

1.

Overview

1.1.

Aim of this Review

This is a preliminary review of some of the options for village enhancement in the Village of Neville ('Review'). It is based upon previous community feedback, draft suggestions for Council's management plan and preliminary discussions with Council engineers. However, key government agencies (especially the Roads & Maritime Services ('RMS')) and the broader community have not yet been consulted.

This Review intends to provide some examples of how preliminary issues in the village could be addressed but does not provide final recommendations, priorities, detailed design, or funding outcomes. The suggestions are intended to facilitate community and agency discussion so that detailed designs, costings, and staging can be prepared by Council.

This Review includes some preliminary opportunities in the following areas:

- Design of entrances & gateways to the village;
- Access & connectivity (including pedestrian footpaths and crossings);
- Street beautification and street trees;
- Signage;
- Street furniture (e.g. bins / seating etc);
- Facilities for locals & passing travellers;
- Environmental enhancement opportunities.

Please note that not all of these outcomes may be able to be delivered by Council within its current budget allocations so they will either need to be staged, additional funding will need to be sought, or priorities will need to be identified. There is no guarantee that any or all of these works will be provided.

1.2.

Key Attractions

In Neville key attractions include:

- **Community & Recreation Uses:** Neville Public School (Crouch Street), the Neville Hall (Carcoar Street), War Memorial Park (Crouch Street), and the Neville Showground and associated recreation area and facilities (Pascoe Street) as well as community annual events;
- **Business Uses:** The Neville Hotel and Neville Siding Accommodation (Crouch Street) are the two main stand-alone businesses but there may be other home businesses; and
- **Heritage Items:** ~13 local heritage items in Neville and additional items in the surrounding area.

1.3.

Development & Growth Assistance

As with most settlements in Blayney Shire, the priority should be on initiatives that fundamentally improve the economic, social and environmental viability and sustainability of our settlements. Neville is a village that has a lot of potential but faces a significant number of challenges. The lack of any general store / local retail facilities (other than the Neville Hotel) may constrain growth and the attraction of the village for families with children or those needing local services who haven't got access to a private vehicle. On the positive side, there is a well-recognised public school, the Neville Hotel, Neville Siding provides accommodation opportunities (which is more than many villages of a similar size), and a strong community spirit.

Whilst not technically part of a physical village enhancement program, Council appreciates the need to work closely with the community to identify business opportunities that can encourage start-ups, investment in the village, and economic and population growth. Council's Economic Development Officer will be working with each community to determine ways to create and support development and business opportunities. This may include assistance with the following:

- Working with key telecommunication providers to improve mobile reception and broadband internet speeds to facilitate small businesses and education.
- Seeking funding for a flood study and flood management plan in the medium term to guide development in the village.
- Promoting discussion about infill development opportunities in the village and making land available to attract new residents.
- Ensuring that the new Local Environmental Plan is flexible enough to support a wide range of innovative ideas to support growth whilst also managing development to protect the desired character and heritage outcomes that make Neville an attractive place to live.

1.4. Summary of Suggestions

Whilst subject to community and stakeholder consultation, this draft review suggests the following key opportunities for village enhancement at Neville. Projects investigated in this review include (in rough order of priority):

- **Entrance Design:** Enhancement of entrances to Neville along Carcoar and Crouch Streets to highlight the entrances to the village and act as a visual signal to slow passing traffic and increase safety for road users and pedestrians. This would potentially include improved signage, landscape design and some additional street tree plantings.
- **Access & Connectivity:** There is funding set aside in the Asset Management Plan to extend the footpath network along Crouch Streets to the school for improved pedestrian accessibility over the next 10 years. There may be potential for additional extensions to the Neville Hall and to Neville Hotel subject to funding opportunities. This Review also recommends a review of the parking / traffic movements in front of the school and park to determine if the introduction of planting blisters and formalised parking areas may improve safety and beautify the village.
- **Street Trees & Beautification:** There are a number of existing street trees in Neville that provide a strong landscape character but the mix of species and planting locations needs review, particularly with some species nearing the end of their lifespans. Council recommends preparation and implementation of a street tree master plan for Neville that reinforces and builds upon existing native and non-native plantings (suggestions in this review) and provides a replacement strategy over time as part of a consistent theme / character for Neville. There is a lower priority need to review and update existing street furniture.
- **Heritage, Tourism & Signage:** There is potential for enhancement of signage both within the village and as part of shire-wide heritage and tourism trails. Internal village signage possibilities include improved navigation signage and reduced signage clutter as well as a community / tourist information board. In addition to ongoing heritage funding and works to protect and enhance heritage items in the village there is the potential to improve access to information on history and heritage through interpretative signage and tourism brochures.
- **Facilities:** There is potential for a review of facilities. Some facilities that could be considered for upgrade by the community include the Neville Showground (existing facilities + shire-wide camping review + recreation review), the access path to the Neville Hall, and expansion of the existing recycling area.
- **Ecological Plantings:** Potential to look at removal of willows and replacement with native species (where suitable) along key watercourses and drainage corridors to improve the riparian ecology and water quality.

There are current allocations in Council's Asset Management Plan (10 years) for some village entrance signage updates and for key pedestrian footpaths. Other matters will require a review of funding opportunities.

1.5. Preliminary Budgets / Funding Estimates

It is estimated that out of a total possible budget for the Village Enhancement Program across eight (8) settlements of ~\$300,000 per year that Neville may be able to warrant an annual budget of ~\$15,000 per year. This equates to an expenditure of ~\$125-150 per person per year (assuming a population of 100-120 people). Over a 10 year period this is ~\$150,000. The estimate below suggests a total expenditure of up to ~\$174,000 over 10 years – so an additional \$24,000 may need to be sourced through other funding opportunities.

