

PYRAMID HILL & DISTRICT

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The following document has been developed as a result of discussions on the preferred directions for the community of Pyramid Hill & District.

BACKGROUND:

The Pyramid Hill Traders & Development committee took on board the task of setting up a Steering Committee to compile a Vision of what the district want in our community over the next 5 years. An invitation was issued to the public via an article in the Pyramid Press, calling on representation from all ages of our community, sporting clubs, churches, businesses, farmers, schools, clubs & organisations and the general public. The first meeting was held at The annex Neighbourhood House on Tuesday, 30th July, 2002 at 7.30pm.

After the appointment of a Chair and Secretary for the committee, time was devoted to brain storming ideas on the areas to be covered, ideas for future plans. We also reviewed correspondence and established the process and timetable for future meetings.

At the second meeting on 12th August, 2002 representatives from the Shire of Loddon, Craig Niemann and John Brooke were introduced and invited to comment and guide us through the process. We reviewed and added to our list before agreeing upon headings and categorising our issues.

At least 6 community meetings and 6 write up meetings were held until the final plan was completed. Community meetings were held in The Annexe and this document was produced in the Rural Transaction Centre.

Drafts and press releases were prepared at various stages and extensive community consultation took place. Representative from organisations who attended the meetings were encouraged to give and receive feedback from their organisations. Personal invitations were issued to individuals and organisations and ideas and comments were sought. This process of community consultation consolidated the view that exploration of mutual needs, sharing of resources and co-operation between organisations would result in effective partnerships.

Press releases and notification of meetings took place via the Pyramid Press, a community newspaper produced by Pyramid Hill College. An update on the activities of the committee was also provided for the local web site: www.pyramidhill.info

We have classified the issues into 11 headings with several sub headings. The sub headings have then been classified as short-term or long-term priorities.

VISION: The Major's Vision beyond 2002, a vibrant, integrated and sustainable community working/looking progressively forward.

OBJECTIVES:

- To foster the development of the Pyramid Hill township and district through the co-operation and co-ordination of community groups, local Shire Council and government agencies.
- To encourage a community based co-ordinated approach to improve the social and physical environment of Pyramid Hill business district.
- To revitalise & promote the Pyramid township for the benefit of the whole community and surrounding areas.
- To encourage the development of community projects and events that promote community cohesion.
- To develop a strong & viable economic climate with a vibrant business centre that encourages people to shop locally, creates employment and is customer friendly.

OVERVIEW OF PYRAMID HILL:

Pyramid Hill is the fourth largest town by population within the Shire of Loddon. The approximate population of the township and district is 800 residents. Located in the north east of the Shire, it is approximately 100 kilometres directly north of Bendigo, 82 kilometres west of Echuca, and 59 kilometres south of Kerang. The town is the centre of the Tragowel Plains irrigation area of approximately 130,000ha and 400 farms. The majority of the area is flat and naturally treeless.

Pyramid Hill was first settled as a town in open land in 1872 and was part of the Duck Swamp Station when Durham Ox was the centre. The town was built around the base of the Hill, but when the railway was built in 1884, the town shifted to its present site (from which the town derives its name) to be near the station. The town is known as “The Major’s Vision” after Major Mitchell explored the area.

Pyramid Hill is the centre of a diverse farming area with both irrigated and dry land farming. The local district produces a wide range of products such cereals, cherries, dairy, herbs, nuts, pigs, sheep, wool and cattle. The local quarry extracts and processes road base and building products. Pyramid Hill is also well known for its salt works, providing valuable export markets for the region and the state.

The area has a history of volunteerism, friendliness and community spirit. People come together to share the “good” times and support each other during time of “difficulty”. Volunteerism currently plays an important role in the quality and variety of sporting facilities and community services within the district.

