



Federal Election **Priorities 2025**



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council

Macedon Ranges Shire

Acknowledgement 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/or Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

Artwork by Taungurung artist Maddi Moser. *Artwork used with permission.*



Contents

A message from the Mayor and CEO	4
Improving Local Roads	5
Active and Healthy Communities	6
Caring for our Community and Environment	7
Boosting Community Spaces and Housing Solutions	8
Activating Local Communities	9



A message from the **Mayor and CEO**



Cr Dom Bonanno
Mayor



Bernie O'Sullivan
Chief Executive Officer

Welcome to the Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

Council has a proud history of advocating for our community and building and maintaining strong partnerships with all levels of government to realise the community's vision and deliver a wide range of essential services and new infrastructure projects.

Advocacy efforts in recent times have seen generational projects like Stage 1 of the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct and the Lancefield Children's Centre realised and elevated investment into our local road network.

The ability of all levels of government and the community to work together brings great social, economic and safety outcomes for all of us.

Whilst the projects within this prospectus are in focus during the 2025 Federal Election, commitment remains on other longer term priority projects such as Stage 3 of the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct (current focus is Stage 2 designs and construction), improving digital connectivity in the shire, and making enhancements to accessibility and use of the Kyneton Town Hall.

The goal remains making the beautiful Macedon Ranges an attractive place to live, work and explore.



Funding for **key local roads**

The general condition of many of the roads across the shire - both arterial and Council-managed roads - has deteriorated more rapidly in recent years, exacerbated by storm and flood events.

Council has budgeted \$12.5 million for road works in 2024-25 with a focus on 'building back better' and considering associated upgrades such as drainage, to make our roads more resilient against severe weather events and increased vehicle usage into the future.

Council has identified priority road project packages valued at **\$9.145 million** for the seat of Bendigo and **\$14.221 million** for the seat of McEwen for delivery beyond this financial year. These projects are fully designed and costed.

Details of locations and specifications available upon request.

***Currently Council has two grant applications pending to the Australian Government's Black Spot Program, and six pending to the Safer Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program.**

Macedon Ranges and Hepburn Rail Trail

The Macedon Ranges and Hepburn Rail Trail will see the development of a unique combination of rail trail and shared use trails. The Macedon Ranges section of the shared trail project is Tylden to Hanging Rock and Kyneton. This will link communities through safe and enjoyable trails, inviting both locals and visitors to share our special landscape and distinctive areas.

The trail will provide the community and users with a unique trail experience linking rural landscapes, towns and heritage through the Macedon Ranges areas of Hanging Rock, Woodend, Kyneton, Carlsruhe and Tylden (then on to neighbouring Daylesford in Hepburn Shire).

Council has agreed with Hepburn Shire Council to partner on the planning and delivery of this trail as a joint project.

Cost: Planning \$3.55 million
- Funding sought \$3 million
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council \$550,000.

Scan the QR code
To watch a video



Kyneton Skate Park

The Macedon Ranges Shire Skate and BMX Strategy focuses on new best practice models of skate facility provision to ensure the Shire has the most appropriate facilities for skate and BMX park users to enjoy, taking into consideration the unique demographic and physical distribution of population of the Shire.

Originally constructed in 2001 the Kyneton Skate Park facility was assessed as poor and in need of reinvigoration and identified as short-term priority project to fund, design and construct during the 2024 – 2029 timeframe.

There are a range of accessibility and functional issues with the current infrastructure, a new facility would support continued growth of these sports and promote safer participation and spectating for everyone and develop improved active youth spaces.

The project would see the design and construction of a new district facility including skatepark, pump track, and other active youth spaces.

Cost: \$1.0+ million
- Macedon Ranges in-kind support.

Converting from gas boilers to electric heat pumps at **Gisborne Aquatic Centre**

In the 2023-24 financial year, the use of gas to heat water at the Gisborne Aquatic Centre contributed approximately 405 tonnes of CO₂e to Council's greenhouse gas emissions profile.

It is currently Council's highest greenhouse gas emitting facility and equates to approximately 18% of Council's scope 1 emissions. The use of the centre is increasing with almost 199,000 visits recorded for 2023-24.

Converting the gas boilers to electric heat pumps implements a priority commitment in Council's adopted Zero Net Emissions Plan, demonstrating strong climate action and operational efficiency to the community.

