

Council

ROCKY GULLY TOWN CENTRE PLACE PLAN

Rocky Gully Town Centre Place Plan 2024 – 2034
Rocky Gully Town Centre Plan – Final Listening
Report

Meeting Date: 28 May 2024

Number of Pages: 74



ROCKY GULLY TOWN CENTRE

PLACE PLAN 2024-2034



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Menang people as traditional custodians of the Rocky Gully area and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of Rocky Gully and its region.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of Rocky Gully and this region.

Rocky Gully Town Centre Place Plan is proudly supported by



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Rocky Gully Soldier Settlement

The First Years



INTRODUCTION

The Shire of Plantagenet and the Rocky Gully Progress Association (RGPA) Town Team have worked with Town Team Movement and local people to create a Place Plan for Rocky Gully Town Centre.

This is a ten year action-focused plan for enhancement of the town centre, as identified by the Rocky Gully community. It will rely on community efforts, Shire involvement and support, and broader support, funding and collaboration to come to life.

To develop this plan, TTM has engaged with local people and stakeholder groups to understand priorities, issues and opportunities. Findings from this engagement are discussed in the Listening Report for this project.

The Rocky Gully Place Plan includes a visual Concept Plan to illustrate planned improvements, and an Implementation Table to guide action over the short, medium and longer term.



ABOUT ROCKY GULLY

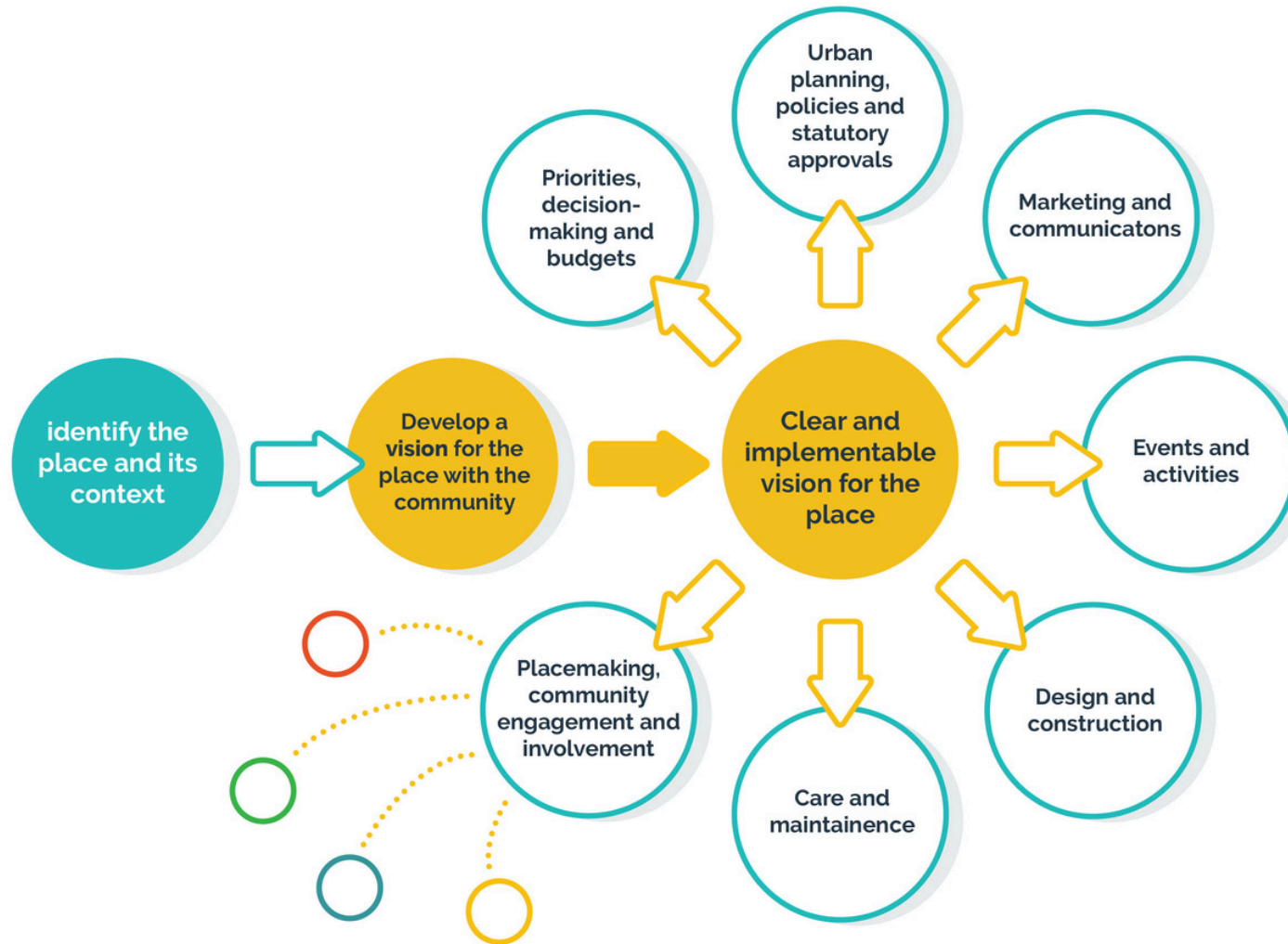
Today, it is an area full of natural advantages and potential which is on the verge of change. Renewed interest in the area, new residents, and investment in local businesses and events are opportunities for a stronger local economy and improved town centre. Plantagenet Shire is the highest growth area in WA only after Margaret River. The Rocky Gully Progress Association's car show is attracting large numbers of visitors to the town, and the Rocky Gully Pub is being lovingly restored by its new owners, and will soon provide not only a local community venue, but also accommodation for those visiting.

Public amenities include a general store and cafe, service station, rest room facilities and a playground. At the truck stop opposite the general store is the Rocky Gully Soldier Settlement information booth and shelter, which was established by the Rocky Gully Historical Society and Rocky Gully CWA. The Rocky Gully Pub is located a short distance from the general store, and is also accessible from the truck stop.



ABOUT PLACE PLANNING

The Place Vision and Improvement process



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Community and stakeholder engagement ran from December 2023 to February 2024. Engagement findings are detailed in the project's Listening Report, and are the basis of this Place Plan - specifically the Concept Plan and Implementation Table.

Engagement has occurred as follows:

- Survey (online and in-hard copy) open to all
- 'Walkshop' (walking workshop) open to all
- 'Dot'Mocracy prioritisation and voting activity open to all
- Small group conversations
- Place Plan workshop open to all

Engagement findings have been synthesised into seven Place Themes for Rocky Gully Town Centre, which guide the content of this Place Plan:

1. Showcasing and emphasising Rocky Gully's wilderness environment
2. A strategic, planned approach to attracting tourism
3. Accommodation in the town centre
4. Fire management
5. Upgrading the Truck Stop area
6. Hall Site upgrade
7. Footpaths, lighting, drainage and signage to make it easier to get around



ASSETS TO RETAIN

To understand what is most important to local people about Rocky Gully, and therefore, what to retain and build on, people were asked what they love about their area.





























