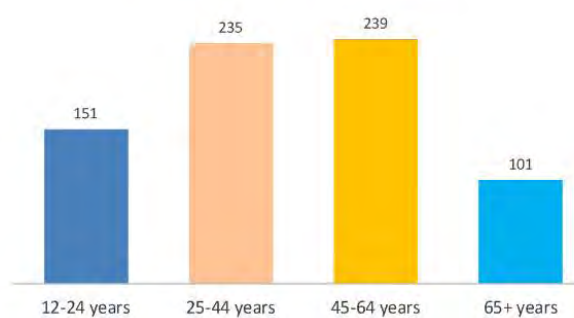
"Soften the area to make more inviting, grass/seating, night lighting"

"Clean it up, make it more presentable"

"More markets and interactive events to make it a place that's welcoming and fun"

We heard from every age group...

■ 12-24 years ■ 25-44 years ■ 45-64 years ■ 65+ years



Number of responses received in each age group. Not all people answered this question.



Dapto Futures Survey

The 'Dapto Futures' online survey comprised a total of seven questions, including two open ended questions that invited people to identify their preferences for future changes in Dapto Square and asked the community to share ideas for the Dapto Town Centre.

The online survey revealed that 50.3% of respondents visit the Dapto Town Centre on a weekly basis. Survey respondents also indicated the most popular way to visit the Dapto Town Centre was by car, with 85.32% of people reporting this as their primary mode of transport.

The first open ended question (Q5) asked survey respondents to identify the one change they would like to see in Dapto Square. All survey participants answered this question with the 790 suggestions grouped under ten broad themes.

Under the broad theme of 'Safety' most people were concerned with change that focused on 'management of antisocial behavior' (66%) in the Square. Other popular suggestions included creating a 'safe & inclusive space' (22%) followed by the identified need for "increased policing" (11%).

The theme of 'Appearance' identified changes to make Dapto Square more 'attractive' (29%), by adding elements such as seats (26%) and shade (58%), cleaning (13%), making the space more permeable (increasing sight lines) (4%) and the provision of more lights (2%).

Under the theme of 'Retail Offer' the community overwhelmingly identified the desire to have markets in Dapto Square (49%), more restaurants and cafes (33%) and a more diverse offer of retail and services (18%).

The theme 'Events & Culture' identified a strong desire to see more art in the Dapto Town Centre (41%) followed by more entertainment offers (36%) and increased opportunities for cultural activities and visibility (23%).

Under the theme 'Nature' many people wanted to see more 'trees and gardens' (53%) in the Square. 'Water fountains' (15%) and making the Square into a 'park' (15%) were also popular ideas. People also suggested planting flowers (10%) whilst 3% of responses mentioned the need for landscaping maintenance. A small number of people mentioned 'recycling' (2%) and the use of natural materials (1%).

Other themes included Recreation & Play (5%), Community Facilities (2%), 'Unsure' (2%), 'Nothing' (1%) and 'Transport' (1%).

Quotes about the Square

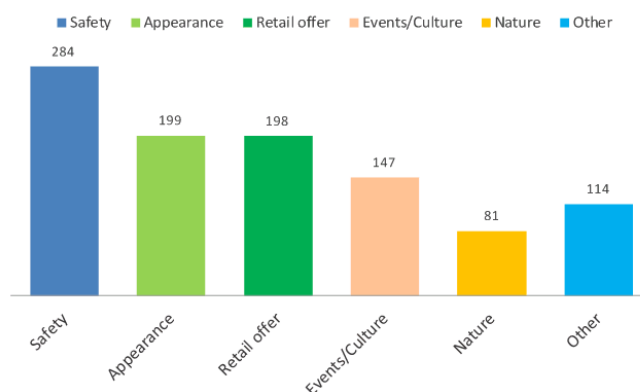
"its difficult to keep dry whilst waiting for the bus on rainy days - more shelter please"

"Water blast the area and clean it up (all of Dapto's streets need this) let's be proud of the area we live play, work etc"

"sometimes the people who sit around there are a bit loud and I think sometimes under the influence. I would police this a bit more"

"There are regular people that are always there, mainly men who are drinking alcohol. This is the one thing that makes me worried and sometimes scared as I walk past them with my children. I don't see how you can stop them from sitting there, so maybe create more comfortable and clean space for them..."

Top priority for the Square...



Main themes identified in the survey when asked, 'what is one thing you would change about Dapto Square'



Feedback - What we heard

Social Media

Council posted information regarding the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan on Facebook on 6 March 2017. The post was intended to promote the project, gather feedback and to direct viewers to the project specific webpage on Councils Haveyoursay engagement platform.

At the close of public exhibition period, the post produced 113 likes, 64 comments and 83 shares. A total of 52 Facebook users provided comments which showed support, highlighted issues or expressed individual ideas regarding the future development of Dapto.

These comments mentioned a wide range of current social issues in Dapto. Among the total of 52 comments collected (of which three (3) mentioned more than one theme), roads and traffic issues (17 comments) and the safety issues related to anti-social behaviour (17) came out as the top 2 most common themes.