Short-term priorities:

BEAUTIFICATION

CBD –

- Review existing garden plantings and replace all plants that have died, and ensure that all public nature strips are attractive
- Plant an avenue of trees along the main streets of Pyramid Hill
- Complete unfinished plantings
- Establish a local feature of historical points of reference
- Rural Water
- Upgrade & beautification of the railway line precinct

ARBORETUM –

- Develop an Arboretum at the Bullock Creek bridge to give visitors a resting area in which to view Pyramid Hill and discover our local flora

TREES –

- Establish & maintain a corridor of various trees (suitable indigenous species) and native grasses from each 60km signpost outwards for 2kms (minimum) where practical
- Establish and maintain more trees around the Common Area

PYRAMID HILL –

- Bollards to be erected along walking track to define the track

SPORTING/RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

MEMORIAL HALL –

- Upgrade of stage floor
- Installation of a disabled toilet

MITCHELL PARK –

- Relocation of Netball gate
- Construct a veranda to the south end of pavilion for netball spectators
- Installation of a commercial dishwasher in ladies sheds to be used for functions

SWIMMING POOL –

- Solar heating for all pools
- Shade sails to go over the medium pool
- Fix leaks in all pools
- Four new shade shelters and upgrade of existing ones

TENNIS COURTS –

- Sprinkler system
- Lighting for night tennis
- Fencing for children's playground

SKATE RAMP –

- Extend the skate ramp area and provide smaller type ramps to suit younger inexperienced skaters

QUARTER HORSE ASSOC –

- Construct a shed for gear storage
- Shower block for competitors
- Cooling & Heating of clubhouse

HOUSING

CARAVAN PARK UPGRADE –

- As indicated under the heading of Tourism

REVIEW OF EXISTING HOUSING –

- A feasibility study should be undertaken to determine the current and future needs for housing

CERC HOUSING –

- Extend current CERC Co-operative type housing group.
CERC housing stands for Common Equity Rental Co-operative, which involves the establishment of a committee who undertake a process of applying for funding, to build public housing. The committee then manage the housing stock, renting it to members, according to CERC protocols.
CERC has available a block of land for future development

TOURISM

CARAVAN PARK –

- Development of permanent cabins with ensuites and on-site caravans. On-site management would be beneficial. Beautification should include fencing, lawn, trees and garden beds. The amenities area should be upgraded to encourage occupancy.

PROMOTION OF UNIQUENESS –

- We would like the Shire to promote the unique ecological and geographical features of Pyramid Hill and district, for example Pyramid Hill, Bald Rock,

Mitiamo Rock, Terrick Terrick National Park, Mt. Hope Flora and Fauna Reserve, green corridors and Land Care attractions in tourism promotions.

- Advertise the Pyramid Hill web site (www.pyramidhill.info) within our community and extend two-way linkages.
- The Shire web page to be updated to include Pyramid Hill and local features and provide linkages to our site.
- Develop and promote local use of a standard Pyramid Hill logo.
- Lighting of Pyramid Hill (Hill)
- Develop and promote Major Mitchell Walk, create a track

HEALTH

Maintain/extend medical services and facilities –

- Maintain current medical services and encourage a permanent doctor five days per week
- CERT Hall upgrade

SAFETY

PARKING –

- The parking line markings to be continually upgraded

FOOTPATHS –

- Footpaths to be extended to ends of Ottrey Street
- Footpaths to be provided on Little Albert Street, Albert Street
- All footpaths need to accommodate battery-operated scooters.

GUTTERS –

- Those in need of repair and re-alignment to be actioned as soon as possible

LIGHTING-

- Lighting to be continually checked to ensure all streets are adequately lit
- Lighting to be extended to the end of Ottrey Street, Gladfield Road and parts of Kelly Street and Railway Avenue

SEALING –

- Little Albert Street

MAINTENANCE

- Continual follow up of maintenance problems throughout the town
- Promote Work Supervisor's availability and contact number
- Regular list of suggested jobs to be forwarded to Works Supervisor