ASSETS TO RETAIN

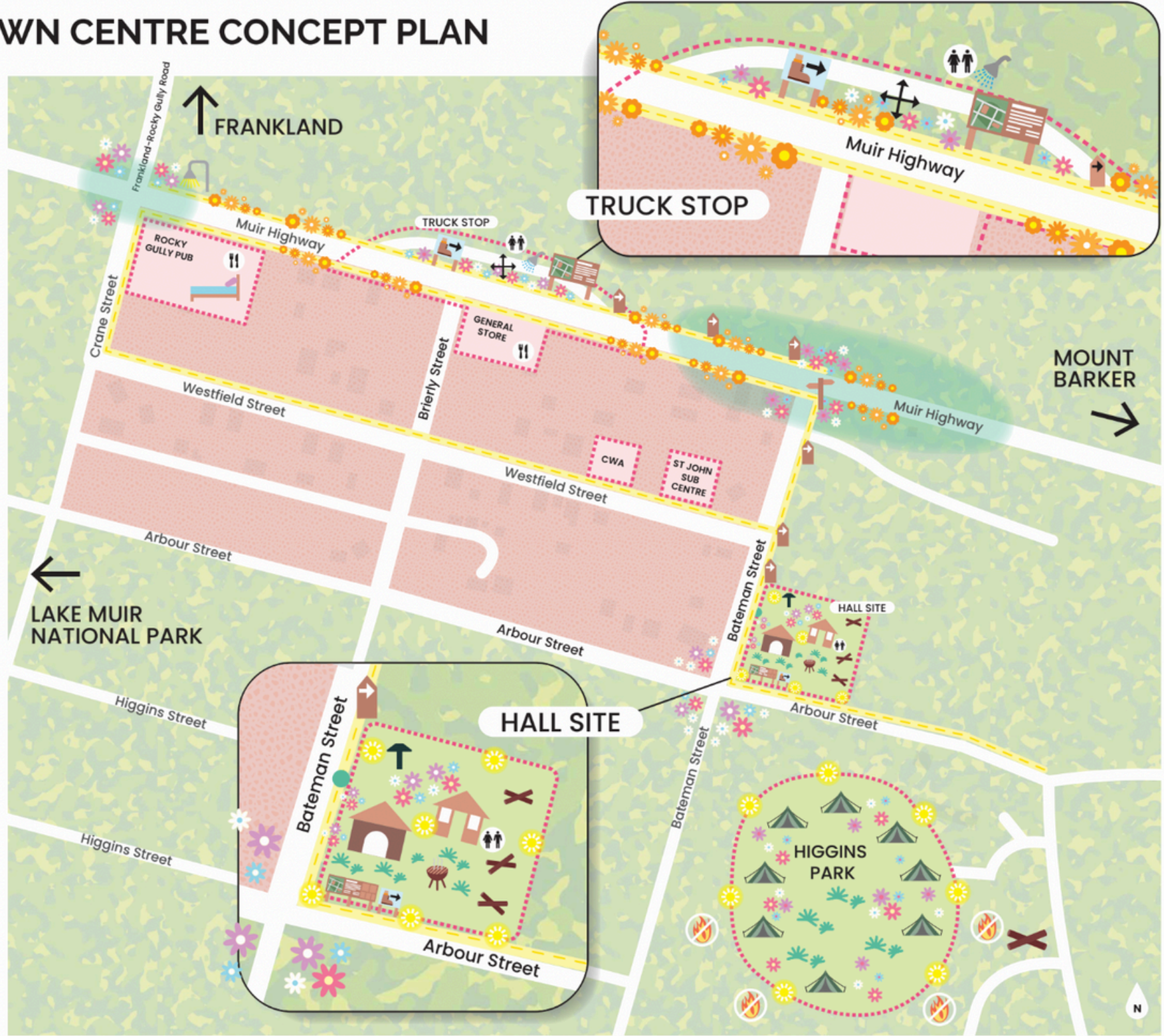
WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT ROCKY GULLY

- ‘Lovely community feel’
- Peacefulness
- Serenity of the wilderness
- Isolation
- Quiet
- The bush, the countryside
- Beautiful place for kids to be kids
- People are great - they help each other - there is community spirit.



ROCKY GULLY TOWN CENTRE CONCEPT PLAN

-  Natural Area
-  Residential Area
-  Main Activity Area
-  Event Space
-  Bushfire Management Priority Area
-  Native Plantings
-  Accomodation - Rooms
-  Accomodation - Nature Based Camping
-  Food
-  Entry Statement Area
-  Main Visitor Signage
-  Detailed Visitor Information
-  Directional Signage
-  Trail Markers between Truck Bay and Hall
-  Information on Walking/ Cycle Trails
-  Potential Planter Box Locations
-  Nature Play Area
-  Community Area
-  Bus shelter
-  School Bus Stop
-  Barbeque
-  Shower
-  Gazebo
-  Potential Solar Lighting
-  Lighting Required
-  Identify Gaps in Lighting and install
-  Identify Footpath Locations and Install
-  Extend and Widen Area



PLACE THEMES

Seven Place Themes have emerged and been tested and refined through community engagement. These are explored in the following pages.

The Place Theme pages provide a guide to understanding the Concept Plan in more detail.

Bringing these themes to life is supported by both the visual Concept Plan and the Implementation Table, which details actions, timeframes and responsibilities.

The Place Themes are:

1. Showcasing and emphasising Rocky Gully's wilderness environment
2. A strategic, planned approach to attracting tourism
3. Accommodation in the town centre and surrounding district
4. Fire management
5. Upgrading the Truck Stop area
6. Hall Site upgrade
7. Footpaths, lighting, drainage and signage to make it easier to get around



PLACE THEME ONE

Showcasing and emphasising Rocky Gully's wilderness environment



Throughout engagement, Rocky Gully's exceptional wilderness environment has arisen as the place's most prized asset, both for local people and as the backbone for future tourism.

The natural environment - whether the long wildflower season, nature trails, camping opportunities, or the spectacular setting the town centre is nestled in - needs to remain at the forefront of improvements to the town centre. This translates in the following ways:

- Bringing wildflowers into the centre of town
 - at the Truck Stop where they grow very close nearby
 - in planters with other native plantings
- Native shrubs and plantings around town, including on each street corner to attract birds, with natural seating such as logs
- Focus on natural materials
 - nature play equipment including logs and rocks rather than manufactured play equipment
 - planters made of rock or wood
 - trail sign markers and pole signs made of wood
- Wilderness walking and biking trails to attract tourism, and nature-based tours (e.g. with Margaret River Exposed)
- Use of the wildflower logo - this was designed locally and could be used throughout the town to create a theme / connect elements

PLACE THEME TWO

A strategic, planned approach to attracting tourism

Providing for tourism goes hand in hand with other place themes - such as upgrading of the Truck Stop, provision of accommodation, and upgrading of the Hall Site. The main areas of focus for attracting and providing for tourism are:

- Information and signage - primary arrival maps and information at the Truck Stop and more detailed tourist-focused maps and information at the Hall Site
- Accommodation at Rocky Gully Pub and Higgins Park (See Place Theme Three)
- Promotion through information on connecting with key sites accessible to/from Rocky Gully such as Lake Muir and its observatory, Frankland River historic site and its flood marker and old tree, and Kent River to the south
- Promotion of Rocky Gully in Southerly and Aurora magazines for people looking for local content - with magazines at the General Store and Rocky Gully
- RV parking and a dumping point for caravans (most likely at Higgins Park) with directions available at the Truck Stop
- Nature-based tours (e.g. Margaret River Exposed tours and Tourism WA funding)



- Trails, both for walking and other modes of transport, connected to the town and through the wilderness and along gravel tracks - there could be even more than at Mount Barker and Porongurup
- A map and/or flyer incorporating trails - also signage showing trails for walking, bikes, and other modes

PLACE THEME THREE

Accommodation in the town centre

Currently, lack of accommodation is the greatest obstacle to tourism in the town centre. However, progress is well underway to address this, particularly through the potential opening of the Rocky Gully Pub, which will provide rooms as well as dining options, with more accommodation to come. Additionally, nature-based camping is planned for Higgins Park, with work progressing to obtain necessary approvals.

The following actions are identified to bring this theme to life:

- Once accommodation is operating , promote through publications such as Southerly and Aurora magazines
- There is a good local example of self-sufficient nature-based camping at Kendenup, with proceeds from camping going towards a new kitchen
- Funding is required to get a BAL (fire) rating for Higgins Park before a Change of Use application can be lodged to use Higgins Park as a campsite
- A map showing all accommodation options is needed at the Truck Stop and Hall Site, including where camper vans are welcome, locations of RV dumping area, and a donation box
- People will continue camping at the bridge- a dry toilet is needed



PLACE THEME FOUR

Fire management



Rocky Gully town centre is currently vulnerable to bushfires, having no buffer zone or infrastructure such as fire towers to spot approaching fire. Given the town's location within vast areas of bushland, there is urgency to address this.

For locals but also specifically for accommodation at Higgins Park, fire assessment and planning will be required. Due to mixed ownership of natural areas around the town centre, there has been no cohesive response to fire planning, which needs to be addressed. Key actions to address this include:

- Meet with all key landowners of natural areas adjacent to the town centre (e.g. DBCA, PF Olsen), Shire and the Fire Department to agree and implement a plan including breach areas, possible fire towers, backburning schedule implementation, etc
- At least \$6,500 is needed for a BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) consultant to complete a report for Higgins Park . This is required for a Change of Use application to enable camping in the park.

PLACE THEME FIVE

Upgrading the Truck Stop area

The truck stop area is the first port of call for almost everyone in the town centre – whether passing through or seeking food, services or accommodation. It can influence whether people continue on or stay longer, so it needs to make a good first impression. It also needs basic improvements so that it is ‘fit for purpose’.



Improvements to this area need to commence with widening and lengthening of the bay (approximate length shown in Concept Plan), and upgrading its condition (rebituminising) to provide better quality and adequate parking.