People were concerned about local road conditions (e.g. a large pot hole on Bong Bong Road) and the delivery of transport infrastructure projects (e.g. the Fowlers-Fairwater Drive bridge to West Dapto). These projects sit outside the current study area and the comments were directed to relevant Council divisions for consideration and action.

Some other important themes that were

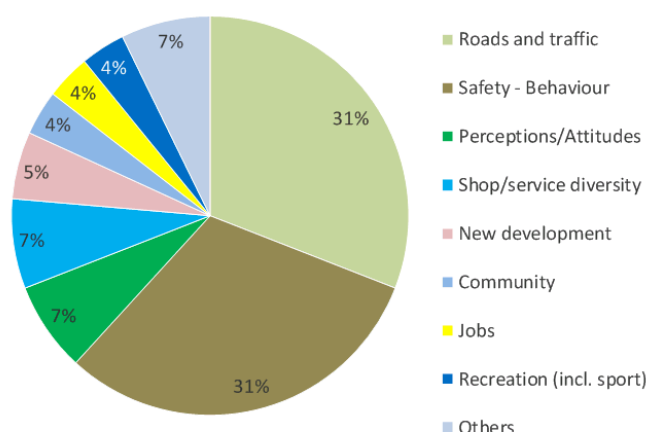
identified by the Facebook comments included the general perceptions and attitudes towards Dapto (4), the need for a diversity of shops and services (4), and issues regarding new development, such as the development potential for the old Dapto Primary School site(3).

When it comes to the number of likes for each theme which indicated the approval rate for all these comments (as of the end of exhibition period), the safety issues related to anti-social behaviour in Dapto Square gained the largest number of likes from other Facebook users (92 likes).

Some other themes that were widely supported included the need for high quality recreation & opportunities to play sports (42 likes), more events in Dapto such as a Farmers Market (38 likes) and roads and traffic issues (37 likes).

Council's Facebook post on the 6 March 2017 reached over 23,000 people

Facebook Feedback (52 comments)



Main themes identified in feedback detailed in Facebook comments.

Facebook comments

"Why don't local councils along the south coast lobby state/Federal to spend money on bettering the roads and infrastructure. ... whilst I acknowledge plans for a bypass, with the ever growing population a faster, more efficient rail system would be great to move people with greater ease"

"Life needs to be brought to the streets, not hidden in the Mall. Yes to outdoor farmer's market. Sidewalk cafés. No to dull shop-fronts. We need colour. We need vibrant life a town that is a great place to spend time and to create good community heart"

Online Feedback

The project specific webpage titled 'Help Shape Dapto's Future' was available from Saturday 4 March to Monday 3 April.

During this time, the page was viewed over 2,100 times by over 1,800 people. The draft Plan was downloaded 882 times from the webpage.

Of the 1,800 people who visited the webpage only 40 were registered with Council's online HaveYourSay engagement platform.

The webpage received a large spike in visits at the beginning of the public exhibition period with 591 visitors on 6 March and 643 on 7 March, indicating successful promotion through Facebook, newspaper advertisements, letters and distribution/word of mouth by the Dapto Futures community group. A much smaller spike was also evident after the information kiosk with 60 visitors to the page on 18 March.

Limited demographic data can be collected from registered participants. 39 registered participants who visited the page were from the Dapto area, in suburbs within the 2530 postcode and one participant was from the Figtree area. 28 registered participants are female, and 12 are male. The registered participants represented a mix of ages. Most of the registered participants were aged 26-35

(12) and 36-45 (12). 1 registered participant was aged under 18 and 3 aged between 18-25. 8 registered participants were aged 46-55 and 4 between the ages of 56-65.

Twenty (20) online feedback forms were received. You must be a registered user to submit an online feedback form and only a small amount of webpage viewers are registered with the platform. However, these submissions were generally quite comprehensive with comments spanning a number of themes and presenting various ideas for Dapto.

The ideas and comments raised within the online feedback form submissions identified 23 separate themes.

The main theme identified in the feedback forms was a desire for a larger number of and greater diversity of shops and services in Dapto. The next most popular theme was a desire for more greenery around the town centre, followed by more artworks and improvements to safety and walkability. Other themes included roads and traffic, encouraging cycling, play, Indigenous history and culture and water.

Highlights

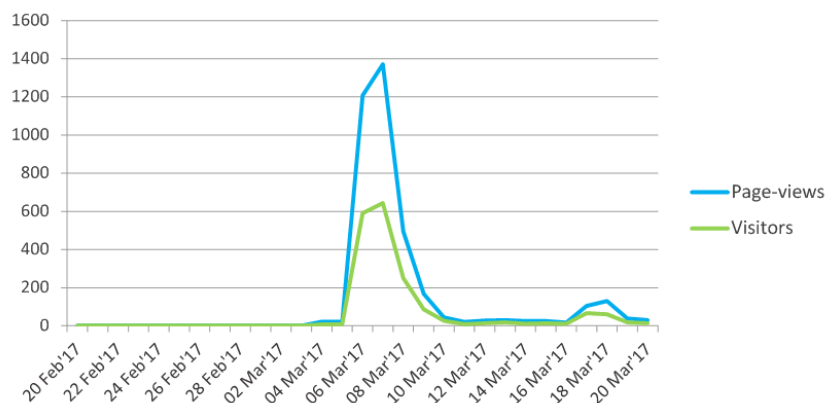
2,100 webpage views

882 downloads of the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan

Photographs viewed over 370 times

20 feedback forms completed

Webpage Visit Timeline



Record of webpage visitors and number of page views.

