

Portland Community Workshop Outcomes

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Farming.
- Small business.
- Small boutique farms.
- Tourism and ecotourism.
- Market gardening.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Size of blocks two acres to 50 acres.
- Should be building permission for all block sizes.
- Less restriction on use of blocks.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Tourist development Lake Wallace-kayaks and non-motor water sports.
- Camping and caravan facilities.
- Ecotourism.
- Educational facilities.
- Renewable energy power plants.
- Small manufacturing at end of railway line-ideal transport routes.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Renewable energy sources.
- Camping-motor home facilities.
- Abseiling.
- More shops with greater variety size and adversity.
- Tourist attractions.
- Education-develop TAFE.
- NBN facility and improved communication.
- Improved mobile reception.
- Postal and garbage services.

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- The current national park areas.
- Hassan's walls.
- Wolgan Valley.
- Lake Wallace.
- Clean water sources preserved.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- Water catchment needs to be rational and sensible.
- Reduce mines and dependency.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Anything that is highly polluting-no.
- Fracking-no.
- No unconventional mining techniques.

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Get involved.
- Community projects and community involvement and pride.
- Council supporting community groups.
- Regular Council/community meetings.
- Community needs to speak out.
- Give and donate time to community areas.
- Be responsible for learning what goes on

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Council.
- Revamp of local environmental plan. Start with burning it.
- Stop finding reason to stop development and ideas and businesses.
- Judge applications on merit.
- Broaden viewpoint on economic developments and not just depend on mining.
- Take a can do attitude.
- Merge with Bathurst.
- State and federal.
- Idea is not legal-Guy Fawkes-
- Federal Independent commission against corruption

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Sustainable development versus dollar driven development.
- What is viable equals balanced development.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Clustered around existing rural townships equals not claiming productive farmland.
- Using existing services and lower productivity land.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Yes but those people and environmentally positive/nurturing.
- Investigation diversification opportunities.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Local green power generation via waste to energy systems.
- Municipal waste to oil etc.
- Greater improved recycling/reclaiming.

- Flawless Internet and phone service.
- Commerce anywhere. Create opportunity.
- Assistance with pest and weed control. Perhaps Council to approve and everywhere recommend a contract with an option to non-toxic chemical control where possible in conjunction with local land service

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Water, soil, tree corridors-encourage wildlife and water and soil health.
- Encouragement to land owners to dedicate a percentage of land approximately 20 to 30% to tree areas. Times 200%.
- Productivity indigenous non-native species to increase soil biomass by natural composting.
- Preservation of special cultural attributes of smaller rural communities.
- Security - a slow pace of life and a sense of scale that is not overwhelming.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- See above.
- Focus on farm to plate ventures.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Further mining-after current granted.
- Chemical farming-poisons land, water and air.
- Viable.
- Monocultures-forestry.
- Fossil fuel energy generation.
- No coal seam gas.
- No nuclear waste.
- Our region is a food bowl for eastern Australia

Action

Whatever development strategies/guidelines/rules that are adopted there needs to be an accompanying education program to ensure all know details and monitoring and compliance need to be managed consistently in line with adopted requirements.

"The best leadership is where the people say we did it i.e. government stays in the background." Quote from Lao Tzu

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Encourage participatory democracy and e-governance (see Estonian model).
- Establish a consultative group that is Council and one member from each progress Association and in catchment area and meet monthly.
- Compile a list of community issues together.

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Canvass yes/no via text and or e-mail to all who register interest by joining their progress Association.

- Build a cooperative process from individuals; progress associations; -Council consultative group and community and resulting a vote to State Parliament.
- Be in it to win it.

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Strongly want to see what we have created in rural residential landholdings protected in what they do or want to contribute. Continue to develop their rural lifestyle business in areas.
- Place where people can have quiet lifestyle.
- Areas for recreation-examples motor bikes. Noise a problem.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- See above.
- Minimum 20 to 25 acres (to keep the space). Rural residential.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Cheesemakers continue.
- Crystal Cinema further renovate.
- Medical centres.
- Nursing homes.
- Artisan craftsmen on small holdings.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Garbage service- End Marangaroo beginning Lidsdale.
- Road access from highway issues.
- Postal service. Cullen Bullen other side of tip to areas not serviced.
- Lower speed zone near tip-extend 50 km to Portland tip near houses.

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Preserve the Cox's River and tributaries.
- Return water to creeks taken by mines.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- More agriculture-small hobby interest/business/horses allowed.
- Right to have reasonable use for land.
- Live lives as rural lifestyle residence.
- Develop bike riding and walkway tracks and historical.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Trail motorbikes using bush or home paddocks inappropriate. The noise or damage.
- No franchises no more.
- Rural residential turned into quarter acre estates.
- No more heavy industry development in rural residential areas.
- No rate increases.
- No nuclear plants or waste

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Responsibility for our own property. Reduce weeds taken on by owner. Planting trees maintaining. Promote responsible land ownership.
- Lobby the vision to Council.
- Vigilance.
- Form interest committees (landowners).
- Group projects-educational and they achieve projects in the community.
- Women's sheds or mixed shed.
- Rural education in an area being taught how to look after properties, weeds, rabbits extermination. Need care when you eradicate.

