

Community Consultation - Feedback - Batlow Former Cannery Site

Date	Reference	Postcode	Community Feedback
07.10.2021	1	2850	I would like to request an extension date on this. To give people time to respond. Batlow has not been properly informed and need to have time to meet and discuss before its closing, this would only be fair thing to do.
08.10.2021	2	2730	Northern parts of the cannery site: Expansion of the caravan park in the non-slab area that also overlaps with the vegetation buffer. Connect a cycle/walking town trail with the end of Leaburn ave with a junction that also heads towards the rail line, possibly using the edge of the slab as path base. Connecting the caravan park this way increases the caravan parks access to the town as the point of entry here is: more direct route, less hill slop and directs foot traffic away from Batlow road. - North-east of the cannery site: if possible a town trail should connect parks to residents and visitors to the town center. A possible negotiations could be put to the land owners to the east of the cannery that they can consume the adjacent rail corridor if a public path throw there holdings. This will greatly open up the town as you could connect without running along a road to the sports fields and pool from the caravan park, the northern residential areas and possibly throw to the Reedy creek park and so further to the western residential areas of Batlow. - Existing Slab planning how to use the slab is more realistic than considering the removal of it in any budget. Given that its zoned as mixed use B4 with a minimum lot size of 225sqm and that Ratio Consultants recommend residential, I would agree but it would be only attractive for a semi permanent structures sitting on the slab. Nevertheless I have added to the attached file grey shapes that are roughly the 225sqm minimum area of the B4 zone to scale. -Southern parts of the site: there is large horticultural industry with historical significance about the town and the Tourism of Batlow can make more of its unique cold climate and rich soil environment. I suggest maintaining the horticultural activation of this part of the site as there is substantial infrastructure near by and is a successful use of the slab as is. but I would incentivize that these lots are also used as horticultural retail and display so that business can accompaniment a rail trail head outlet/ visitors center on the corner of memorial and kuragong avenues. Locating the Rail trail head there would also be transited but the town trail and would direct pediatrician to a safer crossing point of the route of heavy vehicles. A rail head building there would also be on the way between to the sporting fields and town center
13.10.2021	3	2730	Please consider clearing the site for future development of much needed housing ,as it,s close proximity to centre of town and school,s it,s an ideal place for house development
14.10.2021	4	2730	I am all in favour of encouraging a quality development of medium density housing in this area - preferably modelled on the outlines described in this paper. https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/Housing/Low-Rise-Housing-Diversity-Code There is a need for mixed housing - small single story, townhouse type of 2 story, duplex and apartment cluster style homes sharing open park like areas, perhaps an opportunity to extend the installation of public artworks as part of the Snowy Valley's Sculpture Trail. This will help increase the rental, holiday rental and purchase opportunities in Batlow, which is showing a deficit in housing stock over the last few years. Batlow needs to increase the size of its population to support small businesses that may open up as a result of the pending Sculpture Trail, possible Sculpture Forest at Laurel Hill and perhaps the Rail Trail sometime in the future. With little in the way of permanent employment opportunities in Batlow, it is vital to do what is needed to develop tourism opportunities and these will only succeed if there is sufficient year round support to keep them viable.
14.10.2021	5	2730	Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I will be brief. I would like to see at least some of the site become affordable eco friendly housing and priority relocation housing option offered to people living in shop fronts on Pioneer Street. Batlow has a Main Street but it has little energy or vibrancy so, reinstating the Main Street with operating businesses will help develop activity and drive prosperity in the town. It will relieve many of us who keep hearing that Batlow is dead. No, it won't be easy but let's at least try. If there is room for plant nursery leasing to remain that's great but a community garden could be factored as part of the lease agreement. Regards, Bindi
17.10.2021	6	2730	After reading this draft proposal I was disappointed. It seems that all suggested proposals that would benefit the community as a whole, and be a step toward the regeneration of our lovely little township of Batlow, must play second fiddle to your "meanwhile projects" already operating on the sight. Even the use of the land for more residential area, and the rail trail sounded like they would have to work around the pine nursery, making it the long term use.