EDUCATION

- The community wants to continue to encourage the promotion & provision of excellence in education. This will benefit our young people and the future of our community
- This will involve continued support of local Pre-school and Playgroups and the educational programs at St. Patrick's School and the Pyramid Hill College
- Support the Pyramid Hill College to further their 5 year plan which incorporates:
 - To utilise school facilities, where appropriate for community use and education
 - To offer more TAFE and Tertiary education courses for students and adults, for example, courses such as chemical users, woodworking, sewing and computer operations
 - To develop the Agricultural area of the School to reflect the farming community we live in, including new trends, olives, new Mediterranean etc.
 - Encourage teachers to live within Pyramid Hill & district

LIBRARY FACILITIES –

- Maintain access to the lending library available through the Rural Transaction Centre

BUS/PUBLIC TRANSPORT –

- Maintain existing railway station and public transport services, which are a necessity to our town and local tourism.

HOLIDAY PROGRAM -

- Establish a focus group to investigate possible programs and develop a suggested annual program list.
- Assistance with coaching and equipment to increase patronage of the stadium.

TAFE AND SIMILAR COURSES -

- Co-operate with other Adult Education Providers to provide accredited and appropriate non-accredited courses/training for adults and senior students.

INDUSTRY

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT –

- We request the Shire to continue to employ an Economic Development Officer, and continue to promote opportunities within Pyramid Hill and district. It is important that this officer is visible to the community

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Utilise the public press and other forums to promote the community's facilities and activities
- Support the work of the Pyramid Press in providing a valued informative community newspaper
- Explore ideas for the establishment of a tribute to volunteers and the community organisations they are involved with
- Support the local radio station through announcement and advertising

Long Term Priorities:

BEAUTIFICATION

LAKE –

- Consider an artificial lake and picnic area on the Bullock Creek

FOOTPATHS –

- Ensure every residence/business has access to sealed strip footpaths

URBAN FOREST –

- Enlarge the forest and assist the school to maintain it

TOURISM

PROMOTION OF UNIQUENESS OF THE AREA –

- Develop an integrated marketing strategy including brochures, web site linkages to attract tourists interested in the historical, environmental and sporting opportunities available within the district

SPORTING/RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

MEMORIAL HALL –

- Install airconditioner
- Create a wet area in hall for bar

MITCHELL PARK –

- Road around the oval sealed, speed signed and humped
- Renew all pipelines as existing are unknown and some unnecessary as well
- General beautification of whole area and replace original toilets
- Ongoing planting and upkeep of more trees around the reserve
- Erection of a security fence along road section of the reserve

SWIMMING POOL –

- The lighting around the pool needs increasing for better vision for night swimming

- Solar heating for all pools
- Water Slide

TENNIS FACILITIES –

- Building/establishment of all-weather tennis courts
- Lighting of courts to enable extended usage

URBAN FOREST –

- Develop a plan to encompass the following: Establishment of walking tracks; botanical signage and seating throughout the forest. This facility will benefit the local community and be a point of interest for tourists
- Implementation of proper cultivation techniques for the forest

PYRAMID HILL FIRE BRIGADE –

- Resurfacing of Fire Brigade Running Track

PYRAMID HILL –

- Transfer of generator to the Hill – Lighting of the Hill

QUARTER HORSE ASSOC –

- Upgrade of the power/power outlets
- Speaker system
- Upgrade of entrance
- Flood lighting of arena

HEALTH

- Continual review of medical services and facilities

SAFETY

LIGHTING –

- Continue to upgrade town lighting

HOUSING

HOUSING ESTATE –

- Future town planning to allow for the development of a housing estate

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT –

- Continue to encourage private housing development

PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT –

- Shire to continue to advise the community of opportunities for funding (State or Federal) of public housing

UTILITIES

GAS –

- Advocate for the provision of natural gas to residents and industry within the town