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Fine absentee landowners for neglecting their land.
- Promote events to be informed and generate group formation.
- Listen to the electorate.
- Use the intelligence of the community.
- Learning opportunities.
- Safety in communities.
- Develop village centres and spread infrastructure but develop links between all.

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Current mix. Hundred acres, 25 and five acres to remain the same.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Any rural residential development relate to jobs in the area.
- Stricter regulations on subdivision less than 25 acres.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Economic development suitable for quieter lifestyle.
- Keep rural, rural and industrial, industrial.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Program for introducing new arrivals to the community and its resources example plumbers, electricians, etc

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Assistance with education on invasive and noxious weeds.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- Controlled and progressive land grants with services provided example roads and garbage collection.
- Wildlife corridors.

- Harvest manure from chook farms, etc and turn into fuel.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Heavy industrial transport hub and wind farms.
- Coalmines to utilise their water into natural vegetation.
- Develop the arts and musicals.
- Camping areas.

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Speak to a Councillor about an idea or problem.
- Notify authorities on the graffiti; loose signs, excess garbage on foot paths and roads.
- Keep up-to-date with Council news etc.

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Acknowledge your letters or queries.
- Reduce rules and regulations. Building/ DA's
- Support initiatives by residents rather than obstruct them.
- Council act more quickly and give people freedom to succeed

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- The opportunity to maximise the use of personal land with the possibility of subdividing properties (flexibility).
- Sizes between 30 and 100 acres approximately which not economically sustainable.
- Subdivision of small properties at the edge of town.
- The right to build / develop on 40 to 100 acres is preserved in remote areas.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- More estate development close to town / spread out within the region / sporadic and well distributed.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Definitely we need to have more jobs available to locals
- Develop and promote tourism of the region.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- More services like garbage pickup.
- Activities for younger people.
- Roads (better roads) sealed road in rural areas.

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Preserve halls for community meetings and activities and not sell them for financial benefit to the Council
- Preserve the zigzag and similar areas.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- Promote tourism.
- Taverns
- Farm stays.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- No chook farms

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Join the local groups such as hall committees etc progress associations.
- Volunteer activities, take part.
- Encourage neighbourhood gatherings and networking.
- Take responsibility for your local area.
- Clean up your own waste station if out of towners' dump their stuff in a mess.
- Roadside verges.
- Your own weeds and weeds on your roadside verges.
- Be friendly to each other talk to neighbours.
- Attend community meetings like this.
- Lobby Councils - attend meetings of Council.
- Write letters.
- Lobby State and Federal Governments when necessary.
- Some of us are time poor with a 21st-century lifestyle.

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Apply rules in a fair way rather than autocratic across-the-board.
- Support community ideas.
- Council carry the case for the community even if it's a tough call.
- Initiate with communities tourist projects and other developments and ideas.
- Partner with communities as much as possible.
- Council bureaucracy be a servant of the people rather than a ruler of the people

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- No developments.
- Rezoning to rural residential.
- Each property application judged on its own merits example 200 acre timbered land rezoned for usable.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Village outskirts to use infrastructure.
- Wherever they want as long as they provide their own services such as water, septic, garbage.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Yes. Any.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Better roads for regular maintenance.
- Garbage pickup on already established estates.
- Public transport

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Global warming

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- Any.
- Building creates employment.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- No intensive livestock farming such as piggeries or feedlots.
- Wind farms.
- Solar farms

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

No actions recorded

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

Vision

- Marginal agricultural lands Hundred acre/40 ha lot size.
- Perhaps five per year.
- Productive agricultural land minimum size to 50 acres.
- Future residential for Portland.
- Light commercial/industrial.
- 20 to 40 acres subdivision.
- Bathurst and Oberon don't have any.
- Concessional lots family members on existing acreages.
- Six lane highway over the mountains or six lane tunnel
- Local land services education on wild dogs and weeds.
- Portland needs some taxis and public transport.
- Redevelopment cement works tourist destination.
- Reduce red tape around exempt development as per Bathurst Council.
- Turnaround time reduced on DAs and unnecessary costs.

- More exposure to retirees.
- No nuclear waste.
- No Sydney waste.

Action

- Write to your local Government representatives.
- Write to Council regarding future ideas and input for future developments.

- Advertise area - land values.
- Council spend money in local areas.
- Rates cheaper one rate - Council.
- No land board rates.