25.10.2021	7	2730	An electric car charging station. Plenty of room to install. Looking forward to the future for vehicles.
28.10.2021	8	2730	This report won't help Batlow, we need tourism, rail trial, information centre in the house in front of the cannery site, we need cafes, restaurants, accommodation and botanic gardens at the back end of the cannery, with picnic areas, we need make a plan what's going to help Batlow? Town input into what going help Batlow boom again, we need a face lift.. we don't need recreation hall as we have Batlow Literacy Intuitite, which will accommodate all needs for the community, we have lots of fields, one thing the region don't have is children activities eg putt putt golf, bowling centre, or driving theatre etc.. the old cannery site can accommodate for few different things to help batlow with tourism
31.10.2021	9	2617	I would like to see an area set aside for development of a Skate Park and Pump Track. This could be situated on the northern end near the caravan park. At present there is very little in the way of entertainment for the youth of Batlow. The current "skate park" at the showground is an utter unsatisfactory disgrace and is certainly not fit for purpose. The cannery site is large, strategically situated in the centre of Batlow and it is important that any development will enhance the town for generations to come. It is appreciated that council do not have funds available to redevelop the site at the present time, however, a long-term approach for the development of the site requires consideration. This is a real opportunity, and it is imperative that any improvement will add value for the long-term success of Batlow. An innovative approach should be considered not a "ad hoc" attempt just to get some cheap short-term infrastructure in place that will ad no underlying benefit for the town. It is appreciated that the overall site is large, and it will take some years to successfully develop the whole area. A considered master plan for the site is required and encompassing a Skate Park and Pump Track is considered infrastructure worthy of including in any devised plan. An area should also be set aside for the head of the future rail trail, Batlow to Tumut. There will be grants opportunities in the future and provided council have a comprehensive vision for development of the site that will provide value for the majority I am sure that future funding will be forthcoming for quality development that will add value for Batlow.

04.11.2021	10	2730	<p>Response to Ratio Community Consultation Batlow Former Cannery Site. Thank you for initiating a consultation with the Batlow Community regarding the future of the cannery site. I participated in one of the group discussions and appreciated the opportunity. I have read the Community Consultation Findings Report and Spatial Assessment Plans and am providing feedback on this report. Pg 3 describes "met with many members of the Batlow community as a combination of targeted group discussions and more informal 'drop in' sessions". No actual figures of community members attending these sessions has been provided. Considering my group discussion totalled 6 people I wonder what constitutes 'many' in the above description. Neither does this describe if the "members" are including business representatives. Not having this information does not enable credibility in being a 'Community Consultation'. Pg 4 it is good to see all "Key Ideas Put Forward by Community" but as there was no context of the Council's position either in 5x5 leases present and pending or position on possibilities/ideas it was difficult to contribute meaningfully. Of these suggestions, and having discussed with the wider community, I now feel that the best use of this area is to be a focus for visitor/community facilities that encourage economic viability for Batlow and connectivity to the Snowy Valleys Region in general. These are the top suggestions in the list in my view.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rail Trail and Batlow trail head, similar to Tumberumba to Rosewood, • Community enterprises associated with rail trail such as hubs, cafes, small businesses, possibly offering hospitality training for youth • Botanical garden or zoological park, similar to Targona Western Plains Zoo or endangered species(plant/animal) facility • Recreational trail including sculptural trail, similar to Sculpture by the Sea <p>I notice residential is the "encouraged" position in the Long Term Development Concept Plan. If this was to be adopted, I feel this should be in the form of an Independent and/or Residential Aged Care facility. That would provide support employment, a stepping stone to Batlow Hospital (as I believe is predominantly end of life care now) and potential visitor income to visit residents.</p> <p>3.2 Figure 12-having a Rail Trail Head in this vicinity would not be conducive to activity in the Town Centre which very much needs visible "life". Using the Cannery site would utilise some of the potentially contaminated concreted areas for vehicle parking. Use of the main road for cycling or walking should not be considered for a recommended route-too dangerous and not pleasing to be directed to high volume truck traffic. Increase the camping area to the east (not in the Cannery site) is good idea. I am hoping that Batlow can gain some tangible assistance in providing networks/support from the SVC to restore vibrancy for recovery from the 2019 bushfires and the previous loss of industry/facilities.</p>