Following these improvements, further priority improvements can be progressed:

- Beautify by having nature here – planter boxes with natural materials on the sides and planted with native plants – from the truck stop back to Frankland River/Rocky Gully Road
- Native wildflowers growing around the edge of the truck stop can be brought into the truck stop area
- Introduce signage including information and a map – more basic ‘arrival’ version at the truck stop and more tourist-focused version at the Hall Site
- Toilets are vital at the Truck Stop (and at Higgins Park for camping)
- Introduce lighting near the Truck Stop and pub – at the Muir Highway/Frankland River Road intersection

PLACE THEME SIX

Hall Site upgrade

The Hall Site will be a social and recreational focus of the town. It will be home to a new gazebo, barbecue and nature play area; a place tourists can relax, play and get more information; and the site of a relocated school bus stop (and shelter).

Ideally, a shared Fire Shed and Training Rooms/Community Space with new facilities, toilets, etc. will be introduced adjacent to the Hall Site (see Concept Plan). If this is not possible, the Hall Site may also accommodate a community centre to provide for desired uses and services.

Prior to any improvements, a site layout plan is required to identify services, structures, access and more, and then improvements can be introduced in optimal locations.

Improvements following preparation of the site layout plan are:

- A new barbecue and gazebo - being progressed by Rocky Gully Progress Association
- Beautification through native plantings in appropriate spots
- Tourist-focused information about Rocky Gully (including map/s and trails) - more detailed than at the Truck Stop
- Lighting- solar lighting may be possible here

- Future nature-play area replacing the old playground
- A sawmill (potentially) - a direct experience of local history. There may be one available that locals could organise
- Location for the relocated school bus stop, which is currently next to the pub and not particularly comfortable or safe - this requires liaising with the Education Department via the School and P&C. The existing lean-to can provide the bus shelter and locals can remove the sides and replace with them with clear perspex
- Naming of the Hall Site could also be explored.

In the longer term, the Community Space (ideally integrated with the new Fire Shed) will make many things possible, including:

- community events
- a major meeting place with tables and a kitchen
- a venue for school holiday activities as well as basketball, rollerskating, and more
- a doctor's room and telehealth facility

PLACE THEME SEVEN

Footpaths, lighting, drainage and signage to make it easier to get around



There are infrastructure networks around the town centre which need to be addressed for the place to really improve. Often these work closely - and need to be considered - together.

Improvements to this infrastructure are:

FOOTPATHS

- Footpaths are missing along all key routes in the town centre. Identified areas are shown in the Concept Plan
- Footpath locations will be identified prior to lighting and planter installation on verge areas

LIGHTING

- Lighting is urgently needed for public safety at the intersection of Frankland Road/Rocky Gully Road and Muir Highway, opposite Rocky Gully Pub
- There is some lighting in most areas where you have houses, but there are gaps between lighting that are too big
- To work out the gaps - community members could audit by waiting until dark and then walk along the main streets where you would want lighting and footpaths and mark up a map
- The Hall Site needs lighting - solar lighting may be possible here
- Solar lights could be purchased with grants, which would avoid the need for (slower) Western Power involvement

PLACE THEME SEVEN

Footpaths, lighting, drainage and signage to make it easier to get around

SIGNAGE

- An entry statement to the town centre is needed - probably two. The approximate locations are shown on the Concept Plan. Locations could be on the verge (Main Roads approvals) or private land
- Visiting families don't know where to go - they need signage to guide them around the town centre
- Jarrah posts for signage on the road reserve into town would be ideal
- Use the wildflower logo for Rocky Gully - designed by a local. This could be used throughout the town to create a theme / connect areas
- There will need to be new directional signage when the school bus stop is relocated to the Hall Site



DRAINAGE

- By filling in drains, other places can become flooded - this needs addressing as some children fell into a drain
- Drainage through town is an issue. All houses have pipes down to drain - and the water can get backed up. It heads downhill naturally and areas get very wet
- Better to fill in with rocks, with hessian on top, food dirt (garden quality) and plants

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

Many potential actions have arisen through engagement, and many are listed under each of the Place Themes.

The Concept Plan also shows a wide range of improvements discussed in this Place Plan which involve numerous actions, whether new footpaths and lighting, or food being served at Rocky Gully Pub.

To keep things manageable, the Implementation Table includes those actions identified by Rocky Gully community members at the Place Plan session for action in the first instance.

Other actions may accompany these or may be added to the Implementation Table over time as community members decide and new opportunities arise.

Please consider this Place Plan as a whole as well as the Implementation Table when considering actions - they are all community priorities and are worthy of support.



IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	WHO	COMMENTS
1	Move school bus stop location	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Petition to get bus stop relocated -Tools to remove side of lean-to/bus shelter -Perspex to replace sides of bus shelter -Signage to guide users to bus stop 	Community/ P&C petition and request to Education Department	The sides of the lean-to will need to be replaced with clear material (perspex) for visibility/safety as a bus shelter. Community members can do this.
2	Truck stop - extend and widen	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Funding to pay for works -Gravel -Bitumen contractors 	Community, Shire and Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identify landowner - Shire -Funding to pay for works - Community & Shire -Supply gravel (TBC) -Get bitumen contractors to do works - Shire

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

#	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	WHO	COMMENTS
3	Site Layout Plan for Hall Site	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Draftsperson to draw up plan of Hall Site showing services, structures, access, roadways, etc. -Shire to engage with community on this 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Shire to coordinate -Shire for funding (see comments) 	This work is required prior to BBQ and gazebo installation to avoid future removal of these items due to them potentially blocking services, access, etc.
4	BBQ and gazebo installation	Short (following site layout plan for Hall Site)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wooden markers with plaques printed with images -Appropriate verge area to install 	RGPA/ community to design and implement	Wooden trail markers pointing in correct direction, ideally using locally designed wildflower logo , with logos like walk, bike, etc.

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

#	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	WHO	COMMENTS
5	Entry statements at two main entry points into town	Short	See comments	Community liaising with Shire, Main Roads, private landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Develop a broad proposal -Check with Main Roads where it can go/not go/what to avoid (Main Roads) - Explore possibility of area between Nissen Hut and Bateman Street -Propose to Shire (Kendenup & Porongurup did this)
6	Concept Plan up for public information	Short	-Concept Plan printed onto suitable material and displayed	Community to organise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -This is intended as a visual representation of what is planned - Shire may advise suitable locations/opportunities

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

#	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	WHO	COMMENTS
7	Footpath locations & footpath installation	Short	-Shire engineer to identify suitable footpath locations and works team/contractors to install footpath -Funding (e.g. grant)	-Shire for works -Shire for funding (see comments)	Shire may be able to apply for federal funding for a footpath if it is a safety issues (needs to be confirmed). Muir Highway could be a safety issue.
8	Nature-based tours	Short	-Tour provider -Funding	-RGPA to coordinate	Liaise with Margaret River Exposed, liaise with Tourism WA about funding
9	Trail markers between Truck Stop and Hall Site	Short (following identification of footpath locations)	-Wooden markers -Appropriate verge area to install	RGPA/ community to design and implement	Wooden trail markers ideally using locally designed wildflower logo, with logos like walk, bike, etc.

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

#	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	WHO	COMMENTS
10	Lights at Hall Site (solar lights, perhaps solar bollards in cages)	Short	Grants for this - identify what these could be	-RGPA with agreement from the Shire (if grant) -Shire may need to install	If not solar, would need to liaise with Western Power (e.g. lights along Muir Highway will require this).
11	Annual roadside collection	Short	Shire's collection service	RGPA & Shire liaising	RGPA got this organised last time through liaising with the Shire. The Shire may be able to organise annually. RGPA can promote this in advance.

