

# C O H U N A V I S I O N

The essence of Cohuna can be summarised in four words:

**FOREST**  
The town is a gateway to the nationally significant Gunbower river red gum forest

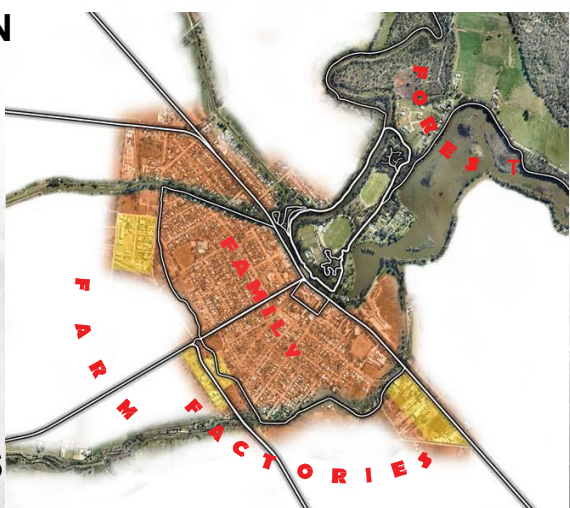
**FARMS**  
The town is surrounded by farmland, significantly contributing to the state's dairy industry

**FACTORIES**  
The town is bordered by businesses that support the regional and state economy

**FAMILY**  
The town is bound a strong sense of community and belonging

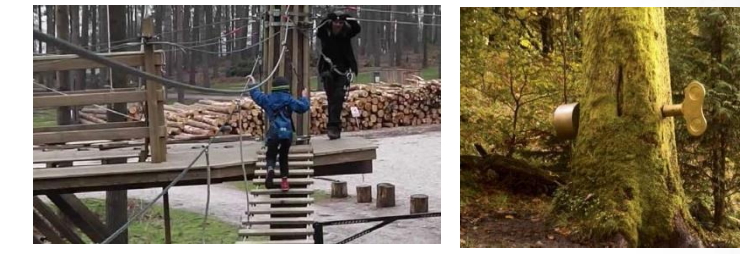
Making the most of this special place and enhancing the opportunities for the already active community drives the Future Vision Plan

**P R O J E C T S**



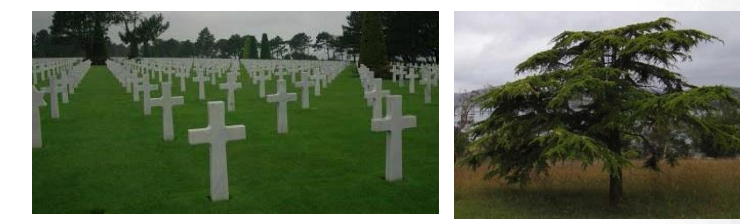
**1 FLORA PARK**  
This site will be transformed into a nature park attraction inspired by the Gunbower red gum forest. This would bring the essence of Cohuna's natural attractions - the waterways, fish, the bush and the wildlife right into the heart of town.

Planting, sculpture, rest and play areas and trails will be designed to create a new landscape giving the visitor a taste of the riches that surround the town. The space will be planned for small children, allowing the local schools and kindergartens to use it in their programs. It will suit older people providing gentle walks and relaxing areas for those who love the outdoors. The park will be supported by new toilet facilities and lighting. Garden Park and Flora Park will celebrate people who have contributed to Cohuna through history to the present day. Contributions from groups and individuals from the earliest times will be honoured on plaques that will form a specialist walk, with opportunities to shine light on these on special occasions throughout the year. A selection process will be established to ensure that the walk reflects the community's interests and becomes an attraction in its own right. There is an opportunity to work with the indigenous community to develop an aquarium based on the cultural history around fishing.



**2 GARDEN PARK**  
This is Cohuna's 'showroom'. Here the town shows off to visitors, puts on events, performances and activities and generally celebrates country living and the people who have made major contributions to the town and region.

Minor modifications to Garden Park will support these uses by better defining spaces, promoting the activities and delivering increased functionality and visual appeal. These modifications include shoring the banks and developing the creek edge to give visitors spaces to relax and enjoy the views, enhancement of the Performance Shelter, re-positioning of the seating and drinking fountain and repainting of the Cohuna Clock. Garden Park will have a special connection to the Civic hub on Anzac day when crosses are erected to commemorate those who died in wars.



**3 THE GATEWAY CENTRE**  
The Gateway Centre is the ideal place to celebrate everything about Cohuna.

For tourists The Gateway Centre is already a well-used tourist information centre. It will be programmed to feature more strongly as a place for seasonal seminars, classes and meetings utilising the indoor and outdoor space and connectors to the creek and the parks.

**4 THE COHUNA TAN TRACK**  
A major track looping around the northern side of Cohuna will encourage group walks, use of 'gophers', walks with pushers, as well as fun-runs and cycling.

