

Communities shaping their future in Golden Plains Shire



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Today's presentation

- Overview of key debates
- Snapshot of Golden Plains Shire
- The story of Community Development in Golden Plains
- Reflections on the journey to date
- Comments on the key debates

Key debates

- Who owns the Community Plan?
- The role of Council and Councillors in community planning?
- The role of State Government in community planning?
- The transferability of approaches to community planning?

'a tale of two cities'



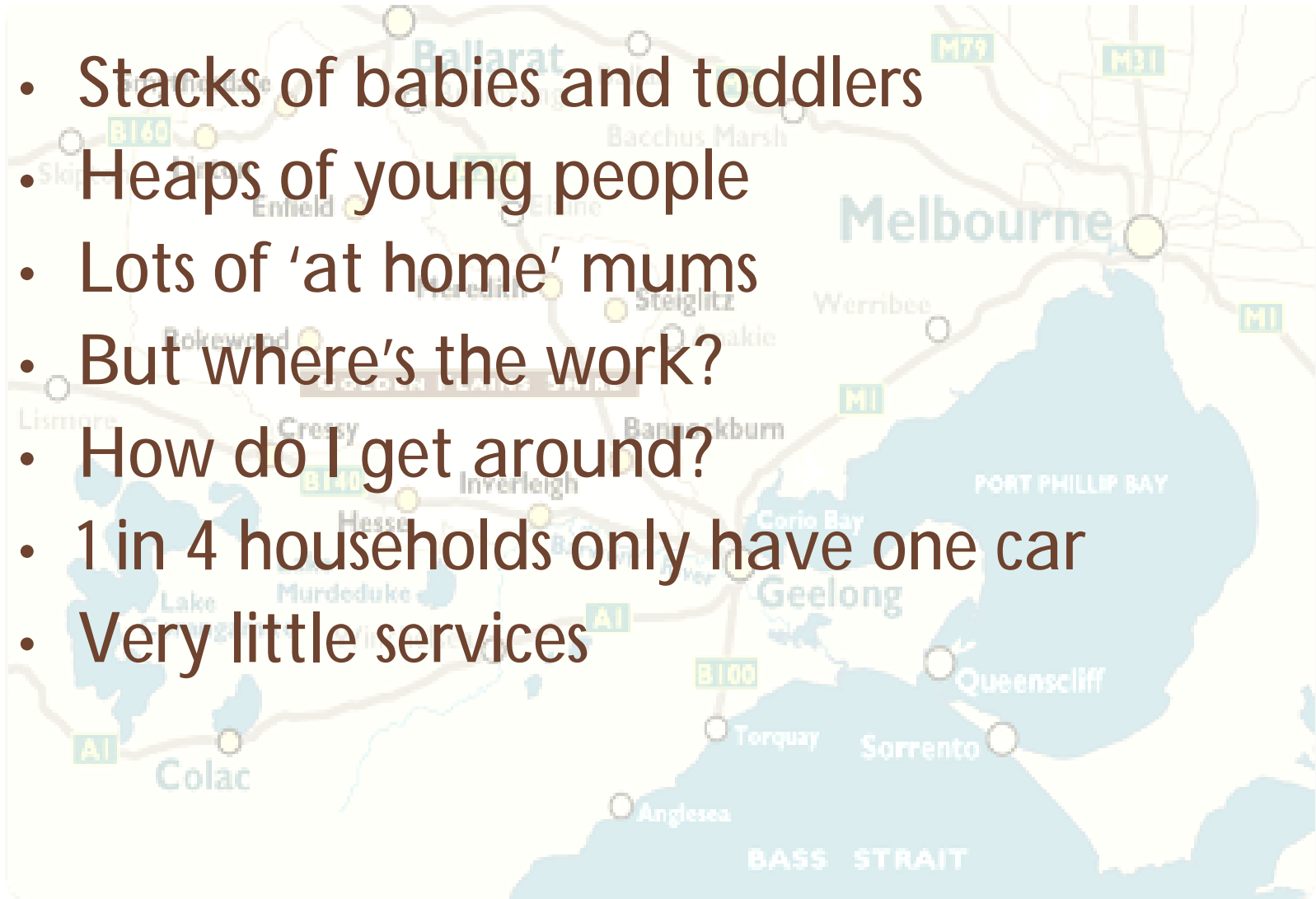
Rural setting yet high growth

- Historically rural
- Nestled between regional centres
- Major road links shadow the boundaries
- An 'interface' Council between two regional centres
- Comparatively cheap housing and rural lifestyle
- Rapid population growth



Shades of interface Councils

- Stacks of babies and toddlers
- Heaps of young people
- Lots of 'at home' mums
- But where's the work?
- How do I get around?
- 1 in 4 households only have one car
- Very little services



The background ...

- All communities would benefit
- Strengthen the identity and vitality of all communities
- Low rates
- Low staffing levels
- 'Healthy' level of capital reserves

Starting ideas

- Clarify community interest
- Community independence and ownership
- A 'hands off' role for Council
- Engaging new residents
- 'Nothing succeeds like success'
- Council investment in agreed priorities

1. Communities owning the 'Township or Community Plan'

- Confirming interest
- Generating energy and ideas
- Creating a 'Township/Community Plan'
- Determining Priorities
- The final 'Township Plan'

2. Focusing local energy and investment

- Community Coordinator as a 'catalyst'
- Priority project leaders – getting on with it
- 'Learning through doing'
- Utilising others ideas, support & resources

3. The 'external' facilitator

- Capacity to work with local communities
- Facilitating development of the 'Township Plan'
- Orienting and supporting 'Community Coordinators'
- Encouraging collaboration and trust
- At times the 'devil's advocate'
- Exchange ideas and learning
- Critical skill set

4. Maintaining Council's investment and commitment

- Respecting community ownership
- 'Hands off' approach by local Councillors
- Building goodwill through collaboration
- Communication systems
- Supporting 'quick wins'
- An open approach to conflict
- Acknowledging effort and achievement
- Shared celebrations

Critical success factors

- Building and maintaining goodwill
- Community ownership of the Plan and priorities
- 'Learning through doing'
- Keeping the process 'fresh'
- Celebrating success
- Connecting 'Township Plans' to Council Plans
- Linking with other policy agendas

Biggest challenges

- Keeping the process 'fresh' (Both)
- Maintaining goodwill during conflicts (Both)
- Maintaining momentum when people move on (Community)
- Sorting out local 'clashes' (Community)
- Timely support to staff (Council)
- Responding to more complex needs and issues (Both)
- Keeping Councillors and staff 'on the same page' (Council)

Key debates

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- The role of State Government in community planning?
- The transferability of approaches to community planning?

Key elements for success

- Strong community ownership
- Strong local leadership
- Diverse participation
- Agreed goals
- Tangible outcomes
- Good partnerships
- Resources now and into the future

West, Wiseman & Bertone, 2006

***“Make no small plans
for they have no power
to stir the soul”***

Niccolo Machiavelli