The project can also be promoted as one that residents can replicate at smaller scale in their homes, thereby extending the value of Council's climate action.

Council has detailed designs and current costings at hand and is ready to proceed with the conversion from gas to electricity in the 2025-26 financial year.

Cost: \$1.5 million
- Macedon Ranges in-kind support.

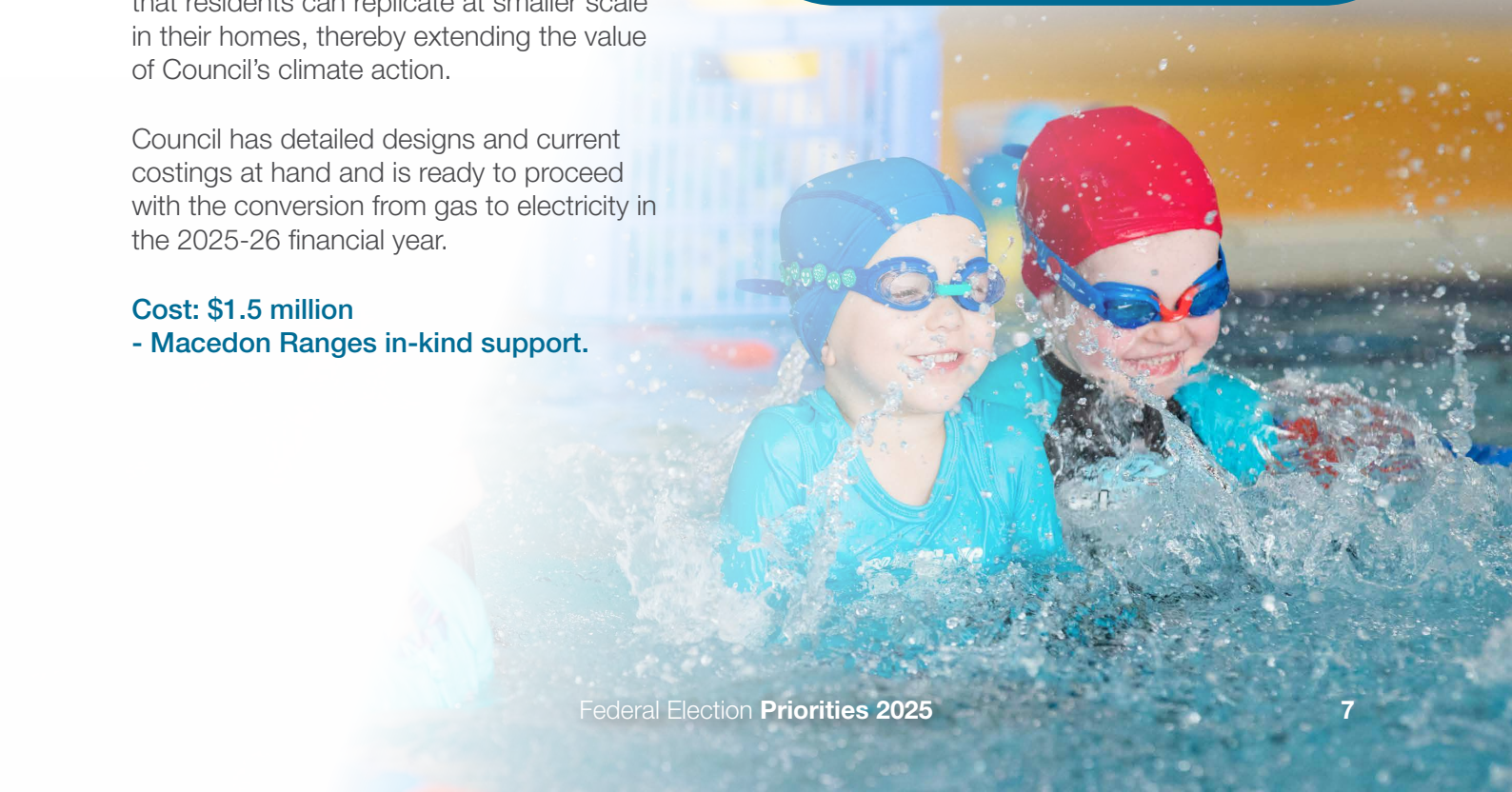
Youth **Mental Health**

The aim of the Youth Space Project is to develop a primary Youth Space in Macedon Ranges, close to public transport, schools and businesses. The service will offer young people and families access to a range of youth services including - but not limited to - youth engagement, mental health, and drug and alcohol support programs.

