



**Macedon  
Ranges**  
Shire Council

# **ATTACHMENTS**

**Council Meeting  
Wednesday, 22 September 2021**





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Urban Development | Infrastructure

Advertised

## Town Planning Report

### Use and development for a residential aged care facility.

Melbourne-Lancefield Road, Romsey  
(Lot 2 LP97984)

Prepared by Taylors for  
Signature Care Land Holdings Pty Ltd

Taylors Development Strategists Pty Ltd | ABN 80 128 948 523 | Certified to ISO 14001, ISO 9001 & AS/NZS 4801 | Incorporating Taylors Stizza  
F 512 Ver 6.0

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**1.0 Planning Summary**



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<b>ADDRESS</b>	Melbourne-Lancefield Road, Romsey
<b>TITLE DETAILS</b>	Lot 2 on LP97984
<b>ZONING</b>	Rural Living Zone – Schedule 1 (RLZ1)
<b>OVERLAYS</b>	Nil
<b>PROPOSAL</b>	To use and develop the land for a residential aged care facility.
<b>PLANNING PERMIT TRIGGERS</b>	<p>A planning permit is triggered pursuant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clause 35.03-1 to use land for a residential aged care facility within the RLZ1.</li> <li>▪ Clause 35.03-4 to construct a building or construct or carry out works associated with a use in Section 2 of the RLZ1.</li> </ul>
<b>RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY</b>	<p><b><u>PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clause 11 – Settlement.</li> <li>▪ Clause 13 – Environmental Risks and Amenity.</li> <li>▪ Clause 15 – Built Environment and Heritage.</li> <li>▪ Clause 16 – Housing.</li> <li>▪ Clause 17 – Economic Development.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.01 – Municipal Profile.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.02 – Key Issues and Influences.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.03 – Vision – Strategic Framework Plan.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.04 – Settlement.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.06 – Environmental Risks.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.08 – Built Environment and Heritage.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.09 – Housing.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.10 – Economic Development and Tourism.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.11 – Transport.</li> <li>▪ Clause 21.13 – Local Areas and Small Settlements.</li> <li>▪ Clause 22.01 – Macedon Ranges and Surrounds.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>PROVISIONS</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Clause 52.06 – Car Parking.</li> <li>▪ Clause 65 – Decision Guidelines.</li> <li>▪ Clause 71.02 – Operation of the Planning Policy Framework.</li> </ul>

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**2.0 Introduction**



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Taylor's have been engaged by Signature Care Land Holdings Pty Ltd to prepare this report to accompany a planning permit application to use and develop land known as Melbourne-Lancefield Road, Romsey (Lot 2 LP97984) for a residential aged care facility.

Signature Care and associated entities is an experienced designer, developer and operator of residential aged care facilities through Australia. They have received 120 aged care bed licences from the Australian Government for the Romsey facility.

The land is zoned Rural Living – Schedule 1 and is not affected by any overlays. A planning permit is required to:

- Use land for a residential aged care facility (Clause 35.03-1).
- Construct a building or construct or carry out works associated with a use in Section 2 of Clause 35.03-1 (Clause 35.03-4).

This report should be read in conjunction with the following plans and reports submitted with the application:

- Signature Care Overview (Signature Care).
- Title Re-establishment, Feature and Level Survey (Taylor's).
- Photo Album (Taylor's).
- Architectural Plans (Croft Developments).
- Civil Siteworks Plans (Croft Developments).
- Waste Management Plan (Leigh Designs).
- Bushfire Hazard Assessment (Green Tape Solutions).
- Traffic Report (Cardno).
- Landscape Concept Plan (Plan E).
- Stormwater Management Report (Noyce Environmental Consulting).
- Preliminary Site Investigation (Environmental Earth Sciences).
- Geotechnical Report for Pavement Design Hutchinsons Lane West (Civil Test).

This report outlines the site's physical context, the proposal and assessed the application against the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme. In summary, we conclude that:

- The facility is a positive response to the planning policy framework and is consistent with the objectives of the Rural Living Zone.
- The proposal addresses a need for aged care beds in Romsey given the ageing population, the absence of any current aged care places in Romsey and the planning policies encouraging aged care services to locate in larger settlements such as Romsey with adequate infrastructure and services.
- There are significant economic and employment benefits during construction and on an on-going basis when the facility is operational.
- There are no infrastructure, servicing, traffic or environmental constraints that prevent a planning permit being issued.

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- The built form and landscape design provide a positive response to the areas semi-rural setting, the site's gateway location on the northern approach to Romsey and Melbourne-Lancefield Road as a key arterial road and entry to Romsey.
- The proposal will not result in unreasonable off-site impacts and provides a good level of internal amenity and facilities for residents.

Due to the above, the grant of a permit would result in a net community benefit. Accordingly, we recommend a planning permit be granted.

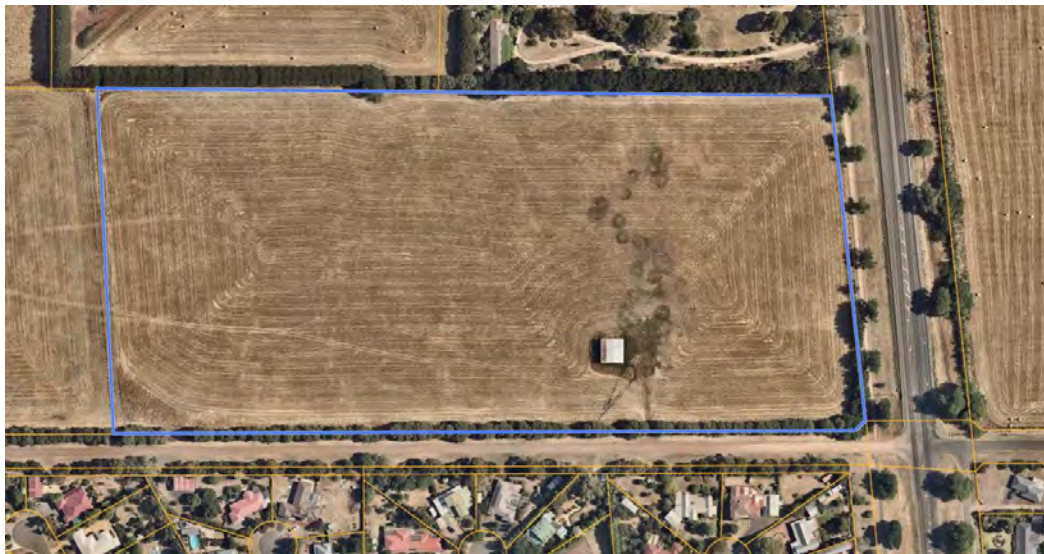
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**3.0 Subject Site and Surrounds**



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**3.1 Subject Site**

The subject site comprises an almost rectangular corner allotment of 8.623ha area with an abuttal to Melbourne-Lancefield Road of 196.14m and an abuttal to Hutchinsons Lane West of 429.88m length as shown below.



*Figure 1 – Aerial photograph, 29 December 2019 (Nearmap)*

The land has a gentle fall of about 2% from the north-west corner to the south-east corner (10m fall over a distance of 478m).

Presently the site contains a shed and is used for cropping / grazing. There are rows of planted trees along the southern, eastern and northern boundaries

The land is formally known as Lot 2 on Lodged Plan 97984 and is not affected by any registered restrictive covenants, Section 173 Agreement or easements.

The Preliminary Site Investigation prepared by Environmental Earth Sciences found the site is free of contamination.

Reticulated services including sewerage are available to the site.

The site is not located within an area of Aboriginal heritage cultural sensitivity.

The site is located within a designated Bushfire Prone Area but not a Bushfire Management Overlay.

**3.2 Surrounding Area**

The subject site has the following immediate abuttals:

- To the north, at 2931 and 2947 Melbourne-Lancefield Road, rural residential dwellings.



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- To the east, Melbourne-Lancefield Road, a rural arterial providing the main thoroughfare through Romsey and road connection between Metropolitan Melbourne and Lancefield. This section of Melbourne-Lancefield Road has a speed limit of 70km/hour.
- To the south, Hutchinsons Lane West, a local unsealed road providing a four-way intersection with Melbourne Lancefield Road adjacent to the site. A speed limit of 50km/hour applies with an advisory speed of 40km/hour on the approach to Melbourne Lancefield Road.
- To the west, at 78 Hutchinsons Lane, a farm used for cropping and equestrian purposes.