04.11.2021	11	2730	<p>The Batlow Community and Cultural Association Inc. (BCCA) would like to acknowledge and thank Council for extending the feedback period for the report prepared by RATIO Consultants on the Batlow former Cannery site. BCCA have reviewed the report and would like to give the following feedback to Snowy Valleys Council. The BCCA is of the opinion that the RATIO Report goes some way to reflecting the thoughts of the community members who participated in the consultation but is by no means a comprehensive list. The consultation was restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic and did not allow for a Town Meeting. We believe that the Mountain Made site should belong to the Community of Batlow and is crucial to the economic recovery and the provision of additional recreational space for the bushfire ravaged community of Batlow which was impacted by the catastrophic bushfire of the 4th of January 2020. The fire destroyed many houses and businesses, and left people traumatised and businesses damaged for years to come. BCCA understands that the council briefing given to RATIO Consultants was to prepare a Spatial Assessment Report regarding the site and its interactions with the town. We consider that it gives only limited information required for decisions to be made by council. Whilst the report mentions possible 'meanwhile' and 'long-term' uses it doesn't talk to long term economic future benefits of the site from the point of Batlow recovering from the devastating 2020 bushfire which has caused a major downturn to the Softwood Plantation, apple production industries and tourism in the region. BCCA therefore questions the methodology used in terms of a spatial assessment without any economic assessment of the concepts presented nor any assessment of possible key economic drivers such as a Rail Trail head and tourist attractions that could be placed at the site. We note that the report does give a lot of credence to a Rail Trail development at the site. A letter has been received by one of our members from the former Deputy Premier the Hon. John Barilaro which states:</p> <p><i>"During 2018, the NSW Government assisted councils and their communities to develop Regional Economic Development Strategies. The Snowy Valleys Strategy highlighted forestry, horticulture and tourism as core to the Snowy Valley's regional economy. Because the Snowy Valley's economy has been severely affected by the bushfires, the Regional Economic Development Strategy is currently being refreshed. This will identify potential actions in the tourism industry and look at new opportunities such as additional rail trails to mitigate the impacts on the local economic activity and local employment." Reference number A3459593.</i></p> <p>This would indicate that the NSW State Government would be supportive of any major development of the site especially around a future Rail Trail and tourism development. BCCA consider the site to be critical in the development of a Rail Trail from Batlow to Tumut and that once council acknowledges its potential to be a key economic driver to our region and give support to it then investors in the tourism industry would be attracted. We believe that the Council's planned investigation and report into cycling and trails in the LGA will provide essential information regarding the site and therefore we believe that no decision about any permanent use of the site or long-term leases be issued without the report and further consultations with the community.</p> <p>Our comments about the report are:</p> <p>In the long-term development concept plan a large proportion of the site is dedicated to residential uses. This would greatly restrict the area available to develop Rail Trail Head tourist attractions, parking or local enterprises. However, the expansion of caravan park and some associated high-density accommodation would work well with tourism development on the site. There are better sites available for residential development in Batlow.</p> <p>Whilst in the report part of the cannery site has been designated a potential long term Trail Head we believe it is not big enough.</p> <p>The possible meanwhile Rail Trail Head (pink) is not large enough for a substantial development and the pathway drawn takes bikes onto Batlow Road which we consider a dangerous option.