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

#	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	WHO	COMMENTS
12	Signage for walking trails	Short	Investigate grant funding	Community liaising with Trails WA, Shire and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Meet with Trails WA -Identify designated walking trails -Make/Source map of these trails in the area -Get signs made up of these trails (signage at Truck Stop and Hall Site) -Install signs
13	Plantings/ planter boxes	Short (see comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jarrah sleepers and rocks (locally available) -Native plants (may be able to get with grant) 	Community with support from Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Following determination of footpath and lighting, water management - liaise with Shire -Needs to be six feet from back fences

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

#	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	WHO	COMMENTS
14	Bushfire planning	Short	TBC - pending planning session	All relevant stakeholders (DBCA, PF Olsen, Fire Department, RGPA, etc.) - Community to coordinate meeting	Develop and agree actions and responsibilities
15	BAL Rating (Bushfire Attack Level) report for Higgins Park	Short - Medium	Investigate funding to pay for BAL Rating consultant (est. \$6,500)	Community	This rating is required before the Shire is able to submit a Change of Use application to

IMPLEMENTATION TABLE

#	ACTION	TIMEFRAME	RESOURCES	WHO	COMMENTS
16	Signage directing caravans/ refrigerated trailers in truck bay to parking area	Medium	-Signage -Agreed location for parking (anticipated Higgins Park)	Community & Shire	Likely pending Higgins Park Change of Use approval
17	Combined Fire Shed/Community Space (ideally) or if not possible, Community Centre	Medium-Long	-Design -Budget	RGPA/ Community, Shire and other funding partners	RGPA project to date - Shire may be able to lead if new Fire Shed is on Arbour Street between current shed and playground (training rooms may have dual use as community space)

RESOURCES

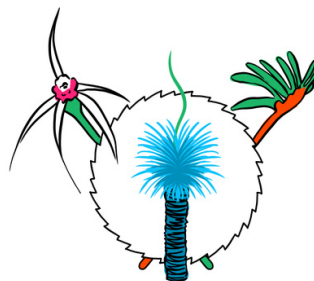
Rocky Gully Progress Association (RGPA) and the Rocky Gully community will need collaboration, support and resourcing from numerous partners to make the Rocky Gully Town Centre what it has the potential to be.

There are grants available to assist, and industry partners in the area may provide funding support, whether monetary or via in-kind goods and services.

The Shire of Plantagenet can provide vital assistance, in terms of in-kind support, grants, or budget allocation for projects in this plan.

As a Town Team, Town Team Movement provides a Town Team Builder to support teams in the Great Southern Region. The Town Team Builder can meet with RGPA as agreed and can assist through guidance/support on progressing actions in this plan, as well as providing access to funding for Town Teams such as grants from Main Roads, RAC, and the Road Safety Commission.

Town Team Movement looks forward to a long and productive relationship with Rocky Gully.



Rocky Gully Town Centre Place Plan Final Listening Report

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Introduction

The Shire of Plantagenet and the Rocky Gully Progress Association (RGPA) Town Team have been working with Town Team Movement (TTM) and local people to create a Place Plan for Rocky Gully Town Centre.

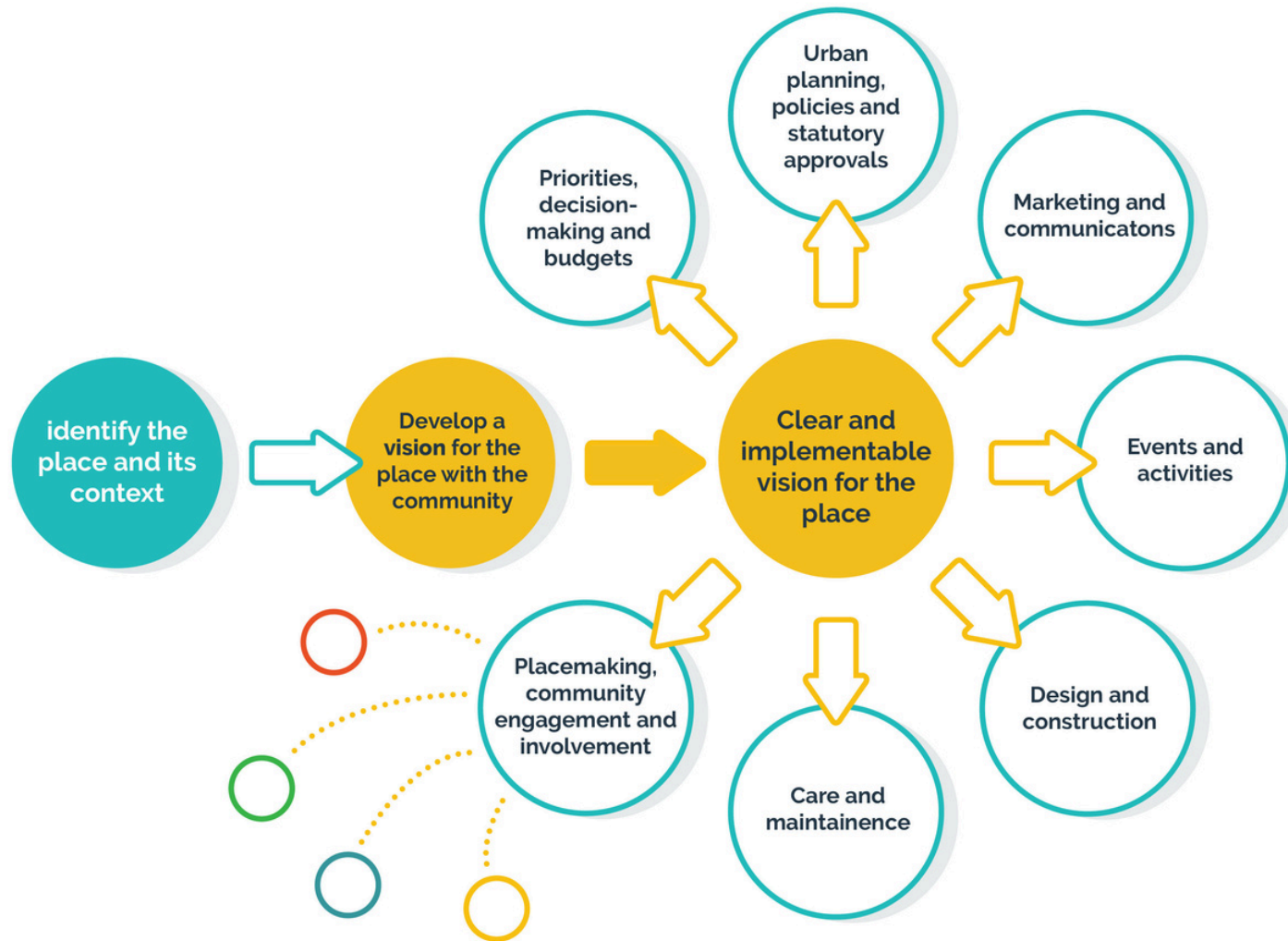
This Place Plan establishes a shared 'place vision' through establishing interrelated priority 'themes' for improvements and will enable an action-focused 'place improvement' process to occur (see page 4).

To support development of the Place Plan, TTM has engaged with local people and stakeholder groups to understand priorities, issues and opportunities. Findings from this engagement are discussed in this Listening Report, which has been updated as engagement has progressed. TTM has conducted :

- **Desktop research** on the background and context of Rocky Gully
- **Community 'walkshop'** (walking workshop) around the town centre
- **Survey** (online and hard copy) to gain specific input into what's missing, opportunities and resources
- **'DotMocracy'** Board engagement to determine shared priorities through voting
- **Small group conversations** to provide a deeper understanding of local issues and opportunities
- **Place Plan workshop** to identify timeframes, roles and responsibilities to bring improvements to life.

What is a Place Vision & Place Improvement Process established by a Place Plan?