The subject site is located at the northern approach to the Romsey township. The Romsey Township boundary runs along Hutchinsons Lane. The area contains rural residential living, small scale farms and conventional residential lots reflecting the township boundary along Hutchinsons Lane.

The wide road verges, low site coverage, low scale buildings and patchwork of treed and open landscapes contribute to the area's rural character. Buildings styles in Romsey reflect the age of development from the Victorian era through to contemporary times although the northern side of Romsey predominantly contains traditional styles of housing from the 1980s onwards.

### 3.3 Facilities and Services

The site has good access to facilities and services including:

- The commercial area of Romsey located approximately 780m to the south of the site.
- The Lancefield-Sunbury-Clarkefield bus service and the Lancefield – Gisborne services both running along Melbourne-Lancefield Road. The closes bus stops are approximately 600m to the south of the site.
- The road network with Melbourne-Lancefield Road providing a connection between Melbourne, Romsey and other townships.
- Multiple national parks, sights, recreation areas and townships that may be of interest to residents for day excursions.

Signature Care's experience is that residents with special needs do not typically venture out of homes on their own. More often this is done in groups of residents with support staff. As such, the operator provides a community bus on-site for use by the facility, for resident outings and needs.

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Signature Care Land Holdings (Signature Care) proposes to use and develop the site for a residential aged care facility.

Signature Care and related entities are an experienced developer and operator of residential aged care facilities in Victoria, Act, New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland. They currently have in the order of 15 homes under planning or construction throughout Australia. Refer to the Signature Care Overview for further details.

#### 4.1 Use

The residential aged care facility will have a capacity of 120 beds reflecting the Federal Government's allocation of bed licenses to the subject site.

The floor plan is designed to accommodate a mix of care facilities for residents with different needs including low and high care, dementia and respite facilities. The floor plan is set around 7 internal courtyards that provide open space for residents, outlook, daylight and ventilation to the building.

The aged care facility includes:

- Full Nurse Call, CCTV security system and fully networked computer system.
- In house catering with home style meals served to dining rooms.
- In house laundry service.
- Ancillary library with internet access, doctors consulting suite, hair dressing room, a workshop (known as a ("Men's Shed") and café for resident use. These facilities are ancillary to the residential aged care use.
- Seven internal courtyards for communal use with an area of 2141sqm.
- Internal fixtures and finishing's include split system air conditioning with automatic energy saving systems, King Single Electric Hi/Low beds, quality furnishings and over-bed tracking system for resident lifting system to all bedrooms.

The main entrance, a porte cochere and car park are located off Hutchinsons Lane West and the service area (waste collection, laundry, etc.) and staff car park are located to the west of the building.

The western side of the site will be retained for grazing. A separate permit application will be sought for a farm shed as indicatively shown on the plans. This does not form part of the current application as the contractual arrangements for the shed provide for a design and construct arrangement with the shed contractor getting the requirement planning and building approvals.

#### 4.2 Built Form

The building is single storey with a building maximum height of approximately 9.5m given the fall of the land.

Building setbacks to boundaries are:

- North boundary, between 39.1m and 63.3m.
- Melbourne-Lancefield Road, between 49.5m and 59.6m.

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- Hutchinsons Lane West, between 39.1m and 55.7m.
- West boundary, approximately 250m.

The carpark is setback between 3.7m and 5.6m from Hutchinsons Lane West and 90m from Melbourne - Lancefield Rd.

Site coverage is 9% and permeability is 85.1%.

The building style is traditional with face brickwork, stone, clear glazing and metal gable/ hipped roof form with eaves.

#### 4.3 Access / Car Parking

Forty-four (44) car parking spaces are provided for universal use (visitors and staff) to the south of the building and another 12 car spaces to the west of the building solely for staff use. On-site parking totals fifty-six (56).

Public access to the site is via two new crossovers from Hutchinsons Lane West and a separate crossover is provided from Hutchinsons Lane West for access to the service / loading area. The existing crossover to Hutchinsons Land will be removed.

Refer to the Traffic Report for further details.

#### 4.4 Road Works

The proposal includes the upgrade of Hutchinsons Lane West (adjacent to the aged care facility) and its intersection with Melbourne-Lancefield Road.

Refer to the Civil Site Works plans and the traffic report for further details.

#### 4.5 Vegetation Removal and Landscaping

The proposal does not include the removal of any vegetation that requires a planning permit. The rows of existing trees to the north, east and south boundaries will be retained except where their removal is required for access and services.

The landscape concept plan prepared by Plan E proposes varied landscape themes throughout the site to respond to the different contexts including a mixture of lush and sensorial planting, screening and privacy planting, edible and sensorial planting, informal hedge and flowering planting and hardy ground cover planting, medium height shrub planting and drainage basin planting.

The landscape concept includes provision for about 135 new trees including a small orchard for residents, and a mixture of deciduous shade trees, small ornamental feature trees, shade and feature trees, feature tree specimens, two feature palm trees and trees suitable for the drainage basin.

Refer to the concept landscape plan including the Landscape Design Intent statement for further information.

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#### 4.6 Servicing, Waste Management and Drainage

The civil plans and stormwater management strategy detail the proposed drainage arrangements. This includes:

- Bypass channels to intercept and convey runoff from external catchments to the abutting road frontages
- Civil works will include two pipelines conveying the development flows eastwards along either side of the building. These pipelines will terminate with an outfall into a detention and treatment basin positioned in the low-lying south-east corner of the land.

Refer to the civil site works plans and stormwater management plan for further details.

A hydrant booster, water metre and 2 x fire tanks are provided to the south-west of the building adjacent to Hutchinsons Lane West. A transformer is provided along Melbourne-Lancefield Road.

Waste will be stored within a waste store (24.7sqmsqm) adjacent to the service area to the west of the building. Waste will be collected by a private contractor using an 8.8m long service vehicle. Swept paths have been prepared to confirm suitable access for the waste truck. Refer to the Waste Management Plan and the Traffic Report for further details.

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**5.0 Planning Controls and Assessment**

**5.1 Zone Provisions**

The subject site is zoned Rural Living (RLZ) as shown below.

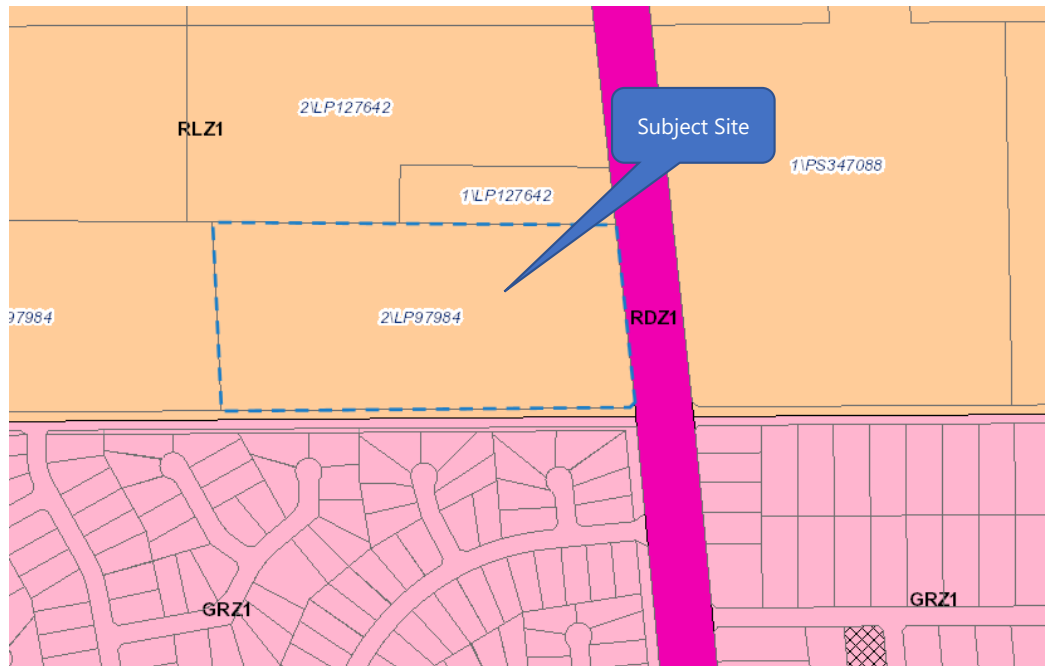


Figure 2 – Zoning Map (VicPlan)

The purpose of this zone is:

- To implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework.
- **To provide for residential use in a rural environment.** (emphasis added)
- To provide for agricultural land uses which do not adversely affect the amenity of surrounding land uses.
- To protect and enhance the natural resources, biodiversity and landscape and heritage values of the area.
- To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.