WORK IN PROGRESS – SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSION

Task	Sub-Task	Est. Staging	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Entrance Design	3 new village entrance signs	1-5	\$6,000	Council
	Planting blisters Carcoar St (Northern entrance)	3-5	\$8,000	Council
Access & Connectivity	New footpaths (\$27,000-\$97,000 not included)	6-10	\$71,000	Council
	Pedestrian refuge / blisters / parking areas outside school / park	5-10	\$20,000	Council
Street Trees	Street tree master plan / consultation	1-2	\$2,000	Council
	Street trees planting / replacement	3-5	\$8,000	Council / community

Task	Sub-Task	Est. Staging	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
Street Furniture	Upgrades to public seating / park	3-5	\$6,000	Council
Navigation Signage	Signage audit / consultation	1-2	\$1,000	Council / community
	Signage consolidation / update	2-3	\$4,000	Council / RMS
	Central information board	1-3	\$5,000	Council/ community
Heritage	Heritage trail & brochure	2-5	\$2,000	Council / Heritage
	Heritage building restoration	Ongoing	Not costed	Heritage
	Interpretative signage	1-5	\$1,000	Council / community
Facilities	Showground upgrades (priorities to be determined by community)	5-10	\$20,000	Council / Showground Trust
	Update recycling area	3-5	\$2,000	Council
	Neville Hall access improvements	5-10	\$10,000	Council / Hall Trust
Ecological Plantings	Willow removal & native tree planting along watercourses	3-5	\$8,000	Landcare / Council / Owners & community)
TOTAL			~\$174,000	

These costs are estimates only and are subject to detailed design and sourcing of quotes. These cost estimates do not include ongoing maintenance costs which are assumed to be either within Council's existing operational budgets or require community assistance / volunteer programs (e.g. tree watering / cleaning etc).

2. Entrances & Gateways

The diagram below highlights the key entrances/ gateways/ intersections in Neville on these key routes.

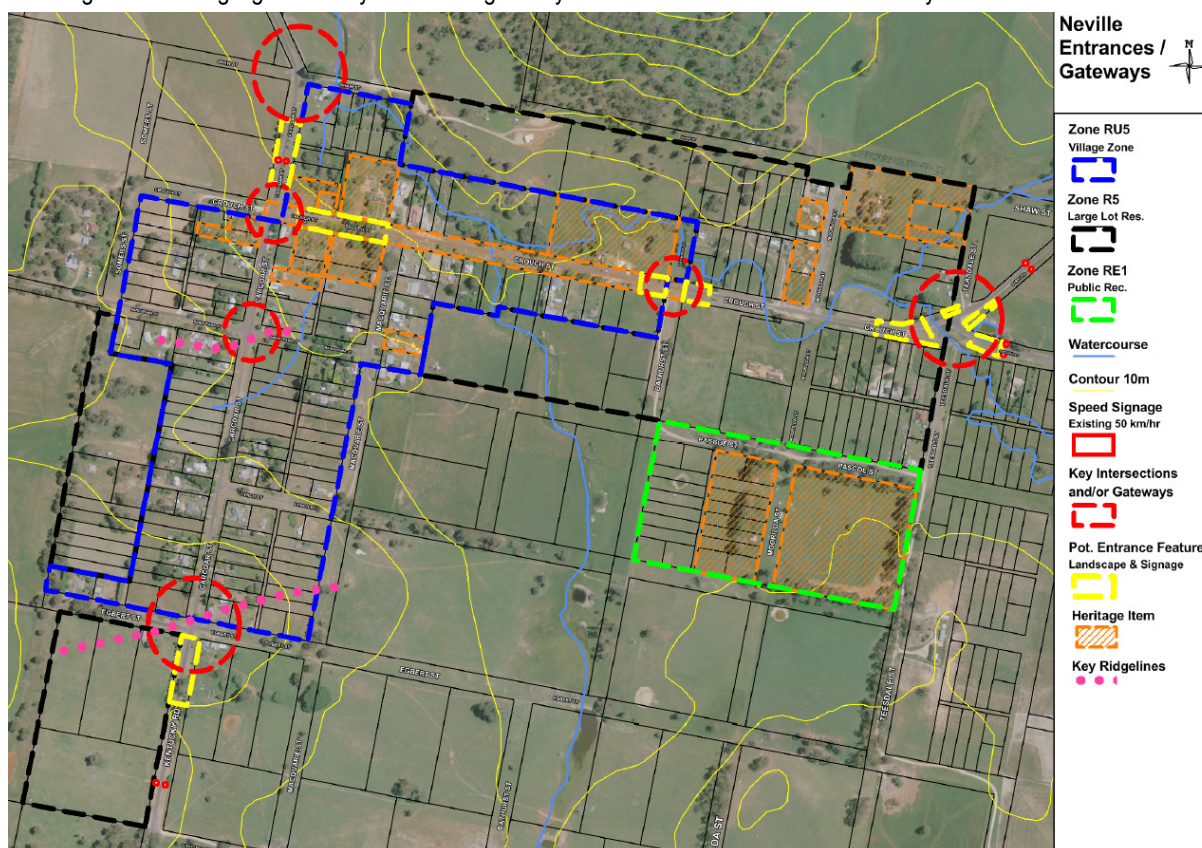


Diagram: Key entrances / gateways / intersections in Neville and potential to enhance entrance features.

