

INDi Community Summit Report

Delivering Our Vision



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Introduction

This report summarises the outcomes of the inaugural Indi Community Summit held in Benalla on Saturday, 24 October, 2015. It is a community perspective of actions needed to help make our electorate of Indi, a prosperous, caring community which is alive with opportunities for everyone.

This summary uses the words and ideas of the participants on the day. For a complete overview the Indi Summit Full Report is available online at www.cathymcgowan.com.au/summitfullreport.

On the day, under the guidance of professional facilitators, 220 participants worked in 16 groups to develop vision, key success factors, opportunities, challenges and actions. These actions support a comprehensive series of existing reports prepared by local government, state and federal governments, businesses and agencies.

Participants committed to work on actions arising from the Summit and to continue the process of community engagement and participatory democracy, with the intention to meet again in three years to review progress and re-start the Summit process.

The report also summarises the process of community engagement which has taken place across Indi over the past three years, involving more than 2000 people. The information from this community consultation provided the foundations for the Summit. Reports of these community consultations can be downloaded from the website www.cathymcgowan.com.au.

My warm thanks to the many people who participated in the event, leading up to and including the Summit, and to Susan Benedyka from The Regional Development Company for overseeing the Summit process.

Cathy McGowan
Independent Member for Indi

Carol Smith - Summit Testimonial

"I knew it would be well structured and well run, and it's just been inspirational the ideas that are coming out in the particular (arts and culture) group. I feel we are going to move as a group, we're taking control of it, directing it and it's fantastic."



Background

Great ideas happen when small groups of people work together: playgrounds, parks, kindergartens, neighbourhood centres, community halls, sporting competitions, farmers markets.

People had a dream – a dream that community members have the power, skills, knowledge and connections to make things better for all the people in Indi families, friends, neighbourhoods, communities and region.

They shared the dream and found that across Indi, others wanted to be part of creating positive change, making a difference to their own lives and the lives of others. They formed a committed group of people called Voices for Indi to help build even more engagement so they could hear the concerns, needs, and ideas of others and see what they had in common. They listened to each other through Kitchen Table Conversations, and reported what they heard – the grass-roots concerns and ideas.

They wanted to be part of solving their problems. They needed politicians to work with them to help do what was needed. They held conversations with successful leaders in other regions and asked them what worked best. They shared great ideas from community to community. They started to set the agenda and have their voices heard, to get issues and ideas on the map. They were working together to make their dreams come true.

What began as a community-driven campaign in 2013 has become **'The Indi Way'** – policy over personality, people over politics. This **'Indi Way'** is a choice for the future. Indi will thrive, as more organisations, groups, communities and people gain the skills and confidence to seek their own solutions, make plans and take action to get results. Our young people will make Indi their home and urban families will be drawn to our way of life. The pride in Indi will grow and regional Australia will look to Indi as a model of diversity, hard work and community spirit.

Cheryl Graham

"Something Cathy said from Tony Windsor about 'Communities operating by those who turn up' and that spoke to me. If no one comes, nothing's going to change, I think we've got great opportunities and it's up to us to make it happen."



Community Engagement

Kitchen Table Conversations (March - May 2013)

425 people, **55** conversations across **40** postcodes

Election Reflection & Next Steps (November 2013)

120 people, Benalla

We asked “did we make a difference” and “how can we keep our issues to the forefront, and get solutions for what matters to us?”

IndiShares (June 2014)

90 people, Oxley

Sharing the Indi Way with organisations and individuals from across Australia – how we listened, committed, planned and worked together.

IndiTalks Democracy (October 2014)

220 people, Swanpool and Yackandandah

Dr Simon Longstaff AO, Executive Director of the St James Ethics Centre, and Tony Windsor, former independent federal politician, led community hall conversations about ethics in politics, the contemporary practice of politics in Australia, and how citizens can influence the political process.

INDI Issues to Canberra

Well over **2000** people actively engaged in democracy through the Budget Impact Tour, Get in Cathy's Ear Postcards, and Kitchen Table Conversations, as well as community meetings across Indi.

Pre-Indi Summit Working Groups (July- September 2015)

60 people, across the electorate

14 Pre-Summit Discussion papers were developed and submitted by groups of community members with specific interests and expertise. They met face to face and electronically to prepare the discussion papers.

Indi Summit (October 2015)

220 people, **15** facilitators, **4** guest speakers

Post Summit working groups (continuing)

At least 50 people (and room for more) community volunteers who met at the Summit are actively working on actions from ideas generated at the Summit.



Confident and Vibrant Communities

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

The people of Indi value strong, connected communities that are forward thinking, sustainable and self-reliant. We welcome and accept difference and offer an affordable quality of life with sound country values. We have a clear vision of diverse, dynamic communities evolving with the times – united and progressive, creating a region of hope and opportunity.

Our communities are actively developed by people working together to provide caring connections, inclusive of all, regardless of diverse backgrounds, ages and opinions. Community cohesion is based on establishing networks, growing a sense of belonging, engaging all age groups and linking people through common activities. Building stronger local connections can lead to an increased understanding of others across the region and across the nation.