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Residential-4 ha. 40 ha is too big. Not manageable for lifestyle owners.
- Where infrastructure is less larger blocks are more appropriate.
- Encourage higher intensity agriculture.
- Considered on merits-innovation.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Along highways-organic out growth of existing residential areas.
- Poorer land-reserve better land for larger blocks.
- Better access to highways.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Yes.
- Heavy industry in designated areas-current industrial sites.
- Tourism-cottages, bed and breakfast, farm stays in rural areas.
- Higher intensity or innovative agriculture.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Garbage- transfer Station properly built.
- Mobile phone. Also in Wolgan Valley.
- High school at Wallerawang.
- Access to fibre optic in Wolgan Valley.

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Better management of Newnes plateau-free for all.
- Water resources-protection from pollution.
- Management of kangaroos and wild dogs, foxes and cats.
- Weeds management-rural land and roadsides.
- Maintaining wildlife corridors and adding new ones - to be considered in rural residential developments.
- Use of community nursery for developments and rehabilitation.
- Improve access and interpretation/preservation of local industrial history and other tourist locations.

- Promote indigenous cultural history where appropriate.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- See question one.
- Heavy industry sites are available now. Power, rail, highway, water.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Industrial development in rural areas.
- Coal seam gas.
- Open cut coal mines.
- Nuclear power

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

No actions recorded

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

No actions recorded

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Farm stays farm. No more fragmentation.
- Village lots-residential rules and lot sizes for houses as appropriate.
- Does allow small lots to get smaller.
- All should be able to subdivide their land five acres up.
- Allow uses such as school development to form.
- Infrastructure when available already should guide further subdivisions.
- Encourage food bowl activities in the area.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Further subdivisions should be near existing concentrations-town water, power, sewage capacity available.
- Not have farms prevented from farming by nearby increased population.
- No high-rise in villages. That is, only in towns.
- Keep village character - example townhouses may not be appropriate in some places.
- Small businesses in villages okay but need relevance to village community.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Cement Works-needs to happen or what's happening.
- Improved camping areas-facilities open after hours so camping area can be used properly.
- Include areas such as Rydal Showground.

- Stop effective ban on windfarms-but it has to be Australian company.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Re-open stations example Wallerawang railway line.

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Working farmscape.
- Retain State forests and national parks.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- Food bowl.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Raceways.
- Extreme care with intensive farms

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Community projects example daffodils at Rydal.
- Need to get informed about local facilities and amenities.
- Start community associations such as around an event or project.
- Petition Council to maintain a network facilitator.
- Participate in activities organised by Council with community such as this planning session.
- Participate on committees and other such forums.
- We promote Lithgow and the district.

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Money (divert some from Bathurst).
- Leaner operation for projects. Less functions.
- Better garbage services.
- Balanced approach across area-less Lithgow centric.
- Revised legislation so city and towns bear some responsibility for preserving heritage and environment; not just inhibit former operations.
- Provide district Grants.
- Improved communication infrastructure-Internet Telco and transport.

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Distinction between rural/estate/town.
- Closer to Lithgow such as 10 acre blocks can they be subdivided into one acre blocks?
- Rural policy should include hobby farms.
- Tourist development-iceskating, theme parks, etc. Spend money on walking trails within forests.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Demand for more rural residential/estate but between towns and farming (including hobby farms)

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Yes.
- Tomato farm, tourism, small industrial such as electrical, mechanical, plumbing specifically in Portland.
- Could add to apprenticeship opportunities.
- Recreational vehicle Park (cement works?)

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Decent phone/Internet service.
- Rail service for tourism.
- Information board for Portland-trouble navigating local area for non-locals
- Easier access from East Portland to Cullen/Portland Road without having to go through town.
- Better roads.

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Farming should remain farming. Even if zoning changes.
- Portland town and surrounds (rural) should retain their character.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- More produce grown locally.
- Timber Mill.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Open cut mining

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Community action groups.
- Continue to have social interaction with neighbours in the street and to address issues such as road condition, phone network, weed control, feral animals, stock control etc.
- Continue to inform Council of relevant issues relating to our rural lifestyle

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Too negative.
- Regulations and policies should encourage productive use of rural lands and hobby farm where appropriate.
- Policies should take into account viability of farms with off farm earnings and farms with innovative agricultural activity such as a herb farm.

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Rural small lifestyle lots.
- Redraft of current zoning to a less restrictive form. Such as small industrial and small commercial.
- Encouragement of progressive thinking-Council move forwards.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Areas of unproductive land earns more for council. Give smaller housing options. Increases population-increase in economics-jobs.
- Density should be relative to proximity of urban centres. Such as close to town to acres. Five acre areas between towns, 10 to 20 acres further out and larger. Mixture of estate and Non-estate.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Yes.
- Over 55 villas.
- Aged care facilities.
- Lithgow town-more Government offices.
- Housing for asylum seekers or people in need (community housing) in Portland cement worksites. Transient/permanent.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Improved public transport to village outlying towns.
- Ambulance station should be located in Portland to support satellite towns.
- More entertainment activities for teens.

