

## Next Steps

Our team is busy preparing the draft SCP which is expected to be adopted for advertising in the coming weeks. This SCP will contain our four and 10 year priorities'.

We are using your comments and concerns to assist in formulating the Shires 10 year vision and project planning, and strongly recommend everyone to look out for when the SCP is open for public comment.



## Haikus

Some of you were involved in writing a haiku, a Japanese form of poetry, to depict your Merredin of 2030—here are some of the highlights:



## What we are doing in the Meantime

Based on what you have told us, the 2020/21 budget incorporates the following initiatives;



0% Rate Increase



Possible South Ave Upgrade



Investigation of a Regional Waste Recovery Facility



Seed Funding for a Major Event



CBD & Apex Park Upgrades & minor Park Development



Local Procurement



Local Planning Strategy and Scheme Review



Ongoing Development of the Tourism Sector



Road Projects Including Secondary Freight Route



Investigation of a Sustainable Water Supply to Support Growth



Establishing an Economic Development Function

# ● RESET RECOVER REGENERATE

-RESULTS-

## A Message from Shire President Julie Flockart

On behalf of the Shire of Merredin Council and Staff, I would like to extend my gratitude to the members of the public who took the time to partake in **RESET. RECOVER. REGENERATE.** We were overwhelmed by the amount of passion instilled in our wonderful community and are impressed by the number of ideas that came out of the workshops and surveys.

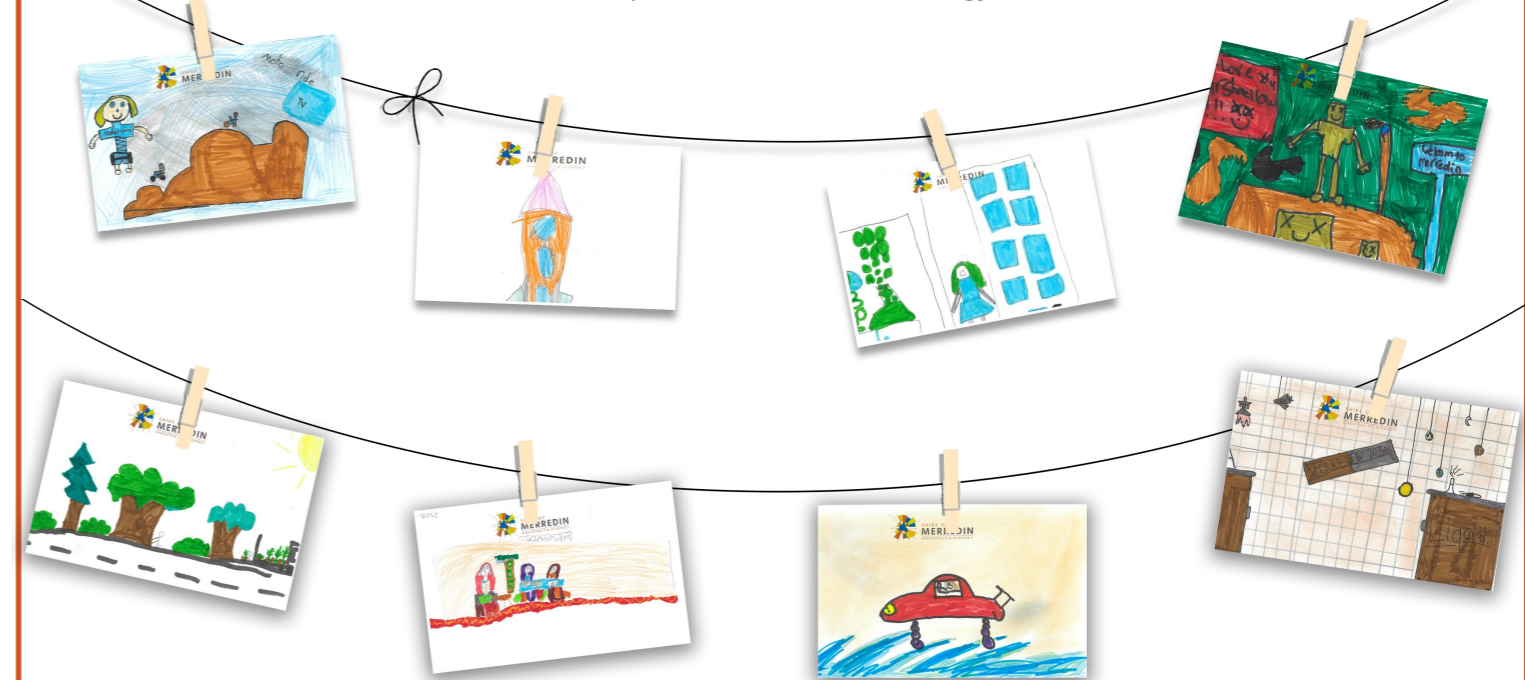
Reset Recover Regenerate was a three phase approach to moving forward post COVID-19. The first phase, 'reset,' involved a review of the Shire's vision which included a month-long community engagement program comprising of 12 workshops and two surveys. We have moved rapidly through the recovery phase, and are now very much focussed on regeneration where we are developing the ideas and opportunities identified in the community engagement.