The people of Indi value appropriate health services and support, education, recreation, entertainment, community engagement, leadership, mentoring and employment opportunities. We enjoy an attractive regional lifestyle and seek to maintain and enhance our quality of life.

Arts and culture are significant elements of many communities in Indi and we are aiming for the arts to enrich daily life for all. Arts, culture, and heritage are viewed as amenities to improve our quality of life and attract and retain people to the region. We know that arts and creative activities can profoundly enhance our communities and enable them to survive and thrive.

We will create and enliven our community through developing leadership. There is a strong desire for community leaders to be truthful and transparent, so that community members understand the issues and challenges. We seek leaders who take ownership of the problem, offer solutions and collectively and democratically agree on a way forward. We are all part of the solution and we work together to create a positive future for Indi. Our voices and actions matter.

VISION - **SUCCESS** - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

This theme area covers:

- ✓ Vibrant and inclusive communities
- ✓ Addressing disadvantage
- ✓ Welcoming refugees
- ✓ Leadership and community engagement
- ✓ Arts and culture



Confident and Vibrant Communities

*VISION - SUCCESS - **SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE** - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS*

- All communities have a sense of their own identity and strengths
- Community members find their own solutions and take action
- Skills within the community are known and activated
- Communities share and celebrate success
- Collective action is occurring
- People are connected within communities and know what is going on
- A 'give back and give forward' attitude exists within communities
- Acceptance of refugees as worthy citizens – acknowledging and celebrating differences and opportunities
- Opportunities for young people created and realised in education, employment and communities
- Early intervention to reduce disadvantage including targeted programs to address and manage issues such as violence, poverty, homelessness
- Recognition of the cultural, economic and social benefits of the value of the arts and culture in Indi
- Increased access and opportunities for participation in a diverse range of arts
- An online directory for community and audiences to identify arts, culture and heritage connections
- Support for networks of artists

*VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - **OPPORTUNITIES** - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS*

- Develop strong individual community identities through activating existing skills in the community to engage with local government to identify each community's assets and develop a shared vision
- Look to our communities for solutions and actions. Develop a 'shared reliance' within a community and foster social and business entrepreneurship, and share know-how and ideas that are working within communities
- Build internally-connected communities that have accessible community-owned and community-driven local events where all people in the community are welcome to come together
- Develop values of strong and connected communities as a positive contribution to people's wellbeing
- Share the successes and strengths from community to community
- Examine the feasibility of resettling refugees
- Communicate and collaborate about arts and culture
- Arts education that is affordable, accessible and of high quality at primary, secondary and tertiary levels
- Professional development within the region for practicing artists
- Indi Arts Awards for recognition of all forms of art and culture, showcasing local talent
- A biennial conference and celebration of the arts in Indi
- An arts 'emergency response team' helping communities recovering from disaster or difficulty