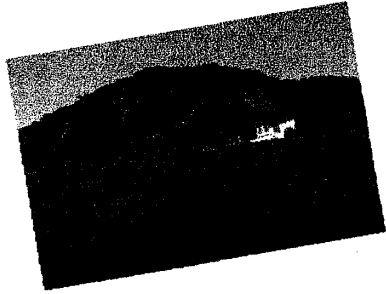
INDUSTRY

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT –

- Shire to encourage the development of new industry and support ideas from within the community to expand existing employment opportunities¹

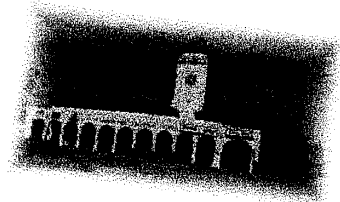
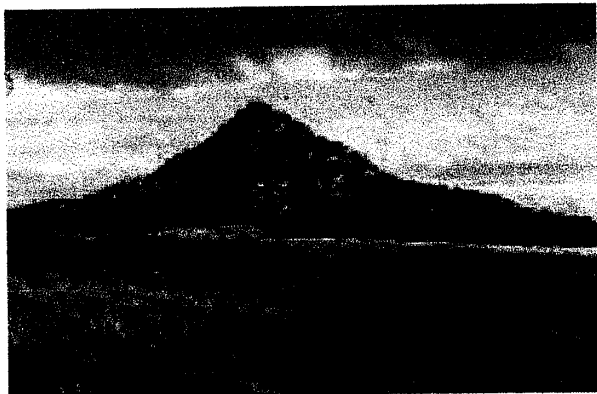
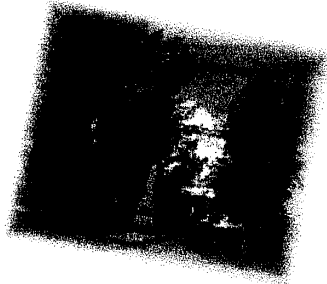
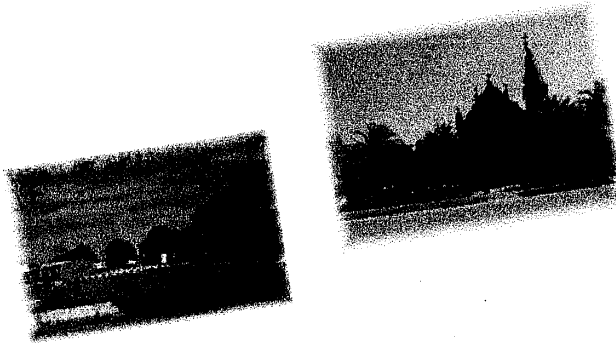
¹ Updated 31/3/2010

**PREVIOUS
COMMUNITY
PLAN
DOCUMENTS**



THOMAS LIVINGSTONE MITCHELL

PYRAMID HILL & DISTRICT'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE



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Short-term priorities:

BEAUTIFICATION

CBD –

- Review existing garden plantings and replace all plants that have died, and ensure that all public nature strips are attractive.
- Develop a new garden planting on the corner of Barber and Victoria Streets with a view to establishing a local feature of historical points of reference.
- Establish garden beds in all main streets.
- Enhance the Lions Park with a shade facility.

Trees –

- Additional trees and an appropriate watering system are required to upgrade the Avenue of Honour.
- Establish & maintain a corridor of various trees (suitable indigenous species) and native grasses from each 60km signpost outwards for 2 kms (minimum) where practical.
- Establish & maintain more trees around the border of Mitchell Park and the Common Area.

Urban Forest –

- Develop a plan to encompass the following:
Widening of the gateway, establishment of walking tracks; botanical and general signage and seating throughout the forest. This facility will benefit the local community and be a point of interest for tourists.
- Implementation of proper cultivation techniques for the forest.

Hill area –

- Complete upgrade of the picnic area, to include grassed and barbeque areas, additional tables and chairs with appropriate sun protection and a tidy up of the toilet facilities. This area to be linked to the Major Mitchell monument via walking tracks and signage. This will encourage locals and tourists alike to enjoy this unique landmark.