A permit is required to use land for a residential aged care facility (Clause 35.03-1).

A permit is required to construct or carry out a building or works associated within a use in Section 2 of Clause 35.03-1 (Clause 35.03-4).

Building setbacks satisfy the minimum setbacks triggering a permit in the RLZ:

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- At least 30m from a road in a Road Zone Category 1 (buildings and setback at least 49.5m from Melbourne-Lancefield Road).
- At least 100m from a waterway, wetland or designated flood plain (buildings are setback approximately 550m from Deep Creek).

The aged care facility is consistent with the purpose of the RLZ as:

- It is a residential use consistent with the purpose to provide for residential use in a rural environment.
- It will not adversely impact significant natural resources, biodiversity, landscape or heritage values.
- The facility can be fully serviced by reticulated services and appropriate infrastructure.
- It implements the Planning Policy Framework as discussed in Section 5.3 of this report.

The western portion of the site will be retained for grazing and is an existing use not triggering a planning permit. The grazing use is compatible with the residential aged care use and will provide a semi-rural setting for residents to relate to.

The servicing requirements for dwellings at Clause 35.03-2 do not technically apply to residential aged care facilities but they are met:

- Access to the facility is available by all-weather roads adequate to accommodate emergency vehicles.
- The facility will be connected to the reticulated sewerage system.
- Reticulated electricity and potable water are available and will be connected to the facility.

In relation to the Decision Guidelines at Clause 35.03-5:

#### General issues

An assessment against the Planning Policy Framework is provided in Section 5.3 of this report.

The site is not located within a proclaimed potable water catchment.

The land is capable of accommodating the use and development as:

- The facility can be fully serviced by reticulated infrastructure.
- The site is relatively flat, is uncontaminated and does not contain any significance environmental features that would be adversely impacted by the proposal.
- The site is not located within a Bushfire Management Overlay and the Bushfire Risk Assessment prepared by Greentape Solutions provides measures to manage the Bushfire Prone designation of the land.
- The site has excellent access to road infrastructure.
- The site has good access to facilities and services including Romsey commercial area, national parks, various townships and local sights.
- It is suitably sized to accommodate an aged care facility with substantial boundary setbacks.

The aged care use is compatible with the mixture of rural-residential development, low scale farms and conventional housing surrounding the site. The location provides a semi-rural setting for local and regional residents that are in need of this type of facility yet do not want to relocate to a busy city centre area.



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- The western portion of the site will be maintained for grazing. This is an existing use and is compatible with nearby uses.

**Environmental Issues**

- The site does not contain any significant environmental features that would be impacted by the proposal.
- The facility will be connected to reticulated sewerage and services.

**Design and Sitting Issues**

- Refer to Section 5.3 of this report for an assessment of the design.

**5.2 Overlay Provisions**

The subject site is not affected by any overlays.

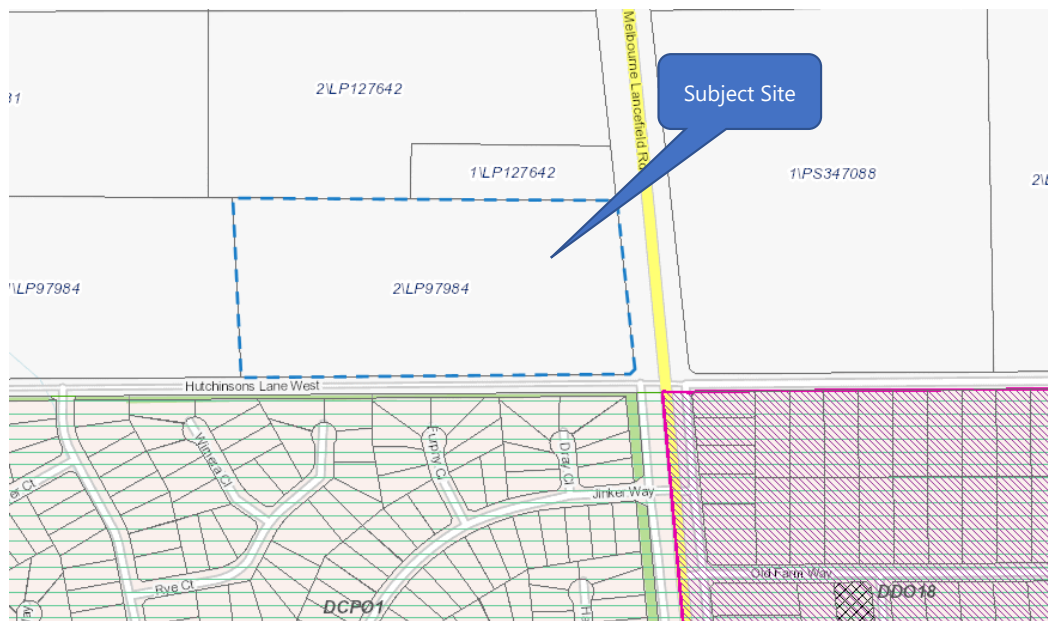


Figure 3 – Overlay Map (VicPlan, June 2020)

**5.3 Planning Policy Framework (PPF)**

The Planning Policy Framework sets out State, regional and local policies applicable to the Romsey residential aged care facility at:

- Clause 11 - Settlement;
- Clause 13 - Environmental Risks and Amenity;
- Clause 15 - Built Environment and Heritage;

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- Clause 16 - Housing;
- Clause 17 - Economic Development;
- Clause 21.01 - Municipal Profile;
- Clause 21.02 – Key Issues and Influences;
- Clause 21.03 – Vision -Strategic Framework Plan;
- Clause 21.04 – Settlement;
- Clause 21.06 – Environmental Risks;
- Clause 21.08 - Built Environment and Heritage;
- Clause 21.09- Housing;
- Clause 21.10 – Economic Development;
- Clause 21.11 – Transport;
- Clause 21.13 – Local Areas and Small Settlements; and
- Clause 22.01 – Macedon Ranges and Surrounds.

The following paragraphs outlined key sections of these clauses.

Clause 11 states that planning is to anticipate and respond to the needs of existing and future communities through provision of zoned and serviced land for housing, employment, recreation and open space, commercial and community facilities and infrastructure.

Clause 11.01-1S (Settlement) seeks: *To promote the sustainable growth and development of Victoria and deliver choice and opportunity for all Victorians through a network of settlements.*

Clause 11.02-1S (Supply of Urban Land) seeks: *To ensure a sufficient supply of land is available for residential, commercial, retail, industrial, recreational, institutional and other community uses.* Currently Romsey does not contain any residential aged care places, which necessitates residents in need of this type of facility to relocate elsewhere.

Clause 11.03-3S (Peri-urban areas) seeks: *To manage growth in peri-urban areas to protect and enhance their identified valued attributes.* Strategies include:

- *Identify and protect areas that are strategically important for the environment, biodiversity, landscape, open space, water, agriculture, energy, recreation, tourism, environment, cultural heritage, infrastructure, extractive and other natural resources.*
- *Provide for development in established settlements that have capacity for growth having regard to complex ecosystems, landscapes, agricultural and recreational activities including in Warragul-Drouin, Bacchus Marsh, Torquay-Jan Juc, Gisborne, Kyneton, Wonthaggi, Kilmore, Broadford, Seymour and Ballan and other towns identified by Regional Growth Plans as having potential for growth.*
- *Establish growth boundaries for peri-urban towns to avoid urban sprawl and protect agricultural land and environmental assets.*
- *Enhance the character, identity, attractiveness and amenity of peri-urban towns. Prevent dispersed settlement and provide for non-urban breaks between urban areas.*

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Clause 11.03-5S (Distinctive areas and landscapes) seeks: *To protect and enhance the values and attributes of identified distinctive areas and landscapes.*

Clause 11.03-6S (Regional and local places) seeks: *To facilitate integrated place-based planning.* This will be implemented via the following strategies:

- *Integrate relevant planning considerations to provide specific direction for the planning of sites, places, neighbourhoods and towns.*
- *Consider the distinctive characteristics and needs of regional and local places in planning for future land use and development*

Clause 13.02-1S (Bushfire Planning) seeks: *To strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.* This clause encourages bushfire risk to be considered for applications to use or develop land in designated bushfire prone areas.