Feedback - What we heard

Online Feedback

Markets were a popular suggestion (in particular food and/or produce markets) with an existing market operator in the Dapto area expressing interest in organising a market in the Square.

Three (3) suggestions highlighted the need to respect Dapto's heritage, particularly its Indigenous heritage and culture and suggested artworks, cultural centres and multicultural food fairs as possible ways to do this. One submission stressed that artworks and other representations of culture need to be authentic and involve local people and positive local stories. Keeping the farming history of Dapto alive was also noted in three submissions, through urban and rooftop gardens, markets and fresh food shops.

Roads and traffic feedback was centred around reducing congestion on Bong Bong Road near the station and making roads safer through efficiently organising the traffic. One submission stated that the taxi rank should be relocated and one submission recommended the bus stop in front of Alexanders Cafe on the Princes Highway should be moved nearer to Aldi where the footpath widens to give the small businesses in this area more room, improve the streetscape appearance and the comfort of the bus stop.

Submissions about safety raised issues regarding behaviours in the Square that made them feel unsafe, including drinking of alcohol, offensive language, litter, graffiti and public urination. A partnership with the NSW Police was suggested although the nature of this partnership not elaborated upon. Many of the submissions (whether mentioning safety or not) were supportive of more activities taking place in the Square.

Some of the feedback forms (8) noted 'making the town centre more family friendly'. Many ideas were suggested to do this, including making the centre easier to walk around especially with a pram, playgrounds and water features, attractive planting and landscaping and paying more attention to general maintenance of the town centre.

Improvements to the appearance of Dapto Town Centre were also noted in the feedback forms, with removal of graffiti, landscape and street furniture maintenance, shop improvements and plantings being popular suggestions.

Feedback form Quotes

"I feel the Square...could be used for live music, family area and a cafe/restaurant. I've lived in Dapto my whole life and I like the way it is. I also know a lot of people who feel the same, but would like some small changes"

"I like the incorporation of indigenous and western history and interpretive sites."

"Sounds great, I can't wait for the town centre to be revitalised"

"Less cars, more pedestrian friendly streets with food stalls, markets, greenery"

"I will be super annoyed if council chase away the Koori mob, and replace them with some tokenistic artwork"

"As Dapto means Water Plenty it would be nice to have some kind of water feature in the town square"

"There is a bench chair outside where H and R block is it leans to one side it's been like that for years I can't understand why council has never fixed that bench seat"

"...big commercial/corporate kept to Dapto mall and the main street are locally owned and operated unique businesses...if gain-ign bulky goods/furniture/whitegoods stores keep these to more industrial areas like Marshall Street..."

Haveyoursay Online Feedback (20 comments)



Information Kiosk Comments

An information kiosk was held in Dapto aiming to raise community awareness and inviting people to come and speak with Council Officers about the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan.

The information kiosk took place on Saturday 18 March inside Dapto Mall. In addition to having information available relating to the draft 'Dapto Town Centre Plan' the kiosk also provided details around the proposal to extend Baan Baan Street between Station Street and Osborne Street.

There were a total of 49 comments received (submitted in writing to the suggestions box) at the information kiosk. These comments have been grouped into 18 overarching themes.

The most common themes related to 'Roads & Traffic' which attracted 9 comments, followed by the desire for 'Shop & Service Diversity' with 7 comments, 'Parking' at 6 comments, 'Walking' 4 comments and 'Laneways' with 3 comments.

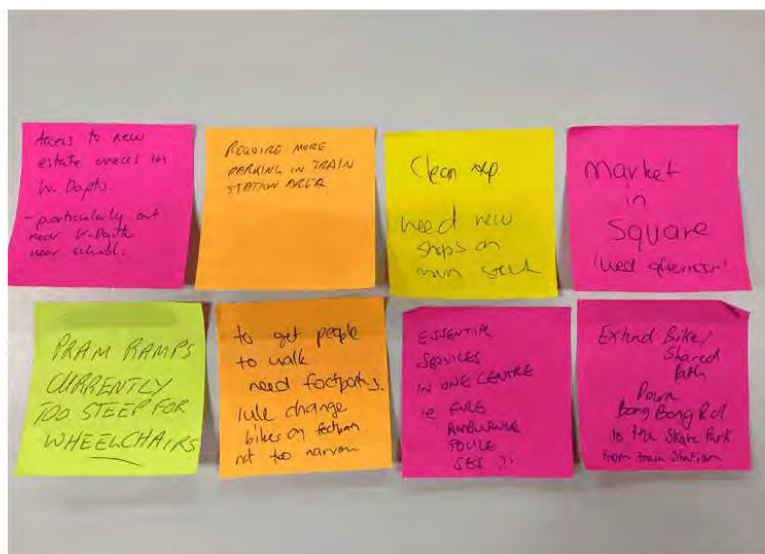
Overall the community expressed high levels of support for the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan and were particularly keen to see key steps highlighted in the Strategies translated into visible improvements in the Dapto Town Centre

Comments shared at the Information Kiosk did not highlight issues with safety or antisocial behaviour occurring in Dapto Square. On the contrary, feedback from the information kiosk focused on the Square becoming an increasingly inclusive space and specifically expressed that people currently using the space should not be actively moved on.

