



WODONGA 2033: REVISITED

Engagement report



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Wodonga's councillors



Cr Mark Byatt
Cr Michael Fraser
Cr Eric Kerr
Cr Lisa Mahood
Cr Anna Speedie
Cr John Watson
Cr Rodney Wangman

The Wodonga 2033 consultations began in 2008 and aimed to create a long-term vision for the type of city Wodonga would be in 2033 and what it would be known for.

Seven years on, in 2015, it was decided to revisit the vision to see if it was still relevant to the community, what had changed, whether there were new priorities and whether the community felt the vision was being achieved.

An extensive community consultation process, known as Community Conversations, was held.

The first activity was bringing more than 100 community leaders together for a community forum, held in The Cube Wodonga on July 1, 2015.

Various sectors were represented, including business, education, health, government and community leaders.

Workshops held during the forum helped define what those present felt were the city's priorities, challenges and opportunities and what would be the game-changers that Wodonga might encounter.

From this, a series of illustrations were created, which were then placed on public exhibition, asking people whether they agreed with what was identified during the forum.

This feedback has been themed for the purposes of this document with key outcomes identified and potential actions that the council may need to consider in line with the feedback received from its community.

Through the direction which was set by the community, the aspirations of the Wodonga community recognised in 2008 are on track and becoming realities.

Wodonga councillors



Our city



Wodonga has become a significant regional city that is experiencing exceptional growth rates and is a key contributor to Victoria's economy and liveability.

Wodonga is seen as a leading regional city in the North East and is a city that services a catchment of 180,000 people, it is the largest city in North East Victoria.

Wodonga's residential population is fast approaching 40,000 and is expected to increase to 57,634 by 2033, nearly double the city's current size. This growth has also resulted in Wodonga having one of the youngest median ages in the State, at 34 years.

In the past Wodonga has seen manufacturing as a dominant source of employment and income. Wodonga is now experiencing a more diverse range of employment offerings particularly in education, health and professional industries.

Our continued growth and a more diverse employment offering has seen our average weekly income increase in the past seven years.

Wodonga continues to work towards having a strong sustainable mix of assets across economics, human, built, natural and cultural realms, together with strong governance that enables equitable use of those assets.

The council continues to work in partnership with other tiers of government and community organisations to actively identify issues of concern and seek collective and collaborative ways to address the level of disadvantage in the community.

As the population grows and becomes more diverse, Wodonga is cognisant of the many challenges and opportunities that this will present in ensuring that citizens experience opportunities to actively participate in community life.

The council will continue to play a major role in advocating at state and federal government level for infrastructure, services and programs which will help Wodonga remain a city of choice into the future.

Wodonga Council continues to work hard to realise the vision of its community, with many achievements for the city over the past seven years.



July 1st
2015

The process to date

LEADERSHIP SESSIONS

- Leadership breakfast
- Community forum with a series of workshops

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS during August and September at:

- The Cube Wodonga;
- Wodonga Library;
- Felltimber and Baranduda community centres; and,
- Wodonga Council offices.

Feedback also sought:

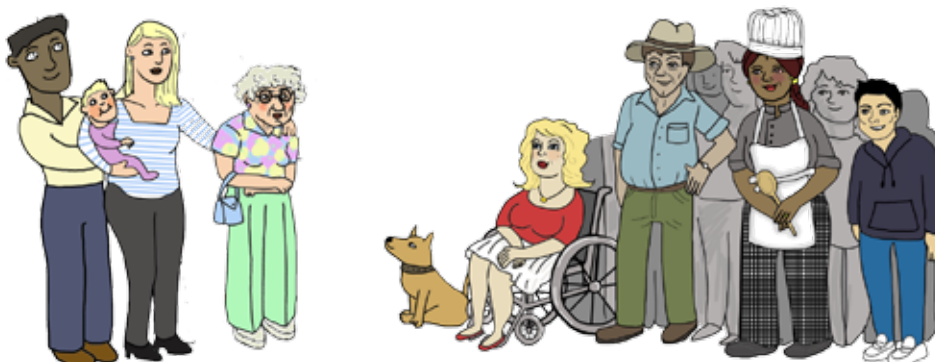
- On the council's website;
- Through face-to-face discussions; and,
- Conducting surveys on the street.

