

LODDON  
SHIRE COUNCIL

# *Community Planning*

12<sup>th</sup> July 2005

*Small Towns Conference*

# Loddon's Corporate Plan

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## **Vision**

*Loddon will be a proud community leading Rural Australia as a great place to live, work and visit*

## **Mission**

*Lead and maximise community growth and development*

*Build viable small communities with strong links to regional centres*

## **Commitment**

*Self Reliance – We will encourage and empower the community to participate in identifying and meeting their own needs and aspirations*

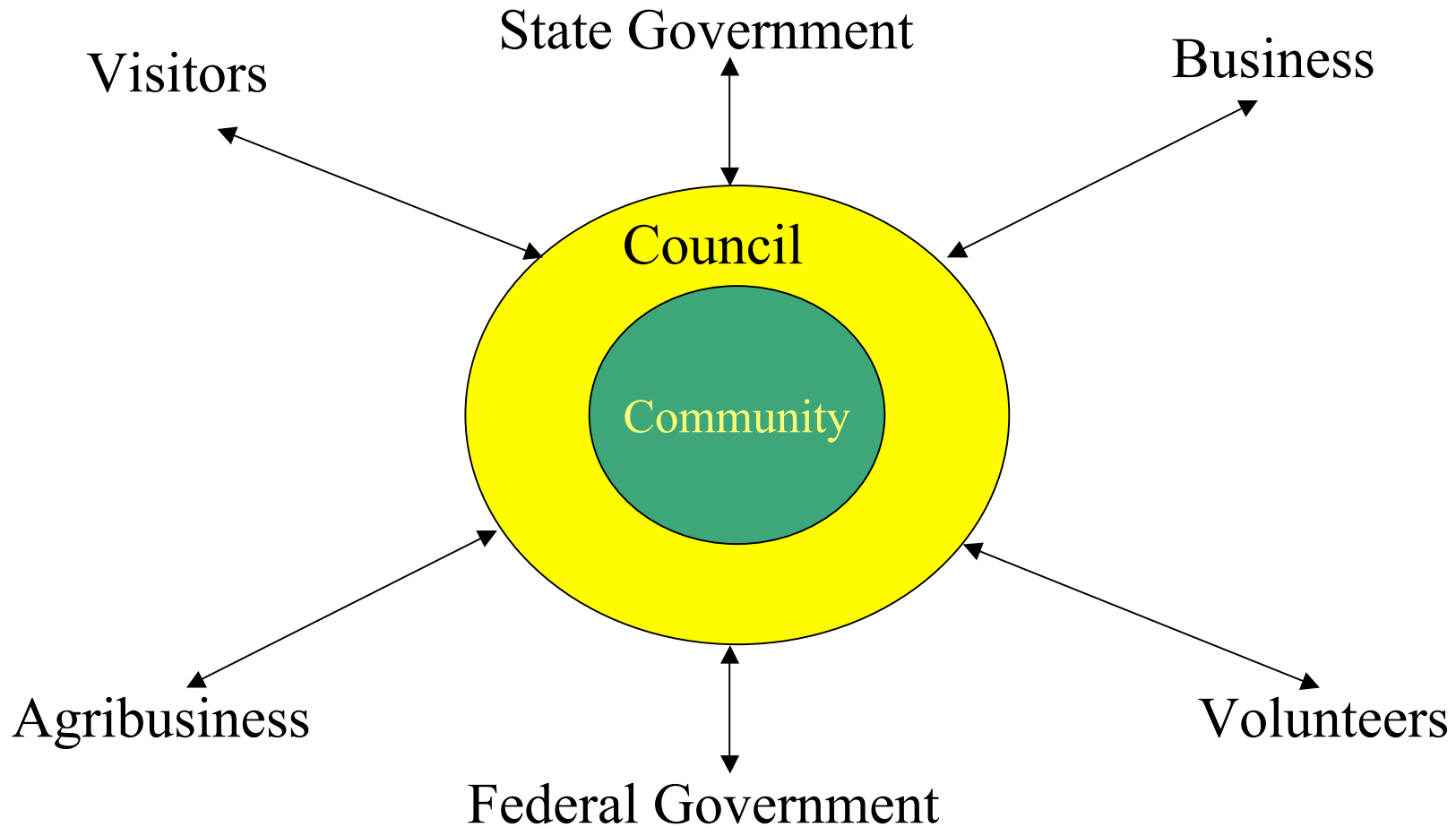
# Community Planning

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- Each of the Communities in Loddon has prepared a Community Plan (15 in total)
- Each Plan sets future directions and needs for each community over the next 10 years
- Lots of Great Projects and Enthusiasm (600+)
- Major themes include:
  - *Infrastructure, Promotion/Tourism, Community Facilities, Recreation, Township Beautification, Health & Welfare*
- This process is all about Council and our Communities working together to achieve agreed outcomes.

# Community Planning



*Council becomes more representative of the Community*

# The System



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- Managing Community Planning has been an evolving process
  - In 2004, Six Teams of Staff were formed to deliver Community Planning Projects
  - Each team were allocated communities based on riding boundaries within the Shire
  - Teams engaged communities:
    - Develop a list of projects for implementation
    - Scope community planning projects
    - Report on progress

# The System

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- The process has been challenging for the six community planning teams
- To assist:
  - Council is in the process of appointing a Community Planning Manager
    - The position will coordinate the process
    - Help take the pressure off the six community planning teams
- Regular reviews will continue to ensure continuous improvement

# Benefits of Community Planning

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- Council now has a planning tool that clearly identifies what our communities need / want
  - *Projects have been delivered in 2004/05*
  - *Priorities for 2005/06 being developed*
  - *Ongoing reviews will continue*
- Enthusiasm and ownership generated amongst staff
- Development of leaders in our communities
- Improving linkages between Council / Staff / Communities
- Our Communities are having a greater say on what the Council does and how resources are allocated

# Commitment

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- The Council are strongly committed to Community Planning and have demonstrated this by:
  - Assisting staff with Community Engagement
  - Allocating \$900,000 from the past two budgets to deliver projects
  - Supporting the appointment of a Community Planning Manager

# Future Objectives

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- Developing Policy on Community Planning for consistency
- Educate our communities to ensure future plans have a Sustainability and Strategic Focus
- Review all community plans regularly to recognise changes in the environment
- Create a “Loddon Community Plan” that:
  - Identifies key themes from individual plans
  - Links to Council’s Corporate Plan