The high proportion of comments relating to 'Roads & Traffic' could be linked to the fact that the Information Kiosk also provided information relating to the proposed extension of Baan Baan Street.

Also the high levels of rainfall that were recorded in the month of March, highlighted the importance the community placed on road infrastructure in and around Dapto Town Centre.

A significant amount of feedback also centred on the fact that the Dapto Town Centre was looking 'tired' and in need of maintenance to refresh the look and feel of the Town Centre.



Kiosk Ideas

"Dapto should have a streetscape upgrade like Albion Park"

"Laneways in Dapto are like a drag strip - pedestrians need priority"

"Need footpaths, people will walk if there are footpaths provided"

"Railway station needs better signage in Town Centre"

"The TAFE building could be retro-fitted for affordable housing or even crisis accommodation"

Feedback - What we heard

School Visits

Council officers visited four local schools during the course of the public exhibition period: Dapto High School, Kanahooka High School, Koonawarra Primary and Dapto Public School. A small session was also conducted with a Careways Breakfast Program, attended by a small group of children from Koonawarra and Lakelands Primary Schools. Over 150 students participated in activities ran by Council officers exploring how local children and youth currently perceive and use the Dapto Town Centre, and what they would like Dapto Town Centre to be like in the future.

Each consultation session lasted for approximately 60 minutes. Firstly, primary school students were given dots of three colours to place on a big Dapto Town Centre map – blue dots to represent places they currently visit in the town centre, and green/red dots to show places they generally feel safe and unsafe in.

High school students were provided dots of only two colours to indicate on map the places they do visit (blue) and do not visit (red) in Dapto Town Centre. Group discussions delved into why places were well visited or avoided, providing valuable data for the Town Centre Plan.

The second activity involved students having a group brainstorm discussion, writing/drawing their comments and ideas for the draft Plan & future of Dapto Town Centre on post-it notes, and sticking them on the same map used in the first activity. More than 500 comments have been collected from this exercise.

We spoke to over 150 students (aged between 9 and 17) and we collected over 500 comments.



The number one priority for both high school and primary school students is the need for a diversity of shops and services

School Visits

The largest number of comments received from school students (both high school and primary school students) related to the lack of shops and services catering to young people in Dapto. They indicated that they would generally travel outside the suburb to visit shops they enjoyed.

The next largest number of comments related to spaces for recreation. It was commonly stated there was limited space for young people to hang out or play in within Dapto Town Centre. Feedback indicated that current spaces (Reed Park, Skate Park, Mall, Showground etc) do not necessarily meet the needs of young people currently and could be improved.

Some interesting and subtle differences can be recognised from comparing high school and primary school feedback:

1. Whilst important to both groups, primary school students care more about the recreational, sport-related and play services provided in the town centre and high school students are proportionally more interested in shopping.
2. Primary school students in Dapto are more concerned about their general safety. They nominated many areas in the town centre as 'unsafe', including Dapto Square, roads, bushland areas, vacant sites and car parks.
3. High school students in Dapto are more aware of the need for a cultural scene of Dapto, with more comments from high school students requesting more cultural facilities, events and artworks in Dapto.

Other common issues included the need for better cycling facilities, more greenery, trees and water and more events.

Ideas for Dapto from Primary Students

"Like inflatable world, flipout & hangtime"

"I want a gaming shop for gamers"

"New play equipment - slide and swings"

"Mall should have more security and protection... scary teenagers and bad people in Dapto Square"

"Aquarium in the space next to Dapto Mall"

"Bigger Skate Park"

"Mall like Shellharbour"

"dump trucks to clean up the streets"

"more markets and low price specials"

"fountain in town centre"

"a stage in Dapto Square for performing arts"

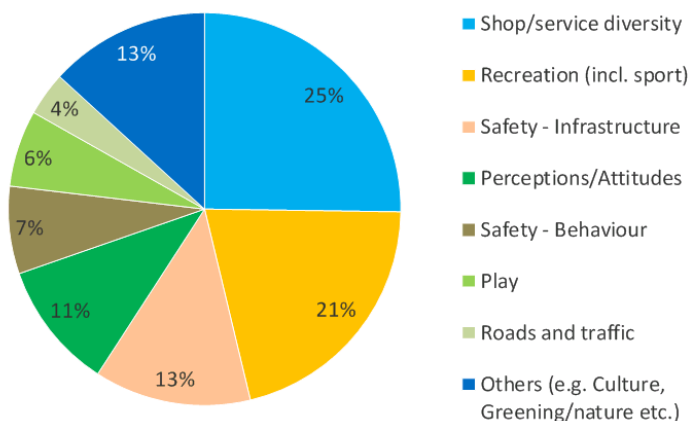
"Dapto Mall playground is only for little kids- the town centre needs a playground for older kids"

"A hut for the homeless people- serves food and takes donations"

"flower patches and animal care"

"Dapto needs a police station, a hospital and more safety"

Primary School Feedback (333 comments)



Main themes identified in feedback received from primary school students.