Clause 13.04-1S (Contaminated and potentially contaminated land) seeks: *To ensure that potentially contaminated land is suitable for its intended future use and development, and that contaminated land is used safely.*

Clause 15.01-1S (Urban Design) seeks: *To create urban environments that are safe, healthy, functional and enjoyable and that contribute to a sense of place and cultural identity.* Clause 15.01-2S (Building Design) seeks: *To achieve building design outcomes that contribute positively to the local context and enhance the public realm.* Clause 15.01-6S (Design for rural areas) seeks: *To ensure development respects valued areas of rural character.*

Clause 16.01-1S (Integrated Housing) seeks: *To promote a housing market that meets community needs.* Strategies include: *Ensure that an appropriate quantity, quality and type of housing is provided, including aged care facilities and other housing suitable for older people, supported accommodation for people with disability, rooming houses, student accommodation and social housing.*

Clause 16.01-7S (Residential aged care facilities) seeks: *To facilitate the development of well-designed and appropriately located residential aged care facilities.* Strategies under this objective are:

- *Recognise that residential aged care facilities contribute to housing diversity and choice, and are an appropriate use in a residential area.*
- *Recognise that residential aged care facilities are different to dwellings in their purpose and function, and will have a different built form (including height, scale and mass).*
- *Ensure that residential aged care facilities are located in residential areas, activity centres and urban renewal precincts, close to services and public transport.*
- *Encourage planning for housing that:*
  - *Delivers an adequate supply of land or redevelopment opportunities for residential aged care facilities.*
  - *Enables older people to live in appropriate housing in their local community.*
- *Provide for a mix of housing for older people with appropriate access to care and support services.*
- *Ensure that residential aged care facilities are designed to respond to the site and its context.*

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Clause 17.01-1R (Diversified economy – Loddon Mallee South) includes the strategy: *Support the ongoing role and contribution of the region's small towns, settlements and non-urban areas through investment and diversification of their economies.*

Clause 21.01 (Municipal Profile) recognises that the population of the Shire is ageing; by 2036, approximately 25% of the population will be over 65 years (extrapolated from VIF 2012). It indicates that almost all employment opportunities are in the four main towns including Romsey. Melbourne-Lancefield Road forms the eastern spine of the Shire, providing direct access to Melbourne Airport.

Clause 21.02 (Key Issues and Influences) identifies the key influences within the Shire. These include:

Economic Development

- *There is a need to create local employment opportunities and reduce the reliance on commuting.*

Community Development and Infrastructure

- *By 2026 it is expected that the number of people over 64 in the Shire's population will more than double. Growth is particularly strong in the 70 years and over age group with many of these currently living in rural parts of the Shire.*
- *In the rural areas, early settlement and farming practices represent significant cultural associations and relationships for the community.*
- *...provision of aged care...services....are important to improving the health and wellbeing of the community.*

The Strategic Framework Plan at Clause 21.03 designates Romsey as a "Large District Town", which is second from the top of the hierarchy of settlements. Large district towns are defined as:

*A town with a substantial and diverse population base (6,000 to 10,000) and a dominant business district with a moderate employment base. All essential services are provided. Access to services such as police stations, medical/hospital facilities and a range of education facilities is generally high. A variety of accommodation types and sizes are available.*

The site is also located within the "Rural Living area" on the Rural Framework Plan. This Vision and strategic direction for rural living areas is:

*Encourage and support rural living development in Rural Living Zone areas. The vision for these areas is a rural area with a range of property sizes offering different lifestyle opportunities and landscapes from low density residential to part time farming. Any new development including housing, subdivision or re-subdivision is to preserve the existing rural character.*

Clause 21.04 (Settlement) seeks: *To deliver the settlement hierarchy vision 2014 to 2036 as illustrated in Table 1 below.* Romsey is a Large District Town where strategy 1.6 aims to accommodate moderate growth. Strategy 1.8 aims to limit residential development of rural areas except in the Rural Living Zone. Strategy 3

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seeks: *To ensure land use and development in settlements have regard for environmental assets, hazards and constraints.*

Clause 21.06-2 (Soil degradation and contamination) includes the strategies:

- *Ensure land use and development on potentially contaminated land is consistent with Ministerial Direction No. 1 and treated appropriately.*
- *Ensure sensitive land uses are not located on contaminated land*

Clause 21.06-3 (Bushfire) includes the objective: *To ensure that where development opportunities already exist, development in rural areas and on the fringes of urban areas is sited and designed to minimise risk from bushfire*

Clause 21.08-3 (Built Environment) seeks:

- *To promote development that respects the rural character and high landscape values of the municipality.*
- *To protect and enhance the existing character and form of the Shire's towns.*
- *To ensure development and built form occurs in a sustainable manner.*

Clause 21.09-1 (Housing in towns) seeks: *To provide for responsive and affordable housing and a diversity of lot sizes and styles to meet the requirements of all age groups, household types, lifestyles and preference.*

Strategies include:

- *Facilitate ageing in place by identifying suitable locations for medium density development in structure plans and outline development plans which provide good access to services.*
- *Discourage housing for older people in small towns lacking infrastructure and services.*

Clause 21.09-2 (Rural residential) includes the following objectives:

- *To ensure rural residential development is sustainable and gives priority to the environment and landscape.*
- *To support rural living development in the Rural Living Zone that is sustainable and protects the landscape and environmental features of the area.*
- *To provide for rural living development with appropriate staging, infrastructure and access to local facilities.*

The implementation of Clause 21.09-2 includes to:

- *Apply the Rural Living Zone to areas where it is appropriate to provide for residential use in a rural environment.*

Objective 1 at Clause 21.10 (Economic Development and Tourism) seeks: *to increase local commercial and industrial employment opportunities within the Shire.*

Clause 21.11 (Transport) identifies key public transport networks within the Shire. Romsey does not have fixed rail but there are two bus routes running along Melbourne-Lancefield Road.

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#### Settlement and Housing

- *To strengthen the role of Romsey as the major urban centre in the north-eastern part of the Shire.*
- *To commit urban development within defined township boundaries to protect agricultural land and facilitate efficient, sustainable development.*
- *To provide a balance between residential growth and employment, business services and community infrastructure, in order to reduce the need for residents to travel outside the town.*
- *To provide for a greater mix of housing densities and styles as the town grows, in order to respond to changing demographics and ensure that land is developed efficiently, while respecting the valued character of the town.*
  - *Manage urban growth and development in Romsey so that it is generally consistent with the Romsey Residential Character Study, 2012 and the Romsey Structure Plan included in this sub-clause*
  - *Require larger residential lot sizes and manage the siting and design of new development, in areas that are visually sensitive, including rural-residential interfaces and adjoining the Melbourne-Lancefield Road.*

#### Heritage, Landscape and township character

- *To protect the townscape and heritage features of the town.*
- *To create an attractive urban environment with a strong sense of place.*
- *To maintain and improve the key urban and landscape elements, and cultural heritage assets that contribute to the established semi-rural township and village character of Romsey.*
- *To protect and improve the appearance of the semi-rural landscape along the Melbourne-Lancefield Road and key township entrances.*
- *Consider the Romsey Residential Character Study, Design Guidelines April 2012 to ensure that new development and subdivision within the established residential areas of Romsey reflects the neighbourhood character.*
- *Maintain the 'rural break' between Romsey and Lancefield.*

#### Infrastructure

- *To provide a sustainable transport network that reduces dependence on car use and encourages public transport, walking and cycling within and between neighbourhoods, as well as a healthy environment, social interaction and access to services and facilities.*
- *To ensure that zoning of land reflects the existing and potential infrastructure capacity of the area.*

Clause 22.01 (Macedon Ranges and Surrounds) is directed primarily to the planning and management necessary for the conservation and utilisation of the policy area both as a water catchment for urban and local supply and as a location of State, metropolitan and local importance for leisure activities and nature conservation.