The main road connections to/from Neville include:

- Neville Road (north-west) via Hobbys Yards Road to Blayney;
- Neville-Trunkey Road (east & south) via Hobbys Yards Road to Trunkey;
- Barry Road (north-east) to Barry; and
- Kentucky Road (south) to the cemetery and Sunset Hills Road.

2.1. Carcoar Street / Neville Road

The main north-western entrance to the village is along Carcoar Street / Neville Road. Just as the road curves at the village edge is a standard black & white 'Neville' sign. This is followed by the standard colour village entrance sign followed by a line of trees on either side of the road which extends nearly to the intersection with Crouch Street and another black & white sign for Neville with the population and elevation. The 50km/hr traffic speed signs are located approximately 70 metres from the Crouch Street intersection. The existing street trees (natives on one side / non-natives on the other under the power lines) provide a reasonably strong sense of 'arrival' at Neville.

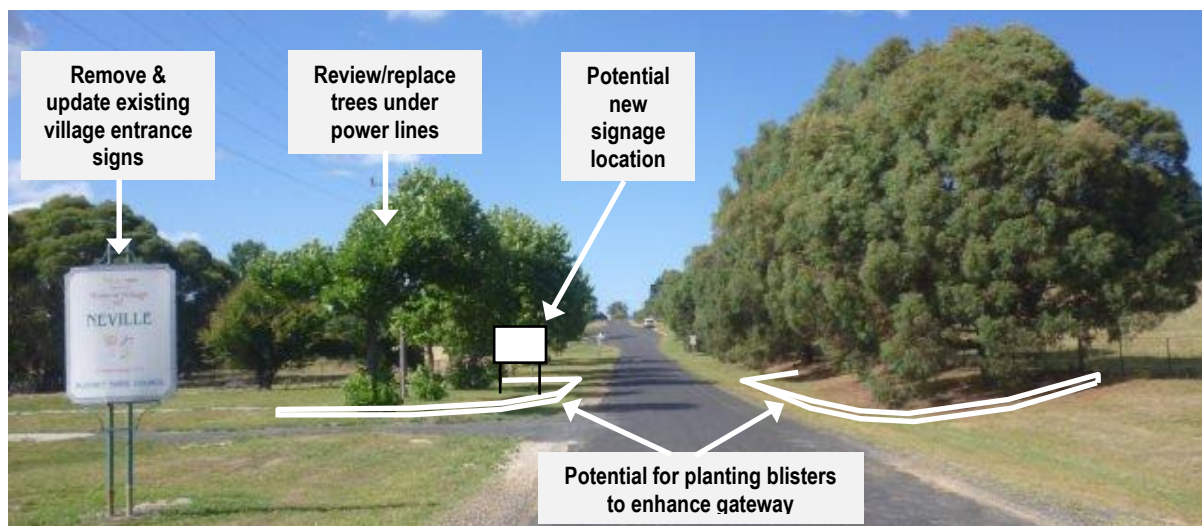
As with all other villages there needs to be a review of the entrance signage. The black and white village signs are somewhat out-dated and the colour village sign is faded, difficult to read for passing traffic, and doesn't contain a lot of useful information for tourists. Therefore, the main opportunity at this gateway would be the consolidation of the three (3) different village entrance signs into a single easy to read sign which incorporates symbols for the key tourist attractions in the town (for example – toilets, camping, food, phone, heritage, accommodation). The village signage should be similar across the shire. One design for review would include the existing blue entrance signs in Millthorpe shown opposite. However, a more colourful / heritage sympathetic sign may be more appropriate. *Photo: Example village entrance sign with tourist information at Millthorpe.*



In addition, as the photos below show, the trees under the power lines have already reached a size that potentially interferes with the power lines so they have been cut back resulting in a less attractive form and limitations to their growth. A decision needs to be made whether to retain these trees and continue to lop them near the power lines; or remove the trees and replace them with a more suitable low-growing species; or supplement the existing trees with another line of lower plantings closer to the road to allow the staged removal of the inappropriate trees. The regrowth shooting around the base of the trees should also be removed.



Photos: Views on approach to Neville along Neville Road / Carcoar Street looking south including signage and street trees.



Photos: Indicative concept for entrance design on approach to Neville along Neville Road / Carcoar Street (subject to detailed design).

A more detailed entrance design may include the creation of landscape planting blisters at the northern end of the tree planting area (just past the driveway to the house on the left) to incorporate the village entrance signage and some low plantings. However, this may not be needed due to the existing landscape strength of the entrance.

2.2. Barry Road / Neville-Trunkey Road

Arrival from Hobbys Yards Road / Barry includes a 50km/hr traffic speed sign ~150m from the Crouch Street intersection. There is not a great deal of landscape at this point. Along the Neville-Trunkey Road the 50km/hr sign is ~100 metres from the Crouch Street intersection with some significant native trees. It is only upon reaching the intersection that there is some sense of arrival in Neville. However, most buildings are well set back and the watercourse generally restricts any significant vegetation.

It is only after crossing the watercourse that there is a black & white 'Neville' village sign with population and elevation (faded and worn) and some native street trees on the northern side of the road that create a sense of entrance (see photo below). From this point through to the Neville Hotel there are no significant buildings or landscape to reinforce this entrance.



Photos: Views on approach to Neville along Barry Road & Neville-Trunkey Road at the 50km/hr speed signs (Source: Google street view).



Photo: View looking west along Crouch Street from the eastern gateway (Source: Google street view).

As explained above, there is the potential to provide improved village entrance signage. The existing black & white sign needs replacement anyway – so a colour entrance sign with tourist features may be suitable. The entrance design would also be enhanced if there were additional street tree plantings near the intersection of Crouch and Teesdale Streets and Barry and Trunkey Roads – where it did not block sight-lines at intersections.