SPORTING/RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Memorial Hall –

- Upgrade and relocation of the kitchen, supper and meeting rooms.

Mitchell Park –

- Planting and upkeep of more trees around the reserve.
- Heating for the complex (maybe including ceiling fans for cooling as well).
- Acoustic ceiling and skylight for complex.
- Playground equipment for children – possibly in the old tractor area, near the netball gate.
- Upgrading and maintenance of the netball courts to comply with safety standards.

Pyramid Hill Footballers/Cricket Club –

- Assistance to relocate cricket training facilities to Mitchell Park, this would involve recarpeting of existing practice pitch and purchase of portable mesh safety nets.
The addition of practice facilities at Mitchell Park would further enhance the facilities available to the town, as well as ensuring more year round use of the facilities.

Conduct a feasibility study of the use of facilities within the Swimming Pool/Tennis Courts/Fire Track/ Park/ Caravan Park precinct, possibly incorporating the bowling area.

Swimming Pool –

- New change rooms with a roof over the top. If this is not possible, then an upgrade of the current ones which includes a roof, painting, new doors, new seating and seating in the showers.
- New Kiosk or an upgrade, which includes lino on the floor and a work safety mat, hygienic food storage facilities, better security and painting.
- Solar heating for all pools.
- New vacuum cleaner for pools
- Shade sails to go over the medium pool
- Fix leaks in all pools
- Four new shade shelters and upgrade of existing ones.
- Landscaping at the front of the pool, which includes a seat and a new bike rack.
- Seating and tables around the pool
- Non-slip paint or surface is needed around the pool and at the entrance.
- Extension of the pool area to accommodate the growing volume of people on hot days. This would enable families/groups to spread out.

We would like the existing park/tennis court toilet block to be replaced to cater for both the tennis club and park patrons.

SPORTING/RECREATIONAL FACILITIES continued

Tennis Courts – Four tennis clubs, namely Pyramid Hill, Mologa Central, Sylvattere and Mincha West, have come together to use the tennis facilities in Pyramid Hill.

- Toilet Block (which can be shared with the pool/public)
New Clubhouse to cater for the needs of 4 clubs, which use the courts.
- Space made available for an extension of extra courts.
- Sprinkler system.
- Lighting for night use.
- Rainwater drinking tank.

Skate Ramp –

- Extend the skate ramp area and provide smaller type ramps to suit younger inexperienced skaters.

HOUSING

Caravan Park Upgrade –

- As indicated under the heading of Tourism.

Review of existing housing –

- A feasibility study should be undertaken to determine the current and future needs for housing.

CERC housing –

- Extend current CERC Co-operative type housing group.
CERC housing stands for Common Equity Rental Co-operative, which involves the establishment of a committee who undertake a process of applying for funding, to build public housing. The committee then manage the housing stock, renting it to members, according to CERC protocols.
CERC has available a block of land for future development.

TOURISM

Upgrade Town map –

- Total upgrade of town map located at the Lions Park to include local features.

Caravan Park –

- Development of permanent cabins with ensuites and on-site caravans. On-site management would be beneficial. Beautification should include fencing, lawn, trees and garden beds. The amenities area should be upgraded to encourage occupancy.

TOURISM continued

Promotion of uniqueness –

- We would like the Shire to promote the unique ecological and geographical features of Pyramid Hill and district, for example Pyramid Hill, Bald Rock, Mitiamo Rock, Terrick Terrick National Park, Mt. Hope Flora and Fauna Reserve, green corridors and Land Care attractions in tourism promotions.
- Advertise the Pyramid Hill web site (www.pyramidhill.info) within our community and extend two-way linkages.
- The Shire Web page to be updated to include Pyramid Hill and local features and provide linkages to our site.
- Develop and promote local use of a standard Pyramid Hill logo.

HEALTH

Maintain/extend medical services and facilities –

- Keep the medical facilities in one location.
- Community vehicle to be made available for transportation to medical facilities within and outside the town, on a five days a week basis.