The Place Vision and Improvement process

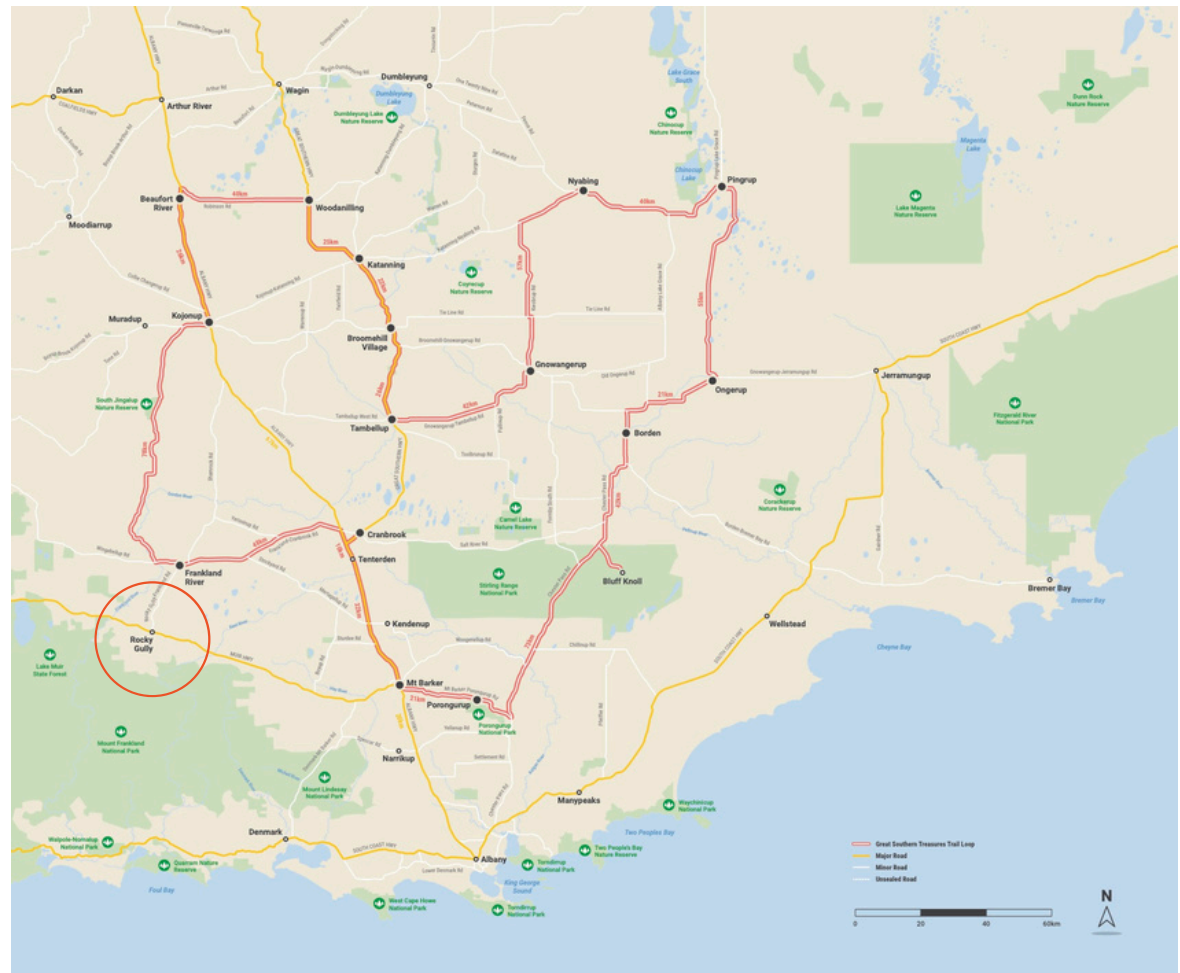


About Rocky Gully

Rocky Gully is a small town in the Great Southern region of Western Australia, within the Shire of Plantagenet. It is 68km west of Mount Barker on Muirs Highway and 8km from the Kent River, and is shown within the red circle in the region map below. The Aboriginal name for the area is 'Chullurup', which has been translated as 'place of white ant nests'.

'Gateway to the Nornalup wilderness' and Frankland River, Rocky Gully is home to extensive natural areas, and typically enjoys good rainfall, which supports primarily sheep, cattle, lupin and timber farming in the area.

It was first selected for a town in the 1930s when land in the area was subdivided. By 1951 a small community was established following World War II as part of the War Service land resettlement scheme.



About Rocky Gully

Today, it is an area full of natural advantages and potential which is on the verge of change. Renewed interest in the area, new residents and investment in local businesses and events are sowing the seeds of ...

Plantagenet Shire is the highest growth area in WA only after Margaret River. The Rocky Gully Progress Association's car show is attracting large numbers of visitors to the town, and the Rocky Gully Pub is being lovingly restored by its new owners, and will soon provide not only a local community venue, but also accommodation for those visiting.

Public amenities include a general store and cafe, service station, rest room facilities and a playground. At the truck stop opposite the general store is the Rocky Gully Soldier Settlement information booth and shelter, which was established by the Rocky Gully CWA. The Rocky Gully Pub is located a short distance from the general store, and is also accessible from the truck stop.



Engagement Overview

Engagement on the Rocky Gully Town Centre to date has taken five main directions:

Walkshop

A walking workshop ‘walkshop’ held on Thursday 21 December 2023 in the town centre, visiting, viewing and discussing key sites (and connections between these) including:

- Truck Stop area
- Rocky Gully Pub
- Rocky Gully General Store
- (Former) Hall Site
- Higgins Park

Surveys

Surveys were available at the General Store or online between December 2023 and February 2024, and sought comment on: Rocky Gully’s assets to build upon; missing elements to be addressed in a Place Plan; what would most benefit Rocky Gully town centre; interest in taking positive action in Rocky Gully; and what local resource (skills, materials, funding, etc.) are available to support this positive action.

‘DotMocracy’ Board

A ‘DotMocracy’ Board is a board of images showing various themes (e.g. type of events, types of indoor and outdoor spaces) that participants can ‘vote’ on a top priorities using a limited number of sticky dots each. The images/themes with the most dots are considered top priorities, which can then be explored further.

Engagement Overview

Small Group Conversations

Two small group conversations were held

- Pre-walkshop session with Rocky Gully Progress Association to discuss walkshop route and local context
- Post walkshop meeting open to all to discuss additional priorities, initial findings and next steps

Place Plan Workshop

The Place Plan workshop was held on Saturday 24 February 2024 at CWA Rocky Gully and was open to all interested participants. The workshop explored emerging 'themes' for the the town centre which had emerged from all previous engagement, testing these to see if anything was missing/misconstrued, and identifying roles, responsibilities, resources, timeframes and next steps to bring these to life.

The outcomes of this workshop directly informed the visual Concept Plan and accompanying Implementation Table in the Rocky Gully Town Centre Place Plan.



Walkshop

Walkshop

The Rocky Gully town centre 'walkshop' (walking workshop) was held on 21 December. 11 attendees walked and drove a route through key sites in the town centre, discussing what works and doesn't work at each site, as well as what would ideally happen to improve these sites. Additional areas for improvement were identified along the route, and the experience of travelling the route on foot and by car was also considered.

The walkshop route was as follows:

1. Truck Stop on Muir Highway (meeting point and first stop for discussion)
2. Muir Highway & Bateman Street (between the Truck Stop and Bateman Street, including intersection)
3. Hall Site at corner of Bateman Street and Arbour Street
4. Journey from Hall Site to Bateman Street to Westfield Street
5. Return to Truck Stop (including general comments and site visit to renovated Rocky Gully Pub)



Walkshop

Findings from each of the walkshop stops are as follows:

STOP 1: Truck Stop on Muir Highway

This first stop enabled consideration of the Truck Stop area itself, as well as the General Store and Rocky Gully Pub, which are close by on the other side of Muir Highway (the General Store is directly opposite). Key comments:

TRUCK STOP AREA

- The truck stop needs to be widened, and beautified
- This is the first port of call for any tourist
- Ideally, it would be not just wider, but also longer
- Showers are needed in the toilet block beside the truck stop
- When truckies pull up, they mainly want a shower, toilet and some food
- Frankland has closed their parking space - so this is a big opportunity for Rocky Gully
- Need a water tap
- Ideally an RV dump for caravans
- An info booth would be ideal - a tourist board with a map, recommendations. This location is most people's starting point in the area.
- Important in this space to keep the sense of being natural - keeping true to Rocky Gully's wilderness location
- Native orchids - plant and bring these into the truck stop area with information about them (they grow very close to this area already)
- Directly next to the truck stop, the trees have been planted (not intact natural bushland), and so there is no problem with widening the truck bay into this planted area
- Bollards along the road next to the truck stop would help protect users of the area

Walkshop

Findings from each of the walkshop stops are as follows:

STOP 1: Truck Stop on Muir Highw on Muir Highway

ROCKY GULLY PUB

- The pub is the centre of it all
- It will have a restaurant and accommodation
- Renovations to enable the opening of the pub are just about complete
- There will be ongoing renovations but the first stage is almost finished
- Re-roofing, re-sealing and re-plumbing occurring
- The pub premises has lots of space



Walkshop

Findings from each of the walkshop stops are as follows:

STOP 1: Truck Stop on Muir Highway

STREET ENVIRONMENT & DIRECTIONS

- Street lighting is needed at the intersection near the pub
- Advertise Rocky Gully on the main road from Frankland. This is the tourist route to go through to Bunbury and Denmark - so much traffic goes past here
- Trucks are having trouble with turning at main intersection
- Footpath needed next to Muir Highway in town centre - especially between the General Store and the Pub

SOLDIER SETTLEMENT SHELTER & BOOTH

- The CWA organised the 'soldier settlement' shelter and booth at the truck stop- this was funded by the CWA and the Department of Veterans Affairs
- This recognises returned soldiers and their who were part of the early settlement
- When the shelter was opened, 120 attendees were expected, but 350 turned up
- People drove from as far as Mukinbudin and Dongara, and 60 families were represented

