



## Summary of Key Issues Raised at the Community Workshops held Wednesday 23rd 6-8pm; Thursday 24th 3-5pm and 6-8pm and Friday 25th 10-12noon May

This document summarises common themes and issues heard during the community workshops. The views may or may not be supported by facts but are strong community perceptions that need to be considered.

### Infrastructure fit for purpose

#### **ROADS AND TRAFFIC:**

This is a key concern. There is a fear that any proposed development will generate traffic pressures on Russell and Barclay Streets. There was strong opinion that Evandale Village centre not be used as the 'through-road' to access any proposed new development. There are also concerns that increased traffic will tax existing Village roads.

- Russell Street is integral to the heritage character of Evandale and is also the commercial activity hub. However, it is narrow with restricted parking, driver line of sight concerns and heritage amenity. The Sunday Market creates parking issues and restricts traffic movement and whilst this is generally accepted, people 'don't want Sunday, everyday.'
- The intersections of Russell and Barclay Streets with High Street also have line of sight concerns at current traffic levels. Nobody wants to see a roundabout or traffic lights.
- Barclay Street does not have the parking issues of Russell but does pass by the school. It also has truck traffic.
- A traffic study is needed.
- Vibration from trucks may potentially damage heritage buildings and homes.
- The use of Cambock Lane is limited as an access point as it is a narrower residential street.
- A solution that diverts traffic around the Village would be ideal but the density may not justify the capital cost. Creating a connection from Ridgeside Lane through farmland north of Cambock Lane to the Leighlands Road / Evandale Road intersection was suggested.
- Evandale Road beyond the airport narrows; there are no white lines and there are grade issues around the rail crossings. The community and Council would like to see it upgraded. The creation of a 'Ring Road' to the Leighlands Road intersection might provide a catalyst for Council and State Government funding for such an upgrade.



## **WATER, SEWERAGE, STORM-WATER AND WASTE MANAGEMENT:**

- The concern is the existing infrastructure will not be able to accommodate a large increase in population.
- The sewage treatment plant is ageing, located in the flood plain of the South Esk River and considered to be close to capacity. TasWater manages it.
- Water pressure is good on White Hills Road but patchy across the Village. There are some quality issues for those living in Trafalgar Lane.
- Councils have retained responsibility for drainage and storm water.
- There is a Waste Transfer Station on Logan Road adjacent to the southern boundary of the site. It was also mentioned that a previous landfill and hydatids testing site may be located on the eastern end of the site on Logan Road. The exact location will need to be determined so testing can be conducted.
- There was support for storm water retention and reuse in any proposed development.
- The notion of any proposed development being self-sufficient and sustainable was generally well received and considered feasible given the rate of technological advancements.
- The ability to connect any proposed development with existing water and sewer infrastructure will need discussion with TasWater.

## **Character:**

### **VILLAGE COMES FIRST!**

This is a description of Evandale's character by a resident and workshop participant: Evandale is an historic village in a peaceful, rural setting. The leafy, green trees provide cool shade in summer and beauty all year round. It is peaceful, quiet and safe. The landscape surrounding the Village gives us views of mountains, rivers, and productive farming land. The sounds you hear are of cows bellowing, and our kids walking together, riding bikes and playing. Evandale is a creative, enterprising community and there are many 'big' personalities. We stage national and international events like the Penny Farthing races and Glover Art Prize. What is unique about Evandale is the people, their stories, convict history, churches and our historic Village with its cosy, quiet laziness.

There has been much development in Evandale since its establishment. The development has been steady and considered. Steady and staged growth is the approach. A steady, staged increase in population within the agreed limits, with the potential of extra families living in the area and jobs that might be developed and maintained would be good.

**WHAT IS NOT LIKED:**

- The look and feel of a suburb. No concrete jungle!
- High-rise developments
- A place like Grindlewald with gimmicky themes
- Bright colours that clash with the landscape and Village
- Big fences and colour bond fences
- Big houses on small blocks
- Blocked views
- A great big hotel

**WHAT IS LIKED:**

- Greenery, open space, trees and gardens. Trees you can eat. 'In Sorrento the streets are lined with lemon trees.'
- Development that is subtle and respectful of the 'neighbouring' historic Village of Evandale
- The development to be surrounded by the landscape, which can be seen wherever you are; this is integral to the character of the District.
- A community focus, parks, walkways, something for families and children
- Underground power
- Good standards of design and construction
- A fire buffer zone, and a community preference to separate any new areas. 'It should not be an extension of Evandale but separate to it.' This also raised the question of a separate name, which has not been determined.
- The potential green belt to contain tracks, trails and paths that link to the Village and to existing tracks and trails which facilitate active transport, health and wellbeing outcomes. Many were positive about this.
- Facilities that help build community.



