



Macedon Ranges Shire Council
Public Toilet & Barbecue Strategy



Municipal Council
Public Toilets
Public Toilets
are open daily from
6am until 8pm.



'Changing Places' Public Toilet, Gisborne

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Gardiner Reserve Public Toilets , Hamilton St Gisborne

Acknowledgment of Country

Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways. Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges Shire for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

Introduction

Macedon Ranges Shire Council plays a key role in providing and maintaining public toilets and barbecue facilities throughout the Shire. Currently, Council manages 52 toilet facilities and 45 barbecues located in a range of locations including parks, open spaces, sporting ovals and tourist destinations. Council invests funds annually to ensure facilities are available for use by residents and visitors to the Shire.

The Macedon Ranges Shire Public Toilet & Barbecue Strategy (The PTBS) has been prepared to guide the future planning and provision of public toilets and barbecue facilities throughout the municipality. In summary, The PTBS will establish:

- A set of principles to guide the provision of high-quality public toilets that are safe, clean and accessible for all residents, workers and visitors to the Macedon Ranges Shire.
- An plan to guide the delivery of new facilities, the upgrade of, or the decommissioning of existing facilities that are no longer required.
- Identify the infrastructure and operational requirements of public toilet and barbecue facilities.
- A summary of estimated costs to upgrade or replace facilities.
- Guidance for driving efficiencies and cost savings to Council.
- A series of recommendations and principles to improve the standard of public toilets and barbecue facilities.

Terms Used

Australian Standard (AS 1428)

AS 1428 specifies that new buildings must be capable of providing access to people with disabilities. Particular attention is focused on continuous accessible paths of travel for wheelchair users, access for people with ambulatory disabilities and access for people with sensory disabilities.

Building Code of Australia (BCA)

BCA is a manual that is part of the National Building Code (NCC). It includes technical requirements for the design and construction of buildings and other structures throughout Australia.

Changing Places Toilet

'Changing Places Toilets' are public toilet facilities that cater for people with severe disabilities, they are designed to be completely accessible and provide sufficient space and equipment for people who are not able to use the toilet independently.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design or CPTED suggests that the design of buildings, landscaping and outdoor environments can either encourage or discourage crime.

Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

The Disability Discrimination Act 1992 is an act passed by the Parliament of Australia which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities including in employment, education, publicly available premises, provision of goods and services, accommodation, clubs and associations and other contexts.

All Gender

The term 'All Gender' means something that is not associated with either women or men, it can be used to describe a facility that is accessible to all people regardless of their gender.

Scope of Study

The development of the PTBS involved 4 key stages:

Stage 1 – Background Review

The first stage involved an inception meeting, followed by a background review of all the current and relevant strategic planning documents.

Stage 2 – Site inspection and assessment of existing facilities

The second stage involved site inspections to each existing public toilet and barbecue facility in Macedon Ranges Shire to assess the condition and quality of each facility. The inspections also involved assessing the location of public toilets, their design, accessibility, level of cleanliness and safety.

Stage 3 – Community Consultation

The third stage involved community consultation in the form of a survey, which built upon the findings from the site inspections. The aim of Stage 3 was to understand clearly, what the community thought about the quality, features and distribution of existing public toilets and barbecue facilities within Macedon Ranges Shire and to identify any further issues with these facilities.

Stage 4 – Preparation of The PTBS

The fourth stage involved bringing together all the findings from the background research, site inspections and community consultation to create this comprehensive Public Toilet and Barbecue Strategy.



Purpose of the PTBS

Public toilets and barbecues are essential community facilities, which contribute to the enjoyment, comfort and overall experience of the Macedon Ranges Shire. The Council seeks to ensure a healthier and more equitable community and there is now a greater focus on walkable, accessible and safer public places and spaces. Well located and designed public toilets and barbecue facilities play an important role in achieving this goal.

Council has a responsibility to its ratepayers to provide public facilities to the community and to ensure public funds are appropriately allocated to the provision and maintenance of these facilities. The PTBS provides guidance to ensure the appropriate allocation of public funds for the upgrading, maintenance, renewal and decommissioning of Council owned and managed facilities.

Principles of the PTBS

There are several key principles which have guided The PTBS which can be summarised as follows:

Provision & Prioritisation

- The provision of facilities is based on fair and equitable access to public toilets and barbecues for community benefit and tourism.
- The provision of facilities will be prioritised on Council owned/ and or managed land, however in some instances public/ private partnerships may provide community benefit.
- The provision of facilities will be prioritised at 'community' and 'destination' level open space as determined by The Open Space Strategy discussed in this Strategy.

Design and Distribution of Facilities

- The design of facilities and their locations is guided by the principles and design guidelines outlined in the PTBS.

Maintenance & Management

- Facilities will be cleaned and maintained regularly to meet needs and expectations of the community.
- Hours of operation of facilities should always reflect the needs of the community and respond to demand.

Safety & Inclusive Access

- Council will strive for excellence when it comes to access and safety of facilities, particularly for public toilets.
- Council will aim to transition the provision of All Gender facilities
- Council will aim to increase compliance with DDA and AS1428 across facilities over time with priority given to facilities with high usage.

Community Engagement

Consultation with the community was undertaken as part of the development and preparation of the PTBS, which involved the wide promotion of an online survey to gather important community views on the provision of public facilities.

In 2021 an online survey was published for a period of six weeks, where the survey asked residents and other users of public toilets in the Macedon Ranges Shire questions regarding public toilet and barbecue facilities, including patterns of usage, location, design and other related considerations.

A poster campaign was also run to advertise the survey, which was open to all residents and visitors to Macedon Ranges Shire, with a key aim to obtain and collect feedback from a wide cross section of local residents and visitors.

Separate surveys were prepared relating to public toilet and barbecue facilities, with survey participants invited to answer both surveys, but with an option to only answer one if preferred.

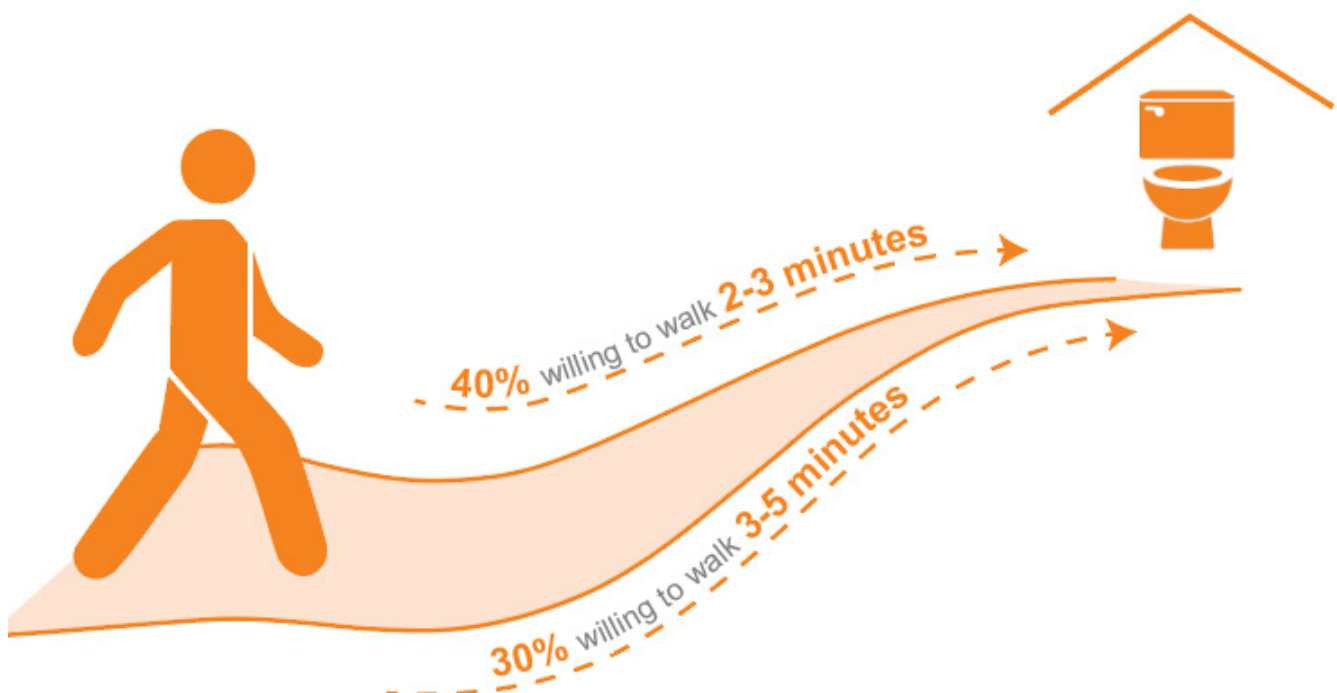
The objectives of community engagements were to:

- Inform the Macedon Ranges Shire community and stakeholders of the purpose and commencement of the PTBS.
- Provide Macedon Ranges Shire community and stakeholders with the opportunity to identify issues and opportunities relating to the provision of public toilet and barbecue facilities.
- Obtain feedback on the existing facilities provision to directly inform and feed into the development and preparation of the PTBS.

Following the conclusion of the online survey, 285 respondents participated in the public toilet survey and 110 respondents participated in the barbecue facilities survey.

One of the key questions respondents were asked to consider was the distance they would be willing to walk to access a public toilet, interestingly, 40% of respondents would be willing to walk 2-3 minutes (200m-300m) to access a facility while 30% would be willing to walk 3-5 minutes (300m-500m).