2.3. Crouch & Bathurst Streets

When arriving from the east – the arrival into the Village Zone and higher density urban zone occurs at the intersection of Crouch and Bathurst Streets close to the Neville Hotel. The proximity of the hotel to the street provides the first built form sense of arrival in Neville. This is supplemented by a mix of street trees along Crouch Street – predominantly west of the hotel. Both sides of Crouch Street to the east of the hotel could be improved with additional street tree planting (with low plantings under the power line on the northern side of the street) where it did not interfere with drainage.



Photo: View looking west along Crouch Street from the intersection with Bathurst Street (Source: Google street view).

2.4. Kentucky Road / Carcoar Street

Kentucky Road provides a link to the cemetery and some properties to the south of Neville and becomes Carcoar Street. The southern entrance to Neville is provided by the 50km/hr traffic speed signs ~250 metres from Egbert Street followed by lines of pine plantings on either side of the road that provide a sense of 'arrival' to the village before reaching the first dwellings (photos below).



Photos: Views on approach to Neville along Kentucky Road looking north.

As this is not a primary entrance to Neville then there is little need for significant expenditure on entrance enhancement. Perhaps the main aspects to improve would be some supplementary street tree plantings closer to the road edge because the pine trees may have a limited lifespan (see section below for more detail) and there needs to be a staged replacement program. There is already a large dead pine tree that needs removal before it becomes a hazard.

The initial part of Carcoar Street from Egbert Street to Mandurama Street has some dwellings and a mix of tree species – but the real sense of entrance occurs when passing over the ridgeline near Mandurama Street where there is a higher density of buildings and reduced setback including the Neville Hall.

3. Access & Connectivity

3.1. Roads

This Review does not look at the provision of new sealed roads in and around Neville. Council's Asset Management Plan does not currently include sealing of gravel roads but does include resealing of existing bitumen roads if required. The Neville-Barry Road is currently been resealed in January 2013. The Neville Road to the north-west may also require resealing in the near future. This Review also suggests a review of the entrance roads to the showground (see 'Facilities' section for more details). If new development occurs on gravel roads then Council may require the developer to upgrade roads to a suitable standard.

This Review also has not considered whether any replacement or extension of the existing kerb and gutter systems is required. This requires further discussion with the community and Council's engineers. However, Council may be willing to discuss assistance with road projects such as upgrade / maintenance of roads in the showground.

3.2. Pedestrian Footpaths

3.2.1. Existing Footpaths

Sealed pedestrian footpaths provide increased amenity for pedestrians (particularly the elderly, children and families with prams) with improved connections between key attractions and improved safety and separation from road traffic. There is only one existing footpath in Neville located in front of the former Neville Valley Store (now closed) that is only ~10m long and does not connect to any other facilities. The rest of Neville relies on grassed pedestrian road verges. Therefore, there is potential to improve pedestrian safety and amenity with additional sealed paths between key attractions in Neville where it can be shown to be justified by demand / need.



Photos: The existing sealed footpath area outside the former Neville Valley Store which does not extend to other major facilities.

3.2.2. Potential Footpath Extensions

To resolve some issues Council has allocated funds in the Assets Management Plan for the extension of footpaths in Neville over the next 10 years (see yellow dotted lines on diagram above) for **Crouch Street (north side)** (from Carcoar Street to just past Macquarie Street) ~260 metres – estimated at \$70,989 – proposed for 2018/19 that will link the school and several houses back to this key intersection (see diagram & photos below).



Photos: Areas identified for future extension of new sealed footpaths in the Asset Management Plan.