The following paragraphs assess the proposal against policy within the applicable policy themes.



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State planning policy (Clause 11) aims to ensure a sufficient supply of land is available for residential, commercial, retail, industrial, recreational, institutional and other community uses. Policy for aged care facilities at Clause 16.01-7S encourages planning for housing that:

- *Delivers an adequate supply of land or redevelopment opportunities for residential aged care facilities.*
- *Enabled older people to live in appropriate housing in their local community.*

The MSS at Clause 21.01 identifies that the Shire's population is ageing; based on VIF 2012 it forecast by 2036, approximately 25% of the population will be over 65 years. Clause 21.02 also identifies an aging population; by 2026 it is expected that the number of people over 64 in the Shire's population will more than double. Growth is particularly strong in the 70 years and over age group with many of these currently living in rural parts of the Shire.

In catering for the ageing population, the provision of aged care services is a key planning issue identified in Clause 21.02.

The Signature Care Overview came to a similar conclusion. This found that:

*The population data for Romsey/Lancefield in the 2016 Census has a population of 9,668 people in the Romsey SA2. The over 70's population is 826 which is projected to increase to 1,487 in 2028, the over 80's population in the 2016 Census is 223. Macedon & Riddles Creek also do not have aged care places and have a population of 3,541 & 4,185 respectively. Historically residents requiring aged care have therefore needed to leave the area for services.*

*To service the local Romsey/Lancefield/Riddles Creek community the population there are no active places and 120 provisional places (which are held by us for this home)...*

The Romsey facility will make a meaningful contribution of 120 beds to address this gap in aged care services. It is noted the Australian Government has allocated 120 aged care bed licence to the site, which also indicates the federal government found a need for the facility.

Settlement policy encourages this type of facility to locate in Romsey. As a Large District Town, Romsey is at the upper end of the hierarchy of settlements in the Shire and has suitable infrastructure and services where Clause 21.04 encourages moderate growth. Romsey contains a relatively large commercial area, medical and community infrastructure and is well placed within the Shire to provide services for an aging population.

On the flip side, Clause 21.09 discourages housing for older people in small towns lacking infrastructure and services. This means that the provision of housing for older people in larger towns such as Romsey is therefore important, particularly given there are no aged care facilities currently in Romsey.

The facility will also assist to implement settlement policy at Clause 21.13-4 which seeks to *strengthen the role of Romsey as the major urban centre in the north-eastern part of the Shire*. The Romsey aged care facility will provide a service currently absent in Romsey, which will strengthen the role of the settlement as a Large District Town.

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The facility is consistent with the purpose of the Rural Living Zone, which includes to provide for residential use in a rural environment. Policy at Clause 21.03, 21.04 and 21.09 specifically encourages residential uses in a rural environment. Also, the implementation of Clause 21.09-2 includes: *Apply the Rural Living Zone to areas where it is appropriate to provide for residential use in a rural environment.* The location provides a semi-rural setting for local and regional residents that are in need of this type of facility yet do not want to locate in a busy city centre area. Refer to Section 5.1 of this report for an assessment of the Rural Living Zone.

Overall, the proposal received strong strategic support in the Planning Policy Framework.

#### Economic and Employment Outcomes

The construction and operation of the aged care facility will have significant economic and job creation benefits, and is supported by policy in Clause 21.13-4 *To provide a balance between residential growth and employment, business services and community infrastructure, in order to reduce the need for residents to travel outside the town.* The Signature Care Overview indicates that:

- The construction and commissioning of the Romsey Aged Care facility would generate local construction activity for a twelve-month period generating an additional \$20 million investment in construction activity to the local community.
- Not only will it generate direct jobs but on flow effects into construction materials such as concrete suppliers, roof truss manufacturers, earthworks contractors, landscapers, concreters, plumbing contractors, electrical contractors, plasterers, tilers, painters, interior decorators and various other trades & suppliers.
- The facility, once filled, will generate an additional \$5.401 million per annum in direct additional employment activity to the local community in direct employment expenses. This does not factor in the flow on economic activity generated through the additional local wages which would be substantial to the local community.
- Operation of the facility will generate an estimated 135 full and part time jobs.
- Operation of the facility is estimated to generate economic activity, beyond direct employment wages, including food supplies (355K/annum), property services (169K/annum), medical supplies (208K/annum), cleaning and laundry (64K/annum), utilities (315K/annum) and general expenses (143K/annum).

The construction and on-going operation of the facility supports policies at Clause 17.01-1R and 21.10. which seek to grow the economy and increase local employment opportunities.

The provision of an aged care facility in Romsey will also enable residents in need of this type of facility to stay within their local community, consistent with policy for Romsey *To provide a balance between residential growth and employment, business services and community infrastructure, in order to reduce the need for residents to travel outside the town.*

#### Infrastructure Availability

The facility will be provided with suitable infrastructure, in particular:

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- Melbourne-Lancefield Road is a major north-south arterial road connecting between Melbourne and Lancefield and running along the eastern boundary of the site. It also provides a direct route to the Romsey Town Centre.
- Reticulated services are available and the facility will be connected to the sewerage network, telecommunications and other reticulated services.
- Stormwater will be appropriately managed. Please refer to the Stormwater Management Strategy.
- Hutchinsons Lane West and its intersection with Melbourne-Lancefield Road will be upgraded as part of the project. Please refer to the Civil Plans for further details.
- Romsey is provided with suitable infrastructure to support the facility including road infrastructure, reticulated services and the town centre (including a supermarket, banking, medical and retail facilities) is located approximately 780m to the south.

### Environmental Considerations

The subject site does not contain any significant environmental valued identified through overlays such as an ESO, SLO or VPO.

The site does not contain any vegetation that triggers a planning permit for removal, nor it is located within a potable water catchment or an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage significance.

The existing exotic trees to the south, east and west boundaries of the site will be retained apart from where their removal is required for access or services. The landscape concept plan prepared by Plan E provides for the comprehensive plantings, including approximately 135 new canopy trees. It is expected the new planting will improve the biodiversity and landscaping conditions on the site.

The site does have some bushfire risk given its location in a Bushfire Prone Area but in accordance with Clause 13.02-1S measures have been implemented as recommended by the Greentape Bushfire Risk Assessment to manage this risk.

The Preliminary Site Investigation prepared by Environmental Earth Sciences did not identify any contamination.

### Built form and Landscape Design

A range of policies provide guidance for building design and landscaping on the site. These include Clauses 15, 16.01-7S and 21.08-3. Clause 21.13-4 specifically applies to Romsey and includes the following policies:

- *To protect the townscape and heritage features of the town.*
- *To create an attractive urban environment with a strong sense of place.*
- *To maintain and improve the key urban and landscape elements, and cultural heritage assets that contribute to the established semi-rural township and village character of Romsey.*
- *To protect and improve the appearance of the semi-rural landscape along the Melbourne-Lancefield Road and key township entrances.*

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- Consider the Romsey Residential Character Study, Design Guidelines April 2012 to ensure that new development and subdivision within the established residential areas of Romsey reflects the neighbourhood character.
- Maintain the 'rural break' between Romsey and Lancefield.

In addition to responding to policy, the planning scheme also requires that new development respond to the conditions of each particular site and the surrounding area.

The following paragraphs discuss the building and landscape response having regard to the range of applicable policies and the physical context.

Vegetation and landscaping

The proposal does not include the removal of any vegetation that requires a planning permit. Some sections of the row of trees along the southern and eastern boundary will be removed with the balance of trees along the southern, eastern and northern boundaries retained.

The landscape concept plan prepared by Plan E includes a comprehensive landscape response including about 135 new canopy trees and varied landscape themes throughout the site to respond to the different contexts including a mixture of lush and sensorial planting, screening and privacy planting, edible and sensorial planting, informal hedge and flowering planting and hardy ground cover planting, medium height shrub planting and drainage basin planting.