The community consultation process was invaluable in understanding the issues and concerns raised by the community whose views and aspirations have helped shape the findings and recommendations of the PTBS.



Audit of Existing Facilities

Public Toilet Audit

As part of the development of the PTBS an audit of existing public toilet facilities was undertaken. The audit was intended to gather information relating to building typology, age, architectural quality, proximity to other facilities as well as undertaking an assessment and ranking of the following 16 criteria:

1. Orientation and visibility
2. Lighting
3. Sense of safety
4. Surrounding Environment
5. Condition of building
6. Condition of facilities
7. Contemporary/ modern standards of facilities
8. Disability Access
9. Child Friendly
10. Additional Facilities
11. Hours of Operation
12. Proximity to key destinations
13. Accessibility
14. Services
15. Ability to maintain
16. Adequacy of facility

The 52 Public toilets in Macedon Ranges Shire were individually assessed, and then given an overall rating of either very good, good, average, poor, or very poor with the following results.

- 6 facilities were ranked as 'very good'
- 30 facilities were ranked as 'good'
- 6 facilities were ranked as 'average'
- 10 facilities were ranked as 'poor'
- 0 facilities were ranked as 'very poor'.

From the data gathered from the Audit the following toilets were considered to be the best in Macedon Ranges Shire achieving a final overall rating of 'very good'.

- Romsey Ecotherapy Park - 142 Main Street, Romsey
- Woodend Racecourse Reserve - 1-29 Forest Street, Woodend
- Romsey Recreation Reserve -14 Park Lane, Romsey
- Kyneton Community Park - 17a Mollison Street, Kyneton
- Hanging Rock Reserve (Eastern Paddock), Colwells Road, Woodend
- Gisborne Adventure Park Changing Places – Brantome Street, Gisborne

Audit of Existing Facilities

Barbecue Audit

As part of the development of the PTBS an audit of existing barbecue facilities was undertaken. The audit was intended to gather information relating to structure typology and age as well as undertaking an assessment and ranking of the following 12 criteria:

1. Orientation and visibility
2. Lighting
3. Sense of safety
4. Access
5. Accessibility
6. Functional condition of facilities
7. Contemporary/ modern standards of facilities
8. Context and site planning
9. Associated facilities
10. Access to clean up facilities
11. Proximity to closest toilet facility
12. Adequacy of facility

The 45 barbecue facilities in Macedon Ranges Shire were individually assessed based on the above criteria and then finally given an overall rating of either very good, good, average, poor, or very poor with the following results.

- 5 barbecue facilities were ranked 'very good'
- 24 barbecue facilities were ranked 'good'
- 11 facilities were ranked as 'average'
- 3 facilities were ranked as 'poor'
- 2 facilities were ranked as 'very poor'

From the data gathered from the Audit the following barbecue facilities were considered to be the best in Macedon Ranges Shire achieving a final overall rating of 'very good'.

- Romsey Skate Park (Lions) - 50 Main Street, Romsey
- John Aitken Reserve - 11 Aitken Street, Gisborne
- Hanging Rock Reserve - 139 South Rock Road, Woodend
- Woodend Children's Park - Barbecue Facilities at 14 Nicholson Street, Woodend

Open Space Strategy & Hierarchy of Open Spaces

Macedon Ranges Shire Open Space Strategy 2013

This Strategy is relevant to the current project insofar as it sets out strategies for open spaces within the Shire, where the noted role of open spaces will have an aligned usage profile and facilities requirements. It also sets out a hierarchy of settlements for various townships within Macedon Ranges Shire, and identifies desired open space provision.

Although the Open Space Strategy does not specifically make reference to the provision of public toilets or barbecue facilities, it nevertheless makes broad level commentary around provision of amenities. Noting the age of this document, Council is currently undertaking a new Open Space Strategy.

Macedon Ranges Shire Open Space Strategy 2022

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is developing a new Open Space Strategy to guide the delivery of public open space and the range of services provided at each park. The Open Space Strategy uses this three-tier hierarchy to articulate the types and number of amenities you might expect to find at a park. The hierarchy includes 'Local parks', 'Community parks' and 'Destination parks'.





Public Toilet Strategy

Goals & Objectives

The Goal of the Public Toilet Strategy is:

‘To develop a clear strategy to guide the location, siting and design for public toilet facilities in the Macedon Ranges Shire.’

In achieving this goal, the strategy reflects the following objectives.

- To provide public toilet facilities in locations that will align with Council’s Open Space Strategy.
- To provide high-quality, well-maintained public toilets that meet community expectations.
- To ensure public toilets are safe and secure and meet the current expectations in terms of quality, siting and design.
- To reduce the operation and maintenance cost for Council (and residents).

Provision of Council Public Toilets

Alignment with Open Space Strategy

The Public toilet and Barbecue Strategy (PTBS) aims to provide public toilets and barbecue facilities in both community parks and destination parks, where community interaction, socialisation and recreation is encouraged. These parks are often used by people from a large catchment area (e.g. an entire town) often for an extended duration, and are more frequently used by visitors.

Conversely, the PTBS would typically not provide public toilets at local parks as they are used less frequently and often by residents who live nearby.

Provision of New Facilities

When considering if Council should provide a new public toilet facility the following factors should be considered.

- Are there any other existing facilities in good condition within a 5-minute walk (500m) of the location of the requested facility?
- If a new facility is located within an area of public open space, which classification of open space is it within? (local park, community park or destination park).
- Is there a demonstrated community need or community demand for the provision of a new facility?
- Is there a high level of recreational or pedestrian activity in this location?
- Is the location close to other areas of high activity such as food, drink, retail, or entertainment outlets?
- Would the new facility comply with the siting and design guidelines of the PTBS?
- Does Council have the available funds to provide a new facility?
- Does the provision of a new facility align with relevant precinct master plans in conjunction with the guiding principles of the PTBS?

Public Toilet Strategy

Provision of Council Public Toilets continued

Replacing or Refurbishing Facilities

If an existing facility is structurally sound, estimated to have a life span of more than 10 years and is appropriately located, refurbishment is preferred over replacing with a new facility.

When considering if Council should replace or refurbish a public toilet facility, the following factors will be considered.

- Is there a demonstrated community need or community demand for the replacement or refurbishment of a facility?
- Does the facility have a high or low level of usage?
- Are there regular occurrences of antisocial behavior or vandalism?
- Is the existing facility appropriate for this location? (e.g. universal access and gender requirements).

Does the existing facility comply with the siting and design guidelines of the PTBS?

Removing Existing Facilities

When considering if Council should remove an existing public toilet facility the following factors should be considered.

- Are there any other facilities in good condition within a 5-minute walk (500m)?
- Is the existing facility in poor condition?
- Does the facility have a low level of usage?
- Are there any ongoing issues with antisocial behaviour or vandalism?
- Will removing the public toilet create a gap in accessible toilet provision?
- Does the existing facility comply with the siting and design guidelines of the PTBS?
- Is the existing facility close to/at the end of its usable lifespan?
- Is the facility used for special occasions such as events?

Temporary Events

Short-term or one-off events such as festivals held within Council's public parks, and open spaces can often generate large crowds. In these instances, temporary public toilets are required to cater for the increased need. Council's event management process informs of upcoming events. When planning for a large event it is important to consider the scale of the event, duration, anticipated crowd size, location, and proximity to existing public toilet facilities.

For short term events it is common to provide portable toilet facilities opposed to additional permanent toilet facilities unless there is considerable demonstrated community need. Accessibility and DDA compliance should also be considered to ensure all community members including people with mobility and vision impairment are able to participate in and enjoy temporary events. Additionally, it is important to ensure cleaning frequencies and opening hours of existing facilities are modified to suit event requirements.