</p> <p>We support the Office Block being set aside for whole community use with an associated Men's Shed.</p> <p>We accept the comments regarding the site not being used as a shopping centre and understand the reasoning.</p> <p>With regard to recreational space, we agree except for a community function hall as we already have the Batlow Literary Institute.</p> <p>In conclusion we believe now is the time to look at a much bigger picture and future for the site. Why not plan big? A weir for the caravan park, a rail trail to tumut, a botanical garden and a Centre of Horticultural Excellence for Batlow, a free flight aviary for endangered bird species to be bred and rewilded. All job creating and supporting tourism and potentially attracting new horticulture businesses to Batlow.</p>

05.11.2021	12	2730	<p>After reviewing the Draft Batlow Cannery Site Findings and Spatial Assessment Plans we feel that they need to be looked at in a much broader context, and that any development requires a good look at future tourism options and an economic study before proceeding. We believe that this site offers a huge potential for tourism growth around a Rail Trail from Batlow to Tumut. Rail trails such as those in Victoria and mountain bike trails such as in Derby Tasmania have had a huge impact on the economic recovery of the towns where they are located or through which they pass. More locally one can see the benefits that the Tumbarumba to Rosewood Rail Trail has had on the southern end of our LGA. The Dunns Road fire greatly impacted the timber, horticultural and tourism industries. Our forest is now being replanted but it will take a few decades before a harvest. Horticulture has been replaced where possible but it will take some time to recover. Our tourism has taken a hit also but it could be recovered very quickly with appropriate infrastructure. We know the Council is planning, and has the funding to complete a Trail Masterplan but this may take some time and we run the risk of missing out on funding streams allocated because of the bushfires and COVID. From our perspective it is obvious - now is the time to "THINK BIG". Lets face it, the rail corridor exists, there is good space at the Former Batlow Cannery Site for a rail head, there is good space at the Tumut end around the old Railway Station, and the potential to extend a bike trail to Tumbarumba exists. On top of this we will have a Snowy Valleys Sculpture Trail as an added attraction. All our towns would benefit from a tourism explosion. Mountainous areas have been for many decades a draw card for tourism. Snowy Valleys Shire is located centrally and within half a days drive from Australia's two largest cities, Sydney and Melbourne; Australia's capital, Canberra; and a couple of hours from two of our largest regional areas, Albury and Wagga Wagga. We know from our experience with the Batlow CiderFest people will travel from these areas, the Rail Trail would then be accessible in less than a day to the vast majority of Australia's population. Yes, there are issues as seen by some Gilmore farmers but as in other areas these could be overcome for the benefit of the whole region and indeed the farmers themselves. Progress is rarely achieved without some issues. For these reasons we believe there should be no permanent non-tourism development, nor any long term contracts that would delay any tourism development approved for the site until the full economic tourism potential of the Former Batlow Cannery Site is assessed. Exceptions we agree on would be an extension of the Batlow Caravan Park with more cabins, itinerant worker accommodation and other high density accommodation that would help service a potential tourism industry; and the current Office Block for general community use and a Mens' Shed. Who knows what the future holds? Opposite the site there are two nurseries and the land these are on being a Mixed B4 Zone could become quite valuable and attractive for investor development, the owners may then be faced with some tempting offers! We encourage Council to consider our thoughts and to vision the site as one large tourist attraction that could house a multitude of tourism type developments from accommodation (existing), food and beverage, gardens, bike repair and parts, play areas, parking and more. Our region needs economic development, we need tourism, we need more businesses and attractions to attract people to this part of Australia.</p>
08.11.2021	13	2730	<p>Aa Biomass Carbonization Furnace. Locally there is a near industrial level of waste hazelnut husks and many others in the area have as well (I'll guess the orchards and packhouses also have bio-waste). So on the vast concrete slabs could be installed this Furnace, either using the 3-phase connections left over from the cannery or a solar array over above ground ponds (fish or augie biomass). Maybe the feasibility study down the track would show a direct council involvement would be best. Maybe it's all too close to town.</p>