The landscape design has been informed by the Bushfire Prone designation with the requirements of Green Tape Solutions incorporated through the landscape design.

The Landscape Design Intent statement indicates:

*The landscaping and planting design for the Romsey Aged Care Facility is based on creating comfortable outdoor spaces which are relevant and welcoming, and reflective of their rural setting. Themes planning of spaces has been developed to encourage outdoor community engagement and multiple sources of stimulation, as well as providing a strong landscape setting for the building.*

*A rural theme has informed planting selections to complement the established street trees along Lancefield-Melbourne Road, and the broader Romsey township. Rural theming is also reflecting in a combination of deciduous exotic tree species and native planting. Bird bath and rustic styled pots brings a rural feeling into internal courtyard spaces.*

*Intermittent views of built form and engagement from the surrounding landscape has informed planting selections, and design of perimeter interface.*

*The landscape design comprises of a series of courtyard spaces which promote a sense of community and sense of place for residents and staff. A combination of open grass areas, and paths set among lush planting offer varied experiences. Core principles of memory stimulation, enablement, placemaking and connection form the basis of landscape design in high care facilities.*

....

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 Refer to the concept landscape plan including the Landscape Design Intent statement for further information.

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#### Building scale, orientation and siting

The building fronts Hutchinsons Lane West, preserving a full landscape setback to Melbourne-Lancefield Road as an entry gateway to Romsey and key arterial road. This is a positive response to policy seeking to *protect and improve the appearance of the semi-rural landscape along the Melbourne-Lancefield Road and key township entrances.*

The servicing areas of the building are located to the western side of the building where they will not be visible from Melbourne-Lancefield Road.

The building setbacks from boundaries exceed the minimums triggering a permit in the RLZ and are responsive to the area's semi-rural setting.

The single storey height of the building provides a low-profile form to nestle with the area's landscape.

The site coverage of 9% and permeability of 85.1% retain good areas of open space and landscaping opportunities.

#### Design Detail

The traditional style of the building, utilising pitched and gable roofs, eaves and traditional window and door proportions is reflecting of the area's traditional dwellings.

There is no heritage protected building in close proximity to the site.

The materials and colors palette incorporate muted tones of brickwork, feature stone and a metal Colorbond roof.

All facades of the building are stepped to promote depth and articulation in the building form and interaction between building occupants and the surrounding landscape.

#### Fencing

A 1.2m high "pool style" fence will be provided to the south, east and part northern side of the building. This provides an open low style of fencing that respects the area's semi-rural character yet will provide safety for residents.

In less prominent areas on the site, a 1.4m high colorbond fence will provide separation between residents of the aged care facility and the service areas for the aged care facility to the western side of the building. A 2.4m high screen will also be provided around the water tanks to the western side of the building of the building.

A post and rail fence will separate the grazing use to the west of the site from the aged care use to the east.

#### Off-Site Amenity Considerations

The setbacks from boundaries are generous and will ensure the proposal does not cause any unreasonable off-site impacts to neighbouring properties in terms of overlooking, overshadowing, visual bulk or loss of daylight.

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Overall, it is considered the design and landscaping of the facility responds well to the applicable policies and site conditions.





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5.4 Particular Provisions

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#### **Clause 52.06 Car Parking update when traffic report finalised**

The purpose of Clause 52.06 includes to ensure the provision of an appropriate number of car parking spaces having regard to the demand likely to be generated, the activities on the land and the nature of the locality.

Pursuant to Table 1, a residential aged care facility requires on-site car parking provision at a rate of 0.3 spaces to each lodging room. As the proposal includes 120 lodging rooms, Table 1 requires 36 on-site car parking spaces.

The proposal provides 56 on-site car parking spaces and therefore satisfies the requirement to provide at least 36 car spaces.

Refer to the enclosed Traffic Report for further details including an assessment of the car park and accessway design.

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It is submitted that the proposal has a high level of compliance with the planning policy framework and is consistent with the objectives of the Rural Living Zone.

In summary, we conclude that:

- The proposal will provide a much needed aged care facility in Romsey.
- The proponent has extensive experience delivering aged care facilities through Australia and intends to “hit the ground” running with construction as soon as possible. The proposal will inject significant construction and on-going employment and economic benefits in the local community. These are significant benefits in the current climate where there have been massive job losses due to community health issues.
- The use is consistent with the residential purpose of the Zone
- There are no servicing, environmental or infrastructure issues that prevent the development of the site for an aged care facility.
- The built form and landscape design are well considered and has a high level of compliance with the Rural Living Zone – Schedule 3 and policy.
- The proposal will not result in unreasonable off-site impacts and provides a good level of internal amenity and facilities for residents.

Due to the above, the grant of a permit would result in a net community benefit. Accordingly, we recommend a planning permit be granted.

**Taylors Pty Ltd**

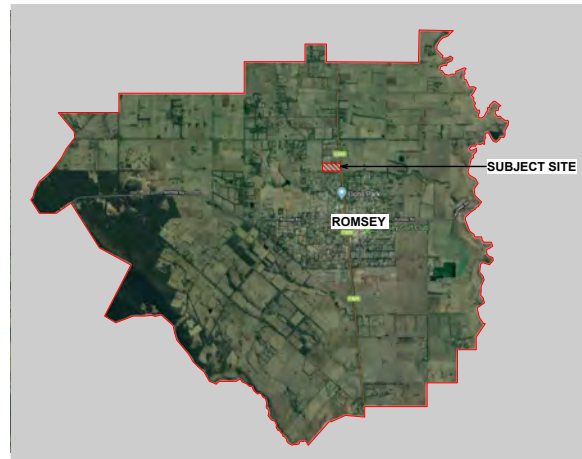
August 2020

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# ROMSEY AGED CARE

CNR MELBOURNE - LANCEFIELD ROAD & HUTCHINSONS LANE WEST



LOCALITY PLAN

**DRAWING REGISTER**

TOWN PLANNING	
TP00	COVER PAGE & DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY
TP01	SITE PLAN
TP02	PROPOSED SITE PLAN
TP03	PROPOSED PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN
TP04	PROPOSED ELEVATIONS & SECTIONS
TP05	PROPOSED SIGNAGE
TP06	PERSPECTIVE VIEWS

**DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY**

SUBJECT SITE AREA	86,231 m <sup>2</sup>
<b>AGED CARE FACILITY</b>	
BUILDING FOOTPRINT	3987.3 m <sup>2</sup>
SITE COVERAGE	4.6%
REMAINING SITE AREA	82,244 m <sup>2</sup>
TOTAL SITE AREA	86,231 m <sup>2</sup>
PERMEABILITY	65.1%
Accessible Parking Space	4
Standard Parking	58
TOTAL PARKING	62
<b>BUILDING AREA SCHEDULE</b>	
A WING	1654 m <sup>2</sup>
B WING	1651 m <sup>2</sup>
C WING	1013 m <sup>2</sup>
D WING	912 m <sup>2</sup>
E WING	848 m <sup>2</sup>
GENERAL AMENITIES	394 m <sup>2</sup>
SERVICES	642 m <sup>2</sup>
Overall Foot Area	7927 m <sup>2</sup>
PRIVATE OPEN COMMUNAL SPACE	2148.8 m <sup>2</sup>