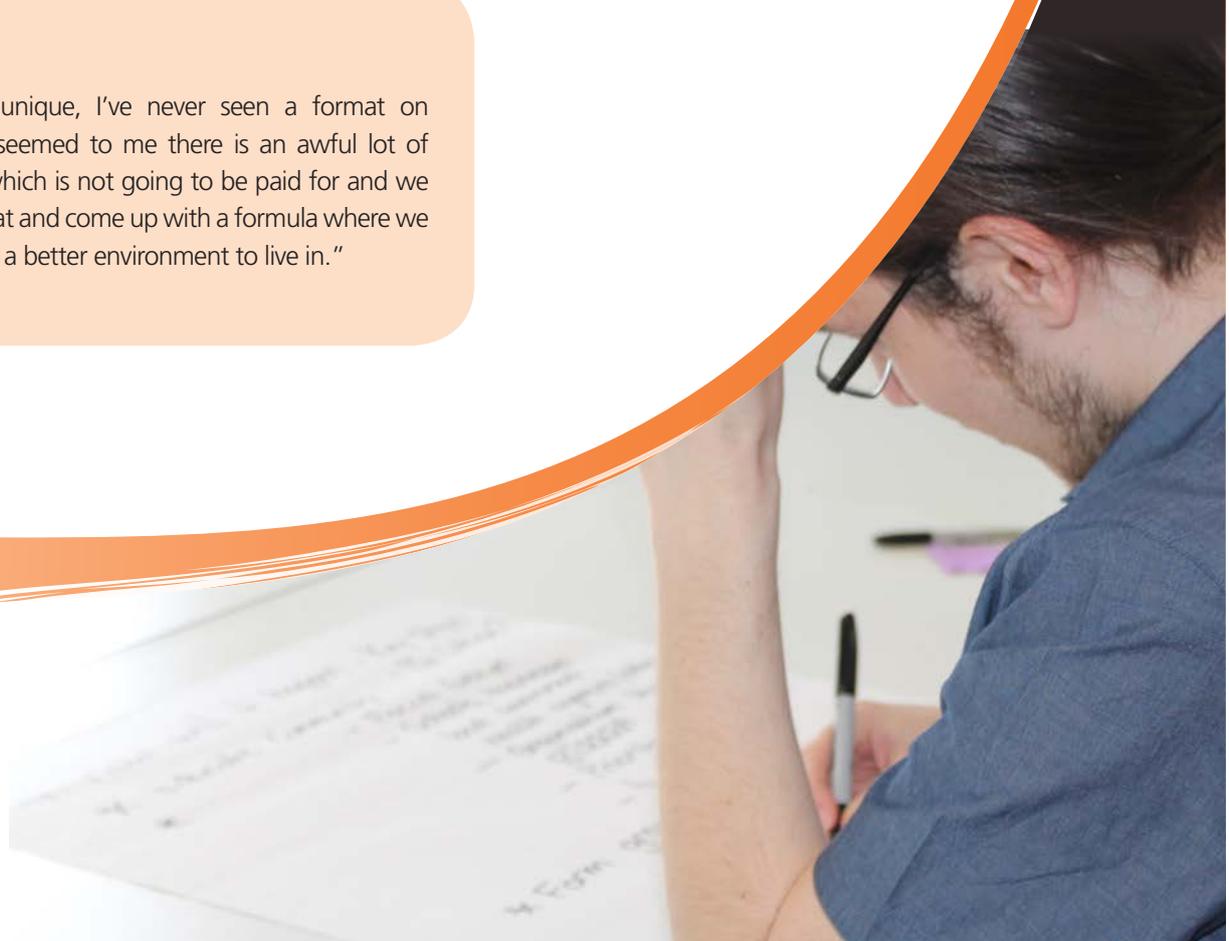
Confident and Vibrant Communities

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Changing mindsets and relationships between government agencies, local government, community groups, volunteers and citizens from a 'doing to' to 'doing with' approach
- Addressing the varying capacity of very small communities to 'act for themselves'
- Improving the high levels of disadvantage in small communities due to remoteness
- Overcoming distance to services in larger towns and providing support in areas of isolation
- Breaking the cycle of disadvantage
- Funding models for the arts – advocating for regional and local decision-making vs metropolitan decisions
- Challenging community attitudes about the arts and culture and their value to Indi communities

Mark Pond

"I think it's unique, I've never seen a format on this basis. It seemed to me there is an awful lot of knowledge which is not going to be paid for and we can access that and come up with a formula where we perhaps have a better environment to live in."



Confident and Vibrant Communities

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

1. Change the language and narrative in Indi communities to focus on strengths, and being positive, profile the good news stories and the contributions of people in communities
 - Showcase examples of community success stories and great initiatives through a common 'go to' community information platform (many positive examples were highlighted at the Summit and in the pre-summit discussion papers)
 - Encourage the development of Facebook pages for each community, featuring places for volunteers skills exchange and encourage community involvement and local storytelling
2. Work to develop strong and distinct local community identities: place-based, community - driven. Link communities with local government in a positive, 'doing with' partnership approach to local initiatives and solutions
3. Encourage the development of long-term community-driven strategies in all local government areas in Indi (e.g. 2030 Plans)
4. Conduct a feasibility study for the resettlement of refugees through provision of community-based local accommodation and tailored employment opportunities
5. Continue to actively encourage community leadership development through Alpine Valleys Community Leadership Program, Rivers and Ranges Community Leadership Program and local and industry leadership initiatives
6. Highlight and support programs that focus on early intervention to reduce disadvantage. Showcase examples in Indi where programs address breaking the cycle of disadvantage (reduced homelessness, reduced domestic violence)
7. Create an online directory/calendar to enable audiences, community and visitors to discover the wealth of arts, culture and heritage activities – a central source of information that connects all things art and artists, including festivals, events, organisations, practitioners, performances, exhibitions, venues, galleries, museums
8. Establish an Indi Arts Advisory Group. Grow this into an organisation supported by a membership model that employs professionals with management, administration, marketing, PR and design skills, similar to Tourism North East

Quality Access to Essential Community Services

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

Indi of the future depends on foresight and the investments we make now in education, health services, communications infrastructure and transport connectivity. We envisage continuous improvement to our infrastructure, quality of services standards and accessibility, taking into account the needs of all members of the community – town-based, rural, and remote.

Access to educational opportunities from early years to post-secondary education and community education opportunities for all years are important to the people of Indi. The supply of local jobs and the link between education and jobs of the future is most important. Our vision is that young people have choices, and can be actively engaged in training and education locally, as well as support for studying away. Choices, from technical skills development, arts creativity, music programs, life education skills and support for people with learning difficulties, are important to the development of our lives and our region.

We value high-speed, quality internet access to all homes, businesses and services, equal to the city and at the same cost. We see ourselves able to conduct business, maintain connections, access studies, have coverage during emergencies and overcome poor reception areas. Excellent communications systems are central to improved prosperity and profitable business, access to health and education services, the development of regional entrepreneurs and engagement of young people in our communities.

Transport connectivity to and from the region – and within the region – is also critical to our long-term future. Coordinated inter-town connections between centres such as Benalla, Shepparton, Mansfield, Wangaratta and Wodonga will significantly improve access to education, employment and training for young people and allow equitable access to shopping and services. People with disabilities should have equal access to all public transport which fully aligns with disability access standards. Our vision is for reliable, clean, public transport delivered in a timely way to serve the needs of our communities.