Public Toilet Strategy

Public Toilet Provision Matrix

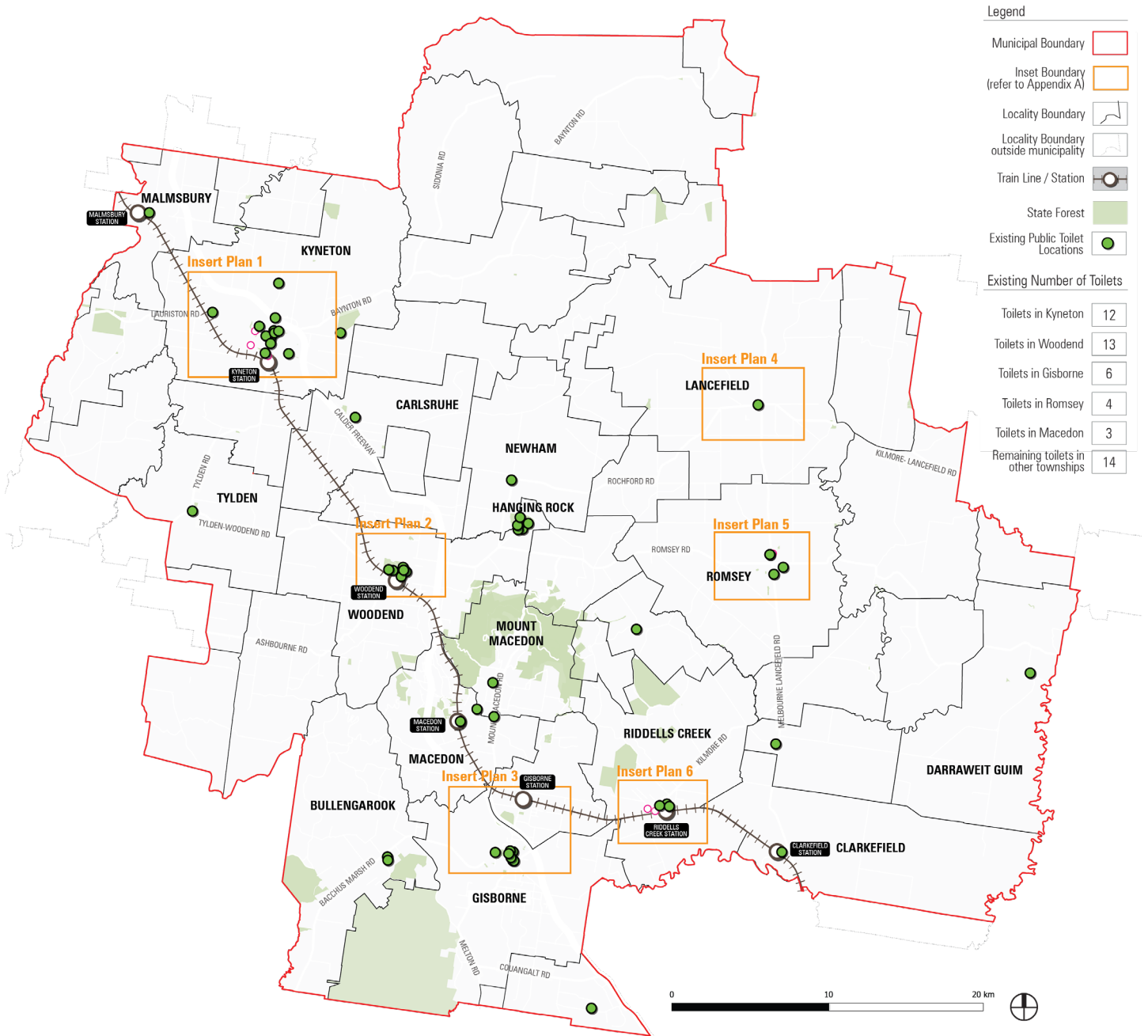
Level of Park	Type of Use	Level of Use	Toilet Facility	Cleaning Frequency
Destination Park	Passive Use	High	L	D
		Medium	S	D
		Low	S	TW
	Recreation/ Picnic Area	High	L	DD
		Medium	L	D
		Low	S	TW & E
	Playgrounds/ Skate Park	High	L	DD
		Medium	S	D
		Low	S	D
Community Park	Passive Use	High	L	D
		Medium	S	D
		Low	X	
	Recreation/ Picnic Area	High	L	D
		Medium	S	TW & E
		Low	S	TW
	Play Area/ Skate Park	High	L	D
		Medium	S	TW
		Low	X	
Local Park	Passive Use	High	X	
		Medium	X	
		Low	X	
	Play Area	High	S	TW
		Medium	X	
		Low	X	
Other	Town Centre/ Info Centre	High	L	DD
		Medium	S	D
	Heritage Area/ Garden	Medium	S	TW
		Low	X	
	Rest Area	High	S	D
		Medium	X	

Key	
Toilet Facilities	
L	Multi-Unit Facility
S	Single Unit Facility
X	No Toilet Required
Cleaning Schedule	
DD	Twice Daily
D	Daily
TW	Twice Weekly
E	After Events

Table 1: Public Toilet Provision Matrix

Public Toilet Strategy

Location of Council Owned and Managed Toilet Facilities



Location of Existing Public Toilet Facilities within Macedon Ranges Shire

Public Toilet Strategy

Location of Toilet Facilities

Toilet Facilities in Residential Communities

The Strategy identifies that public toilets are prioritised in destination and community parks. Generally, local parks service local residential areas, and are not frequented by visitors other than local residents. The provision of public toilets in local parks is therefore considered unnecessary. However, in some circumstances, such as where a local park services a large number of residents within a 10-minute walk, with provision of multiple facilities (e.g., playground and existing barbecue areas) a public toilet may be considered. This would be determined on a case-by-case basis and would be considered only in exceptional circumstances where there is a high volume of local park use.

Where an existing toilet facility of high quality is located in a local park, the toilet facility would be retained until the conclusion of its projected life (typically 20 years). After this time, the toilet facility would likely be removed.

Duplication of Facilities

In a number of locations across the shire, multiple toilet facilities may exist in close proximity with one another.

Servicing and maintaining multiple toilet facilities in close proximity is a cost burden to Council. Consequently, the Strategy aims to minimise duplication through retaining functionally suitable public toilet facilities and removing others (over time and consistent with 'Removing Existing Facilities'). As a general rule, toilet facilities within a 5 minute walk (500m) of one another within a connected park area are considered a duplication. However, the presence of other facilities (such as playgrounds, barbecue picnic areas, or skate parks) will impact on the assessment.

Consideration of Other Locations

It should be recognised that Council isn't the only provider of public toilets within our community. Access to Public toilets can also be provided by other organisations / bodies, including toilet facilities owned or operated by or within:

- Sporting Clubs
- Parks Victoria
- Council Buildings
- Private organisations (cafés, restaurants, shopping centres, pubs)

Where public toilets are provided by other organisations, these may address the toilet needs identified in the strategy for the time being and therefore any further provision would be viewed as a duplication and potentially, unnecessary. In assessing the suitability of non-Council provision, factors covered under the chapter 'Provision of Council Public Toilets' must be considered.

Public Toilet Strategy

Design & Requirements of Public Toilet Facilities

General Principles

The following design principles and requirements have been created to guide the provision of new/ or for upgrades to existing public toilet facilities.



1

Location

Locate toilet facilities in centrally located multi-use community facilities, making use of existing walking catchments and ensuring visibility to the street or surrounding public space.



2

Orientation

Orient building entrances to ensure visibility from public areas to maximise safety.



3

Integration

Consider the relationship of the toilet facility with the surrounding public realm ensuring a harmonised integration with its surroundings, avoiding obstructions to entrances.



4

Local Character

New toilets facilities should reflect the existing local character to appropriately incorporate the provision of artistic designs or public art in areas with many visitors.



5

Fixtures & Fittings

Ensure a consistent and unified approach to fixtures and fittings that meet community expectations, are easy to maintain/ clean, and can improve environmentally sustainability.



6

Accessibility

Ensure compliance with AS1428 and DDA and other best practice accessibility guidelines.



7

Signage

Ensure clear and legible signage that can accommodate people with vision impairments. Signage should provide directional information, contact details and gender availability.



8

CPTED

Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to minimise opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour.

Public Toilet Strategy

Design & Requirements of Public Toilet Facilities continued

Siting & Design of Facilities

The design and siting of a toilet building is an important consideration and can have an impact on the safety, accessibility and the environmental footprint and sustainability of a facility. In addition to the general principles previously outlined, the following siting and design principles may be considered when providing a new facility or upgrading an existing one.

- Orient the building to increase visibility from public areas to ensure surveillance.
- Ensure facilities are designed to comply with DDA and AS148 standards.
- Design facilities in accordance with the concept of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Ensure building entrances are located in accessible and convenient locations and will not interrupt the existing pedestrian flow.
- Consider the relationship of the facility with existing buildings in the area and how it can harmonise with the surroundings.
- Consider the shape and orientation of the roof to maximise sun exposure for solar power production.
- Ensure windows and skylights allow for adequate natural light.
- Ensure windows and louvres allow for adequate ventilation.
- Ensure views from the outside are limited to access corridors or common areas.
- The intent is to have a standardised design in order to reduce the cost of installation of toilets and potentially reduce operational costs through standardisation.



Public Toilet Strategy

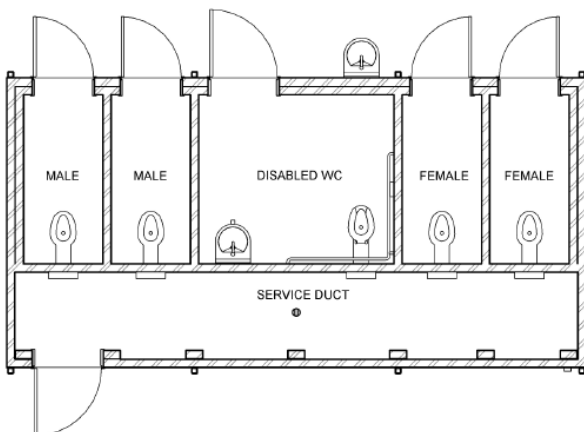
Design & Requirements of Public Toilet Facilities continued

Typologies

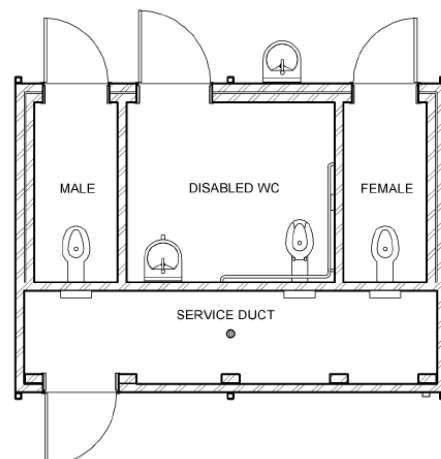
The below is the intended design for toilets. Alternations may be required due to specific site requirements, but should be avoided if possible.