\*NOTE: THIS IS NOT AN ACCURATE DEPICTION OF THE TITLE BOUNDARY

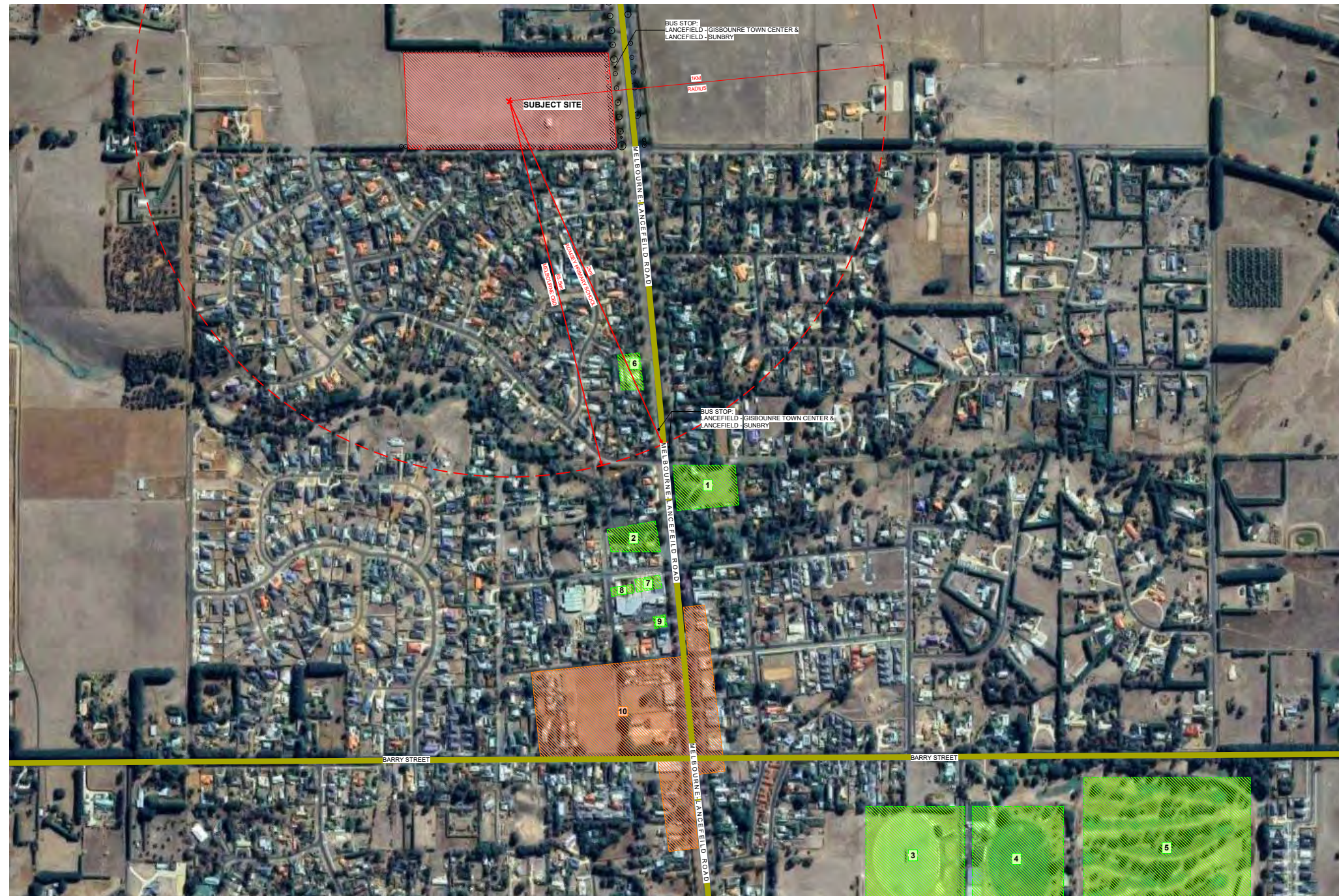
**TOWN PLANNING**

PROJECT <b>ROMSEY</b>	SHEET SERIES <b>TOWN PLANNING</b>	SCALE: A4 DATE: 14.09.2021	 CROFT DEVELOPMENTS Pty Ltd an Equal Opportunity Employer 19 Wings Road, Chesham VIC 3192 Tel: (03) 9581 0100 Fax: (03) 9585 8363
CLIENT CROFT DEVELOPMENTS ADDRESS CNR MELBOURNE - LANCEFIELD ROAD & HUTCHINSONS LANE WEST	DESIGNED NUMBER: <b>TP00</b>	DRAWN BY: JY	
SHEET TITLE <b>COVER PAGE &amp; DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY</b>		REVISION: 1	



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**LEGEND :**

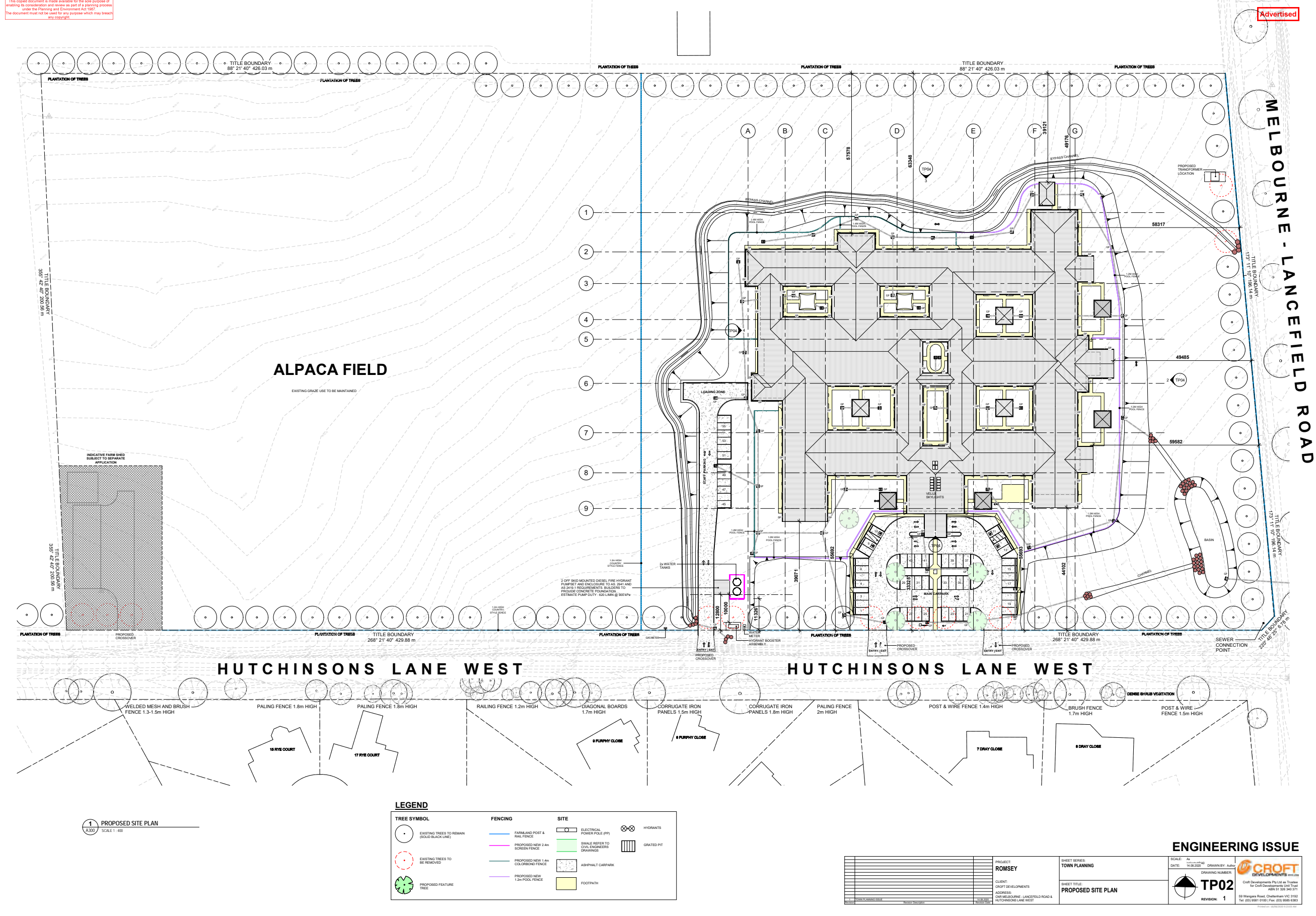
- SUBJECT SITE:**  
 CNR MELBOURNE - LANCEILD ROAD  
 & HUTCHINSONS LANE WEST
  
- RECREATION RESERVE/PARK**
  1. Romsey Ecotherapy Park
  2. Lions Park
  3. Romsey Recreation Centre
  4. Romsey Recreation Reserve
  5. Romsey Golf Club
  6. Romsey Police & Ambulance Stations
  7. Parkwood Green Medical Centre Romsey
  8. Romsey Dental
  9. Bendigo Bank
  
- COMMERCIAL AREA OF ROMSEY**
  10. Commercial area Containing a range of shops and communal services including IGA Supermarket, Romsey Library, Banks and Medical Facilities.
  