Wodonga 2033 Revisited presented to councillors and goes before council meeting.

Copies of *Wodonga 2033: Revisited* issued to community.

OCTOBER, 2016: COUNCIL ELECTIONS

New councillors to be given copy of *Wodonga 2033: Revisited* to assist with the formulation of the 2017-2017 to 2020-2021 *Council Plan*.





WODONGA

In 2033, the municipality of Wodonga has a population of around 50,000 people and is still a strong regional leader in Victoria. Wodonga is considered the regional hub of North East Victoria, delivering many of the social, health, education and commercial needs of the region.



We have built a strong and powerful identity as being a creative, passionate and diverse community, committed to the health and wellbeing of our people and our environment.



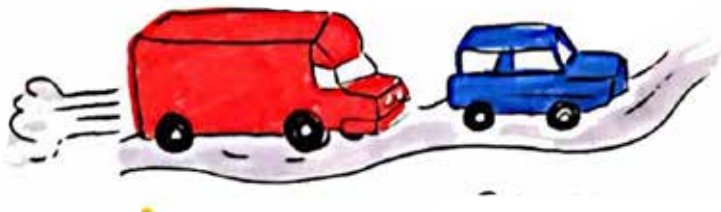
Wodonga has seen well planned growth of the city throughout the CBD and out into the Leneva Baranduda Township. Our CBD has long been seen as the meeting place and heart of our city and is now a true combination of community and commercial activity.



Our ability to provide reliable and efficient mobile technology has allowed us to gain a reputation as a place where work and family can easily combine. This technology has provided opportunities for people to interact and create in new and exciting ways. Through embracing new technologies Wodonga has seen new and innovative business emerge together with more connected and vibrant neighbourhoods.



Wodonga now has a flexible, responsive and integrated transport system that has been developed in unison with the city's growth and development to ensure that people of all abilities can move easily around the city.





2033

In 2033, the community of Wodonga is able to access high quality infrastructure, services and programs that are built on decades of successful partnerships and initiatives. This has resulted in a healthy and connected community and region.

As a community we have shown a genuine commitment to supporting and caring for our most vulnerable members in the community and have worked collaboratively with others to see the level of disadvantage reduced.

A focus on affordable living has resulted in our community being able to enjoy not only economic prosperity as people move to our regional city, but the socio-economic profile also changes which strengthens the social outcomes for our people.



In 2033, the Wodonga community is a demonstrated leader with its genuine commitment to environmental sustainability.

The natural resources and amenity that are highly valued by the community provide not only recreational opportunities but are now valued for their potential in eco-tourism, event attraction and the way in which they enhance the liveability of our city.



As a city, we strive to provide excellence in education across all areas.

In 2033, Wodonga is an inclusive city built around social, cultural, and economic sustainability and equity.





What our community said it wanted

- Sense of belonging
- Family city
- Feeling of community
- Relationships
- Well-being
- Community “square”
- Vibrant CBD

- Better road networks
- Better connectivity

- Successful partnerships



The response has occurred in a number of ways and includes building new infrastructure, such as constructing new community facilities, expanding, refurbishing and upgrading existing facilities and playgrounds.

In addition, the council has supported and encouraged community participation through grants, programs, events and volunteer opportunities.

Wodonga has seen a major transformation of its city heart with the removal of the railway line, changes and upgrades to the road networks, parking, landscape and streetscape elements and the introduction of contemporary urban design elements.

This work has seen the development of new public realm that aims to bring people together. Wodonga has seen a new business demographic start to emerge that adds to the diversity of offerings and vibrancy of the city’s heart.