Feedback - What we heard

Primary School Comments

A total of 333 comments were collected from primary school students about what they wanted to see in Dapto in the future. The need for a diversity of shops and services (25%) and the availability of high quality recreation areas & opportunities to play sports (21%) were the two themes with the largest number of comments.

Other themes included: safety issues including (behavioural and traffic-related-13%); negative attitudes towards Dapto described as (empty, boring, colourless etc- 11%); addressing anti-social behaviour such as yelling, fighting, drinking (7%) and the need for more playgrounds (6%).

Students felt safest at the Dapto Ribbonwood Centre and Library (42 votes), followed by Dapto Pool (36 votes). McDonalds and the Mall were also viewed as quite safe (26 and 34 votes, respectively).

Dapto Mall and Dapto Showground were places viewed as both safe and unsafe. Feeling unsafe generally meant the area was too busy, has unfriendly strangers and a place where you could easily get lost. Dapto Square, Mullet Creek and the Dapto scrap metal yard were all identified as unsafe places.

Most students wanted more shops and opportunities to play, such as sporting offers and water play, skate parks or indoor rock climbing or trampolining. There is currently no outdoor area in the town centre study area that provides recreational opportunities for children. Interestingly, the main recreation spaces near the town centre, Reed Park and the skate park, did not attract many votes as either a safe or unsafe place, and were viewed as being too far away, needing better facilities, better connections and more things to do.

Top 5 Safe Places

1. Ribbonwood Centre & Library
2. Dapto Pool
3. Dapto Mall
4. McDonalds Dapto
5. Dapto Showground

Top 5 Unsafe Places

1. Dapto Showground
2. Dapto Mall
3. Mullet Creek
4. Scrap Yard
5. Dapto Square



This map shows places in Dapto Town Centre voted as safe (green) or unsafe (red), the larger the dot the more votes it received.

High School Comments

During the engagement period, council officers engaged with Dapto High School Student Representative Council (SRC) students and Year 10 students from Kanahooka High School.

Among the 170 comments gathered, the students have identified two themes being the most important to them – wanting more shops and services (30%) and more opportunities for high quality recreation & sports (16%).

Other themes which were mentioned by a significant number of students include the general negative perceptions and attitudes towards Dapto (8%); the need for more artworks in the town centre area (6%); the consideration of safety issues related to anti-social behaviour (5%) and the need for more cultural facilities and elements in Dapto (5%).

The top 5 most popular places that high school students visit in the Dapto Town Centre are:

1. Dapto Mall
2. Dapto Train Station
3. McDonalds
4. Dapto Leagues Club
5. Dapto Ribbonwood Centre

The Mall received a mix of feedback, with many comments relating to the fact that it catered mostly to older customers and had few shops for young people or places to hang out. Students indicated they travelled to Wollongong, Warrawong, Shellharbour and Sydney for shops and entertainment. This is reflected in the Train Station being the second most visited site. McDonalds (and to a lesser extent KFC) were identified as places to meet.

The top 5 most avoided places are:

1. Dapto Square
2. Dapto Showground
3. Dapto High
4. Commuter car park (Bong Bong Road)
5. Dapto Square Lane

Dapto Square was seen as having nothing to do, but also seen by many students, particularly female students, as an intimidating space. Anti-social behaviour such as staring, yelling and drinking alcohol were named as intimidating behaviours. The Showground was viewed as offering nothing for young people and Dapto High was listed due to school rivalries. The commuter car park was seen as a vandalism risk.

Ideas for Dapto from High School Students

"Markets, live music, better offer in mall"

"A park in town that has skate, play, basketball and social areas"

"Bright art like humming-birds"

"More shops - clothes, sports, shoes, hungry jacks and Oporto"

"Souvenir shops for Dapto Dogs"

"Spider playground"

"Make it like a Town Piazza in Italy - fountains, cafes, art, live music & buskers"

"More culture - so tourists come to Dapto"

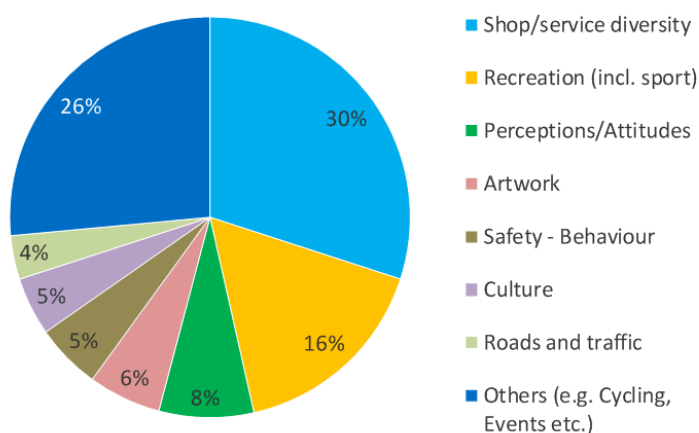
"Art work - by kids and professional artists, especially at train station and in the Square"

"Sunset Cinema- outdoor cinema that shows movies that appeal to young people (not just kids movies)"

"Want more cool food chains that look nice like entry at Shellharbour -Grill'd, the mosaic and nice restaurants. Looks good when you walk in"

"Dapto history + fb page - advertise and promote Dapto"

High School Feedback (170 comments)



Main themes identified in feedback received from high school students.

