



Break O'Day
COUNCIL

St Marys Township Plan

2022 - 2025



Version 1 – December, 2022

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Introduction

Township Plans are developed with community and provide Council with an understanding of the needs of each community, as well as how community and Council can work together to achieve them.

The idea to develop township plans came from conversations Council staff had with communities when we consulted on the development of the Strategic Plan in 2017.

The first Township Plans were developed in July, 2019.

This second edition of the St Marys Township Plan will guide activities over the next three years, from 2022 – 2025.

To develop this plan we consulted the St Marys community through a “drop in session” and an online survey process. Further detail on the information from the community engagement process forms Appendix 1 to this Plan.

This Township Plan will replace the 2019 -2021 St Marys Township Plan, you can find a copy of this plan and a report of how we went achieving these activities on our website under My Community /Township Plans.

The themes from the previous plan compared to this plan have not changed a great deal with the community still focusing on community infrastructure and tourism

Some notable achievements from the previous plan include:

- Clean out river at St Marys – river segment between The Flats Road and Storey Street Road bridge – works undertaken to clean out the river beds
- Works completed to resurrect and maintain the Wombat Walk
- Some work has been undertaken during 2019 on the walking track to St Patricks Head

St Marys – Our Town

An important part in developing the Township Plan is to understanding what residents love about their community and how they would like their community to look in 10 years’ time.

Based on residents answers to these survey questions we developed the below statements.

Community Vision: *The St Marys Community most values community connection and the area’s unique natural environment.*

Community Legacy: *The community would like to see St Marys township and community become more vibrant. This would be done by fostering the arts and culture scene as well as developing community and tourism facilities.*

You can find a full report of all community consultation including how these statements were developed, on our website under **My Community / Community Consultation**.

Community Engagement and Plan Focus

A common theme of the St Marys community engagement activities was the need for maintenance works to be done on street infrastructure.

Themes include:

- Development of trails
- More community events to be organised; and
- Investigate spaces for community art and youth spaces.

Some other matters raised were considered by Council as 'business as usual' and will be dealt with through existing Council activities.

To ensure all feedback was recorded and not lost we have included a copy of this in Appendix 2 along with items considered outside the scope of the Township Plan.

The 2022-2025 St Marys Township Plan will focus on:

- **Advocating for more tourism signage and trails;**
- **Investigation of community art and youth spaces; and**
- **More community events to be held in St Marys.**

Action List

Action	Who
<p>1. Advocating for more tourism signage and trails</p> <p>1.1. Investigate signage options that reflect the community's vision for their area including tourism signage.</p> <p>1.2. Lobby for proper trail maintenance – St Patricks Head</p> <p>1.3. Investigate the need for a footpath from the cemetery to the township of St Marys</p> <p>1.4. Work with the community to develop a trail from the Grey Mares trail to connect with Irishtown Road as well as identify other trails around the area</p>	<p>Community/Council /ECRTO</p> <p>Community/Council /PWS</p> <p>Community/Council</p> <p>Community/Council</p>
<p>2. Investigation into community art and youth spaces</p> <p>2.1. Work community and local organisations to identify a space which could be used for a community art space</p> <p>2.2. Work with the community and local organisations to identify a space which could be used for a youth hub</p>	<p>Council/Community, /Education/NGO's</p> <p>Council/Community, /Education/NGO's</p>
<p>3. More community events</p> <p>3.1. Work with community groups eg. BODRA to look at what more events being run in the Valley eg., Winter solstice</p>	<p>Community/ Council</p>
<p>4. Community Infrastructure</p> <p>4.1. Build a new Columbarium at St Marys Cemetery</p> <p>4.2. Work with the community to develop a brief for an Arts & Cultural Centre</p> <p>4.3. Work with community to look at storage issues at the St Marys Hall</p> <p>4.4. Work with State Government agencies identifying parcels of land that may be suitable for community housing</p>	<p>Community/ Council</p> <p>Community/ Council</p> <p>Community/Council</p> <p>Council/ State Gov.</p>
<p>5. Maintaining Streetscape</p> <p>5.1 Review tree plantings – look at more deciduous trees</p> <p>5.2 Undertake a parking review eg., 1 hour parking outside businesses</p>	<p>Community/ Council</p>

Reporting back to the Community:

We will report back to you on how we are progressing with these actions twice a year. An updated action list will be posted on Council's website and forwarded to those that are on Council's St Marys Township Email Database. (If you would like to join this database, please email, admin@bodc.tas.gov.au.)

Any feedback on these plans can be sent to admin@bodc.tas.gov.au

The St Marys Township Plan has a term of three (3) years – after this period, the action list will be reviewed.