Walkshop

STOP 2: Muir Highway & Bateman Street

INTERSECTION OF MUIR HIGHWAY & BATEMAN STREET

- The intersection at the corner of Muir Highway and Bateman Street is a main entry point into the town centre - leading to the park, oval, CWA, Ambulance, future community centre
- Ideally Main Roads would permit something on both sides of this entry point
- Main Roads have said that anything in this area needs to be 'frangible' (it can collapse easily if a car runs into it to avoid driver/passengers being badly injured)
- Plantings would be ideal at this entry point

STOP 3: Hall Site (corner Bateman Street and Arbour Street)

COMMUNITY CENTRE

- A community centre on this site is a top long term priority - it will make many things possible
- In Walpole, there are activities every school holidays, as well as basketball, rollerskating, and more
- A doctor could hold regular surgery days here, and there could be a telehealth facility
- This should be a major meeting place with tables and a kitchen



Walkshop

STOP 3: Hall Site

OUTDOOR AMENITIES

- A proper barbecue is being organised by RGPA (the current one is broken)
- A gazebo to provide shade and shelter is also being organised by RGPA
- The kids' playground needs upgrading - this should be more like a nature play area - it is important to stick with natural materials in Rocky Gully. Natural materials and playing in nature is now recognised as better for children and their fine and gross motor skills - a flying fox would be fantastic
- The park is also the only public space that travellers can take dogs - would be good to have some information on what dogs can/can't do in this area

PLANTINGS

- Local native plantings and shade trees are needed here

INFORMATION AND WAYFINDING

- While there should be general information at the truck stop, there should also be secondary information at this park site. This can provide directions to the nature-based camping area, pub, general store, etc.
- There could be quite natural looking track markers as a guide around the place
- RV familiar signage would also support tourism

Walkshop

STOP 3: Hall Site

'LEAN TO'/ UNDERCOVER AREA

- Graffiti needs to be removed
- The wood needs oiling

BUS SHELTER

- A bus shelter and stop would be good here
- This is a better location than beside the pub, especially for kids (Education Department organises buses)

FIRE SHED

- The old fire shed is at the edge of the park
- At some stage, this is to be replaced with a larger shed that can hold two fire trucks and the pump trailer. It may also have showers and a training room, and would be better situated on the main highway.



Walkshop

STOP 4: Journey from Hall Site to Bateman Street to Westfield Street

FOOTPATHS

- There is a need for a connecting footpath - especially for older people and to the CWA on Westfield Street
- There are always kids traversing the middle of the road, which is not particularly safe
- The drains/culverts (which are located along the side of road where footpaths would otherwise be) get quite deep and need fixing
- Capel has no open drains - a staged approach has started

STOP 5: Return to Truck Stop (including general comments and site visit to Rocky Gully Pub)

GENERAL COMMENTS

- If Rocky Gully is set up for RVs, it could be promoted as a destination in a RV magazine
- A fire management plan is really needed
- A fire tower would be well supported
- On bushfire maps there are different zones, red zone comes right up to town centre
- Water supply - the large storage dam has been shut down
- This water could be treated and the water could be used in Rocky Gully- Rocky Gully needs its own water supply or it is too vulnerable
- Would be a perfect location for gravel bike trails and natural walks to see orchids etc.
- Just need to designate these trails
- Need things on the main street that shows its a place to stop
- Pub - put things outside that show the time of settlement (e.g. vehicles of that era)

Surveys



Surveys

Surveys

Four surveys were completed as part of the Place Plan engagement for Rocky Gully. Of these, three were hard copy surveys, and one was completed online. The survey questions are below, with responses summarised following each question.

Question 1: What are Rocky Gully's assets/advantages that should be built upon?

- The wilderness to the south of town. Could be used by hikers, cyclists
- "The unbelievable wilderness"
- There is a huge range of wildflowers flowering from August to December most years
- Remote (many people appreciate this these days)
- Agriculture
- Good bitumen - but now need easier driveway access as there is no curbing at top end of Westfield where the CWA and Ambulance are
- Orchids, wildflowers, bush, nature

Question 2: What is missing in Rocky Gully that you think a Place Plan for the town centre should address?

- General appearance. "She is tired and needs sprucing up"
- Crossovers (have pulled cars out of culverts as there is no defining off-road entry/exit points)
- Widening the parking area at the truck stop opposite the general store for road trains, trucks, caravans, etc
- Footpaths
- Upgrading of the toilets at the truck stop
- Something for the children to do
- Bike paths and barriers would stop a little one from serious injury, etc.
- Nature based camping
- User-friendly larger truck bay
- Footpaths

Surveys

Question 3: What three things would most benefit Rocky Gully town centre?

- Rejuvenating the children's play area
- Replacing the town hall
- Widening the truck bay opposite the shop
- Shire assisting to remove red tape to help and approval to expand the area at the rear of the General Store for a large shed for hardware, farming supplies, truckies' showers, etc (red tape really affects motivation)
- Some landscaping - trees, flowers
- Bush fire plan education
- Better water quality
- Pub
- Local information board

Question 4: Would you be interested in getting involved in making some new and positive things happen in Rocky Gully?

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes

Surveys

Question 5: What local resources (skills, materials, funds) are available to bring more life to Rocky Gully?

- There are many resources across the community. It's knowing who to ask. "Whilst they may not be forthcoming, when asked they will always help."
- Encourage more workers by having housing, etc.
- Available funding from rates, etc. being paid - should help Rocky Gully and not just Mt Barker
- "The 'Adult Hoons' doing burnouts etc. are NOT helping this community"
- Defacing public property is an offence that needs addressing
- Local artists

Question 6: Anything else surveys respondents would like to add

- "Apathy is our biggest hurdle"



'DotMocracy' Board

DotMocracy Board

The 'DotMocracy' board provided participants with a range of possible improvements and four sticky dots to 'vote' for their priorities. It is a way of starting to see broad areas of importance to guide further engagement.

Participants responded to the question '*How can we make life in Rocky Gully even better, together?*' with priorities as follows:

Priority #1

Car park, truck stop (added on post it note, most voted for)

Widening, and ideally lengthening, the truck bay to provide parking for locals and visitors is seen as a top priority.

The truck bay area is the arrival point in town, and includes toilets and the Soldier's Settlement information display and shelter. It is ideally located opposite the General Store and petrol station and very close to the pub. People are stopping at this place almost constantly.

Priority #2 (equal scores)

- *Outdoor places to meet and socialise (e.g. plaza, gazebo)*
- *Indoor places to meet and socialise (e.g. town hall, pub)*
- *Sense of arrival and information*
- *Accommodation*

DotMocracy Board



Priority #3

Clear connections and wayfinding around town

Priority #4

Seating and shade

Priority #5 (equal scores)

- Nature-based experiences (e.g. gravel cycling, walking trails)
- Accessibility, ease and comfort
- Markets

Priority #6

Local experiences (e.g. produce, skills, tours, storytelling)

Small Group Conversations



Small Group Conversation One

LOCAL CONTEXT

- **Unique features of their destination include:**
 - wilderness,
 - wildflowers that start in August/September and are still flowering in February - not like the Wheatbelt which has a shorter flowering season
 - 'peace and quiet'
- **RGPA wants Rocky Gully to be a destination.**
- **The town centre is on the edge of a million acres of national park. This is a major 'gateway' for walkers.**
- **Wineries in the broader area are another asset. - they are different types of wineries to those on the South coast and in Europe.**
- **Local farmers are in what was historically known as the 'Green Triangle', and while this has reduced significantly, there are frequent fly overs to monitor any possible cannabis production in the area.**
- **It is very difficult to get a licence to grow hemp - but someone has been looking into this in the area, given its good growing conditions.**
- **There has been a decline in the community, perhaps over the last 40 years, due to drug use, and there has also been an ageing population. But before this stage, it was a thriving community of farmers and saw mills. Now there is more blue gum farming, which is lower maintenance and is mainly for woodchip and paper.**
- **Various histories have been written up, and the Historical Society in Mt Barker has lots of documents and photos.**

Small Group Conversation One

COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- A key priority is an easy path through through Council and the system. Really need to get clearer on how RGPA can do things, and assistance with making this easier.
- Great support from the Shire and the Shire President, who is very supportive and willing to communicate regularly - a dedicated contact at the Shire would be ideal.
- Residents of Rocky Gully work together to improve their community through local fundraising and volunteer efforts.
- Rocky Gully CWA (Country Women's Association) has seen a resurgence in popularity after being down to only 4 members 5-6 years ago, with around 15 members now.
- The CWA is primarily involved in community events such as the Christmas tree and party, and has a store, and the group has become more active and engaged in recent years.
- Local kids were getting involved in painting the toilet block that has been fixed by the Shire. There is a need to make it look clean and tidy, and get some lights in there - this is needed for tourism. RGPA weren't able to use the toilets for the car show, so had to hire toilets.