28.10.2021	14	2730	<p>I write to express my grave concerns about the report prepared by Ratio for Snowy Valleys Council (March 2021) producing findings and a spatial assessment of the former Batlow Cannery site. The purpose of the report was to provide a summary of the Community of Batlow's ideas and aspirations for the site, outline a framework to guide decision making for the use of the site, inform ongoing conversation and identify those things that would act as a catalyst to development that is sympathetic to the character of Batlow, whilst considering environmental risk. It is apparent this report confuses the notion of spatial assessment as well as associated 'adaptive models of regeneration' with that of long term, strategic, sustainable economic development for Batlow. It is widely understood and agreed that in order for Batlow to 'reorganise' and 'regrow' the township needs certainty for the use of a central 3 ha industrial site that sits in the heart of the town. The site provided great industry, innovation, prosperity and pride for the town of Batlow and its residents when Mountain Made Cannery sat on it for many years. In order for the town and its people to 'regenerate' from its decline as both a result of the commercial decision to close the cannery as well as the catastrophic environmental, social and economic effects of the bushfires, Batlow needs to have a 'strategic concept development plan' that is futuristic, long term, innovative and builds on the location of Batlow. Location could mean being a picturesque town on the Snowy Valleys Way in between other commercial centres such as Tumbarumba and Tumut that are benefiting as a result of tourism and destination funding and support to attract visitors into the region to engage in eco-tourism opportunities. Location could also mean the altitude, climate and soil that so readily lends itself to a unique horticultural centre, already demonstrated in the fact that part of the existing is being utilised to grow pine tree saplings.</p> <p>It is for this reason that I totally disagree with a 2-stage approach of 'meanwhile' and 'long term' use. This serves no purpose other than to create confusion and lack of economic benefit and security for the future prosperity of the town. In the short-term proposal put forward in this report the use of the hardstand for storage purposes of boats, RVs, etc would create a haven for vandalism, a need for heightened security and insurances for all parties, all the while creating an ugly static display with no commercial purpose other than for council to collect fees. As is pointed out in the report, community consultation offered the general concern that the visitor population to Batlow was decreasing. It is therefore imperative that a diverse and sustainable visitor economy be encouraged into Batlow, and we only have to look at the model that is being demonstrated through the successful Tumbarumba-Rosewood rail trail to see those towns' visitor economies have been boosted significantly as a direct result of cyclists, walkers and recreationalists who are enjoying everything that one intervention has brought.</p> <p>It is well documented that those tourists to Tumbarumba and Rosewood are staying and enjoying the town and surrounding districts, businesses are opening up service these tourists and they are staying overnight, and they are returning. This too could happen to Batlow if there was an attraction to bring people to town in the first instance. It is therefore imperative that the rail trail head not be relocated as is drawn on the map in the report. It is further essential that this public land be utilised for a 5km cycleway/walk trail out to the Wybaleena siding from Batlow. This recreational space would contribute to benefit those residing in Batlow as well as tourists. Businesses could be established as 'pop ups' on the hardstand to service tourists needs until more permanent arrangements could be established based on demand. I advocate and recommend that either a botanical garden or a walk through area be established on the site to further enhance tourists' engagement with the town, given the climatic conditions and soil.</p> <p>It is important to note that consultation with Roberts Nursery should take place, as happened with those along the Tumbarumba Rosewood rail trail, to accommodate the needs of all. One lease for 5 years to benefit one person on a site that affects the whole town, is disproportionate. Consultation on the Tumbarumba Rosewood rail trail saw those people who were concerned or affected consulted and their needs met. Consultation with Roberts Nursery about concerns should be mediated and resolved. In summary I do note that confusion is caused to the reader on Page 3 of the Discussion Paper under the heading 'Built form'. This paragraph does not refer to Batlow as there is no TAFE, nor is there a Butter Factory, Oakbank Hotel or heritage buildings.</p>