Adopted by Council on 26 June, 2023

Appendix 1

Community Engagement

On Wednesday 11 May, 2022, Council held a “drop in session” at St Marys where Council officers met with community members seeking their feedback on the following issues:

- Infrastructure
- Environment; and
- Other issues

Sixteen community members registered for attending this session.

During the Drop-in session period (11 March – 2 June 2022) a survey was available for community members unable to attend the Drop-in session. The survey received 244 responses from the Break O’Day Municipality – 26 of these were from St Marys.

Council heard from a total of 42 St Marys residents.

According to the 2021 Census, St Marys has a population of 738 people.

While developing township plans we also asked residents to share with us what they loved about their community and how they would like their community to look in 10 years’ time.

The answers to these questions were used to develop a vision and legacy statement for each township and we would appreciate your feedback on these as well as the plan itself.

These statements will help Council to make decisions about your township based on whether they fit with the vision and legacy of each community.

The Community Vision and Legacy Statements for St Marys are:

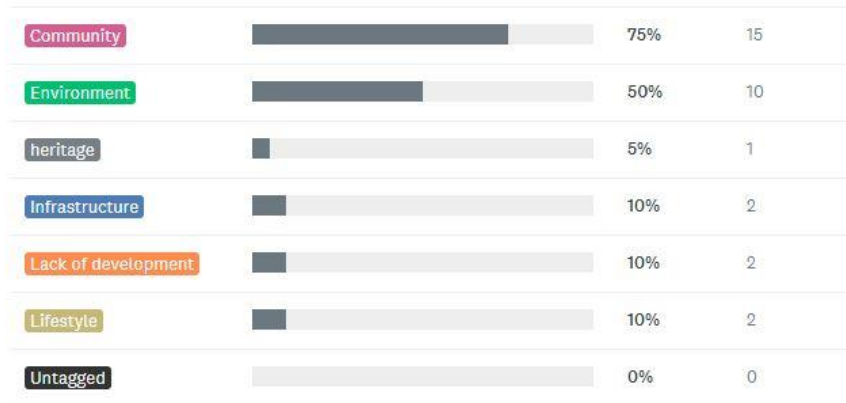
Community Vision: *The St Marys Community most values its community connection and the area’s unique natural environment.*

Community Legacy *The community would like to see St Marys township and community become more vibrant. This would be done by fostering the arts and culture scene as well as developing community and tourism facilities.*

The above statements were developed from Community feedback as shown over:

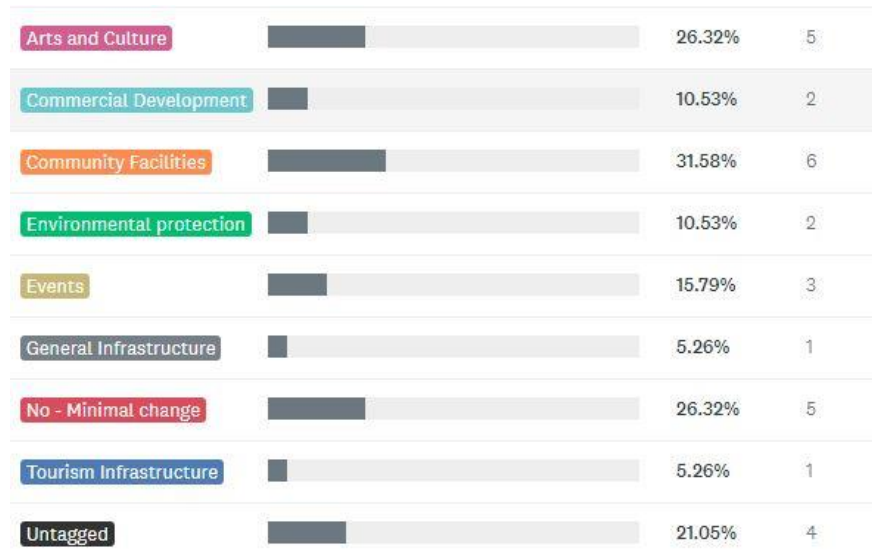
Grouped answers to Question 5.

What do you most love about your community?



Grouped answers from Question 7.

How would you like your community to look in 10 years' time?



“Vibrant, hip, cool coffees... wonderful walking trails making the most of the valley/river, excellent services for aging community and inspiration for young artists with exhibition spaces and creative incentives.” Comment direct from community member.

You can find a full report of all community consultation on our website under **My Community / Community Consultation**.