Feedback - What we heard

Written submissions - Government Agencies

Written responses were received from four (4) government agencies - Transport for NSW, the Roads and Maritime Service, the Office of Environment and Heritage and the Disability Council of NSW.

Transport for NSW

Transport for NSW (TfNSW) support access and mobility related improvements in Dapto Town Centre and the redesign of Dapto Town Square. TfNSW recommends Council engage further with them and the RMS around any plans to alter the Princes Highway. TfNSW supported improvements to transit stops but requested clarification around improvements to transport facilities such as bus stops and train station.

TfNSW noted in particular that buses operate along the Princes Highway and any efforts to calm the Princes Highway would need to consider potential impacts on bus traffic. TfNSW do not support any redirecting of buses away from the Princes Highway as it is the most convenient link for bus customers.

TfNSW also suggested that Council consider cycle paths that are separated from road ways to connect with West Dapto.

Roads and Maritime Services (RMS)

The RMS provided comments relating to the Regional classified status of the Princes Highway (between Emerson and Unara Roads) but acknowledged their preference for Council to determine the most appropriate road treatments to improve safety and efficiency.

The RMS noted they are the sole authority responsible for the review of speed zones on public roads and any future proposed reduction in speed zones would need to be developed in consultation with their Network and Safety Officer.

“Significant bus operations occur along the Princes Highway, with routes 31, 2, 33, 41, 43 and 57 servicing the town centre and surrounding suburbs. Potential traffic calming measures can impact bus operations in terms of service delivery, on-time running and the overall customer experience”

Transport for NSW

Written submissions - Government Agencies

Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH)

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) are supportive of the environmental initiatives within the draft Plan including improving pedestrian links and access, creating engaging spaces, play areas, landscaping and urban greening.

OEH noted the importance of mitigating urban heatwave impacts. Initiatives to influence local climate include tree planting, landscaping, water features, breezeways and water sensitive urban design. Including quantifiable measures in the implementation plan such as increased tree canopy cover are also suggested. OEH also noted other sustainability measures could be reiterated in the draft Plan including supporting energy efficiency (LED lighting, solar power generation) and improving active transport opportunities and reducing car emissions.

OEH support a Site-Specific Development Control Plan Chapter and accompanying Design Manual which includes sustainability measures.

OEH noted that recent Aboriginal cultural heritage investigations at West Dapto are revealing new information about the archaeology and contemporary Aboriginal cultural values of the region, and suggest that the revitalisation of the Dapto Town Centre provides an opportunity to present this information to the Dapto community in culturally appropriate ways.

OEH noted the Study Area is affected by flooding but that flood management has not been mentioned in the draft Plan. Opportunities exist within the Mullet Creek floodplain between Dapto and Horsley to strategically plan for increased floodplain storage and waterway conveyance, riparian corridor enhancements, water quality treatment initiatives and enhanced community amenity, accessibility and connectivity.

OEH suggested including reference to future demographic changes to inform strategic actions.

NSW Disability Council

The NSW Disability Council commended the draft Plan for having a community focus, however expressed disappointment at the lack of focus on disability issues.

The NSW Disability Council referenced Wollongong's Disability Inclusion Action Plan and stated that it requires including these issues early in the planning process. Not doing so can increase costs in the future associated with retro-fitting.

The NSW Disability Council recommended that the Plan ensures that:

- Physical spaces are accessible and easily traversed,
- Way finding, maps and web information is available in multiple accessible formats,
- Spaces provide respite from the sun and rain,
- Access is provided to water and toilets, including accessible toilets and changing facilities,
- Access is provided for members of the public but also for employees and contractors who may have a disability.

"It is suggested Council conduct Aboriginal community consultation to identify knowledge holders ... to contribute interpretive information to the process in culturally appropriate ways"

Office of Environment and Heritage

"[The Dapto Town Centre Plan] is an opportunity to make a place that is welcoming for ALL people..."

NSW Disability Council

Feedback - What we heard

Written submissions - Community

Eight (8) written submissions were received commenting on the Draft Dapto Town Centre Plan.

Six (6) submissions indicated support for the plan whilst two (2) provided comments only (neither directly supporting nor objecting to the draft Plan). Two (2) submissions commented on the quality of the document, stating it looked great.

All submissions received were from the 2530 postcode of Dapto and neighbouring suburbs.

One submission was authored by the Dapto Chamber of Commerce, strongly endorsing the draft Plan and naming it as the first step in ensuring that Dapto Town Centre delivers amenity, services and lifestyle benefits to existing and new residents.

The Dapto Futures group also sent in a submission of support, thanking Council for helping produce a high quality document. The Dapto Futures group also requested more information regarding the ordering of projects and further details regarding the funding and financial situation of these projects.

Other comments received within written submissions from residents and businesses included noting that Dapto looks old and tired and the proposed improvements are needed especially in the context of a growing population. Ideas for Dapto were shared including:

- encouraging cafes and restaurants
- providing interesting artworks, such as sculptures from local artist May Barrie
- make Dapto unique
- rezone to get more high rise and more people and shops
- widening footpaths and introducing street trees and landscaping
- minimise big box development and have the Mall address the street for increased vibrancy
- mid-week growers market

Two (2) submissions noted issues that need to be addressed in Dapto including addressing anti-social behaviour in the Square, removing graffiti, picking up rubbish and managing weeds.

