The Ballarat Strategy: Our Vision for 2040

The Draft Ballarat Strategy details the following key concepts:

1. Supporting the economic transition towards the jobs of tomorrow

Land use planning and decision-making can have a big influence on economic growth. A well-planned Ballarat will be less expensive to maintain, more vibrant and therefore attractive to businesses and visitors, and have higher land values in higher amenity spaces. Higher land values can encourage renewal and adaptive reuse of sites in important areas.

2. The ‘10 Minute City’ supports complete, liveable neighbourhoods

The ‘10 Minute City’ concept in Ballarat reflects community aspirations to maintain existing levels of access to destinations and services even when the city grows over time. It supports the ability for all residents of Ballarat to be able to do more of their day-to-day shopping, accessing of services and business in local neighbourhood centres. It also promotes the improvement of walking and cycling connections in local neighbourhoods.

3. Housing Ballarat – residential development and housing form and density

The location, type, form and quality of housing built between now and 2040 will have a significant impact on the Ballarat of the future. As the population grows, Ballarat will not only need more houses but also a more diverse range of housing types. This will include apartments, units and affordable accommodation to cater for changing demographics. Providing these choices in targeted locations will help to maintain, more vibrant and therefore attractive to businesses and visitors, and have higher land values in higher amenity spaces. Higher land values can encourage renewal and adaptive reuse of sites in important areas.

4. Transitioning towards a more sustainable transport network

A key principle of the Ballarat Strategy, identified through Ballarat Imagine, is to ensure Ballarat remains easy to get around. With a population of approximately 160,000 people in Ballarat by 2040, there is a clear need to pursue a more sustainable transport system, which better manages transport demand. Whilst private cars provide the highest levels of mobility, transitioning to a more sustainable transport system which achieves a greater balance between cars and other modes such as walking, cycling and public transport will help address these challenges.

5. Adopting an urban forest approach to better manage our environment

The community values Ballarat’s parks, gardens, green spaces and tree-lined streets. As the urban area increases, infill development accelerates and uses intensify, it will be important to protect these natural assets from encroachment. Intermittent periods of drought, water restrictions and periods of extreme heat will put the street trees, open spaces, creeks and waterways under increasing stress.

6. Support the management and rehabilitation of a network of living corridors across Ballarat

Ballarat already has an extensive trail network, including the trails following the Yarrowee River and Bumbumblebets, the Skipton and Bunny Rail Trails, and the Goldfields Trail. Community and Council partnerships are working towards rehabilitation of a number of urban creek lines. However, there are also a number of other areas which could be better linked. By 2040, all potential linkages on public land in urban areas should be open to public use.

7. Pursuing a new approach to managing change in our historic city and rural landscape

Ballarat is growing and change is inevitable. The challenge is how to protect Ballarat’s valued historic, cultural and natural living landscape from inappropriate change. The City of Ballarat has signed up to an international pilot of a new way of looking at heritage and managing change in historic cities. The pilot is being promoted by UNESCO, a United Nations (UN) body.

8. A revised Activity Centres Hierarchy recognizing the first time key employment, cultural, recreation and tourist destinations, in addition to current retail sites

The Activity Centres Hierarchy in Ballarat is based on retail centres. It is important to revise the hierarchy to recognise regionally significant sites that offer a much wider service offering that significantly contributes to Ballarat’s position as the Capital of Western Victoria.

9. Township areas local plans for local communities

Council has a significant role to play in supporting township areas to manage change, and prosper over the long-term as important hubs of local community. Council will work with communities to develop local area plans to guide their long-term future direction.

10. Recognizing and responding to a changing climate, and being resilient to environmental impacts and risks

Climate change is likely to impact on the Ballarat community over the coming decades. There are expected changes in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, changes to the water cycle affecting agriculture and other key industries, and concerns about the ongoing threat of natural disasters such as bushfires and floods.

Last Chance: Have your say on planning Ballarat’s future

The Draft Ballarat Strategy represents the ideas, aspirations and vision of the Ballarat community, expressed through the community conversations in Ballarat Imagine, 10 Game Changing Questions and the Preliminary Ballarat Strategy. It proposes a long-term future for a greener, more vibrant and connected Ballarat.

Released in April 2015, the Draft Ballarat Strategy outlines key concepts which are being considered to underpin land use planning decision-making towards 2040.

Your Ballarat Strategy

Thank you to all residents who have been involved in planning for Ballarat’s long-term future by providing feedback into the Strategy. This is the final consultation stage and we invite all residents to share their thoughts on this innovative plan for our city’s future.

What’s next?

Feedback is requested by 5pm, Friday 5 June, 2015. Incorporating all new feedback, the final Ballarat Strategy will be considered at an upcoming Council meeting.

The Draft Ballarat Strategy is available at the City of Ballarat Customer Service Centre, 25 Armstrong Street South, Town Hall, Sturt Street, and online at the City of Ballarat website: www.ballarat.vic.gov.au

Want to know more?

Contact the City of Ballarat Planning Strategy Unit at 5320 5119 or email ballaratstrategy@ballarat.vic.gov.au

www.ballarat.vic.gov.au