Across the city there has been an increased focus on improving road networks and connectivity with new road infrastructure, reduction of speed limits and the provision of safe pedestrian and cycling pathways and crossings.

The council has continued to lobby and advocate for improved rail services to and from Wodonga.

The council continues to work closely with other government organisations, community groups, charities and neighbouring councils for better community outcomes.



What our community said it wanted

World-leading eco city



There has been recognition of the value the community places on environmental sustainability and the council has moved to minimise waste to landfill and has pursued energy efficient lighting, water and power saving technologies.

The council encourages sustainably practices through information campaigns. The development, maintenance and preservation of our hilltops and open space continue to be a key element of Wodonga's lifestyle and identity.

Education for all

Wodonga offers local access to a wide range of education and learning opportunities both formal and informal. These range from early childhood through to tertiary and vocational education and training programs providing the community with opportunities to meet local labour force needs and positively contribute to local economic, social and community growth.

During this time there has been an increased focus on prevention and early intervention services and programs.

Employment for all

Business vitality

The council has played an important role in the development of plans, projects and partnerships that have worked to encourage and enhance the Wodonga economy and local employment opportunities.

Wodonga has been successful in attracting funding for development and growth.

High-speed broadband

Access for all

Virtual world opportunities

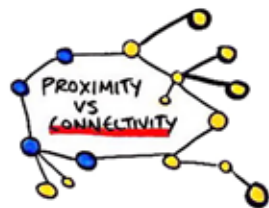
Flexible learning

The council continues to advocate for technological infrastructure such as the NBN.

The council has integrated new technologies into its services and communications to better meet needs.



Key themes



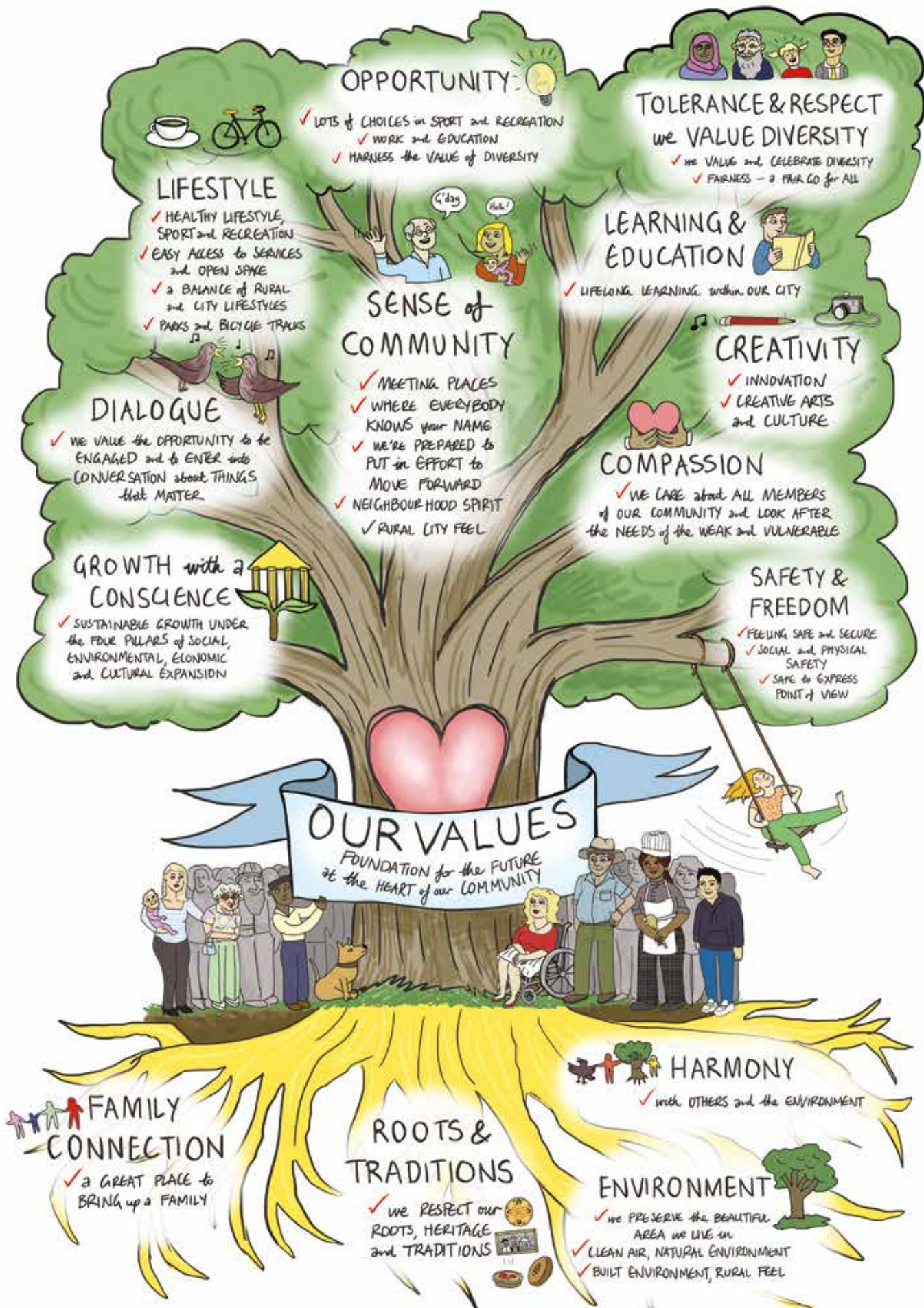
The review of the Wodonga 2033 Vision was undertaken with the intention of re-testing the community’s vision, values and aspirations for their city.