One submission provided the following vision on Health Services for Pyramid Hill & district.

-That all health related services are provided from a central location in a warm, inviting environment with suitable spaces for counselling, small meetings and group meetings. Since the old hospital building is owned by the community and was developed for the provision of health services, it would seem most appropriate.

The services to be provided could include:

Doctor's surgery
All services provided by Northern District Health Services (12 services)
Hostel
Infant Welfare
Visiting chiropractors/physios/aroma therapists/alternative medicine etc.
Vaccinations

That this community service centre is governed by an elected board which represents all stakeholders and has a vision for use for the whole community. This board could include representatives from the community, Northern District Health Service, Doctors, Hostel, Shire Council and other users.

SAFETY

Police –

- Increase the number of police personnel and build a new police station.

Parking –

- The parking line markings to be continually upgraded.

Footpaths –

- Footpaths to be extended to ends of Ottrey Street, Kelly Street and Barber Street.
- Footpaths to be provided on Durham Ox Road, Little Albert Street, Albert Street and one side of Barber Street.
- All footpaths need to accommodate battery-operated scooters.

Gutters –

- Those in need of repair and re-alignment to be actioned as soon as possible.

Lighting –

- Lighting to be continually checked to ensure all streets are adequately lit.
- Lighting to be extended to the end of Ottrey Street, Caravan Park and parts of Kelly Street.

Sealing –

- Main road edging to be completed throughout the town in CBD area. This would also enable the cleaning of the gutters.
- Seal McIntyre and Little Albert Streets.

MAINTENANCE

- Continual follow up of maintenance problems throughout the town.
- Promote Work Supervisor's availability and contact number.

UTILITIES

Water –

- Coliban Water to improve the water pressure immediately.

EDUCATION

- The community wants to continue to encourage the promotion & provision of excellence in education. This will benefit our young people and the future of our community.
- This will involve continued support of local Pre-school and Playgroups and the educational programs at St.Patrick's School and the Pyramid Hill College.
- Provide students with access tracks (walking and bicycle) to sporting facilities.
- Support the Pyramid Hill College to further their 5 year plan which incorporates:
 - To utilise and upgrade the stadium enabling its use for more community activities.
 - To utilise school facilities, where appropriate for community use and education.
 - To offer more TAFE and Tertiary education courses for students and adults, for example, courses such as chemical users, woodworking, sewing and computer operations.
 - To develop the Agricultural area of the School to reflect the farming community we live in, including new trends, olives, new Mediterranean etc.
 - Walking track access for the children to get to Mitchell Park, Pool etc.
 - A long-term goal is for some consideration to be given to the centralisation of the school and community amenities.
- Encourage teachers to live within Pyramid Hill & district.

Library facilities –

- Maintain access to the lending library available through the Rural Transaction Centre.
- Support evening hours to enable use by students and people working during the day.

Bus/public transport –

- Publicise availability of existing community bus/vehicle service.
- Maintain existing railway station and public transport services, which are a necessity to our town and local tourism.

Holiday program –

- Establish a focus group to investigate possible programs and develop a suggested annual program list.
- Assistance with coaching and equipment to increase patronage of the Stadium.

TAFE and similar courses –

- Co-operate with other Adult Education Providers to provide accredited and appropriate non-accredited courses/training for adults and senior students.

INDUSTRY

Future development –

- We request the Shire to continue to employ an Economic Development Officer, and continue to promote opportunities within Pyramid Hill and district.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

- Utilise the public press and other forums to promote the community's facilities and activities.
- Support the work of the Pyramid Press in providing a valued informative community newspaper.
- Explore ideas for the establishment of a tribute to volunteers and the community organisations they are involved with.

Long-term priorities:

BEAUTIFICATION

Lake –

- Consider an artificial lake and picnic area on the Bullock Creek.

Footpaths –

- Ensure every residence/business has access to sealed strip footpaths.