We received six (6) letters of support for the Draft Dapto Town Centre Plan

Conclusion - What next?

How the Dapto Town Centre Plan will be used

The feedback we heard from the community, residents, businesses, community groups and stakeholders assisted in understanding aspirations for the future of the Dapto Town Centre.

Feedback received indicated broad support for the Town Centre Vision, Strategies & Key Steps. This feedback was incorporated into the final Dapto Town Centre Plan and resulted in minor amendments. Much of the feedback related to future actions for the Town Centre and has helped to refine the accompanying Implementation Plan.

The Dapto Town Centre Implementation Plan 2017 provides more detail regarding the Key Steps and actions named within the Final Dapto Town Centre Plan.

The Dapto Town Centre Plan & Implementation Plan are intended to guide change and growth in Dapto that aligns with the community's vision for the Town Centre across the next ten years.

Both the Plan and the Implementation Plan will be used to guide actions, including infrastructure, planning and community projects and can also be used as a mechanism to attract grant funds for projects that align with the Vision and Strategies.

For more information please call the Land Use Planning Team on (02) 4227 7111

The suite of documents



These documents are available on Council's website www.wollongong.nsw.gov.au

DAPTO TOWN CENTRE – SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS

COMMUNITY

Author	Matters Raised	Comment/ Response
Community Member	i) Submission of support. Notes that Council need to commence the project as soon as possible.	i) Comments noted. The accompanying Implementation Plan provides an overview of short, medium and long term delivery milestones.
Resident (Dapto)	<p>Submission raises ideas and comments regarding:</p> <p>i) laneways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graffiti Removal Project run by Rotary Club should be retained. dangerous driving makes laneways unsafe raises a concern regarding rubbish in laneways. <p>ii) Need to encourage more pride in the older homes of Dapto.</p> <p>iii) Mid-week makers and growers markets in the Mall area.</p> <p>iv) Need some quick action as well as longer term planning to improve the character of the place.</p> <p>Concerns raised regarding the inefficiency of WCC, compared with the Albion Park Town Centre project done by Shellharbour Council.</p>	<p>i) The Plan supports improving the amenity of laneways with a transition to shared zones. Laneways are to be designed to provide space that is safely shared by vehicles and pedestrians.</p> <p>Comments regarding graffiti removal have been forwarded to Council's Graffiti Prevention Team.</p> <p>ii) The Plan promotes a range of actions to deliver 'Our unique and welcoming place'. This is aligned with building pride in the Town Centre in public areas.</p> <p>The Plan also focuses on celebrating local identity, culture, history and heritage.</p> <p>iii) Noted. The Plan supports temporary events and activities such as markets and performances to take place in Dapto Square.</p> <p>iv) Comments noted. The accompanying Implementation Plan provides an overview of short, medium and long term delivery milestones.</p> <p>With regard to efficiency of delivery, there are a number of key actions already underway, including the Baan Baan extension and the current draft annual plan identifies budget to commence projects nominated against the Plan as early as next financial year.</p>

Author	Matters Raised	Comment/ Response
	<p>v) Suggestion to make the old school site look more like a park.</p> <p>vi) Supports for more street cleaning activities – street sweepers more often and in more streets and lanes, and at night time when less cars parked.</p>	<p>v) Noted. The Plan does not propose to convert the School site to open Space. A DA for the development of the site is currently being assessed.</p> <p>The Plan explores incentives to beautify and make better use of vacant lots and underutilised areas and enhance existing open spaces to deliver a welcoming town centre.</p> <p>vi) Comments noted. This comment has been forwarded to Council's Infrastructure Strategy and Planning Division.</p>
Principal of Dapto High School	i) Supports for more public sculptures in Dapto.	i) Noted. The Plan supports more public art in Dapto Town Centre, (refer 3.3 of accompanying Implementation Plan).
Resident (Marshall Mount)	<p>i) Supportive of the Vision for Dapto Town Centre of the draft Plan and the revitalisation of the Princes Highway as the Main Street.</p> <p>ii) Need to limit or avoid further big box development in Dapto and maintain vibrancy at the street front level.</p> <p>iii) Highlighting the importance of redeveloping large under-utilised lands currently in Dapto Town Centre – Dapto Showground and the old Primary School site recommending relocation of</p>	<p>i) Noted. The suggestions are aligned with the strategies contained in the Dapto Town Centre Plan. The Plan includes supports the re-design and upgrade of main street to make a more accessible, pedestrian-friendly environment.</p> <p>ii) Comments noted. The suggestions are aligned with the strategies contained in the Dapto Town Centre Plan to deliver 'An attractive, vibrant centre'. In the Plan strategies it is noted that through promoting Design Excellence, buildings will connect with the street.</p> <p>iii) The Plan contains exploration of incentives to beautify and make better use of vacant lots and underutilised areas. Aligned with delivering a unique and welcoming place, the strategies of the Plan</p>