The responses from the conversations with our community will inform and refocus the vision for the coming years.

The main themes that emerged from the forum included:

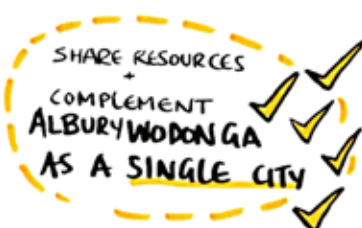
- Improving Wodonga’s connectivity to other cities;
- Continue to work with AlburyCity to maximise opportunities that arise;
- Continue to promote business, investment and growth; and,
- Continue to invest in improving the liveability of the city through infrastructure, encouraging community participation, promoting good health, well-being and neighbourhood connectivity to decrease disadvantage in our city.







Priorities and game changers



PRIORITIES:



- Ensuring the council supports agencies which help those in social disadvantage
- Improving connectivity with public transport in the city, particularly the railway services between Albury-Wodonga and metropolitan cities
- Promoting civic participation and continue to develop and activate contemporary public realm
- Increasing education and employment options in a diverse economy.

GAME CHANGERS:



- High speed rail
- Transport and connectivity
- Investment in sporting facilities
- Identifying what is our next competitive advantage



Challenges and opportunities



- Addressing the social demands being placed on some parts of our community
- Making sure no-one is forgotten as our city continues to grow
- Continuing to provide employment and education opportunities for all as our city grows
- Ensuring Wodonga remains an affordable option for everyone
- Promoting Wodonga as a tourist destination and as a place to live, work and invest
- Infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing city and regional demand