VISION - **SUCCESS** - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

This theme area covers:

- ✓ Health and wellbeing for the people of Indi
- ✓ Education pathways and opportunities
- ✓ Communications infrastructure
- ✓ Transport connections



Quality Access to Essential Community Services

VISION - SUCCESS - **SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE** - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Communities that embrace and adopt healthy lifestyles
- The provision of sustainable, integrated and innovative health services
- A clear understanding of our future telecommunications, transport and education needs, the current position and the gaps
- Increased educational aspirations
- Seamless pathways between schools, community education, TAFEs and higher education providers leading to employment
- Increased participation and retention of students in meaningful education and increased completion rates
- Increased connections between Indi alumni and their communities – champions for education and the future of work in Indi, more young people coming back to Indi and staying connected
- High-speed, quality internet access to all home, businesses, schools, institutions and services – equal to the city and at same costs
- Continuous improvement of infrastructure (roads, rail, telecommunications) and quality standard service with equal access to everyone
- Locally-innovative transport systems
- User-friendly experiences on public transport – from ticketing through to wi-fi on trains
- Increased access to more frequent, reliable services to and from Melbourne

VISION - SUCCESS - **SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE** - **OPPORTUNITIES** - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Sustain access to quality health and social care services for all and develop stronger partnerships between existing organisations, services and community groups for better longer term health and service outcomes
- Develop easy access resources and networks to enable choice and independence in regard to our own health and wellbeing
- Increase affordability and support for rural students (of all ages) – potentially through philanthropy
- Increase visibility of community support for education
- Develop stronger links between educational institutions at higher levels and develop stronger links between education providers and industry
- Link Indi alumni with young people in Indi – champions, coming back, staying connected
- Communicate and promote current transport connections and services available, particularly information about accessing school buses by community members and TAFE and university students
- Small towns and communities develop ‘best fit’ transport solutions (eg Tolmie Offers A Seat to Town - TOAST)
- Choice of providers and competition will driver quality and speed of telecommunications services and provision
- Community-owned telecommunications infrastructure
- Partnerships to collectively bargain for better infrastructure – similar to successful processes used for mobile phone towers and black spot funding
- Understanding what is ahead and what is on offer for the future – infrastructure must reflect future needs

Quality Access to Essential Community Services

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Need for change in our thinking regarding health service delivery to accept different models
- Access to information technology and provision of services
- Fast, reliable access to communications and transport as a right, not a privilege
- Get commitment and investment to deliver quality of service – right of access
- Cost-shifting to community for equity of access
- Coordinated approaches and potential solutions regarding transport across three levels of government
- Rigid rules/limitations restricting local transport solutions
- Establish a 'driver' or key agency to lead increased connections and pathways in education – government, industry and community
- Competitive environment in education tends to increase silo approach
- Difficult to engage disengaged people in education

Prioritising Projects

The Indi Community Summit Report fits within a suite of documents. Each year, Hume Strategy Regional Plan Key Priorities are established by:

- Hume Regional Development Australia (informing the Commonwealth government)
- Hume Regional Managers' Forum (Regional Managers of all Victorian state government agencies)
- Hume Region Local Government Network (Mayors and CEOs of all local government areas in Hume)

These priorities are regionally significant projects that require funding and support from government.

All projects must fit the directions of the **Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities**.



Quality Access to Essential Community Services

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

1. Improve community knowledge of health and community support and care services through mapping and communication of services and the development of a patient advocacy program
2. Consolidate and protect current health services and expand/implement new models of service provision
3. Work with communities, local government, health agencies to recruit and retain health professionals in Indi
4. Improve mental health awareness, education and specialist training for health professionals, carers and communities
5. Hold kitchen table conversations regarding the development of seamless pathways for education and link alumni with the region. Develop pilot model of good practice – a great online information portal, linking websites, connected education.
6. Work with education providers to highlight and showcase ways to support students and parents for increased retention and completion rates. Publicise efforts and successes widely
7. Showcase current and potential means of support for rural people accessing education. Develop stronger links with philanthropic trusts that support access to education for rural people (e.g. Macpherson Smith Rural Foundation)
8. Develop a strong social media presence and social media strategy to increase connections between Indi alumni, current students and prospective students
9. Continue collective approach to determining high priority local communications blackspots
10. Develop a lobbying approach that is informed, collective, persistent and assertive. Use social media and petitions to increase awareness of issues – support for and from local leaders
11. Create a dedicated fund to co-invest in mobile carrier services for mobile phone black spots
12. Develop a pathway to support communities and businesses not receiving fibre optic coverage currently, to enable a single community or groups of communities to present a financial case for their inclusion within NBN
13. Develop links with BIRRR (Better Internet for Rural, Regional, Remote - birra.org); the National Rural Health Alliance and National Rural Justice Alliance
14. Explore community-owned telecommunications infrastructure
15. Develop a pilot project to trial access by the public to school buses (e.g. in Beechworth, Chiltern)
16. Explore a shuttle train concept, linked with increased frequency of trains to Seymour as a hub

Economic Prosperity

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

A thriving and dynamic economy:

- Adaptable, growing and diverse economic base
- Attractive to new investment
- Skilled, capable and motivated workforce

VISION - **SUCCESS** - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

This theme area covers:

- ✓ Small businesses
- ✓ Entrepreneurship
- ✓ Key industries including agriculture, manufacturing and services
- ✓ Social enterprise
- ✓ Skilled, knowledgeable and flexible workforce



VISION - SUCCESS - **SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE** - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Value of small business to Indi is understood and measured
- Growth in small business contribution to the Indi economy of 10 per cent
- Increase in employment, active engagement in education and training and youth employment
- Communities flourishing
- Small business sector is well supported and provides a key vehicle for developing, maintaining and enhancing the region's workforce
- Stronger business networks build knowledge, share ideas and provide support across the region
- Business success through innovation, with groups driving innovation through small business and agriculture to enable increased production and value-adding
- Education to support agriculture and emphasise its importance to the region
- A centre of excellence with graduate training through business and industry
- Strong ownership and linkages between community, business and the Hume RDA to implement the Hume Strategy for Regional Communities
- Great stories of success in social enterprise and entrepreneurship are shared and celebrated and used as examples to encourage more social enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Social enterprise offers a key opportunity for change in communities, especially disadvantaged communities

Economic Prosperity

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Bringing the Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities to life
- Creating a culture that supports business success – entrepreneurship, training, developing new products and services, including pathways to markets such as Asia
- Accelerated learning – connectedness and adapting to a changing world; collaborative approaches; accessibility – social media and new technologies
- Establishing dedicated mobile small business field officer (funded by public and private sector) to help small business identify and realise their opportunities
- Creating collective small business website/ information portal for access to funding and regional advisors
- Building on regional strengths in agriculture, transport and logistics, services and tourism

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Negative perceptions of food production, agriculture, manufacturing, regional and rural futures
- Access to funds
- Need for adaptation and flexibility
- Gain respect between private sector small business and public sector – increasing opportunities
- Address cynicism and lack of optimism

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

1. Work with the RDA to revisit the Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities, update actions, build in stronger community engagement and introduce public monitoring and reporting
2. Pilot a private-public funded mobile small business officer with three connected shires, work with Hume RDA to support/negotiate the pilot
3. Create a group to champion innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture and small business in Indi
4. Accelerate learning about the challenges, opportunities and pathways to changes across Agriculture, Manufacturing and Services (including Tourism) by strengthening networks, sharing knowledge and providing targeted support. Research best practice models (e.g. Gippsland Agribusiness Network) and determine suitability for Indi
5. Expand the learnings from the Alpine Valleys Dairy Succession Project to remove barriers to change, succession and transition across other agricultural sectors (and apply to other industry sectors)
6. Develop a centre of excellence in agricultural education
7. Support social enterprise education and development, promote great examples in Indi
8. Develop social enterprise model and showcase
9. Report on the progress and success of the Hume Regional Workforce Development Strategy 2015-2018

Sustainable Environment

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

We love Indi because of its natural beauty, four distinct seasons, clean air and extensive natural environment, and our heritage, built and natural. We envisage a region that lives lightly in its environment, values the land and its productiveness, whilst not degrading the environment for future generations. We also value and want to protect our water resources which are critical to supporting agriculture, our towns, our environment, tourism, recreational enjoyment and our lifestyle and amenity. We see that we owe it to future generations to protect and preserve our heritage and provide that connection back to our land and heritage.

Indi produces 51per cent of the water flow into the Murray Darling Basin. We acknowledge our role in careful management and protection of quality and quantity of flow, sound management and use of water in our key reserves, and high value use of water.

Our strong desire to hand on a precious and productive natural environment for future generations of the people of Indi means that we also want to show leadership and take action on climate change at a personal, local, and regional level.

VISION - **SUCCESS** - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

This theme area covers:

- ✓ Healthy, natural environment
- ✓ Well-managed water resources
- ✓ Adapting to climate change
- ✓ Adapting to climate change



Sustainable Environment

VISION - SUCCESS - **SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE** - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Broader environmental awareness with local and coordinated regional actions
- Reduced household consumption of energy, and chemicals, and reduced waste to landfill
- Strong systems for sharing knowledge and good practice between communities and across the region
- Our good practice exported, our region and learn from others
- Public and private partnerships
- Community understanding and ownership of Indi's surface and groundwater resources (quantity and quality) that balances the needs of local people with long term environmental needs and the Murray Darling system
- Community energy production
- Energy efficient housing suited to our local climates and conditions including passive solar design
- Utilisation of heritage assets and infrastructure to develop strong and sustainable cultural, social, environmental, educational and economic benefits

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE - **OPPORTUNITIES** - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Extend the coordinated approach to climate change adaptation currently at local and state government levels to include community activities such as community energy production.
- Share knowledge and build level of community expertise to support volunteer activities
- Match local energy consumption with production of energy
- Produce local energy
- Report publicly on long-term catchment monitor of ground water and surface water
- Greater transparency in bulk water regulations
- Manage our Water Resources Working Group, developing information on current state of play, and developing community led policy statement
- Conduct review/research of subdivision and housing construction practices to highlight better practices with regard to energy use
- Align funding priorities with on-ground need and action
- Hold Festival of the Green
- Convene annual Indi cross-government and community environment group meeting
- Build local government portals for local sustainability activities and groups
- Develop co-operative panels of community and all levels of government to identify, investigate and plan for region wide heritage assets as a priority for protection and conservation
- Run heritage festival across Indi (open house type event) that builds appreciation of our heritage assets