Small Group Conversation One

ROCKY GULLY AS A DESTINATION - TOURISM & ACCOMMODATION



- It would be challenging to invest money in Rocky Gully as there is little industry and little return on any return on investment at the moment.
- So, to get the local economy into a better shape, it is very important that things get off the ground and primarily tourism.
- The car event was about attracting tourism. It was put together in two months and had 500 people through the gate.
- Accommodation is RGPA'S first priority, and there are two most likely forms of accommodation:
 - The first is the pub, They have 10 rooms currently that they have done up completely and which are about ready to open. They have a brand new kitchen and they are just waiting for a liquor licence. RGPA spoke to them about a microbrewery and they said that they are interested in this. They've been supporters of Rocky Gully, and it's great to have them there.
 - The second is camping. RGPA is intending to do something nature-based, very simple - at the local oval. The Shire owns the oval. The proposal has to go to the Minister for a change of use, and that takes about 12 months.

Small Group Conversation One

ROCKY GULLY AS A DESTINATION - TRUCK BAY, CAR PARKING & ENTRY/EXIT POINTS

- There is a need for widening and more car parking at the truck stop (bay).
- One farm in the area is about to start harvesting blue gums and is about to have 6000 road trains expected to pass through the area.
- Talking to a number of people about this (the car park) - there have been conversations with ABP (Australian Bluegum Plantations) about putting a shower in. With the newish rules they need to stop and sleep, and so they want to pull up somewhere where they can have a feed and a hot shower.
- Needs widening as when caravans are there, can't get the
- AB have machinery, gravel, so have spoken with the Shire to get the widening done.
- Guy who does laser cutting could do something to bring old stories to life. Has a bush block so comes around with his family.
- Entry in and exit both need to look nice. Currently there is a boring old sign.
- 2.5 entries - includes the road to Frankland. The two big entries need something - this is how most people come in.

ROCKY GULLY AS A DESTINATION - EVENTS

- The oval is currently being used for occasional shows and events (primarily a car show, which has been highly successful and is becoming an annual event).
- The car show is growing rapidly and is a great fundraiser - last year there were 9 stalls, this year there are already more than 50. Will be on a par with Mt Barker's, which is the biggest one in the Great Southern.
- There is also potential for more events on the oval, such as a music festival. There are a few around, but it does come with complications. They want a bar, and with that, you need security.
- There could be regular events, for example an annual car show and an annual cycling event with Westcycle. But it would have to be manageable as there are only six core members for RGPA.

Small Group Conversation One

LOCAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - BEAUTIFICATION

- There are opportunities for beautification projects such as mass planting of shrubs and flowering plants to improve the town's entrance.
- If funding or grants are available, it is likely that people could be found who could get involved.
- Rocky Gully has been given the colour 'green' and the kangaroo paw symbol by the Shire, but there could be something more unique.
- It is the entry point into the Shire (the westernmost) and Shire can see the value in that, but at the moment, you drive through, and there's nothing to see - it's not a pretty town. In back streets there are car bodies, piles of sawn jarrah that have been sitting there for a long time and have white ant. But might make sense to start with more central end - start small.

LOCAL COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - COMMUNITY CENTRE & PARK

- RGPA is making progress on the Hall Site, with a gazebo on its way and the BBQ to be fixed.
- A high priority is the future community centre, which RGPA is raising money for through the car shows.
- The centre will be a multi-functional space, to enable a range of community activities, as well as a space for service providers.

Small Group Conversation One

FUNDRAISING

- ABC and local radio and local newspapers got hold of story about the car show and there were stories about 'Rocky Gully Back from the Dead', suddenly everyone was talking about Rocky Gully, the local shop in Frankland gave \$1,000, the op shop gave \$1,000, butchers and bakers in Mount Barker contributed, prizes prizes were donated, Woolworths too.
- There are plans to raise significant funds for the community centre by leveraging local support and fundraising efforts. RGPA was expecting to get 1,000 people through the door this year (March 2024 event). Need about \$300,000 for the community centre, and hopefully others will also help fund this.



Small Group Conversation One

FIRE MANAGEMENT

- **RGPA will need to spend significant money on a Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) Rating. This has to be done by a consultant. There will need to be an emergency evacuation plan. The Shire is waiting for RGPA to get that done.**
- **Once all that is done, the Shire will take over and will submit the change of use application to the Minister.**
- **It's going to cost the progress association a lot of money up front, but RGPA inherited money from the previous youth group - this money is for the community. It's going to be a \$12,000-\$15,000 up front cost and will never be recouped from camping fees, but it's not about that. It's about people coming to our community, spending money at the pub, etc.**
- **It has been said that one of the blue gum companies had talked about putting in a fire tower because there are a lot of investment in trees. It has a camera.**
- **Currently, for Rocky Gully residents, if there is a fire, drive 27 kms to Forest Hills fire station which is surrounded by bush. Might make more sense to just drive to Frankland.**
- **It's really hard to get management of the area coordinated because there are multiple owners (Water Corporation is one).**
- **As more people are coming into town (e.g. 500 people at the last car show, and this number is expected to grow) there will be an even greater need to coordinate bushfire planning and management.**

Small Group Conversation Two

PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

Supporters for improvements to Rocky Gully have been and/or are likely to include:

- PF Olsen
- Summit Fertiliser
- Australian Bluegum Plantations (ABP)
- Shire Fire Captain
- Shire Emergency Services
- Water Corporation
- Post Office in Mt Barker (sponsor)
- Shire of Plantagenet (have \$5,000 grants that are easy to get)
- RGP (support the car show)
- Elders (sponsors)
- Nutrien (sponsors)
- Frankland River Shop
- Op Shop
- IGA
- Bendigo Bank



Small Group Conversation Two

POTENTIAL PRIORITIES & TIMEFRAMES FOR PLACE PLAN

Initial suggestions actions and timeframes to be discussed at Place Plan workshop include:

YEAR ONE

- Fire planning - need for controlled burn of bush area adjacent to the oval

YEAR ONE - TWO

- Gazebo - with building surveyor to permit installation
- Widening and lengthening of truck bay - Shire has gravel to provide for widening this - liaise with works manager
- Landscaping along entry points, at Hall Site and perhaps truck bay - need plants
- Nature-based camping on oval (Higgins Park)- need fire plan to enable this, then change of use application to be submitted by Shire for approval by the Minister

YEAR THREE, FIVE, AND LONGER TERM

- To be discussed at Place Plan workshop, should include Community Centre, and providing for a new larger Fire Shed facility.



Place Plan Workshop

Place Plan Workshop

The Rocky Gully Place Plan workshop, which was the culmination of all other engagement input, was held at Rocky Gully CWA on Saturday 24 February 2024. The workshop was open to everyone, and was attended by 12 local people, one attendee from neighbouring Perillup, and one attendee from the Shire of Plantagenet.

The workshop explored what is most important to local people about Rocky Gully - what to protect and build on and what to change, and explored 'Emerging Themes' which had arisen from engagement to date.

To identify what is most important and valuable in the place, people were asked at the beginning of the workshop:

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT ROCKY GULLY?

- Isolation (no humans)
- The tip
- The quiet, the silence
- Peacefulness, quiet
- Serenity of the wilderness
- Bush, people, serenity
- Quiet
- People are great - they help each other - there is community spirit. If you break down, someone will help you.
- Love this place
- Loves the bush, the countryside
- Area has a 'lovely community feel'
- Beautiful place for kids

Place Plan Workshop

To get a clearer understanding of Rocky Gully's character - what sort of place people want Rocky Gully town centre to become, and what it wants to move on from - participants were asked:

IF ROCKY GULLY TOWN CENTRE WAS A PERSON, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THEM RIGHT NOW?

- Menopausal
- Scruffy
- Tired
- Unloved
- Quiet
- Unappreciated
- 'A character with a backstory'
- Old (with history) - old family connections in the area

Then, they were asked:

IF ROCKY GULLY TOWN CENTRE WAS HOW YOU'D LIKE IT TO BE AND WAS A PERSON, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THEM?

- 'Refreshed after a good night's sleep'
- Not on drugs
- Dynamic (Discussion: There not a lot of businesses in town, so a few more would be good. It would be nice to have a few more things - even just a hardware store - 'we don't necessarily want to drive so far'. An artisan store would be good: 'There are enough people hiding under a bushel - 3-4 off the top of my head'... if there was somewhere to display it. In New Zealand there's always a little interesting shop, an interesting place to stop. Good to have a link to the era when the town started.)