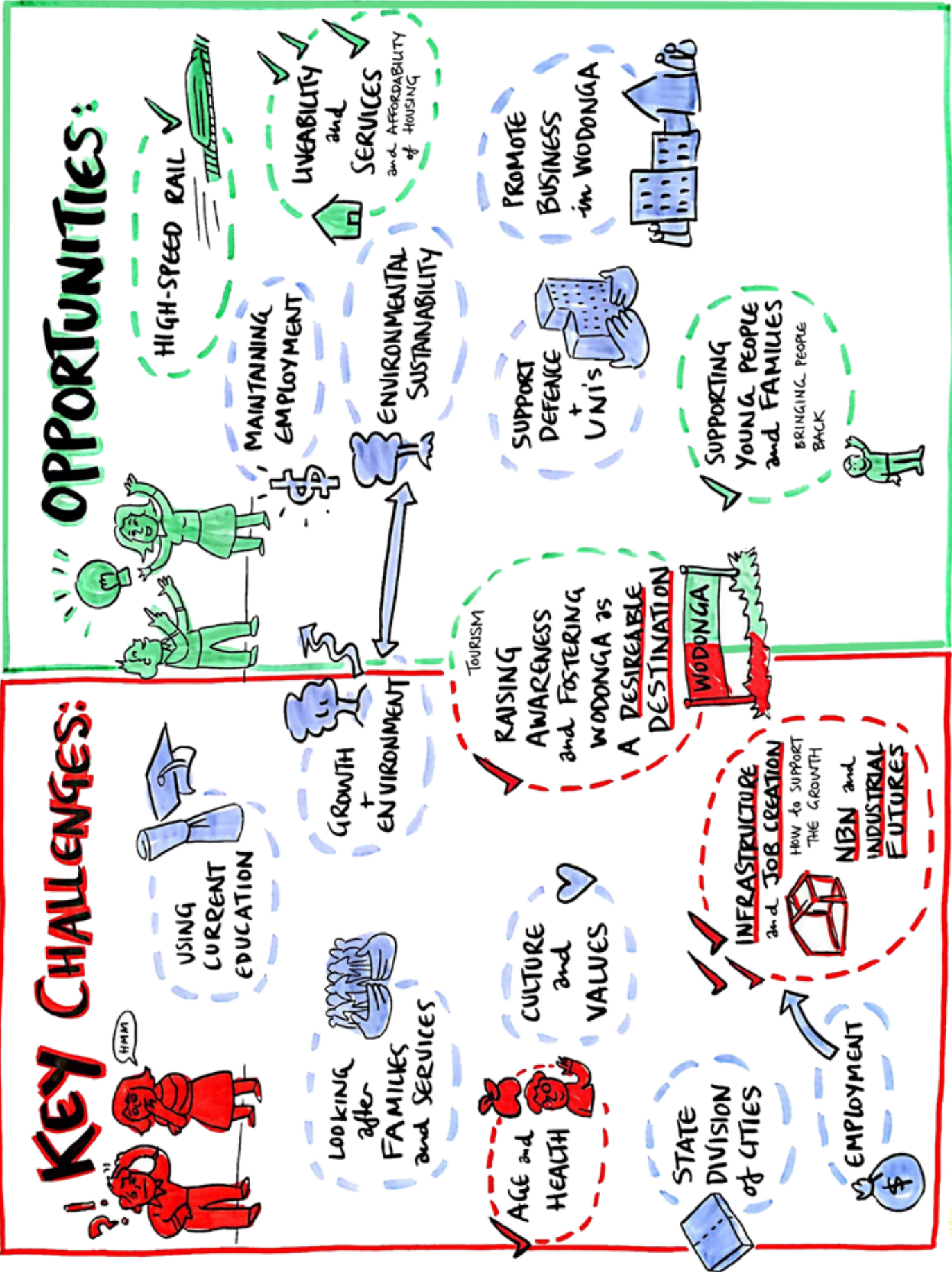
- High Speed Rail
- Developing into a strong and resilient community that works collectively and collaboratively to address emerging social issues
- Environmental sustainability
- Making Wodonga a sustainable, affordable and family-centred city that enjoys a high quality of life