The Council is now developing its Strategic Community Plan which will be its strategic action plan putting in place the initiatives that will see Merredin grow and thrive. When the Strategic Community Plan is ready in the next few weeks, it will be advertised for public comment. In the meantime, please enjoy this special newsletter edition providing a snapshot of what you as a community told us.



## Our Kids, Our Future

71 school students wrote and drew what they want to see for Merredin in 2030. Below are some highlights of the postcards the Shire received. The ideas included; a music stage, a giant slide, horse stables, a club, a dirt racing track, a doughnut shop. Bounce, and an ice-cream shop. Of particular interest, a number of cards depicted science and technology in their future.



# ● RESET RECOVER REGENERATE

## 1. Where we Began...

In October 2019, 239 community members responded to our community scorecard survey. This scorecard aimed to evaluate the needs and aspirations of our community, which in turn, would inform budget decisions, strategic planning, and performance. The top priorities highlighted in this scorecard included:

- 01 ROAD MAINTENANCE
- 02 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- 03 COUNCIL'S LEADERSHIP
- 04 STREETSAPES
- 05 VALUE FOR COUNCIL RATES

"Entice business and assist current small business who are struggling to stay afloat."

"The Shire needs to focus on tourism in a big way!"

"Plant more trees and clean up vacant land and parks and gardens."

"Take note of the people's input and ideas and make sure there is feedback to them."



161 IGA Survey Responses



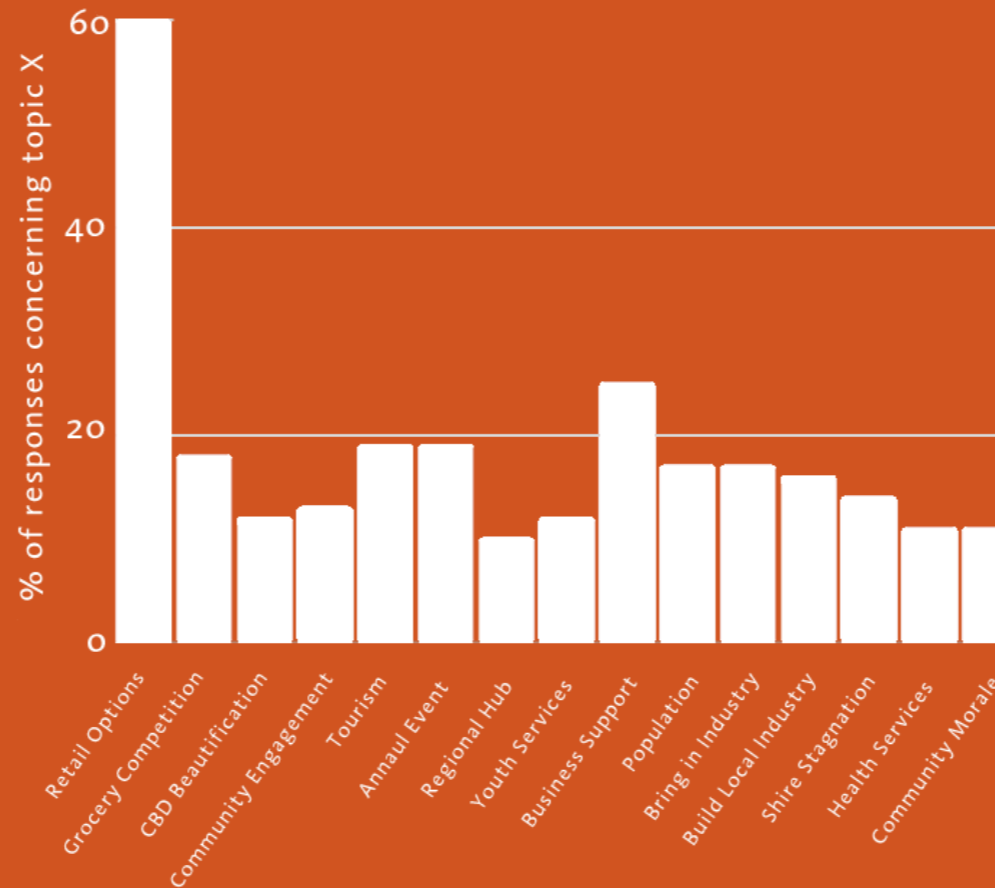
203 people attended the Engagement sessions



43 Online Survey Responses

## 2. Community Feedback

The data collected indicated that approximately 60% of people are concerned about retail options, while 25% stated business support needs attention. 20% of people also stipulated that tourism and an annual event needs focus. Other concerns included grocery competition, CBD beautification, community engagement, regional hub, youth services, population, bringing in industries and building local industry, shire stagnation, health services and community morale.



## 3. Merredin Momentum

We provided some project ideas as thought starters for the engagement. From these project ideas, you prioritised the following:

- Barrack Street / Bates Street Redevelopment including Apex Park
- Supporting Innovative Wheatbelt Business Start-ups
- Regional Waste Recovery Facility
- A unique Merredin Event Campaign built out of a tourist ready community
- Community Investment Trust, Chamber of Commerce, and/or Local Aboriginal Enterprise Hub



## 4. Njaki Njaki and wider Aboriginal Community Engagement

Our Aboriginal community told us they would like to see:

- Cultural Tourism further developed
- Opportunities for Aboriginal business
- More Aboriginal Youth in training or employment
- Facilities at Merredin Peak redeveloped