Place Plan Workshop

Discussion regarding how to bring each 'Emerging Theme' which had emerged from prior engagement is detailed below. No missing themes were identified through the discussion. As there was minimal discussion of the Community Centre theme (given the absence of the project leader at the workshop), this draft theme has been included in the Place Plan as part of the 'Hall Site Upgrade' theme, reducing the number of themes from eight to seven.

Discussion on each of the the draft themes was as follows:

Theme 1: Showcasing and emphasising Rocky Gully's wilderness environment

- Plant lots of native shrubs around town, including on each street corner
 - Attract birds
 - Include log/natural seating components, perhaps with little signs saying 'Take a seat'.
 - Use these to hide older/less attractive aspects of town
- Walking and biking trails
 - Discussion: How do you delineate trails for motorbikes / mountain bikes / walking trails?
 - Discussion: How can the wider Rocky Gully area and surrounds offer this opportunity - not just the town centre?
- Wildflower logo - This was designed locally and could be used throughout the group's work and the town to create a theme / connect elements
- Roadside Rubbish Collection - Discussion: Can this be organised as an annual thing to keep Rocky Gully tidy? (this would require liaison with the Shire)

Place Plan Workshop

Theme 2: A strategic, planned approach to attracting tourism

- RV Parking / dumping point for caravans. A pumping point in the truck bay could be good - but what is the waterline like here? Is there a creek line running through it?
- Higgins Park would be a better place for a pumping point - need a sign directing to it from the truck bay
- Higgins Park is on the other side, so need an information board at the truck bay about what you can see around Rocky Gully
- Have a map for campervan overnight parking in Rocky Gully
- Frankland River historic site has a historical flood level marker - it needs better signage and some care. Can Rocky Gully promote this location too as part of their area?
- Promote and connect to Lake Muir. There is an observatory here and it is really well set up. This could connect well with Rocky Gully accommodation offerings (e.g nature-based camping or the pub)
- Could promote Rocky Gully in Southerly magazine and Aurora - could have some of these magazines dropped off at the pub
- This could be good for families looking for local content
- Consider the greater area - extend south towards Kent River
- Want people to base themselves in town and then travel maybe 12km to Frankland River and the old tree
- The old tree is geocached
- Improving access to these places will help with showcasing them
- Bitumenising Nornalup Road - This would require the collaboration of 2-3 shires to do.
- Thompson Road could be a good road for bitumen - extends to Lake Muir
- Would love to see walk trails and bike trails- could be more even than Mt Barker and Porongurup. Need to make sure there is enough of a connection with the town. A map and/or flyer incorporating walking trails is needed - also signage. Look at Westcycle maps and routes, Mundibiddi Walk, etc.
- Need to balance/clarify between motorbikes etc. and bikes - can't exclude motocross, trail bikes, but need to clearly show where these can go.

Place Plan Workshop

Theme 3: Accommodation in the town centre including nature-based camping and Rocky Gully Pub

- Kendenup has nature based camping - this is purely self-sufficient
<https://www.campsaustraliawide.com/kendenup-nature-based-camp-ground-is-5-star/> (money from camping is going towards new kitchen)
- Discussion: How will all facilities support each other and work together to cater for different needs so that amenities are not doubled up or not suitable for each need?
- Discussion: What is the best place to advertise free camping?
- Discussion: Where will campervans be 'welcome' in the town centre? Provide a map for this
- Higgins Park (oval) has enough room for nature-based camping and events at the same time - or if wanted, could block out bookings for camping.
- At the bridge, people camp - could be good to have a dry toilet as they will keep camping there regardless (currently using the bush as a toilet), but would prefer to direct people into town.
- Caravans currently sometimes camp at the Truck Stop. Would be good to introduce a donation box to encourage people to pay something. Need to tidy up Truck Stop and put up a notice encouraging people to 'Stop in our Town'.

Place Plan Workshop

Theme 4: Fire management (expedited)

- A grant of at least \$6.5k is needed for a BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) consultant to complete their report - this impacts progress of the nature based camping until it can be paid for and completed
- Rocky Gully town centre doesn't have a safe zone around it. Discussion: Does the town need a fire buffer zone? I.e. 20m break around whole town for safety or a fire tower?
- Need a 20m breach area around the nature camping area - at least
- DBCA (Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions) manage the bush area - believe it was once Water Corp owned, now DBCA
- The area behind Higgins Oval - this is the DBCA managed area
- There had been some talk about PF Olsen having fire towers for spotting fires
- The key is early detection of fire
- Everyone is told they have to go to Forest Hill in the event of a fire, but Frankland is closer
- Discussion: How to get the backburning schedule done?

Place Plan Workshop

Theme 5: Upgrading the Truck Stop area (including widening and lengthening)

- Truck Stop needs to extend down to Frankland Road to provide additional space for trucks as well as parking for the pub when it reopens
- Introduction to town is the truck stop area - having nature here - suggest planter boxes in town - with natural materials on the sides and planted with native plants - from the truck stop back to Frankland River/Rocky Gully Road
- Signage including a map - one at the truck stop and one at the (old) Hall Site (used to have a hall there)
- Parking bays - showers and toilets: will need same types of facilities at Truck Stop and at Higgins Park for camping
- Need some consensus about the purpose of these places in the town centre: Truck stop is for passing + an arrival point for tourists. Higgins Park is for the car show and nature-based camping. At the corner where the old hall was (Hall Site) - this needs to be tidied up and needs to look better. This is where you would stop for lunch, dogs could have a walk, good for families.

Theme 6: Community Centre at the Hall Site

- The group decided to not go into too much detail due to time limitations at this workshop. As the community centre is considered a long term part of the town's plan, it should be included in the action plan / concept plan and map, and details will be considered in future.

Place Plan Workshop

Theme 7: Hall Site upgrade (including gazebo, barbecue, playground and plantings)

- There needs to be more information up here at the Hall Site - more touristy with a map (maps at both Hall Site and Truck Stop). More detailed info at the Hall Site.
- Rocky Gully Progress Association has been progressing the barbecue and the gazebo for the Hall Site. There is a need to confirm whether the building permit had gone into the Shire for the gazebo and BBQ upgrades to the Hall Site
- This site is a good spot for native plantings where suitable (i.e. where other infrastructure won't be)
- Would be nice to have an old mill on this site - there is one that has been dumped. There might be one at the Lions Club at Cameron's and old Kent River.
- A mill could be on site at the Hall Site (this is a sawmill) - a direct experience of local history
- A short term focus is for lighting to be incorporated on this site
- The School Bus Stop needs to be moved to the Hall Site - a shelter is also needed - the existing lean-to needs the sides removed and replaced with clear perspex. Relocation of the bus stop will be followed up through the School / P&C.

Place Plan Workshop

Theme 8: Footpaths, lighting, drainage and signage to make it easier to get around

- Families don't know where to go - need informational signage to guide them around the town centre
- The current bus stop for school is just off Muir Highway (at the side of the pub) - all agree it would be better to move it to the Hall Site - would need signage to show where the new location is
- Education Department would have to agree to this new location for the bus stop as owner of the bus - this would involve going through the school - and through the Frankland River P&C
- Signage (or something else) for an entry statement to the town centre - vacant block which Yorky mows - speak to someone at Main Roads to start investigating this.
- Jarrah posts for signage throughout the road reserve into town would be ideal
- There is a wildflower logo for Rocky Gully which was designed by a local. This could be used throughout the group's work and the town to create a theme / connect areas
- Lighting - Frankland Road/Rocky Gully Road and Muir Highway (intersection) - there is no lighting here
- There is some lighting in most areas where you have houses, but there are gaps
- Middle streets - there need to be lights and paths - currently some gaps between lights are too big
- There needs to be lighting at the Hall Site
- It would be easy to work out the gaps - wait until dark and then walk along the main streets where you would want lighting and footpaths - someone could do an audit of this at night
- Solar lights could also be purchased with grants - these then avoid the need for Western Power (can be done faster where it is the right location)
- Rocky Gully needs better lighting at the pub
- The Shire doesn't own a lot of land. It owns verges, but that's about it
- By filling in drains, other places can become flooded - this situation needs addressing as some kids fell in
- Drainage through town is an issue. All houses have pipes down to drain - and the water can get backed up
It heads downhill naturally and areas get very wet
- Better to fill in with rocks, with hessian on top, food dirt (garden quality) and plants