Youth spaces will collaborate with public and private providers delivering Medicare funded services to ensure that pathways for more intensive and acute services are available for young people requiring specialised support and treatment.

Council has also partnered with Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health and other partners in seeking funding to deliver this project.

Cost: up to \$3 million
- Funding sought \$2 million
(establishment and staffing)
- Funding received \$150,000
- Council funding \$40,000
- Macedon Ranges in-kind support.



Boosting Community Spaces and Housing Solutions

Woodend Community Centre Stage 1

The Woodend Community Centre – housing critical community spaces including the library, multi-purpose meeting spaces, a community hall/performance space and the Visitor Information Centre – will provide a well-designed, innovative and multi-purpose public space for the community now and into the future. The Woodend Community Centre space also incorporates the regular outdoor markets that showcase local produce and crafts.

The schematic designs for the Woodend Community Centre have been completed and costed for Stage 1.

Construction of Stage 1 incorporates the library, multi-purpose meeting spaces, the Visitor Information Centre and a small café to showcase local produce (operated by a social enterprise). Artist's render shown below.

Cost: \$10.9 million
- Funding sought \$8.1 million
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council \$2.8 million.

Social and Affordable Housing for Macedon Ranges

The Macedon Ranges is facing a significant shortage of social and affordable housing – the need for appropriate housing is particularly pressing for older residents and other vulnerable groups.

Significant investment in the renewal and expansion of our housing sites is a key priority that would support housing and overall capacity, quality and supply.

To meet community need and align with the state average of 3 per cent, the Shire requires an additional 619 dwellings now and 858 by 2046.

This investment would align with Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021–2051. Council has identified several potential sites, including Council and Victorian Government-owned land, suitable for development.

This would deliver safe, appropriate, accessible and affordable housing that supports independence, improves wellbeing and increases overall supply and quality.

Cost: \$18 million
- Funding sought: \$13 million
- Proposed contribution: \$5 million via the Victorian Government's Big Housing Build
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council: On going operational support and in-kind contribution of 49 seniors housing units.



Kyneton Urban Design Framework Implementation Stage 1

Adopted in March 2025 the Kyneton Urban Design Framework (UDF) will help shape the future development and revitalisation of Kyneton's most important streetscape, public spaces and buildings as well as improve connections with the surrounding area, in line with the Victorian State Government's Movement and Place principles.

This project as part of Stage 1 of the UDF implementation addresses a key theme in connecting key destinations and would include the design and construction of both the Mollison Street and Piper Street mid-block raised pedestrian crossings and include garden areas, mature trees, street furniture, pedestrian-scale lighting that would greatly enhance both safety and amenity.

Cost: \$600,000.

Romsey Five Mile Creek Masterplan – Stage 2 Implementation

The Romsey Five Mile Creek Master Plan aims to highlight the unique social, cultural, historical, recreational and environmental qualities of Five Mile Creek and provide opportunities to increase the use, enjoyment and understanding of this place by a range of users while enhancing the environment values.

This project includes expanding the path network along the south side of the creek to create a loop walk with tree planting for shade and habitat. It also includes improvements to the Wrixon Street entry including path connections, bridge, frontage fencing and signs. It would also provide all abilities access to the township zone, activating an important open space asset in a township with limited open space loop walks and passive recreation areas.

Cost: \$700,000

Riddells Creek Movement Network Plan Implementation

The Riddells Creek Movement Network Plan provides guidance on the provision and upgrade of transport infrastructure within the township.

Prioritising the delivery of the missing links in the Riddells Creek walking and cycling network, the delivery of priority shared path projects will encourage people to undertake local trips on foot, bike or chosen micro mobility mode, making it safe and enjoyable to move between local destinations.

Cost:

- Bolithos Road shared path (Royal Parade to Kilmore Road) \$1,395,000
- Sutherlands Road shared path \$600,000
- Sutherlands Road shared path (Yellowgum Avenue to Amess Road) \$1,837,500.