This broad trail at 3.8 km long will be developed by linking, extending and expanding existing tracks through forest and farm settings - and will also require a new bridge over the Gunbower Creek. This will be a space that will act as a regional partner to The Tan around Melbourne's King's Domain and Botanic Gardens hosting events and encouraging healthy exercise.



**5 CREEKSIDE LINGER NODES**  
New features - such as boardwalks, bird hides and other spaces - which echo the character of the quirky creekside 'loungerooms' will be an added attraction between town and the Ski Run making Cohuna a favoured place to settle in and enjoy a prime waterside view

Cohuna's creek walk illustrates the family side of this town. Make-shift 'lounges' already populate the creek bank where locals sit down to enjoy food, family, fishing, boating and swimming, illustrating the real pleasures of staying in this particular part of the Murray region. New features which complement the 'loungerooms' designed to be both comfortable and distinctive, will attract locals and visitors, allow them to further enjoy the unique natural environment and further enhance the family friendly character of Cohuna. These will enhance the existing creek walk and allow greater access to nature and to creek-based events.



**6 FACTORY AND FARM ART TRAIL**  
A walk along the southern edge of Cohuna will showcase the farms and 'factories' with a set of art installations that interpret the activity of the workplace and bring alive the concept of modern farming and all that supports it.

Farms and factories are special places. They are workplaces and service centres and for visitors they are intriguing; they accommodate activities that are out of the ordinary to an urban dweller. This walk, through areas of bush, park and townscape will raise awareness of the region's farming resources. Professional artists, using local materials relevant to the site, will create a series of sculptures and landscape treatments that are visually appealing and make a great photo opportunity, putting the town on the tourist map and engendering pride in the town's contribution to the economy.



**7 THE CIVIC HUB**  
In the heart of town a cluster of cultural and community spaces will be redeveloped around a town square - a vibrant meeting space for locals and a visitor attraction that reflects many of the 'family' aspects of Cohuna.

The key services that locals use frequently for health, education and enjoyment will be located at the Civic Hub. This will include the library and gallery, community health services and childcare. The Hub will exemplify civic pride and commemorate significant events and historic moments. Within the Hub precinct the Memorial Hall, the cenotaph and the new WW1 memorial will be prominent, linking this site with the Flora Park 'contributions' walk. The Hub will extend to the street giving it a higher profile, engaging with visitors and supporting the existing Town Walk. A new Civic Square will enhance the experience of the memorials, support Anzac day traditions and offer a pleasant, landscaped setting for visitors.

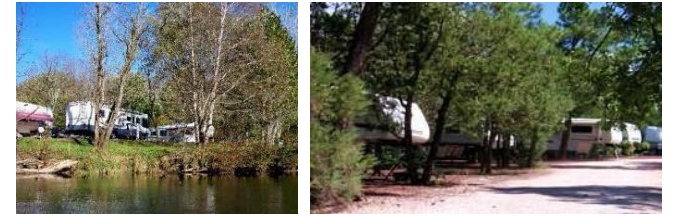


**8 OLDSCHOOL BUILDING**  
The red brick building is being considered as the site for a Cohuna cultural centre with programmed arts (visual, digital, music) and education activities and classes.

This attractive building has indoor spaces that may be suited to classes and activities, and outdoor space that has potential for gardening and environmental programs aligned with the town's rural setting. Its proximity to the school may provide opportunities for younger members to take a role in its set-up and operation.

**9 INTERIM RECREATIONAL VEHICLE (RV) PARKING**  
This interim site and other sites to be investigated and evaluated, close to RV amenities and within walking distance from town will be developed and marketed to attract this growth market and encourage a longer stay.

Overflow caravan parking will also be provided for peak events eg Easter in the powered sites nearby around the existing football ground.



**10 STREETScape**  
Major streets in Cohuna will be given a facelift

Main Street: the streetscape is an important component of the trader and consumer experience. Improved pedestrian access, places to sit, attractive but appropriate plantings and places to place merchandise external to the shopfront would contribute to the attraction of the main street and, importantly the view from across the street.  
Channel Street: enhanced planting will enhance the residential and walking experience across town along this wide country 'boulevard'. It will create an entry to the Civic Hub and special access to the childcare facilities.  
Market Street: the new Civic Hub will reach across to the cenotaph in Market Street and be enhanced to support the Hub amenity

**11 CROSSINGS**  
Crossings on the Murray Valley Highway will be reviewed and designed to ensure safe passage for pedestrians, cyclists, 'gopher' drivers and drivers.

Placement of the pedestrian crossings to optimise safety and reduce unsafe behaviour is of critical importance. These will link to parking and to the most frequent journeys between Garden Park, the Gateway and the recreation facilities and the shops.

**12 SIGNS**  
The road entries to Cohuna will signal to visitors that the town is welcoming and thriving.

Signage directing vehicles out of town will be located at sites that do not mar views and experiences at the centre. Improved, and accurate signage and landscape treatment will raise the profile of the town as a place to stop, rather than pass through. Directional and destination signage, both public and private, that is redundant will be removed.

**13 RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKING**  
Sites to be investigated and evaluated for RV Parking.