Hill area –

- Develop steps (natural materials such as granite) from the Picnic area up to the saddle.
- Extend the walking track to encircle the Hill and maximise the opportunities to view the natural features.

Urban forest –

- Enlarge the forest and assist the school to maintain it.

TOURISM

Hill area –

- Possible relocation of the Major Mitchell monument closer to the picnic area.

Promotion of uniqueness of the area –

- Develop an integrated marketing strategy including brochures, web site linkages to attract tourists interested in the historical, environmental and sporting opportunities available within the district.

TOURISM continued

Restaurant –

- Encourage new dining opportunities.

HEALTH

- Continual review of medical services and facilities.

SAFETY

Lighting –

- Continue to upgrade town lighting.

HOUSING

Housing estate –

- Future town planning to allow for the development of a housing estate.

Private development –

- Continue to encourage private housing development.

Public development –

- Shire to continue to advise the community of opportunities for funding (State and Federal) of public housing.

SPORTING/RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Mitchell Park –

- Ongoing planting and upkeep of more trees around the reserve.
- Funding assistance for completion of stage 2 of the upgrade of the complex.
- Replacement of the sprinkler system on the oval.
- Ongoing upgrading and maintenance of netball courts to comply with safety standards.
- Flood lighting of football oval – not only benefiting football but could encourage more night-time functions involving usage of the grounds and facilities.
- Erection of a security fence along road section of the reserve.

Swimming Pool –

- A built in gas or solar BBQ in the grounds.
- Fencing around the pool needs upgrading or replacing.
- P.A. System needs fixing or replacing.

SPORTING/RECREATIONAL FACILITIES continued

- The lighting around the pool needs increasing for better vision for night swimming.

Tennis facilities –

- Building/establishment of extra tennis courts.

UTILITIES

Gas –

- Advocate for the provision of natural gas to residents and industry within the town.

Water –

- Advocate for water pressure to be improved.

EDUCATION

Relocation of the Pyramid Hill College –

- A feasibility study of town facilities/needs would indicate if this is required.

Continual upgrade of access tracks (walking and bicycle) to sporting facilities.

INDUSTRY

Future development –

- Shire to encourage the development of new industry and support ideas from within the community to expand existing employment opportunities.

PYRAMID HILL IS AN ACTIVE COMMUNITY AND
WOULD ENJOY BEING INVOLVED IN
ALL FUTURE PROJECTS.

WE PROPOSE TO REVIEW THIS DOCUMENT ON A
REGULAR BASIS TO ENSURE ITS CURRENCY FOR
FUTURE COUNCIL REFERENCE.

APPENDIX

ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS.

Aged Care Hostel
Australian Red Cross
CERC Committee
Church Of Christ
Loddon Shire
Mitchell Park Committee Of Management
Northern District Health Service
Pyramid Hill Bowling Club
Pyramid Hill Bush Nursing Inc.
Pyramid Hill College
Pyramid Hill Footballers Cricket Club
Pyramid Hill Football/Netball Clubs
Pyramid Hill Garden Club
Pyramid Hill Guides
Pyramid Hill Lions Club
Pyramid Hill Museum
Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House Rural Transaction Centre
Pyramid Hill Opportunity Shop
Pyramid Hill RSL
Pyramid Hill Senior Citizens
Pyramid Hill Swimming Pool Committee
Pyramid Hill Tennis Courts (4 Clubs)
Pyramid Hill Traders & Development Committee
St Thomas' Anglican Church
St. Patrick's Catholic Church
St. Patrick's School
Terrick Terrick and other local Land Care Groups
Uniting Church

Businesses included: Fabric Shop, Alan Brooks Agricultural Supplies, Laurie Smith Building Contractor, Pyramid Hill Store, VJ & CA Bartels P/L, Pyramid Quarries, IG, HM & GD Bartels, Australian Speciality Pet Foods Pty Ltd, numerous farms and agricultural businesses.