Appendix 2

Business as Usual Activities

Comment	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Patricks Head Road – replacement bridge – better access to get to St Patricks Head walk – proper trail maintenance of walk 	Deck has been replaced – other bridge components do not require replacement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tidy up cemetery and grave sites 	There are some limitations that affect our ability to tidy-up old grave sites. Council is open to ideas and what opportunities may be available by agreement with living relatives and within available funding constraints.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe footpaths cnr near hospital – people walking on the road 	Project in 4 year capital plan to provide improved footpath connectivity – Cameron Street to Hospital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More disabled parking in Main Street 	A parking review is currently being undertaken as part of the 2022 – 2023 Annual Plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with State Growth and private landowners to remove gorse Remove gorse/wattles on rivers edge – eastern approach to town 	Already occurring, with landholders being supported in and around St Marys and State Growth has been undertaking control works in recent years. This is a good start but unfortunately St Marys is generally a heavily infested area.

Activities Outside Township Plan Scope

Comment	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed camera at top of Pass on approach to town to enforce 60 kmph limit – slow the trucks down – too fast 	Referred to State Growth – awaiting a response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road crossing for main street 	Currently under investigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push bike/skateboard/walking paths around St Marys 	The St Marys Community Space was developed to allow for this activity to occur in a safe space. Walking paths have been improved during last few years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement and collaboration with St Marys District High School re resurfacing courts (local netball) and improve community access and facility to school pool – community pool 	These facilities are under the control of the Education Department. Council will pass on comments to St Marys School to see if any works are proposed to be undertaken.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Marys sign at turnoff on Midlands Highway 	Forward this information to State Growth for their input

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Marys sign and Fingal – just like the new Scamander one 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail trail between St Marys and Fingal for local mental and physical health – walk/bike friendly with points of interest along its route – this would attract visitors who seek rail trails there is a huge network in Victoria • Offer more bike/walking trails 	<p>This project was identified through the Recreational Trails Strategy – Council to look at this as a project in line with recommendations from community input</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air and noise pollution from drivers ignoring speed limits at the top of St Marys Pass on approach to the town – suggestions: Speed camera – lowering speed limit 	<p>Referred to State Growth and awaiting response</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower speed limits on unsealed roads and outside shopping centres – safer for wildlife, walkers, bike riders, general road users 	<p>Default State speed limit is 80 kmph on rural unsealed roads, road standards apply in the determination of differing speed limits and specific criterion needs to be met before a request to change the speed limit is made by the Transport Commissioner – Council refers to the standards when any new proposal is made for a speed limit change – same approach applies to urban or shopping precinct areas</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife animal deterrents on high road kill areas – Gray Road/St Marys Pass/Esk Main Road • Green animal scarer poles that are along some roads – sound barrier poles 	<p>Make request to State Growth that they consider available technology for these roads</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce stray cats 	<p>Recent cat management legislation changes give landholders, cat owners and Council new opportunities. Council has started cat management activities in conjunction with a regional program and the suggestion of a significant stray and roaming cat population in St Marys is noted.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off lead dog area • Better control of dogs – kept on lead – stop them roaming 	<p>Fencing of the designated area at the Sports Grounds are scheduled for September 2022. The Break O'Day Council Dog Management Policy is due for review in 2023, when the community can suggest and comment on additional alternatives.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing wall at new gym 	<p>The significant cost implication, space requirement and inflexible nature of a climbing</p>

	installation does not align with the program of the building and won't be part of the project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordable access to use the Hall – free to community groups 	Currently the Council Policy does not allow for free use of community facilities unless it falls under the specific category D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Marys Pool – can it be operated all year round – need improvements to toilets to meet community needs – suggest Department of Education/Health/Council collaborate Access to a heated pool 	This feedback will be forwarded to St Marys District High School.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hard waste collection annually 	Project to be costed and considered by Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for a youth engagement project and worker to support delivery 	St Helens Neighbourhood House have secured funded to support youth in our municipality and to employ youth workers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newsletter item – dog poo on nature strips – people need to pick up – more dog poo dispensers are needed 	Council to promote – people to pick up after their dogs in their monthly newsletters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved sports centre/facilities potentially including relocating the tennis club to a proper country sports complex Improved facilities for outdoor spaces and maintain facilities to a higher level 	There would be significant cost in removing the current infrastructure and rebuilding same
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better planning policies to control clearing and illegal buildings 	The Break O'Day Interim Planning Scheme 2013 provides for exemptions in relation to vegetation clearing. These can be viewed in Table 5.4 of the Scheme. These exemptions generally relate to fire hazard management, safety, and maintenance of infrastructure and fencing among other things. Once Council is aware of illegal construction of buildings and structures, we are able to take necessary action through regulatory processes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aged care units at rear of St Marys Community Hospital – car park area Identify more land for units in town area – Retirement units 	Needs to be discussions with owner of the land, the State Government