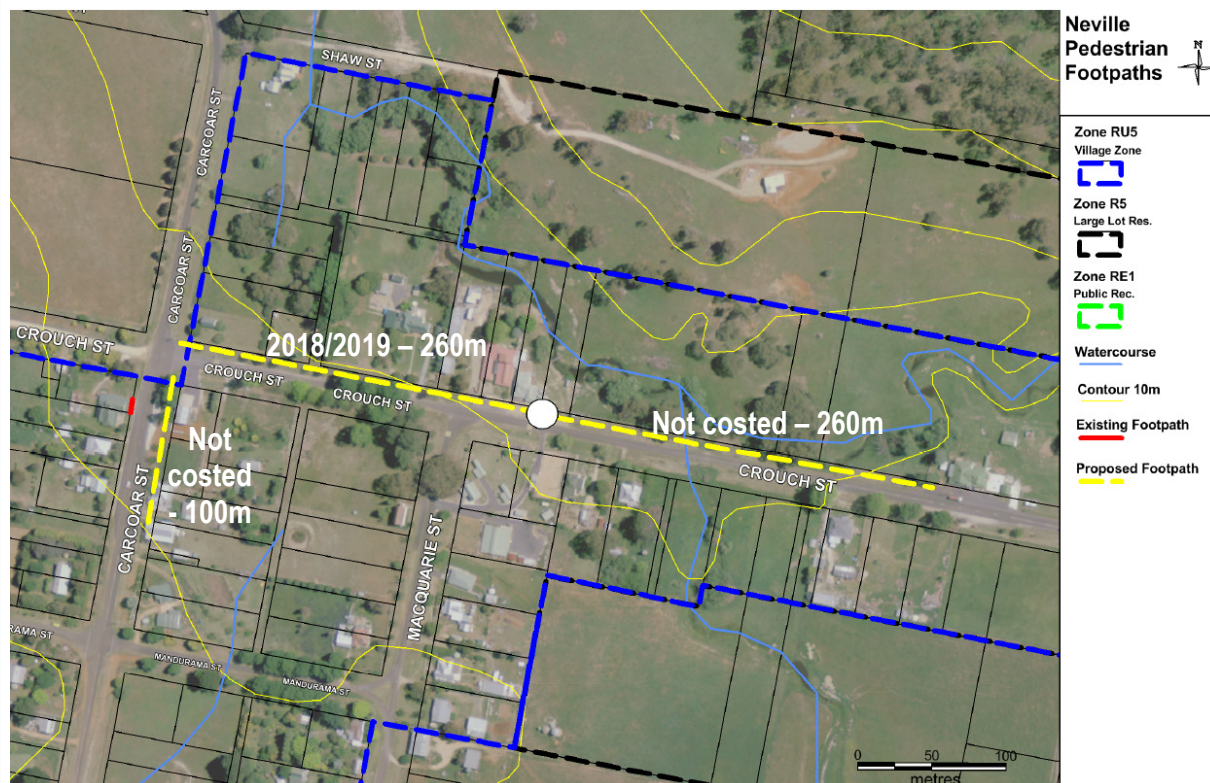


Diagram: Illustration of the existing and proposed pedestrian footpaths in Neville.

This Review also recommends consideration for inclusion in the Asset Management Plan of the following future linkages (subject to community and engineering input):

- **Carcoar Street (east side)** (from Crouch Street to Neville Hall) ~100 metres (estimated \$27,000) – this would connect the hall back to the proposed new footpath to the school – but the slope of this land make it more difficult to create a level pathway;
- **Crouch Street (north side)** (from just past Macquarie Street to the Neville Hotel) ~260 metres (estimated ~\$70,000) – this would connect the hotel back to the proposed new footpath to the school – but it may not be worthwhile as there are no other buildings fronting this section of road on the north side and there are drainage issues.



Photos: Areas identified for consideration for future extension of new sealed footpaths (indicative only and subject to detailed design).

3.3. Traffic Calming & Pedestrian Crossings

Due to the lower traffic volumes passing through Neville there have not been any major issues raised about conflicts between traffic and pedestrians in the village centre that may warrant the introduction of formal pedestrian crossings. The street tree program and proposed entrance design changes may also assist in slowing down traffic in the village.

This Review suggests consideration of introduction of planting blisters with pedestrian refuges on Crouch Street outside the school and park. There is existing signage for 40km/hr in the school zone and a sign indicating that it is a crossing area for children but this may/may not be successful in slowing traffic. If the blister was extended out to the road edge near the park and outside the school gate (with a possible pedestrian refuge) and it incorporated new signage and low plantings with a

formalised parking / pick-up area for children then it could potentially improve child safety, create a landscaped entrance to the school area, formalise parking/drop-off area so cars are not damaging tree roots, and incorporate the proposed new pathway along the northern edge. An illustration of this (conceptual only) is shown below).



Photos: Indicative concepts for planting blisters / refuges / parking areas outside the school (Source: Google street view photos).

4. Street Trees & Beautification

4.1. Existing Street Trees

There are a range of existing street trees in Neville that add to its landscape character and appeal. There are a number of established historical plantings throughout the village – but these consist of a range of species (many of which are old pines) and have been planted inconsistently through the village with no guidance from a village-wide plan. This includes pockets of deciduous trees, willows, native gums and pine trees with no consistency in any street. The mix is not necessarily a bad

thing but as trees reach the end of their life (particularly pine trees) there is the opportunity to replace them with consistent species where possible.

Many of the old pine trees – particularly at the showground and along Carcoar Street may be reaching the end of their lifespan so it is worth thinking about suitable replacement trees, their early planting and the staged removal of the old pine trees before they become unsafe or unsightly (such as the dead pine tree on Carcoar Street near Lynch Street – see photo below).



Photos: The range of species and locations for existing street trees in Neville.



Photos: The range of species and locations for existing street trees in Neville.

There is also potential for some additional new street tree planting at the key entrances (discussed briefly above), along Carcoar Street, along Crouch Street, and at the showground. The showground may benefit from additional shade trees around the perimeter of the oval as well as early planting of trees around the perimeter of the site to allow them to establish before the pines are eventually removed.

4.2. Landscape Opportunities

A Street Tree Master Plan provides the opportunity for the community and Council to agree on the broader landscape character through to the detailed placement, species and design of street trees. It would include clear guidelines for:

- Themes and street character;
- Areas requiring infill of new trees;
- Replacement strategies; and
- Traffic calming strategies through clear visual signals to passing traffic.

Whilst there are many historical plantings in Neville – they would be assisted by a long term plan for supplementary plantings and a staged replacement strategy for older trees – that could be documented in a street tree master plan. This would provide the opportunity for the community to give input and understand the desired outcome as well as guiding future Council

officers even if there is a change in staff. The diagram above highlights some preliminary infill opportunities for street trees and riparian corridor plantings for further discussion and is subject to detailed landscape input and community review.