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Lake Lyell.
- Improvement of roadside appearances such as Mudgee Road at Blackman's Flat.
- Less ribbon development.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- More recreational use-horse riding, 4 wheel drive, walking.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Open cut only in appropriate areas- non-visible from tourist roads.
- No Fracking.
- No wind farms.

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

No actions recorded

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future? No actions recorded

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Economic development sympathetic with local culture.
- Business park such as warehouse, workshops, etc.
- More employment opportunities.
- Encourage small business.
- Investigate decentralisation from Sydney

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Should be more lifestyle blocks varying size so people can have animals and small farms.
- Remove restrictions or minimise restrictions.
- Consider buffer zone so residential can grow without infringing on lifestyle blocks or farming enterprises.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Yes see question one
- Emphasis on employment.
- Look more towards alternative industry.
- Move away from traditional industry.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Better mobile phone service.
- Internet NBN needed.
- Mental health services.
- Ambulance for Portland area.
- Community nursing.
- Hospital emergency department.

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Native vegetation.
- Conserve wildlife.
- Get rid of foxes, feral cats, while dogs, pigs etc.
- Enhance water quality-drinking water needs improving.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- More promotion of natural tourism.
- Maintain productive agricultural areas.

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- No nuclear waste dump.

- No large open cut mining. They provide jobs.

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Vote for councillors that are proactive.
- Get a voice, speak up.
- Promote your view respectfully to others.
- Be informed

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Bring region/council into this century.
- Promote all types of communication across the region.
- Too much outside influence on local issues.
- Make government authorities more accountable to local ratepayers

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- Small residential rural development (under 100 acres) 20 to 40 acres.

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Anything that won't support agriculture.
- Rural 1a.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- No not in Rural 1a improper zoning.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- Complete sealing of roads Thompson's Creek, Back Cullen Road.
- The walking track around Lake Wallace

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Need forest reserves, buffer zones, nature reserves. Between industry.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- More use of unused rural blocks for family lifestyle living. (Unproductive)
- Attract family to town to promote schools, builders, plumbers, rates, fencing, income, lawnmowers, papers, clothes, fuel, etc

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Intensive farming or activity unsuitable to present lifestyle living that is already established.
- No wind farms or solar farms.
- No nuclear dumps.
- Never mention the minimum 1000 acre subdivision again.

- Small blocks each controlling own weeds, feral animals, fire hazard.

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Council has to change their attitude.
- Council needs to want to see growth and development and get rid of red tape that will progress.

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Get council to be supportive and change their attitude on rezoning and submit to state planning

Vision

What types of Development do you want to see in the future?

- To be able to subdivide greater than 10 ha (no less)

How much Rural Residential Development should there be? Where should it be located?

- Need a baseline percentage for rural and rural residential so that farmland is still viable and not completely sold off.

Do you want to see more economic development? If so, what types?

- Improve the infrastructure to encourage development / employment.
- Rail system.
- Transport for the elderly who are unable to drive to shops/appointments in villages around the LGA.
- More availability example community transport.

Are there any services or facilities that you need in your area?

- More employment opportunities especially for young people. Better public transport between LGA and Bathurst and reopen existing underground mines for job growth.
- Apprenticeships made available.
- Transfer of garbage to Blackmans Flat when and and at what cost to ratepayers who don't have garbage collection available to them.

Are there any environmental attributes that should be conserved? What are they?

- Conserve town common but also spray all weeds not just blackberry.
- Make better trails and better utilise this area for recreation-wildlife riding Trail etc. The National Trail area.

What types of future land uses would you like to see?

- See previous answers

Are there any uses that are inappropriate? Which ones?

- Not using us as a dumping area for city and metropolitan waste such as nuclear at wattle flat.
- Open mines but underground mines to promote lots of employment and don't degrade the environment

Action

What actions can you as a community member do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Talk to councillors, have a voice, communicate.
- No discrimination in council towards business. No bias.
- Have an incentive for the new businesses example rate reduction.
- More efficient and ease of development applications and not so restrictive.
- Amalgamation to Bathurst council.
- Subsidise herbicide for weed control on acreage.

What should the Council, State & Federal Government do to achieve your vision for the future?

- Better fuel prices to match cities to offset public transport
- Each state should have the same regulations as each other
- Use the catchment management plan process (see catchment management authority).
 - All decision-makers are in the room where decisions are made.
 - Speak in a good purpose-all points of view are understood by all parties.
 - The greatest good of all is the only criteria upon which decisions are made