Destination Level Park
1x DDA compliant cubicle (with baby change table)
2x male cubicle (including 1x DDA compliant)
2x female cubicle (including 1x DDA compliant)
1x service duct
OR
4x All Gender cubicle
1x DDA compliant cubicle
1x service duct

Community Level Park
1x DDA compliant cubicle (with baby change facility)
1x male cubicle
1x female cubicle
1x service duct
OR
2x All Gender cubicle
1x DDA compliant cubicle
1x service duct



Example of toilet facility at a destination park (guide only)



Example of toilet facility at a community park (guide only)

Public Toilet Strategy

Design & Requirements of Public Toilet Facilities continued

Fittings & Fixtures

Throughout Macedon Ranges Shire there are a variety of toilet typologies, which means that there are also a range of different fittings and fixtures used. Council should aim to standardise fittings and fixtures to ensure consistency across the Shire, and in appropriate locations additional features may be necessary or customised to reflect the need and demand.

Category	Internal Features	External Features
Basic & Standard Facilities	Toilet Cubicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stainless steel toilet Toilet seat Dual flush Concealed cistern and pipes 	Amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stainless steel hand basin Cold water tap Baby change table Non slip surfaces
High Use Facilities (Customised features and fittings for high use facilities) (Features in addition to the Basic and Standard Facilities)	Toilet Cubicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Larger Rolls 	Amenities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric hand dryer Syringe disposal Sensors to conserve energy and water consumption Mirror Rubbish bins Non-slip surfaces Condom vending machine Sanitary products vending machine Continence pad vending machine Light weight Coat Hooks
Disabled and DDA Compliant Toilets	In accordance with AS 1428	In accordance with AS 1428
Changing Places Facilities	In accordance with Changing Places guidelines	In accordance with Changing Places Guidelines

Table 2: A General Guide to Fittings and Fixtures

Public Toilet Strategy

Design & Requirements of Public Toilet Facilities continued

Quality of Facilities

Each new public toilet built within Macedon Ranges Shire should be of high quality, this includes its design and structural elements such as materials used to construct the facilities.

The quality of fixtures and fittings, each of which have a lasting impact on the look, feel, and viability of these facilities. To ensure facilities are of a high quality and meet community expectations the following should be considered.

- Use high quality and sturdy fixtures and fittings to ensure they do not require premature replacement.
- Provide electric hand driers in preference to paper towels.
- Provide good quality lighting in public toilets. The use of low temperature, warm lighting (2400K LED) is preferred to high temperature LED or fluorescent lighting. Consider using automatic sensor controlled lighting in preference to switches.
- Use low maintenance, durable and easy to clean materials.
- Ensure wall and floor materials are suitable for cleaning with a high-pressure hose.
- Use dark, natural tones or speckled floor finish to disguise dirt and marks.
- Use anti-graffiti paint/surfaces where possible.
- Ensure easy to clean, non-slip floors are used.
- Ensure adequate floor gradient to provide sufficient drainage.
- Provision of Solar panels to support lighting and power requirements where possible.

Accessibility

An important consideration for public toilets is universal accessibility. New public toilet facilities must meet current standards for accessibility, ensuring they meet all standards required by the Building Code of Australia and are compliant with AS1428 and the DDA. In providing new public toilets the following considerations apply:

- Access for mobility and vision impaired people (paths and access requirements)
- Provision of dedicated toilet cubicles for people with mobility impairments
- Provision of toilets for young children (with adult supervision)
- Investigate appropriate locations for 'Changing Places' toilets through Macedon Ranges Shire.

A 'Changing Places' facility is a facility which caters for people with a high level of disability that require special fixtures, fittings and customised requirements. These facilities differ from typical accessible toilets given they feature full sized changing tables, ceiling hoists and larger spaces to manoeuvre. In noting the space and maintenance requirements of such facilities, consideration of their provision is needed to be prioritised within major community building/multi-purpose hub locations.

Of note there are currently two 'Changing Places' facilities within Macedon Ranges Shire, one is located at Gisborne Adventure Playground (Jacksons Creek Reserve) and another one is located at the Kyneton Aquatic Centre.

Public Toilet Strategy

Design & Requirements of Public Toilet Facilities continued

Gender Requirements

The location and placement of male/female and All Gender toilets should be considered on a case-by-case basis as gender specific facilities may not be suitable or required in all instances. The following considerations are important regarding gender specific requirements of public toilet facilities:

- To accommodate increased user demand urinals may be provided.
- Provide a baby changing area in a common space accessible by both males and females.
- Provide dedicated female and male toilets where possible. This should be supplemented by All Gender provision.

Children and Change Facilities

It is important to consider the needs of all community members and visitors to Macedon Ranges Shire. This includes children and young families. Public toilets with family changing facilities should be considered in Community Parks and Destination Parks in areas frequented by young families and children including areas with playgrounds or adventure parks and particularly areas with water play.

Parking

Many of the public toilet facilities within Macedon Ranges Shire are in large areas of public open space such as Destination Parks and Community Parks. It is expected that many users of these parks will drive to these locations, and as a result it is important to provide adequate car parking to ensure convenient and safe access. Ensuring adequate paths from car parks to facilities that are clear of obstruction is also important in ensuring universal accessibility for all users.

Public Toilet Strategy

Design & Requirements of Public Toilet Facilities continued

Wayfinding

To maximise accessibility and usage, clear and legible signage and wayfinding is an important consideration. Each facility should include clear and easy to understand signage that includes gender specifications, opening hours and maintenance contact details. 'Infograms' are preferred over written signs. Directional street signage including distances to the nearest facilities should also be considered to assist people in locating public toilets in the vicinity.

Signage should also accommodate people with vision impairments by providing materials with contrasting colours and tones, they should also include graphics, tactile elements and be clearly legible.

Safety

Safety is an essential consideration regarding public toilets, and it can often determine if a person decides to use a facility or not. There are several factors which contribute to the overall safety and perception of safety including the location, condition, and the design of toilet facilities.

- To ensure surveillance, position public toilet facilities in locations with high visibility from other public areas such as paths roads or parks and ensure they are not obstructed by other structures, signage, or vegetation.
- Avoid designing facilities with long or narrow corridors and include sensor lights to increase visibility at night-time.
- Ensure all refurbished or new facilities apply the principles of the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Ensure good lighting to areas surrounding toilets. This lighting should contribute to good colour rendition and facial recognition.

Opening Hours

Hours of operation of facilities should always reflect and respond to the needs and demand. Opening hours should also consider the Open Space Hierarchy, and the likely use periods. These will largely depend on the role of the adjacent park.

As part of current management, from time to time, identified public toilet facilities in Macedon Ranges Shire are locked overnight, this is often necessary to limit vandalism and anti-social behaviour. However, the hours of operation of facilities should always reflect and respond to need and demand.

Although demand for all-hours access to public toilet facilities within Macedon Ranges Shire is highly unlikely, the potential for extended hours of use should be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Public Toilet Strategy

Infrastructure Considerations

There are several key infrastructure requirements that are necessary to ensure the provision of public toilet facilities including:

- Access to water, this can be achieved through connection to the local water main or by providing of a rain water tank in areas where plumbing is unavailable.
- Connection to the sewerage system is similarly necessary and in remote locations with no access to the sewer system, a dedicated micro treatment or composting toilets should be considered as a viable option. Septic systems should not be considered as an option for new builds.
- Access to power, to provide sufficient lighting after hours. In remote areas where access to the power grid is not available solar power with a battery backup may be considered a viable and sustainable alternative.
- Access for maintenance vehicles. All Public toilets require vehicle access to an area close by to enable on going cleaning and maintenance. Vehicle access needs to be considered in identifying a suitable location for the toilet facility.

It is also important to ensure that toilet facilities are safely and easily accessible for pedestrians and people with limited mobility. Paths should be concrete or asphalt, and graded to meet Australian accessibility standards. This also includes ensuring pathways are adequately lit.

Maintenance and Cleaning

The maintenance of public toilets contributes to the image, functionality, and perception of safety of existing facilities. It is important to ensure that all facilities are well maintained, with working fixtures, are free of graffiti and are cleaned often to meet the expectations of the community.

Facilities which are dilapidated, past usable life and/or require a high level of maintenance should be considered for refurbishment or decommission.

Frequency of cleaning of public toilets should relate to their current usage, which is often influenced by their location. The following management approach applies broadly, however may be subject to change based on usage (refer to Public toilet provision matrix table 1).

- Public toilets within township central business districts such as Kyneton or Gisborne are often cleaned and serviced once or twice daily.
- Public toilets located within Parks and Bushland reserves are generally cleaned and serviced three times a week.
- Public toilets that are opened intermittently for use by community groups are cleaned once per week or at the request of the user group.

Facilities that are used more frequently require more regular cleaning and should be monitored for maintenance more closely. Similarly, if facilities are not used frequently, it may be necessary to consider decommission, given that it is costly to frequently clean and maintain public toilets.

Cleaning schedules should also consider seasonal usage, with some facilities used more frequently during the warmer months.

Public Toilet Strategy

Sustainability

There a number of ways high levels of sustainability can be achieved for both new and existing public toilet facilities across all stages of their life cycle, including:

- When providing a new facility use low-cost but durable materials to reduce the need for frequent maintenance and early replacement.
- Assess if a building or structure considered for decommission could be re-used or re-purposed for another function.
- Ensure vegetation planted on site is native and preferably indigenous to the area to support local flora and fauna species.
- Source materials from industry recognised sustainable and local sources.
- Use sustainable or energy efficient fixtures and fittings such as low-flow faucets, waterless urinals, and energy efficient light bulbs.
- The provision of solar panels to support power and lighting requirements where possible.

