



## Submission 1

I believe key directions of the plan could be summarised on page 1 in the executive summary - improve pedestrian & bicycle networks to enable safer crossings on Maroondah Hwy and access the Great Victorian Rail Trail -improve & expand community resources for our growing population of new families, ensuring activity & gathering spaces for the community. - beautification & conservation of our natural environment, especially since Merton is the gateway to the Shire. -improve facilities for visitors & in so doing improve liveability for the people of Merton -ensure our disaster response resources are maintained & upgraded to serve their purpose. Merton has its own Vision statement: • To manage the facilities and public spaces at hand, pro-actively and sustainably, to nurture, build and expand a thriving, inclusive, safe and adaptable community in Merton. • To encourage co-operative educational, environmental, sporting and group interest/social events resulting in a healthy, financially viable and culturally respectful Merton population hub. • To enhance overall community awareness and provide support for the physical and mental well-being, promoting the benefits of social interaction, connectedness and resilience, especially in times of crisis. Community Profile figures on page 5 need to be checked for accuracy against the most recent census figures--my census report differs from the figures used in the Plan--are they Merton township numbers or postcode 3715 numbers? The Heritage/Historical statement page 6, could mention settlement of the town by squatters in 1847 after the area was explored by Hume & Hovell in 1824. Merton is shown on the earliest maps in 1854 with an allotment in Merton called Locks Station along with the names of 9 other selectors. Township was proclaimed in 1861. In 1860's gold was discovered in Merton bringing the main coach route to Mansfield through town & in 1890 the railway followed. Along with the gold fossickers came the Post Office, two hotels, stores, school & by 1892 the Butter Factory, & the Churches followed. Open Space page 12: Merton Recreation Reserve. It's inaccurate & confusing to refer to the space as the Cricket Club or Race Club--it should be universally addressed as the Merton Recreation Reserve. This is how it is sign posted & referred to in Emergency Management plans as a Refuge and Nearer Safer Place for fire. Vision for our Community on page 13 mentions access to adequate healthcare--but nothing within 35km qualifies as a healthcare facility--this is something that we should look to alleviate. The community could at least have more available AEDs for emergency, use since any ambulance response is likely to be more than 30 minutes away. Key Directions: should include Ensuring community connectedness with vibrant sporting/activity areas and gathering spaces. I will attach an annotated version of the draft plan with some comments on it.

For more information, please contact [name] [title] by [phone] or [email].

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## Submission 2

I agree with the draft. Helping Merton to improve on what we have.