## Residential Options

Previous planning studies resulted in the recommendation that population in the Evandale Village be restricted to 2,000 persons. The present population is estimated to be around 1,400.

There is limited supply of new housing and land for sale in Evandale. Housing development is happening nearby in the municipality at Perth and Longford.

- Residential options should cater for all ages and stages in life. There needs to be a mix and diversity. Density however is not favoured.
- To attract families, housing will need to be affordable. This implies smaller lot sizes. Currently the Village has an ageing profile. More young families would help secure the future of the school. 'If we lose the school, we lose Evandale'.
- There is a tension between small lots and bigger lot sizes. Generally the Devon Hills or Leighlands Road sizes with the traffic problems resolved had support. That however may not address affordability.
- Some objection to grid pattern streets and cul de sacs.
- Ageing in place should be facilitated by the housing options. There was discussion around a Glenara Lakes aged care facility with a mix of independent living and supported care facilities set in landscaped grounds. This got a mixed reception.
- There are examples of areas where building design guidelines are set and covenants placed on buyers to ensure the character of a place is maintained. There is skepticism over how this would be enforced and achieved over time.



## Uses and Opportunities

- The Village of Evandale has lost services over time: 'We used to have two service stations, we need a pharmacy, the butchers shop closed and the general store even closed for a while. If the numbers of children don't increase the school may become vulnerable. There is no police station. We could do with increased access to doctors and dentists. Without growth Evandale runs the risk of continued service decline.'
- 'We don't offer enough to tourists to keep them here for very long.' However the community hosts two iconic events with the Penny Farthings and Glover Art Prize. There was some enthusiasm to restore the historic water tunnels.
- A view was expressed that there was no desire to be like the Village of Richmond (outside Hobart) with its 'tacky shops' and high visitor numbers.
- An event, conference or wedding venue was suggested. Weddings could strengthen existing businesses.
- The Agrarian Kitchen (Derwent Valley) concept showcasing local produce was mentioned. In the 1980's Evandale supported two fine dining establishments, Casey's and Russell's, that brought visitors to the Village.
- Artist studios and exhibition spaces to build on the 'Glover' reputation were suggested.
- In broad terms however, there were no consistently strong tourism ideas.
- There were many more suggestions around recreational and community facilities and they included: a 36 hole golf course, sports oval, swimming pool, a men's shed, walking and cycling trail including mountain biking and an outdoor gym. One participant suggested that there was the potential for 8 km's of trails around the development site that could link into the Village and existing trail networks. A 'country-club' style centre with community spaces was suggested and was also seen as a facility that would have a positive impact on community building.
- Landscaping, parks and open spaces linked by walking trails, playgrounds and an outdoors event space were mentioned. An arboretum could enhance the landscape.
- One participant stated that the first public library established in Australia was at Evandale and suggested a community engagement space reflecting that history could be established.
- It was stated that the soils on the northern aspects of the site are suitable for grape growing. Keeping some part of the site for agricultural and rural uses was generally supported.



## In conclusion

- Approach development as it has been done in the past: steady and staged.
- Understand the land and landscape from the perspective of the Aboriginal community.
- The natural environment and surrounding landscapes was a common thread throughout discussions and should be an integral reference point to any considerations.
- Develop separately from, but in sympathy with, the Village. Good design, construction, a subtle colour palette, lower density and respect for the existing heritage is favoured. There needs to be a green zone of separation between Village and New and this provides the opportunity for linkages and connections through tracks, trails and parklands.
- A major issue is the concern around traffic pressure on Russell and Barclay Streets that may be caused by any development associated with a large increase in population.
- An off the grid, self-supporting settlement using modern technology may overcome any challenges with sewer, water and energy.
- Landscaping, green open spaces and recreational facilities are supported. Tracks and trails in particular would promote active transport, health and wellbeing.
- Affordable housing and opportunities for young families would help safeguard the school. Places and spaces for families and young people are needed. The development should be about the children and grandchildren of existing residents.
- Keep part of the site as farmland, vineyards may be the opportunity, but also specialised local produce as the focus.
- Evandale like Tasmania is ageing and ageing in place facilities are likely to be in demand. This has implications for residential options.
- Build on Evansdale's history, events and rural produce for tourism in line with a 'heritage to harvest' concept. Mass tourism is not popular.