Sustainable Environment

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

- Communicating, knowing what is happening where
- Encouraging people to care about our assets and not take them for granted
- Getting the issues on people's radars, highlighting the importance of change and action, sharing good news stories, and getting people involved
- Funding, especially for public land management and ongoing longer term pest and animal management
- Maintaining enthusiasm and advocacy
- Supporting community leadership and younger generations to lead change
- Establishing behaviours that maintain the status quo

VISION - SUCCESS - SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE: - OPPORTUNITIES - CHALLENGES - ACTIONS

1. Map the Indi sustainability effort already existing in community networks and activities (through NERSA-North East Regional Sustainability Alliance)
2. Communicate everyday stories of sustainability
3. Share information about what exists across Indi (community initiatives, sustainability groups, events, with local government and the general public through centralised online portal)
4. Establish an Indi-wide Festival of the Green
5. Establish Managing our Water Resources Working Group, developing information on current state of play, and develop community led policy statement
6. Manage Our Water Resources working group to advocate for public reporting of monitoring of groundwater and surface water resources
7. Conduct review/research of subdivision and housing construction practices to highlight better practices with regard to energy use
8. Hold an annual Indi cross-government and community environment group meeting
9. Hold an annual heritage festival across Indi during May (heritage month)

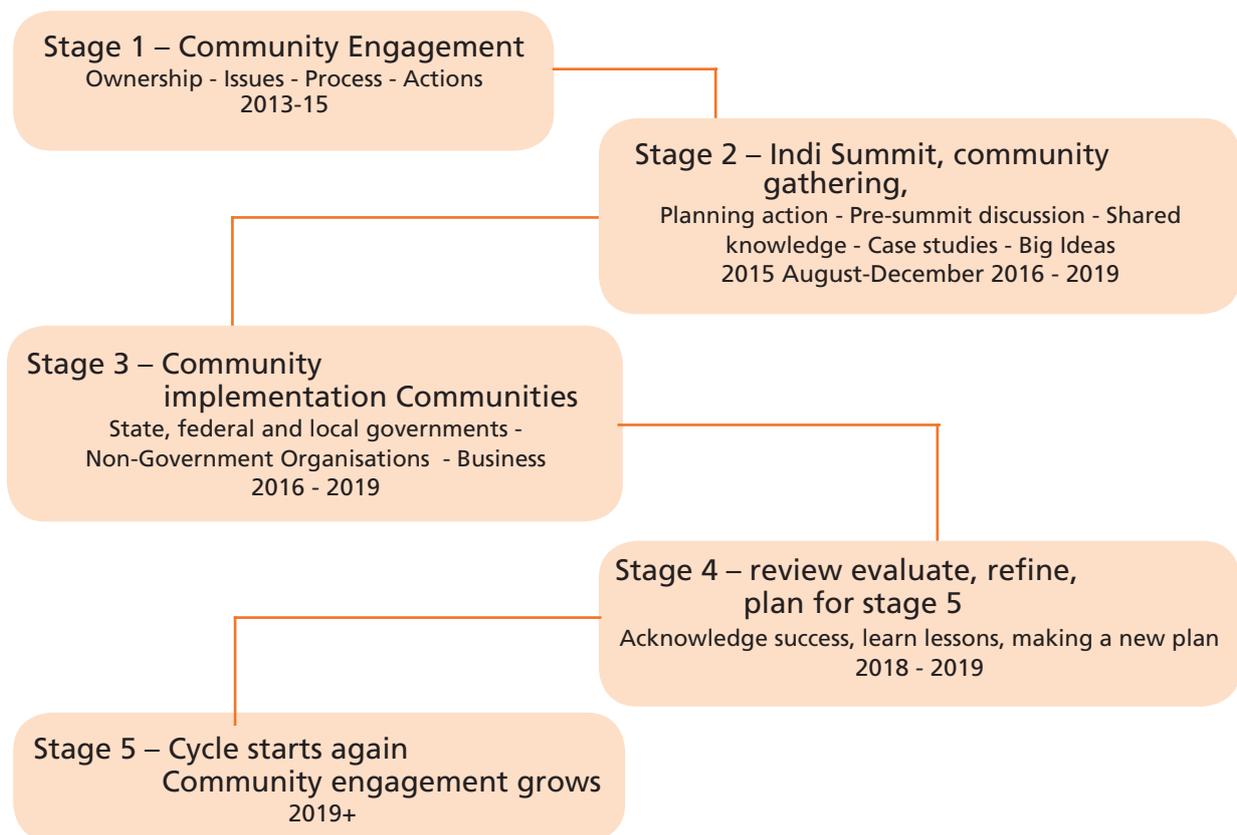
How does this all fit together?

The Indi Summit has been a community-led initiative engaging people in shaping their future, sharing and developing ideas. This is not a one-off event. In three years' time, we will get back together again, celebrate what we have achieved and be even bolder with our big ideas and the solutions we develop for our communities.