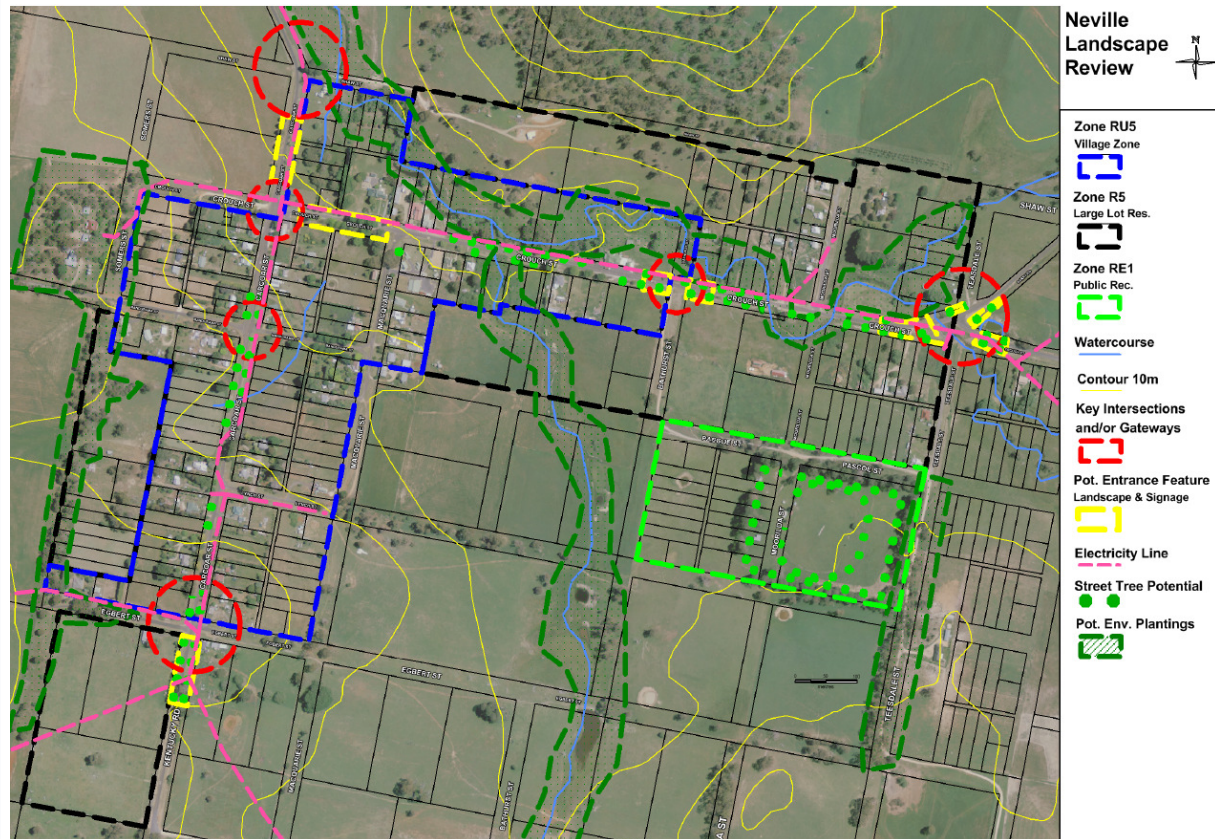


Diagram: Indicative locations where additional street trees or riparian corridor plantings may be considered in Neville (subject to detailed review and consultation).

4.3. Street Furniture

Whilst matters like street furniture are a less important aspect of Neville's street character and presentation, they still have an impact on its desirability as a place to live and a place to stop for travellers. Where possible street furniture should be chosen from a 'palette' of furnishings that follow a common theme – e.g. heritage / colour / materials and they should be long lasting and easy to maintain. It may be worth getting a consistent palette of street furniture across all of the villages for cost efficiency and ease of maintenance.

There are very few Council provided bins and seating in Neville. Perhaps the key location would be at the War Memorial Park where the existing collection of seating is useable but inconsistent in style so there could be a staged repainting and/or replacement program. As the new footpaths are provided – it may be worth providing 1-2 additional seats for pedestrians to rest along these key paths or outside key facilities such as the school and the hall.



Photos: Existing seating in Neville's War Memorial Park.

5. Internal Village Signage

5.1. Navigation & Safety Signage

In addition to the village entrance signage (discussed above), there is also navigational and street signage throughout Neville. In general this is clear and easy to use. However, there are a couple of points where there is excessive signage or multiple poles creating clutter and potentially confusing passing motorists.



Photos: Range of existing signage types, styles, and locations in Neville.

An example of this is at the intersection of Carcoar and Crouch Streets (see photos below) where there are two signage poles with a combined total of approximately 12 signs pointing in three directions with a mix of street names, distances to nearby villages, local and regional tourist attractions. One sign is partly covered by vegetation and difficult to read. This may be able to be reduced by at least 2-4 signs or the tourism attractions could be separated from the road name/distances signage.

There is potential for improved signage to key tourist facilities / local attractions such as public toilets, the park, and the showground. Whilst there is existing signage to the toilet and the showground there may be possibilities to improve their visibility. The War Memorial Park in particular has a range of great facilities but this is only highlighted by a public toilet sign with no reference to the BBQ and playground.

A signage audit should be considered for Neville to ensure that only essential traffic and guidance signs are retained and where multiple signs are present some sort of consolidation is considered. Any signage policy may require road safety input. Whilst signage will need to meet standard RMS/Council policies – it should where possible also be sympathetic to the streetscape.

5.2. Central Information Board

One opportunity that can address demand for information for both the local community as well as passing tourists would be the introduction of a central information board. There is no central point for community/tourist information in Neville – except perhaps at Neville Siding.

A community information board could provide a map of the village, highlight key buildings and heritage items, provide a short history, things to do, and list local services and facilities for passing tourists. An example is the history board in Capital Park in Lyndhurst. It could also have an area with restricted access for public notices for meetings and events, for sale/to buy advertising, and other relevant community information.

Ideally a community information board would be located somewhere where it was prominent and easily accessible by both passing tourists and the general community and it did not impact significantly on the streetscape. In Neville there are two possible locations for consideration (subject to further discussion with the community):

- School / Park: Near the entrance to the public school or park is a key area for drop-off and pick-up of children and potentially would service tourists stopping at the War Memorial Park – this is a recommended location; or
- Neville Hotel: There is also likely to be a wider range of the community attending the hotel (not just parents) as well as tourists for a drink or meals.