Author	Matters Raised	Comment/ Response
	Showground and dog track.	identify that the showground will connect with the town centre and offer a range of recreation and entertainment uses. The relocation of the showground is not identified by the Plan.
Dapto Chamber of Commerce and Development	Supportive of the proposed Dapto Town Centre Plan. Highlighting the importance of providing the amenities, services and lifestyle which the greater Dapto community (including the West Dapto area) will seek.	Comments noted. The Plan emphasises the sustainable relationship between Dapto Town Centre and the West Dapto Urban Release Area. The Plan also indicates the necessity for Dapto to provide a point of difference to emerging West Dapto centres.
Resident (email – suburb unknown)	i) Supportive of the draft Dapto Town Centre Plan. Need urban elements to attract people – cafes, restaurants, shops, artworks – which make Dapto Town Centre unique in comparison to other places. Consider rezoning of town centre to accommodate high rise (with shops underneath) in order to draw more people in.	i) Comments noted. The suggestions are aligned with the vision and strategies contained in the Dapto Town Centre Plan. The Plan does not propose changes to building height controls, but does recommending a future review of the Business Centre Development Control Plan (DCP) Chapter to promote high quality, sustainable and adaptable building design and public space.
Resident (email – suburb unknown)	Concerns raised regarding anti social behaviour in Dapto Town Square.	Comments noted. The Plan includes the undertaking of a safety audit of Dapto Square to help inform future use and design of the space.
Dapto Futures Group	i) Supports the Plan, and identifies need for Dapto to support the new housing districts and to grow to meet the needs of the newly devised suburbs. ii) Need to retain the sight of escarpment – incorporate natural features into the Town Centre. iii) Concerns raised regarding a compromised walking	i) Noted. Aligned with the vision and strategies contained in the Dapto Town Centre Plan. Creating 'An attractive, vibrant centre' promotes the Centre's ability to support future resident population of West Dapto. ii) Comment noted. View lines to the escarpment will be protected via street corridors. iii) Noted. Delivering a pedestrian friendly town

Author	Matters Raised	Comment/ Response
	<p>environment. Need to ensure accessibility and the provision of amenities.</p> <p>iv) Need to link the suburbs – specifically to improve the links between suburbs.</p> <p>v) Need for the Town Centre to provide attractive retail and service offers.</p> <p>vi) Would like to see well-designed developments and high quality, environmentally sensitive and built to last.</p> <p>vii) Support for public art – attractive wall art is becoming the current trend to 'spruce up' the town and is welcomed by pedestrians.</p>	<p>centre is aligned with the vision and strategies of the Dapto Town Centre Plan.</p> <p>iv) Comments noted. The Plan includes strengthening connections to the emerging West Dapto area, offering improved links with the Town Centre.</p> <p>v) The Plan includes the undertaking of an economic analysis to investigate ways the Dapto Town Centre can offer a point of difference and support new retail offers.</p> <p>vi) Comments noted. Aligned with the vision and strategies contained in the Dapto Town Centre Plan.</p> <p>vii) Noted. The Plan emphasises the importance of public art to tell Dapto's stories in unique and creative ways.</p>
STATE AUTHORITIES		
Transport for NSW	<p>i) Supportive of access and mobility related improvements in the town centre.</p> <p>Supportive of improvements to transit stops.</p> <p>Suggested consideration of separated cycle paths.</p> <p>Raised concern with regard to potential traffic calming measures conflicting with bus operations.</p>	<p>i) The suggestions are aligned with the strategies contained in the Dapto Town Centre Plan.</p> <p>Ongoing traffic assessment and design will inform future changes to the road network. At this time, Transport for NSW will be engaged in the process.</p>
Roads & Maritime Services	<p>Comments relating to Princes Highway classified as a Regional Road.</p> <p>Noted RMS sole authority responsible for review of speed zones.</p>	<p>Comments noted. Ongoing traffic assessment and design will inform future changes to the road network. At this Roads & Maritime Services will be engaged in the process.</p>
Office of Environment & Heritage	<p>i) Comments highlighted urban heatwave impacts and importance of tree planting, landscaping and water features.</p>	<p>i) The Plan supports the development of a Street Tree Masterplan and increased landscaping throughout the Town Centre.</p>

Author	Matters Raised	Comment/ Response
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) Supports a Site Specific DCP chapter. iii) Supportive of Dapto Town Centre presenting Aboriginal cultural heritage. iv) Noted study area is affected by flooding and that flood management has not been mentioned in the draft Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii) The Plan supports the preparation of a site specific DCP Chapter for the Dapto Town Centre. iii) The Plan supports the cross cultural stories being told and celebrated in the Town Centre, including Aboriginal cultural heritage. iv) Noted. The western part of the study area is affected by flooding although is generally above the 1:100 flood hazard, as identified by the Mullet Creek Flood Study and Floodplain Risk Management Plan. The Plan does not propose to alter the flood plain.
NSW Disability Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Need for physical spaces to be accessible and easily traversed. ii) Highlighted the importance of spaces that provide respite from sun and rain. iii) Importance of ease of access to water and toilets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) The Plan supports the provision of pedestrian friendly main streets offering comfortable places to walk, sit and the introduction of wayfinding signage. ii) The Plan supports the introduction of trees and landscaping to provide relief from heat. iii) Noted.