Barbecue Strategy

Goals & Objectives

The Goal of the Barbecue Strategy is:

‘To develop a clear strategy to guide the location, siting and design for barbecue facilities in Macedon Ranges Shire.’

In achieving this goal, the strategy reflects the following objectives.

- To provide barbecues in locations that will align with Council’s Open Space Strategy.
- To provide high-quality, well-maintained barbecues that comply with community expectations.
- To ensure barbecues are safe and secure and meet the current expectations in terms of quality, siting and design.
- To reduce the operation and maintenance cost for Council (and residents).

Alignment with the Open Space Strategy

The Public Toilet and Barbecue Strategy aims to provide public toilets and barbecue facilities in both community parks and destination parks, where community interaction, socialisation and recreation is encouraged. These parks are often used by people from a large catchment area (e.g. an entire town) often for an extended duration, and are more frequently used by visitors.

Conversely, the strategy would typically not provide public toilets or barbecues at local parks as they are used less frequently and often by residents who live nearby.

Barbecue Strategy

Barbecue Provision Matrix

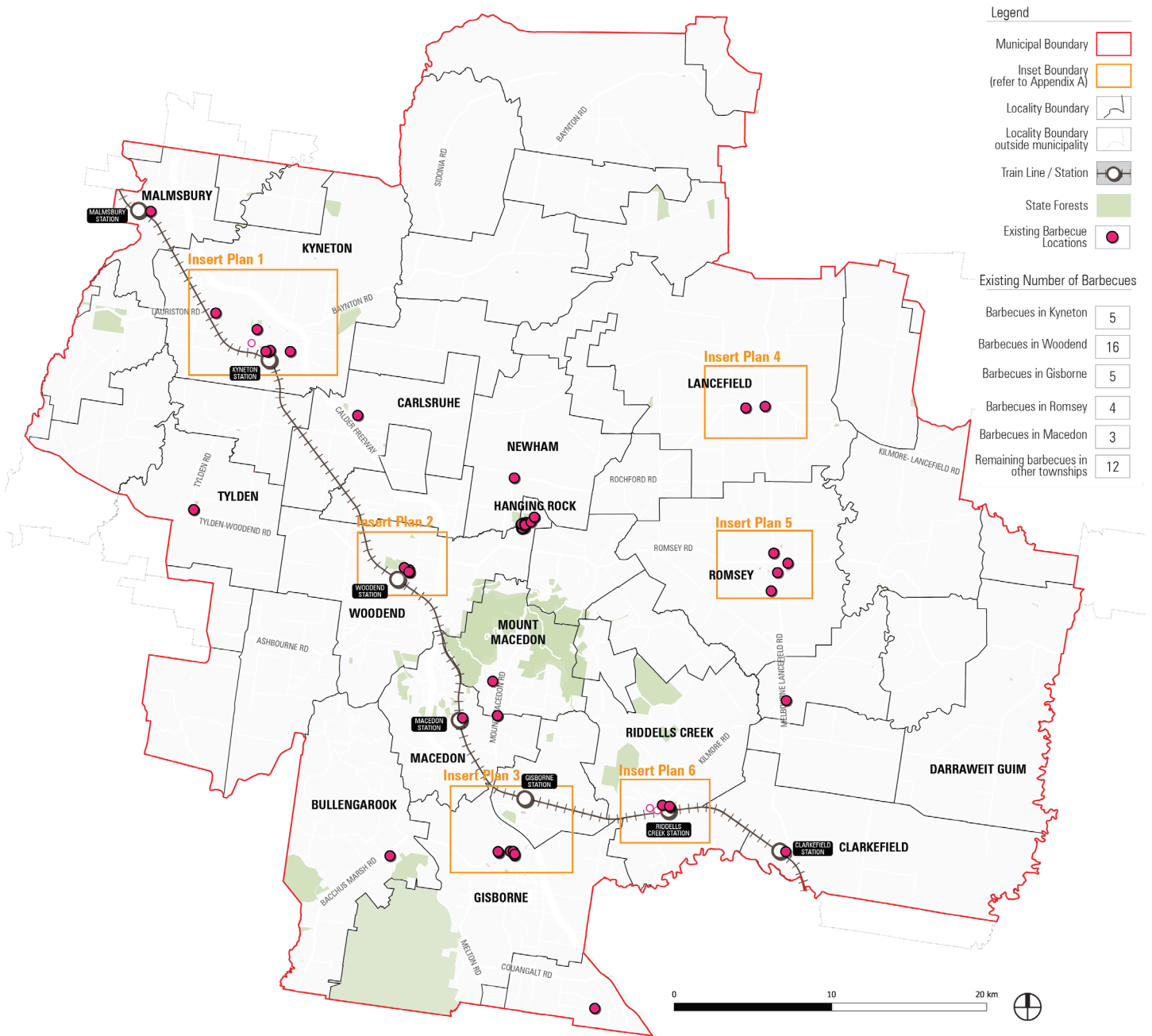
Level of Park	Type of Use	Level of Use	BBQ Facility	Cleaning Frequency
Destination Park	Passive Use	High	D	D
		Medium	D	W
		Low	S	M
	Recreation/ Picnic Area	High	D	W & E
		Medium	D	M
		Low	X	M
	Playgrounds/ Skate Park	High	D	W
		Medium	X	
		Low	X	
Community Park	Passive Use	High	D	W
		Medium	S	M
		Low	X	
	Recreation/ Picnic Area	High	D	W
		Medium	X	
		Low	X	
	Play Area/ Skate Park	High	D	W
		Medium	S	M
		Low	X	
Local Park	Passive Use	High	S	W
		Medium	X	
		Low	X	
	Play Area	High	X	
		Medium	X	
		Low	X	
Other	Town Centre/ Info Centre	High	X	
		Medium	X	
	Heritage Area/ Garden	Medium	X	
		Low	X	
	Rest Area	High	X	
	Medium	X		

Key	
BBQ Facilities	
D	2+ Hotplates
S	1 Hotplate
X	No BBQ Required
Cleaning Schedule	
D	Daily
W	Weekly
M	Monthly
E	After Events

Table 3: Barbecue Provision Matrix

Barbecue Strategy

Location of Council Owned and Managed Barbecue Facilities



Location of Existing Barbecue Facilities within Macedon Ranges Shire

Barbecue Strategy

Location of Barbecue Facilities continued

Location of Facilities Considerations

When considering the provision of barbecue facilities, it is not only important to consider the Open Space Hierarchy but it is also important to consider other activities or uses that attract more visitors which may result in an increased need for barbecue facilities, these include:

- Picnic areas
- Large bush reserves
- Botanic gardens
- Playgrounds
- Tourist attractions (e.g., Hanging Rock)
- Adventure parks

Residential Communities

The PTBS identifies that barbecues are prioritised in destination and community parks. Generally, local parks service local residential areas and are not frequented by visitors other than residents. The provision of barbecues in local parks is therefore considered unnecessary. However, in some circumstances, such as where a local park services many residents within a 10-minute walk, with provision of multiple facilities (e.g., playground and existing public toilets) a barbecue facility may be considered. This would be determined on a case-by-case basis and would be considered only in exceptional circumstances where there is a high volume of local park use.

Where an existing barbecue facility of high quality is located in a local park, the barbecue facility would be retained until the conclusion of its projected life (typically 20 years). After this time, the barbecue facility may be removed.

Public Toilets

It is important to consider the provision of public toilets in relation to barbecue facilities. Barbecue facilities are used by visitors who tend to spend an extended period cooking and dining, as a result are likely to require public toilets in close proximity. When considering a new or existing barbecue facility ensure that a public toilet is located a short walking distance (500m).



Indicative image of Public Barbecue facility

Barbecue Strategy

Design & Requirements of Barbecue Facilities

The following design principles and requirements for barbecue have been created to guide the provision of new barbecue facilities or for upgrades to existing barbecue facilities.

Siting and Design of Barbecue Facilities

The design and siting of barbecue facilities is an important consideration and can have an impact on the safety, accessibility and the environmental sustainability of a facility. The following siting and design principles should be considered when providing a new facility or upgrading an existing one.

- Orient the barbecue facility to increase visibility from public areas to ensure surveillance.
- Ensure facilities are designed to comply with DDA and AS148 standards.
- Design facilities in accordance with the concept of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Locate barbecue facilities so that users have an outlook onto the natural surroundings.
- Provide drinking fountains in close proximity to facilities.
- Ensure barbecue facilities are in accessible and convenient locations and will not interrupt the existing pedestrian flow.
- Ensure access to barbecue area is not obstructed by walls, posts, or furniture.
- Ensure paths and spaces between furniture are accessible to all users.
- Consider the relationship of the barbecue facility with existing buildings in the area and how it can harmonise with the surroundings.

- Ensure barbecue cooking area has a roof with generous eaves to protect users from rain, wind and for shade on sunny days.
- Consider how frequently a barbecue facility is frequented and provide adequate seating/dining areas based on usage.
- Consider how multiple groups could use the cooking and seating/dining areas while allowing adequate space between them for certain levels of privacy.