The board needs to be fairly robust and graffiti / damage resistant. Ideally it would have a weather shelter. Preferably the colour scheme / design would match the street and park furniture and be sympathetic to the heritage streetscape. There

may be a need for signage indicating the location of the board and highlighting that it provides tourist information. Several possible examples are set out below for community discussion. Neville is likely to only require a single face board or possibly double-sided.



Photos: Examples of stand-alone tourist / community information boards.

6. Heritage & Tourism

6.1. Heritage Items

Neville is fortunate to have ~13 listed local heritage items (in the new BLEP2012) in the village and additional items in the surrounding locality and items of heritage interest (see photos below). These heritage items contribute significantly to the streetscape – particularly along Carcoar and Crouch Streets. The primary issue is the protection and enhancement of heritage buildings and spaces to ensure they continue to contribute to Neville's streetscape. The listing of heritage items in Neville opens up the possibility to receive heritage grants to undertake restoration projects.

The community has expressed an interest in a more detailed heritage study of the village to ensure that all heritage items are captured and to capture relevant historical information to improve the heritage listings and protection, provide the basis for heritage funding and assistance to improve heritage items, and to provide heritage information plaques/signage. All heritage issues require a considered response from Council's heritage advisors, staff, land owners and the community. There may also need to be a review of non-heritage buildings that may need repairs to improve village appearance but this would require landowner or community funding.

6.2. Public Art / Heritage Trail & Interpretative Signage

As part of a shire-wide program there should be investigation of the creation of heritage and/or public art trails through Blayney Shire. The fact that Neville has a reasonably high number of heritage items means that Neville could be a significant part of any trail program. However, it is not located on any major regional road routes – so advertising / signage for the trail is vital to recommend people take an alternative route through Neville.

The key issue is to be able to get information to passing tourists and travellers on the routes for shire-wide trails, the internal village routes to see the key items, a short history of each settlement, and a short description of the history and/or photographs of key heritage items and buildings. This is generally best achieved through a combination of website information, tourist brochures, village maps, and key navigation and interpretative signage. However, all of these items can be very expensive – so there is a need to determine what would work most effectively for each settlement.

This Review makes some preliminary suggestions – but they are subject to community and heritage input as well as identification of funding opportunities.

For those reasons it is recommended that the first strategy for Neville should be the creation of a Central Information Board (more details provided above) along Crouch Street. This board should contain a short history of Neville, a map of the village and key attractions including historic and heritage buildings, and some historic photos. It should also direct tourists to the key locations to pick up a brochure on Neville that gives a more detailed history of individual buildings along the heritage trail. Neville is a fairly compact village that is relatively easy to walk and it has a fairly clear area of interest along Crouch Street and Carcoar Street.

The second key strategy could be to review and update Neville's existing tourist brochure which already has a brief history and summary of places of interest with a map. This brochure could possibly include a more detailed history of each of the key buildings and places with some important historical photos.

Council's Senior Planner has also provided advice that Neville could consider the introduction of individual plaques / small signs for key buildings / items that highlighted it as a heritage item and gave the year of the building. This would be erected on the gate or entrance to each building – but would be at the discretion of the property owners. The cost for this could be as low as \$5-10 per sign or \$150 for small bronze plaques.

Another option would be to have larger metal interpretative signs with a photograph and short text / history on a frame located on the footpath in front or opposite each site (such as those used in Millthorpe). However, not only is this significantly more expensive but it could create a large amount of signage clutter on pedestrian footpath/walkway areas and this method may date very quickly. With modern opportunities for mobile downloads of information – there may be cheaper and less cluttered approaches to deliver this information to tourists in the future.

The introduction of a heritage trail in Neville may be able to be partly funded through a combination of state government heritage grants, small one-off council grants, local community fund raising and private investment in individual building signage. This should be discussed further with the community and heritage advisors. The NSW Heritage Office's *Guidelines for Heritage Trails* should also be consulted. Further detail is provided in the attached Senior Planner's report.

As previously discussed, the Progress Association and Council should commence by identifying which buildings would merit additional signage and their histories and identifying the best location for the community information board. Council could then assist by preparing a plan for any signage, uploading information to a suitable website, getting quotes for preparation of community and individual signs, constructing the community information board, and assisting with preparation of brochures.

In addition, Neville may wish to think about public art opportunities in the village and on key approach roads. One opportunity may be a partnership with the Neville Public School to have some additional artworks along the school fence, in the War Memorial Park or throughout the village (see examples at Lyndhurst Public School).

7. Facilities

7.1. Neville Showground

7.1.1. Recreation & Community Facilities

The Neville Showground has a number of existing facilities including, but not limited to, a grassed and fenced oval, a football post, relatively new accessible toilets and shower, and a range of sheds for storage and events. It may already be also used for informal overnight camping (see photos below).



Photos: Views across the Neville Showground.

However, there are a number of potential improvements that could occur at the showground including, but not limited to:

- Improved signposting of showground and facilities on Crouch Street (Bathurst & Teesdale Street entries);
- Widened gravel road access along Bathurst, Pascoe and Teesdale Streets;
- Improved entrance gate with new posts and wider gate;
- New doors to the toilets;
- Replace the missing football post and repaint the existing post (see photo below);
- Repairs to the showground oval fence to replace missing railings (see photo below);

- Repaint and maintain the playground area (see photo below);
- Remove the dead tree on oval boundary and check safety of surrounding pine trees (see photo below);
- Pine tree replacement program (if required) with new tree plantings (see photos below);
- Planting of shade trees around oval perimeter;
- Repairs and upgrades to perimeter fencing (particularly with sheep kept on showground);
- Some additional seating and picnic tables (potentially with shelters).