The **Indi Community Summit Report** is now a key document in the region, highlighting community voices and community influence. As we take charge and implement what we can, it is also important to use it as a document to influence other decision makers and to check that the regional priorities and plans reflect community directions.

Government at all levels also develops plans for the areas covered by the electorate of Indi. Many of these plans involve community consultation. They are extremely important documents that influence priorities and government spending. The Indi Summit Report and government led plans fit together.

At the Commonwealth government level, the Hume Regional Development Australia Committee (Hume RDA) brings together state, federal and local governments and community leaders to jointly plan for critically important infrastructure and investment in services for the region. The **Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities** (2010-2020) is a 10-year plan that has been endorsed by all levels of government and a guiding document for the Hume RDA. Every local government also has a series of plans covering many aspects of living and the Victorian Government has numerous plans and strategies guiding the region's development. The Summit Report now provides the long-needed community perspective.



Participants & Contributors

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Barry Brown	Tanya Edwards	Robin Harvey	Lauren Lucas
Ceridwen Brown	Tim Ekberg	Jacqui Hawkins	Joseph Lumanog
Glenice Brown	Chip Eling	Greg Hayes	Brian Luxford

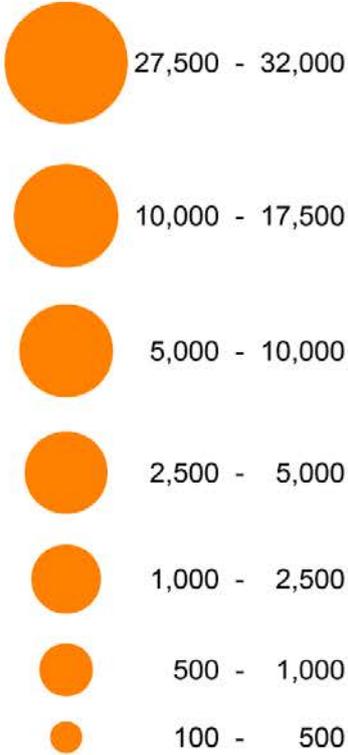
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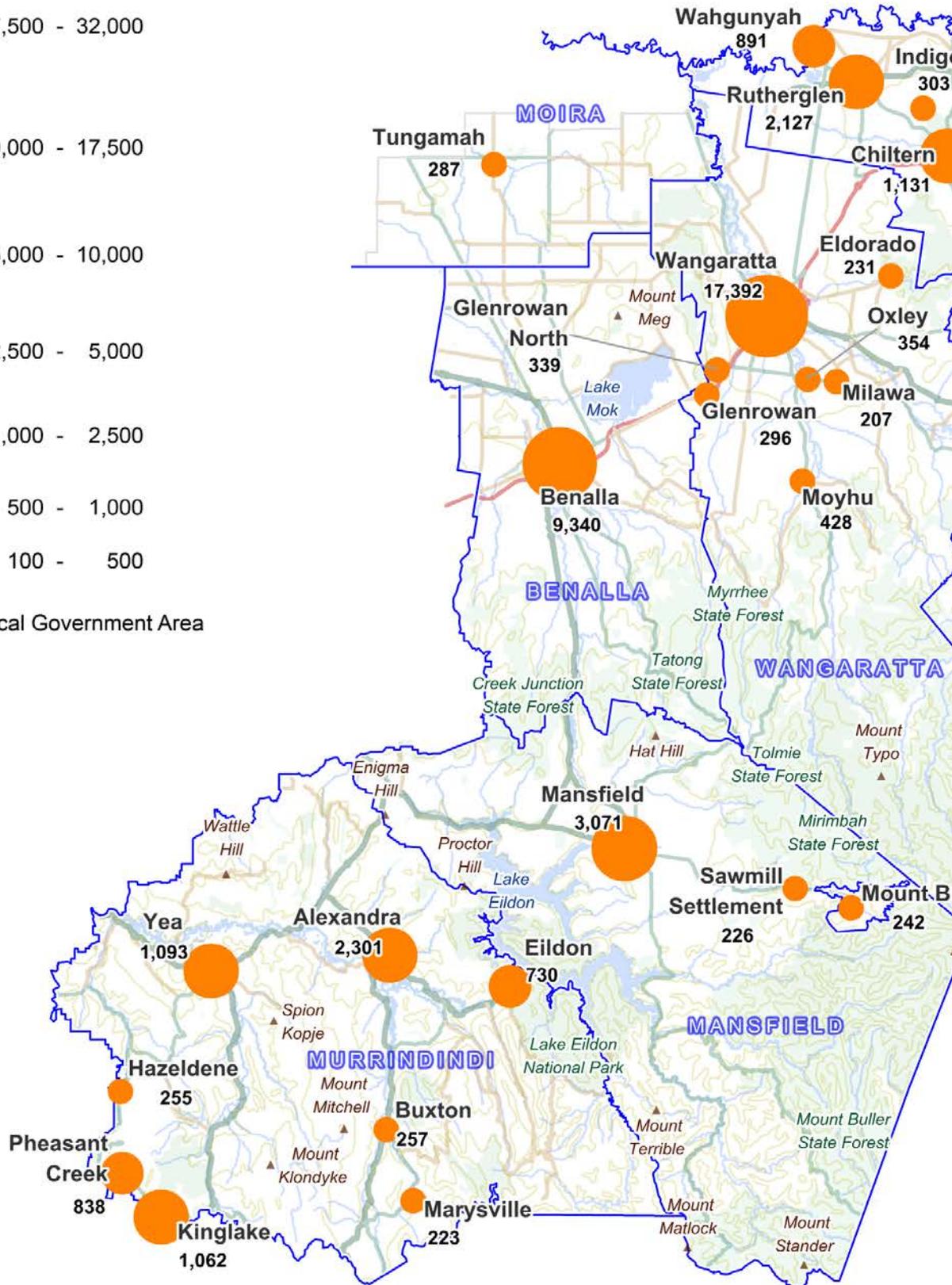
Indi Communities Profile