Quality of Facilities

Each barbecue facility within Macedon Ranges Shire should be of high quality, this includes its design and structural elements such as materials used to construct the facilities, the quality of fixtures and fittings, each of which have a lasting impact on the look, feel, and viability of these facilities. To ensure facilities are of a high quality and meet community expectations, the following should be considered.

- Use high quality and sturdy fixtures and fittings to ensure they do not require premature replacement.
- Provide good quality lighting at barbecue facilities. The use of low temperature, warm lighting (2400K LED) is preferred to high temperature LED or fluorescent lighting. Consider using automatic sensor controlled lighting in preference to switches.
- Use low maintenance, durable and easy to clean materials.
- Ensure materials are suitable for cleaning with a high pressure hose.
- Use anti-graffiti paint/ surfaces where possible.
- Ensure adequate floor gradient to ensure sufficient drainage.
- Do not install gas-powered barbecues.

Barbecue Strategy

Design & Requirements of Barbecue Facilities continued

Accessibility

An important consideration for the provision of barbecue facilities is universal accessibility, to ensure that all people including those with mobility impairment have safe and easy access. When providing new barbecue facilities, compliance with both the DDA and AS148 standards for accessibility is essential as well as ensuring that paths and spaces between furniture are free from obstruction and accessible to all users.

Parking

Many of the barbecue facilities within Macedon Ranges Shire are located in large areas of public open space such as Destination Parks and Community Parks. It is expected that many users of these barbecue facilities will drive to these locations, and as a result it is important to provide adequate car parking to ensure convenient and safe access. Ensuring adequate paths from car parks to facilities that are clear of obstruction is also important in ensuring universal accessibility for all users.

Waste Management

Provision of both waste and recycling bins near facilities may be considered to ensure correct disposal of waste, as use of barbecue facilities can often result in a large amount of waste. In many instances, Council encourages users to take any waste with them upon leaving.

Wayfinding

Signage and wayfinding is an important consideration. Each facility should include clear and easy to understand signage that includes maintenance contact details and signage indicating whether a water supply is drinkable or not. 'Infograms' are preferred over written signs.

Signage should also accommodate people with vision impairments by providing materials with contrasting colours and tones, they should also include graphics, tactile elements and be clearly legible.

Access to Barbecue Facilities

As barbecue facilities may be located in close proximity to public toilets, it is important to understand the potential issues and opportunities associated with placing these two facilities near each other.

- Assess potential conflict between the two facilities including noise, odour, loitering and cross movement.
- For safety reasons, ensure there is visibility between the two facilities with no obstruction from vegetation, signage and other structures. Day and night time blind spots should also be minimised.
- Take advantage of the benefits of placing nearby to services as sharing electrical, plumbing, solar power or water collection services etc.
- Ensure accessibility requirements are considered including other 'furniture' that would be required - eg picnic tables.



DEBRACKETED
PICNIC AREA

Ash Wednesday Park, Macedon

Barbecue Strategy

Infrastructure Considerations

There are several infrastructure requirements that are necessary to ensure the provision of barbecue facilities including:

- Provide sufficient lighting.
- Gated or chained access for maintenance vehicles. All barbecues require vehicle access to an area close by to enable on going cleaning and maintenance. Vehicle access needs to be considered in identifying a suitable location for barbecues.

It is also important to ensure that barbecue facilities are safely and easily accessible for pedestrians and people with limited mobility. Paths should be concrete or asphalt of a gradient to meet Australian Accessibility Standards. This also includes ensuring pathways are adequately lit.

Maintenance

The maintenance of barbecues contributes to the image, functionality, and perception of safety of existing facilities. It is important to ensure that all facilities are well maintained, with working fixtures, are free of graffiti and cleaned often to meet the expectations of the community.

Facilities, which are dilapidated, past usable life and/or require a high level of maintenance should be considered for refurbishment or decommission.

Facilities that are used more frequently require more regular cleaning and should be monitored for maintenance more closely. Similarly, if facilities are not used frequently, it may be necessary to consider decommission, given the cost of cleaning and maintenance.

Cleaning schedules should also consider seasonal usage, with some facilities used more frequently during the warmer months.

Sustainability

There a number of ways high levels of sustainability can be achieved for both new and existing barbecue facilities across all stages of their life cycle, including:

- When providing a new facility use low-cost but durable materials to reduce the need for frequent maintenance and early replacement.
- Ensure vegetation planted on site is native and preferably indigenous to the area to support local flora and fauna species.
- Source materials from industry recognised sustainable and local sources.
- Use sustainable or energy efficient fixtures and fittings such as tamper proof low-flow connections and energy efficient light bulbs.
- Provide Solar panels to generate electricity where possible.
- Installation of electric barbecues.

Implementation & Costs

Implementation of the PTBS

To facilitate the implementation of the recommendations outlined in the PTBS, the following actions should be taken.

- Review and develop a plan for implementing key recommendations.
- Prepare a budget analysis/time line for the delivery of recommendations outlined within the PTBS and update Council financial plan.
- Undertake on-going audits in the future to ensure the prioritisation of maintenance and future investment.
- Ensure the PTBS is considered in future budget allocations for maintenance and upgrade of existing facilities and provision of new facilities.

Asset Life

As non-habitable buildings, public toilets typically have a usable life of 20 years before they require substantial renovation or renewal. This lifespan has been adopted by numerous councils around Melbourne (e.g. Moreland City Council) and reflects both the quality of the building and the community expectations with respect to quality of fittings and sanitation.

Implementation & Costs

Life Cycle Costs

A life cycle cost analysis assists in understanding the broad costs of providing a new or refurbished cost. Assuming a life cycle of 20 years, the total cost can be estimated over the life of the building or barbecue.

The cost of refurbishing an existing toilet is generally the most cost-effective alternative. However, often existing toilets reflect an outdated design and despite refurbishment, do not meet current community expectations with respect to quality and accessibility.

Type of Facility	Capital Cost	Annual Maintenance & Cleaning	Annual Operating Cost	Total Annual Cost	20 Year Total Cost
New Build Standard Public Toilet	\$230,000	\$13,500	\$1,200	\$26,200	\$524,000
New Build Custom Public Toilet	\$260,000	\$13,800	\$1,200	\$27,700	\$554,000
Refurbished 'traditional' Public Toilet	\$90,000	\$14,000	\$1,200	\$26,700	\$234,000
Electric barbecue	\$14,000	\$1,600	\$1,500	\$3,800	\$76,000

Table 3: Life Cycle Costs of Toilet and Barbecue Facilities

(2021 cost estimates: note, these costs assume supporting infrastructure already in place. Does not include purchase of land, design or planning fees)

Implementation & Costs

Improving Operational Efficiencies

On-going operations of public toilets and barbecues contributes substantially to their overall life cycle cost.

These costs include the following considerations:

- Electricity fees
- Water supply
- Cleaning and graffiti removal
- Waste management
- Consumables (paper, toilet tissue etc.)

These costs can be managed through adopting the following strategies:

- Low wattage LED lighting (10,000 + globes)
- Use of natural daylight in toilet facilities to reduce lighting requirements.
- Daylight sensors and automatic timers for lighting.
- Dual flush toilet pans.
- Use of captured rainwater for toilet flushing.
- Use of smooth matt surfaces (enabling easy cleaning and graffiti removal)
- Washable floor surfaces with a floor drain.
- Hand dryers in preference to paper towels.

Public Toilet Facility Implementation

The Public Toilet & Barbecue Strategy provides guidance for locating Council owned public toilets throughout the Macedon Ranges Shire.

This includes the following:

- Where toilets should be located.
- Where existing toilets are of poor quality and require replacement or refurbishment.
- Where there are gaps in the provision of toilets that need to be met.

To assist Council in determining if a new facility should be provided, replaced, removed or refurbished assessment flowcharts (on the next page) have been developed. The flowcharts have been designed as a general guide, intended to simplify the overall process, providing the initial first step in assessing existing facilities as well as requests for new or additional facilities.