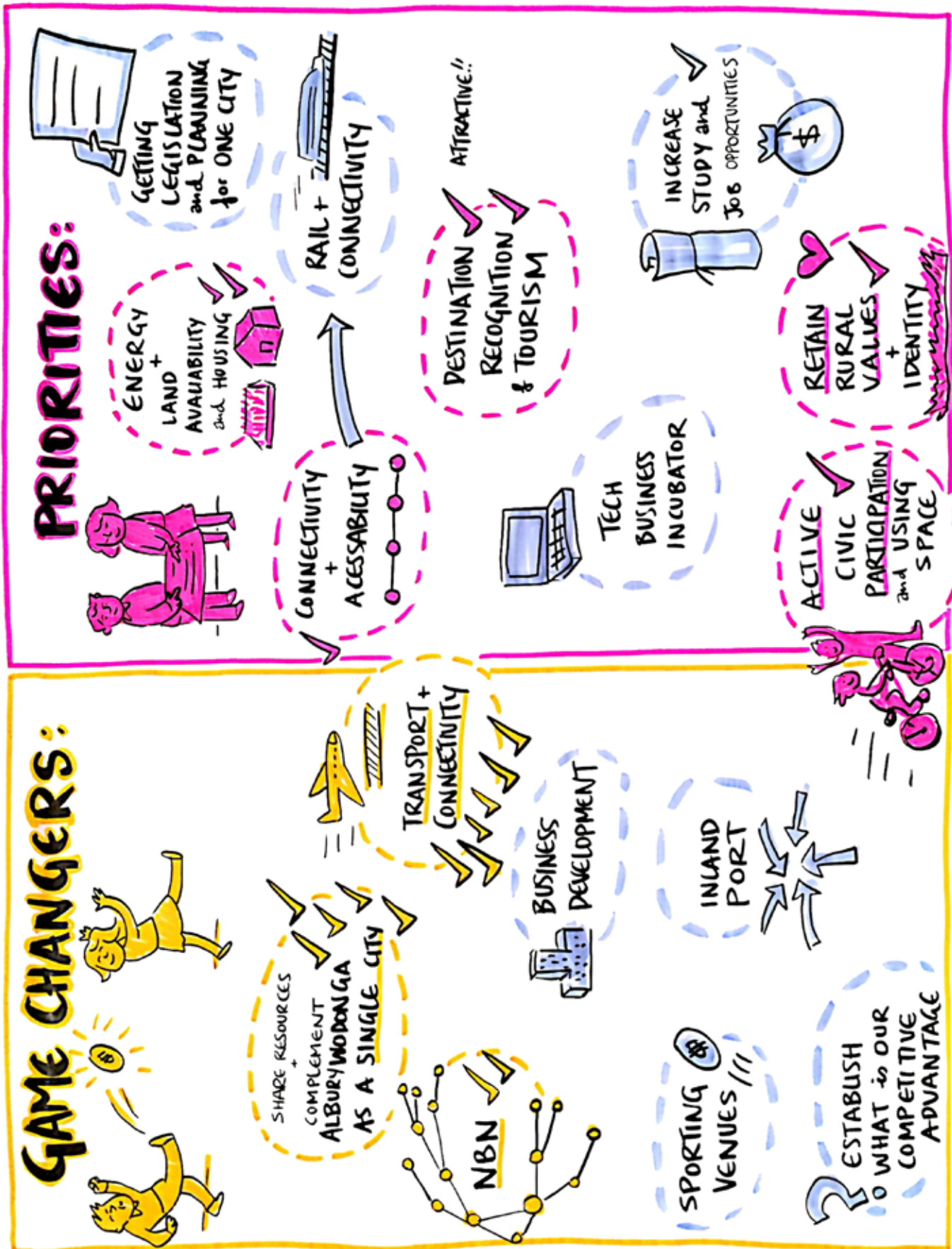
: revisited

July-1st
2015











What next?



This document will go before a public council meeting.

It will then be placed on public display around the city.

Copies will also be provided to key agencies and community groups and then sent to the forum participants for feedback.

The final document will be presented to the council following the elections in October, 2016, to inform incoming councillors of the community's values, thoughts and aspirations on a range of issues and what the current council has achieved during its time in office.



Wodonga Council would like to
thank everyone who participated
in the process and had their say on the
Wodonga 2033: Revisited documents,
attended forums and gave their views