Photos: Aspects of the showground that may require review / upgrades.

Further consultation is required to determine what recreational and social needs are present in Neville and would be required to support the area and community needs. Previously, the community has sought assistance with the creation of new recreation opportunities such as a BMX racing track and/or a horse-riding facility. Council needs to consult with the Showground Trust and the community to determine their priorities with limited grant funding.

7.1.2. Overnight Camping

Some members of the community have expressed an interest in creating / formalising a free stop off area / overnight caravan parking area at the Neville Showground where there are existing toilet facilities and open space. The nearest formal camping facilities in the shire are at the Blayney Tourist Park, Blayney with informal facilities at the Carcoar Showground and Carcoar Dam. By providing overnight facilities this may result in tourists spending more time in Neville to see heritage items or attend community events and in the future this may promote additional local expenditure if new shops are opened. However, there are several issues that would need to be discussed between the community and key stakeholders that include but are not limited to the following:

- **Camping Locations in Blayney Shire:** There needs to be a shire-wide assessment of overnight camping opportunities that would review whether there is sufficient demand to justify the expenditure at Neville and whether alternative sites might be better for the shire as a whole. There is potential for a new facility to conflict with existing facilities at Blayney, and there are other villages interested in expanding/providing these facilities (Carcoar, Lyndhurst and Mandurama).
- **Management/ Maintenance:** Other issues may include access and security for the site; limitations as to length of time for camping; who is responsible for cleaning and maintenance of the site; and impacts on neighbouring properties (noise etc). Campervans are also likely to prefer a site which has access to a sewerage waste dump site. The community has expressed a preference for a free camping site – but this would also impact on the level of facilities – so discussion of potential fees needs to be weighed against costs to the community and Council.

There are a range of facilities that could be provided depending on the standard required, the amenity/attraction that Neville seeks to provide, and the cost / funding of facilities. Due to Neville's size and its limited local attractions and retail

opportunities – this review suggests that it is unlikely to warrant a complex tourist camping facility including waste dump points, electricity connection points, communal dining and cooking areas etc. However, it may be able to support an informal camping area with grass sites and access to the toilet block. The management, security and signposting of this facility would require further discussion during consultation and as part of the shire-wide camping / tourist strategy.

7.2. Recycling Area

As the photo below shows, the existing recycling / transfer area is located on Crouch Street at the edge of the War Memorial Park adjacent to the school. This appears to be a relatively accessible location for the general public and passing tourists, however, the community should be consulted to ensure this is the best position and its visibility does not impact on the streetscape. As there are four bins it may also be worth extending the concrete slab to accommodate all of the bins. Council has also taken away the general waste bins due to illegal dumping (see sign below). However, there may be potential to reconsider putting a waste bin in the park for tourist and parks users only on a trial program.



Photos: Recycling area and Council notice for bins in War Memorial Park, Neville.

7.3. Neville Hall

Another facility that Council could look at providing some assistance to is the Neville Hall. Further consultation is required with the Hall Trust to determine what upgrades are required to the building. However, an obvious issue is the accessibility of the hall due to the steep grades from the kerb to the front door (see photo below). It may be possible to look at redesigning the entrance pathway and door to improve safety and access for the community.

Photo: Neville Hall and the poor access to the building.



8. Ecological Corridor Enhancement

In association with the street tree program there is also potential for improved ecological connections along the riparian corridors / creeks that run through the village and to enhance existing native vegetation areas (such as the road to the Waste Depot and the western boundary of the village).

Further review is required to understand the existing vegetation and flora/fauna in the area but it is expected that there is potential for some willow removal along watercourses and replanting with native species in areas shown on the diagram below.

The majority of this land is held in private ownership so this would require agreement and support by these owners. However, Council may lead the way by conducting programs in road corridors. Landcare programs might be a first starting point for seeking funding for non-native removal and replanting programs.

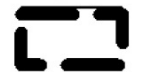
Neville Summary VEP Suggestions



Zone RU5
Village Zone



Zone R5
Large Lot Res.



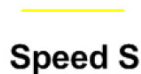
Zone RE1
Public Rec.



Watercourse



Contour 10m



Speed Signage
Existing 50 km/hr



Key Intersections
and/or Gateways



Pot. Entrance Feature
Landscape & Signage



Street Tree Potential



Pot. Env. Plantings



Heritage Item



Proposed Footpath



Enhance north-west
entrance with
planting blisters,
updated village
signage & potential
new street trees

Signage audit to
remove/update
navigation signage

New footpaths on
Crouch Street and
possibly Carcoar
Street

Review potential for
access upgrades to
Neville Hall

Discuss infill
development
opportunities

Potential street
furniture / park
/ recycling area
upgrades

New community /
tourist information
board. Develop
heritage trail /
information / signage

Review potential for
additional street trees
in Crouch Street

Enhance eastern
entrance with street trees
& updated village signage

Get funding for flood review
& management plan to
guide development

Planting blisters &
formalisation of
parking outside of
school & park

Review potential for
additional street trees
in Carcoar Street

Review recreation facilities
& overnight camping
opportunities at
showground. Additional
shade trees & staged
replacement of pine trees

Enhancement of native
plantings along
western boundary

Enhancement of native
plantings along creek
riparian corridor

Enhancement of native
plantings along road to
Waste Depot