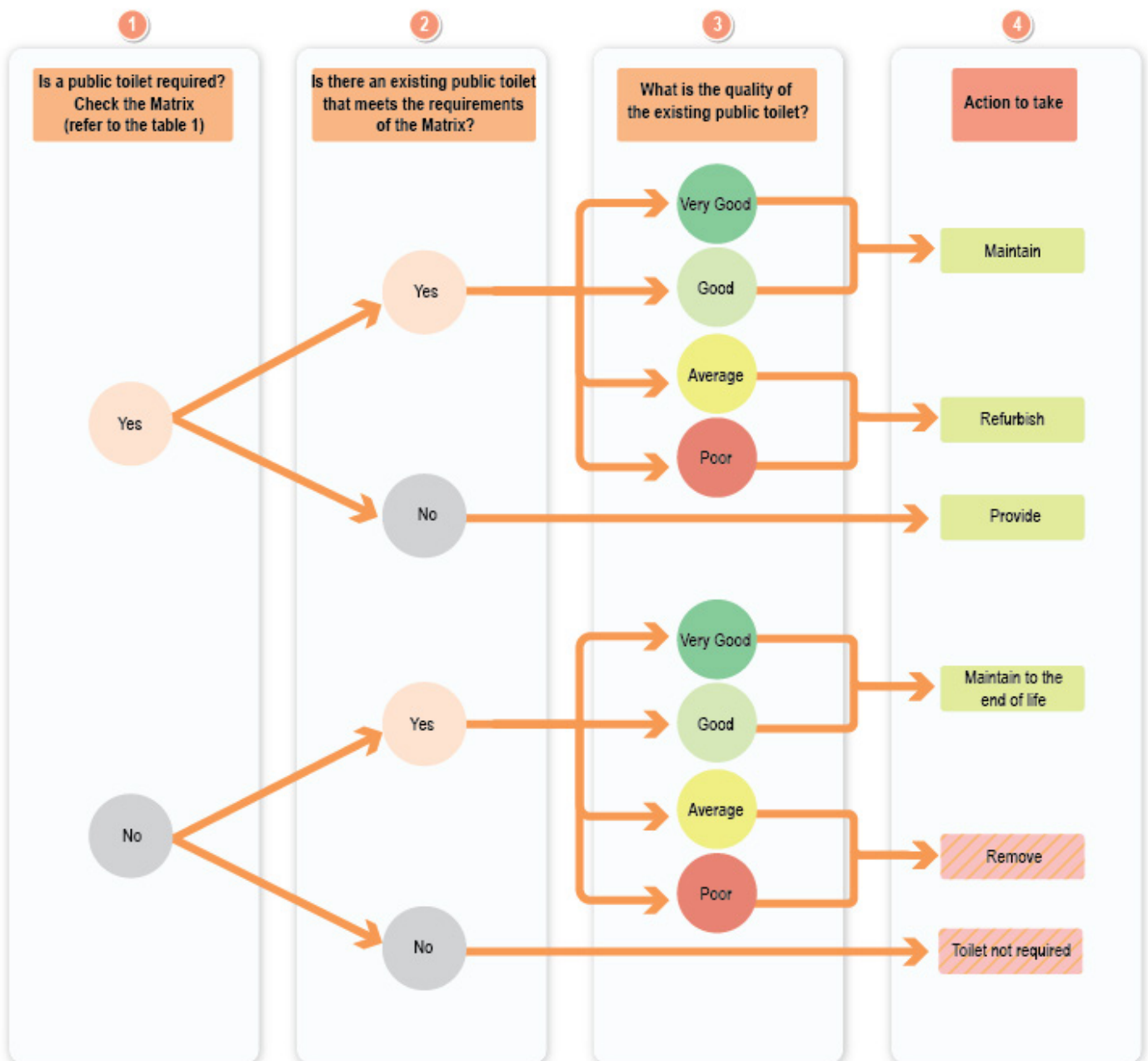
The provision of toilets also requires some important site considerations including:

1. Is the required infrastructure available (water, sewerage, electricity)?
2. Is accessibility available for maintenance vehicles?
3. Will the toilets be accessible to all visitors?
4. Is the site conducive to constructing a toilet facility (e.g. planning considerations, protection of trees, safety, heritage factors, foundation conditions)?
5. What type of toilet facility is required (size, type, no. of cubicles etc.)

Councils across Victoria typically provide one public toilet facility for every 2000 – 4000 residents. Within Macedon Ranges Shire Council there is currently 1 toilet per 980 residents

Implementation & Costs

Public Toilet Assessment Flowchart



Public Toilet Facility Assessment Flowchart

Implementation & Costs

Barbecue Facility Implementation

The Public Toilet & Barbecue Strategy provides guidance for locating Council owned public toilets throughout the Macedon Ranges Shire.

This includes the following:

- Where barbecue facilities should be located.
- Where existing barbecues are of poor quality and require replacement or refurbishment.
- Where there are gaps in the provision of barbecues that need to be met.

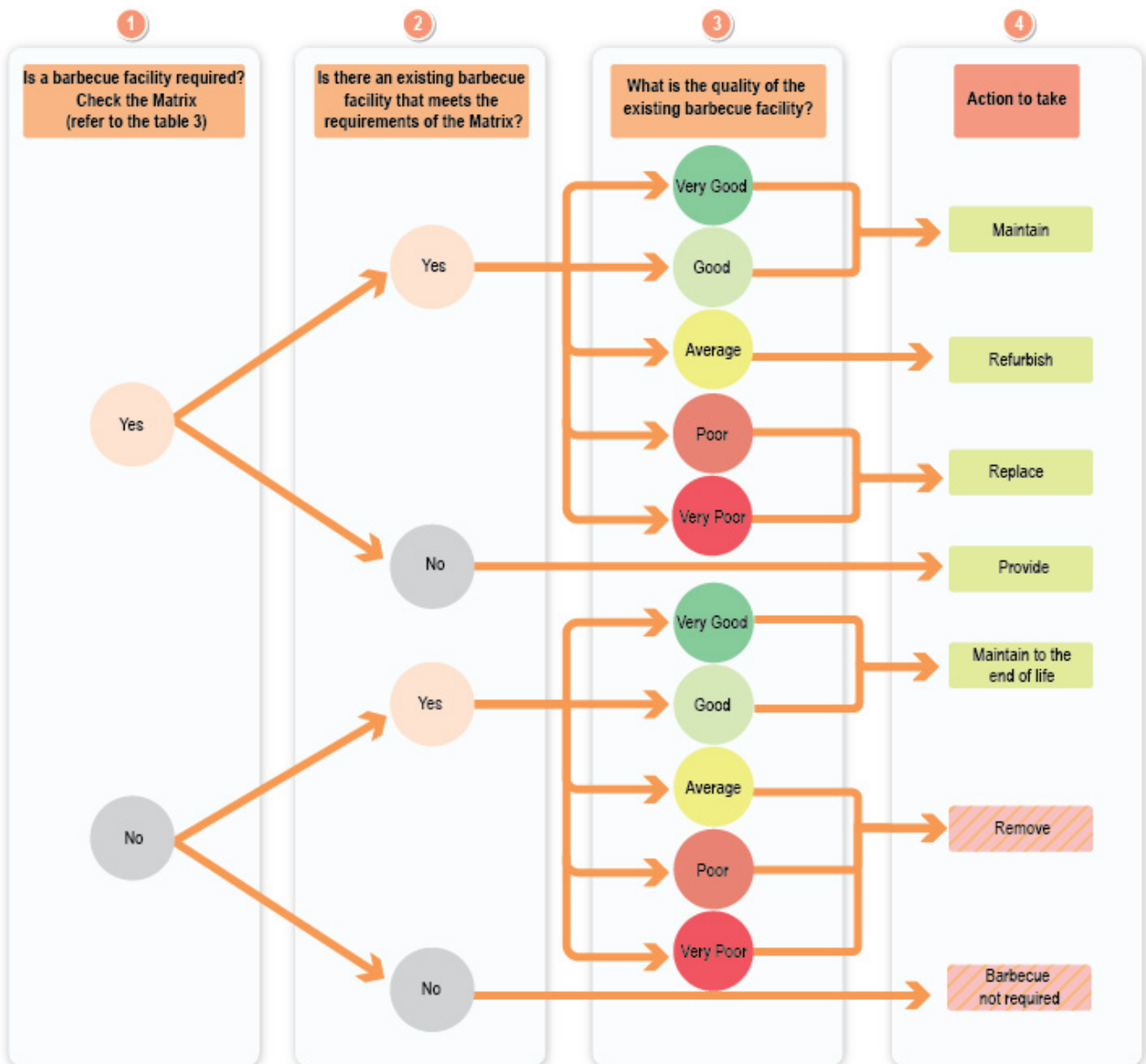
To assist Council in determining if a new facility should be provided, replaced, removed or refurbished assessment flowcharts (on the next page) have been developed. The flowcharts have been designed as a general guide, intended to simplify the overall process, providing the initial first step in assessing existing facilities as well as requests for new or additional facilities.

The provision of barbecues also requires some important site considerations. These include:

- Is the required infrastructure available (water, electricity)?
- Is accessibility available for maintenance vehicles?
- Will the barbecues be accessible to all visitors?
- Is the site conducive to constructing a barbecue facility (e.g. planning considerations, protection of trees, safety, heritage factors, foundation conditions)?

Implementation & Costs

Barbecue Assessment Flowchart



Barbecue Facility Assessment Flowchart

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Appendix A

The following 6 maps within Appendix A provide a more detailed snapshot of the existing toilet and barbecue facilities that currently exist within Kyneton, Woodend, Gisborne, Lancefield, Romsey, and Riddells Creek.

The maps identify the location of the facilities and their overall condition, which has been determined by the audits conducted as part of background research for this PTBS.

The maps also indicate walking distances to toilet facilities within 100m, 200m, 500m and 1km to reveal how accessible they might be for a pedestrian. As a note it will take approximately:

- 1 minute to walk 100m.
- 2 minute to walk 200m.
- 5 minutes to walk 500m.
- 10 minutes to walk 1km.