The map outlines
Statistics about
Reference:
<http://www.cen>

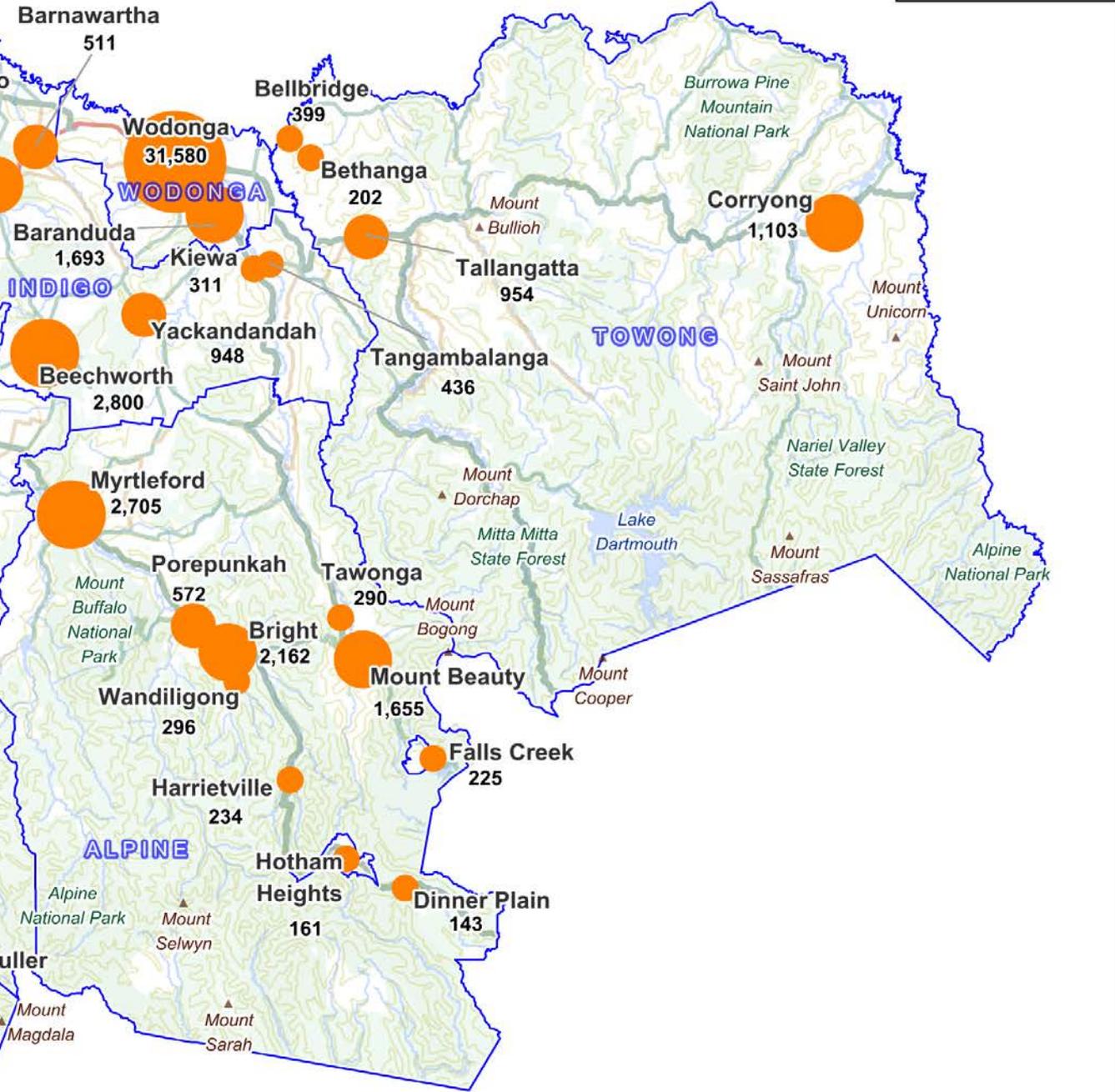
Electoral Division of Indi Regional Centres - Population (persons)



Local Government Area



es the local government area boundaries and communities of Indi, including population.
 Indi from the 2011 Census are available online. These statistics guide our understanding and aspirations for the future.
censusdata.abs.gov.au/census services/getproduct/census/2011/communityprofile/CE221?opendocument&navpos=220



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