Macedon Ranges Public Toilets Strategy

Existing Public Toilet and Barbecue Facilities
Assessment Outcome
Insert Plan 1

Legend

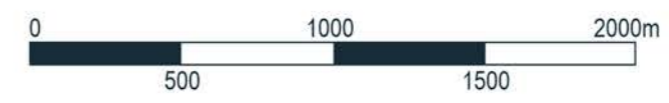
- Locality Boundary
- Train Station
- Train Route
- Freeway
- Road
- Public Open Space
- 100m Radius
- 200m Radius
- 500m Radius
- 1km Radius

Toilet Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

BBQ Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor



Project Ref: 21.0210
Dwg No.: -
Scale: 1:25000@A3
Date: 10/08/2022
Revision: -

Macedon Ranges Public Toilets Strategy

Existing Public Toilet and Barbecue Facilities
Assessment Outcome
Insert Plan 2

Legend

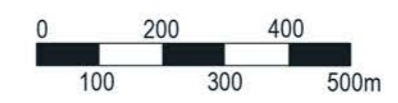
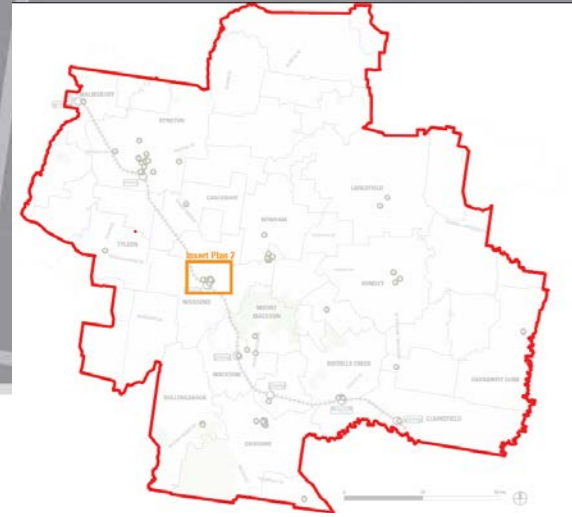
- Locality Boundary
- Train Station
- Train Route
- Freeway
- Road
- Public Open Space
- 100m Radius
- 200m Radius
- 500m Radius
- 1km Radius

Toilet Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

BBQ Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor



Project Ref: 21.0210
Dwg No.: -
Scale: 1:12000@A3
Date: 10/08/2022
Revision: -

Macedon Ranges Public Toilets Strategy

Existing Public Toilet and Barbecue Facilities
Assessment Outcome
Insert Plan 3

Legend

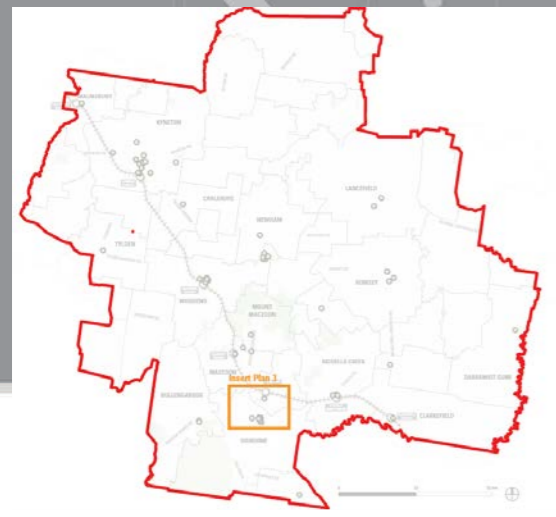
- Locality Boundary
- Train Station
- Train Route
- Freeway
- Road
- Public Open Space
- 100m Radius
- 200m Radius
- 500m Radius
- 1km Radius

Toilet Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

BBQ Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor



Project Ref: 21.0210
Dwg No.:
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Revision:



Macedon Ranges Public Toilets Strategy

Existing Public Toilet and Barbecue Facilities
Assessment Outcome
Insert Plan 4

Legend

- Locality Boundary
- Train Station
- Train Route
- Freeway
- Road
- Public Open Space
- 100m Radius
- 200m Radius
- 500m Radius
- 1km Radius

Toilet Assessment Outcome

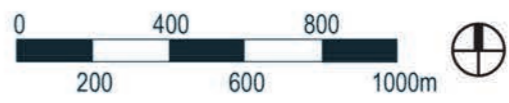
- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

BBQ Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor



LANCEFIELD



Project Ref: 21.0210
 Dwg No.: -
 Scale: 1:25000@A3
 Date: 21/02/2023
 Revision: -

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Macedon Ranges Public Toilets Strategy

Existing Public Toilet and Barbecue Facilities
Assessment Outcome
Insert Plan 5

Legend

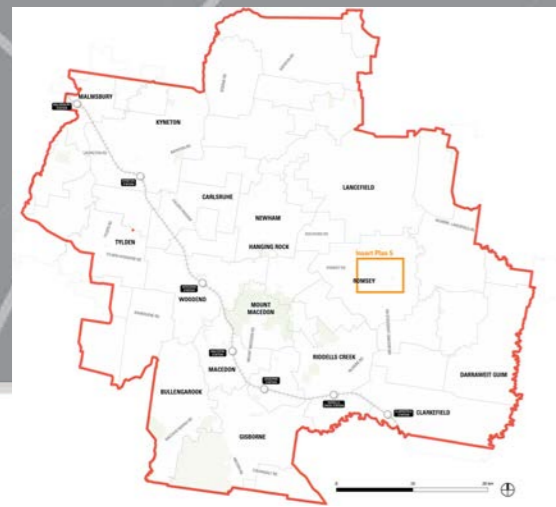
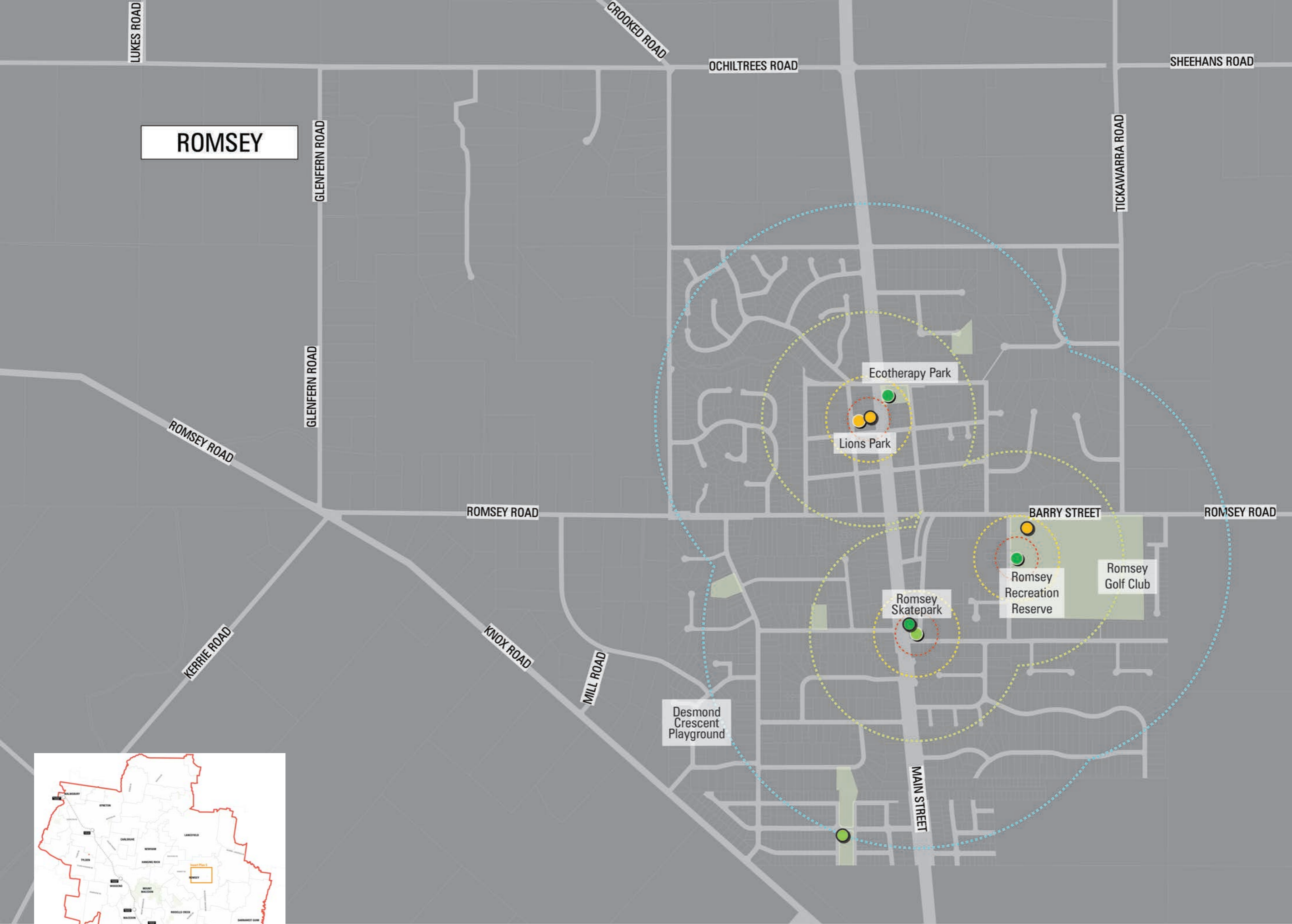
- Locality Boundary
- Train Station
- Train Route
- Freeway
- Road
- Public Open Space
- 100m Radius
- 200m Radius
- 500m Radius
- 1km Radius

Toilet Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

BBQ Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor



Project Ref: 21.0210
Dwg No.: -
Scale: 1:20,000@A3
Date: 21/02/2023
Revision: -

Macedon Ranges Public Toilets Strategy

Existing Public Toilet and Barbecue Facilities
Assessment Outcome
Insert Plan 6

Legend

- Locality Boundary
- Train Station
- Train Route
- Freeway
- Road
- Public Open Space
- 100m Radius
- 200m Radius
- 500m Radius
- 1km Radius

Toilet Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor

BBQ Assessment Outcome

- Very Good
- Good
- Average
- Poor
- Very Poor



NEW GISBORNE

CLARKEFIELD



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Date: 21/02/2023
Revision: -

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