- Major Road Network**

SITE ANALYSIS

<p><b>PROJECT</b> ROMSEY</p> <p><b>CLIENT</b> CROFT DEVELOPMENTS</p> <p><b>ADDRESS</b> CNR MELBOURNE - LANCEFIELD ROAD &amp; HUTCHINSONS LANE WEST</p>	<p><b>SHEET SERIES:</b> TOWN PLANNING</p> <p><b>SHEET TITLE:</b> SITE ANALYSIS</p>	<p><b>SCALE:</b> A4 DATE: 14.09.2021</p> <p><b>DRAWN BY:</b> AUBREY</p> <p><b>DESIGNED NUMBER:</b></p> <p><b>REVISION:</b> 1</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOWN PLANNING</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TP01</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>REVISION: 1</b></p> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p><small>Croft Developments Pty Ltd an Equal Opportunity Employer                  89 Warrigal Road, Chesham VIC 3192                  Tel: (03) 9581 0100 Fax: (03) 9585 6363</small></p> </div>
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MELBOURNE - LANCEFIELD ROAD

ALPACA FIELD

HUTCHINSONS LANE WEST

HUTCHINSONS LANE WEST

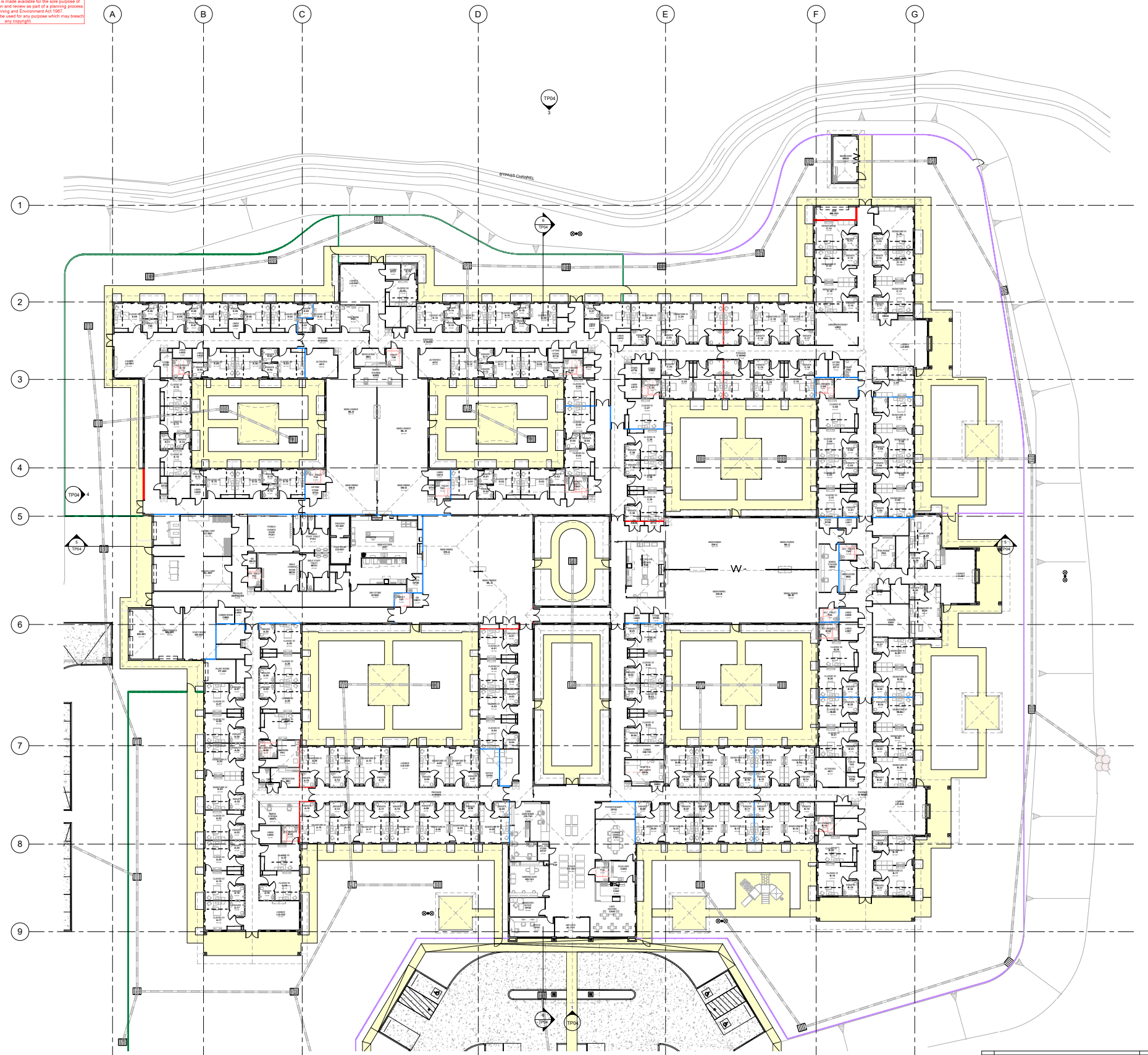
**LEGEND**

TREE SYMBOL	FENCING	SITE
(Solid black line) EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN	(Blue line) FARMLAND POST & RAIL FENCE	(Green square) ELECTRICAL POWER POLE (EPP)
(Dashed black line) EXISTING TREES TO BE REMOVED	(Pink line) PROPOSED NEW 2.4m SCREEN FENCE	(Green square) SWALE REFER TO CIVIL ENGINEERS DRAWINGS
(Green circle) PROPOSED FEATURE TREE	(Green line) PROPOSED NEW 1.4m UX ORBOND FENCE	(Grey square) ASPHALT CARPARK
	(Purple line) PROPOSED NEW 1.5m POOL FENCE	(Yellow square) FOOTPATH
		(Cross-hatched square) GRATED PIT
		(Circle with cross) HYDRANTS

<p>PROJECT: ROMSEY</p> <p>CLIENT: CROFT DEVELOPMENTS</p> <p>ADDRESS: 100 MELBOURNE - LANCEFIELD ROAD &amp; HUTCHINSONS LANE WEST</p>	<p>SHEET SERIES: TOWN PLANNING</p> <p>SHEET TITLE: PROPOSED SITE PLAN</p>	<p>SCALE: A4</p> <p>DATE: 14.09.2021</p> <p>DRAWN BY: ALISON</p> <p>DESIGNED/NO. DRAWN: TP02</p> <p>REVISION: 1</p>	<p><b>ENGINEERING ISSUE</b></p> <p><b>CROFT DEVELOPMENTS</b></p> <p>Croft Developments Pty Ltd is a trading name of Croft Developments Pty Ltd          19 Wings Road, Chesham VIC 3192          Tel: (03) 9581 0100 Fax: (03) 9585 6363</p>
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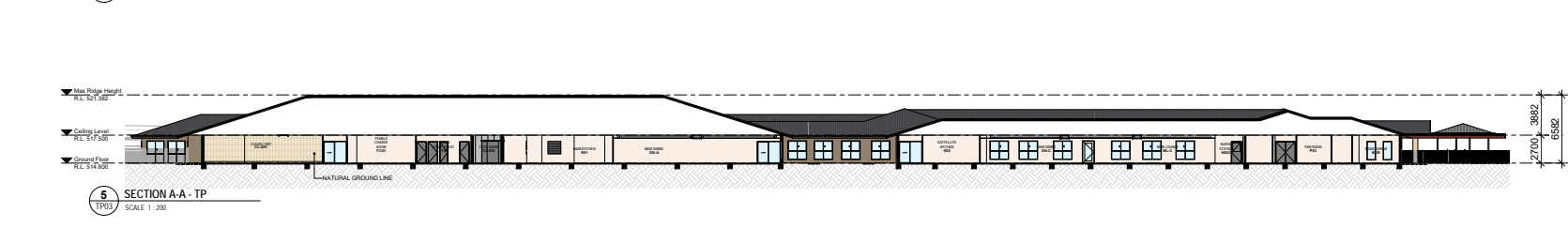
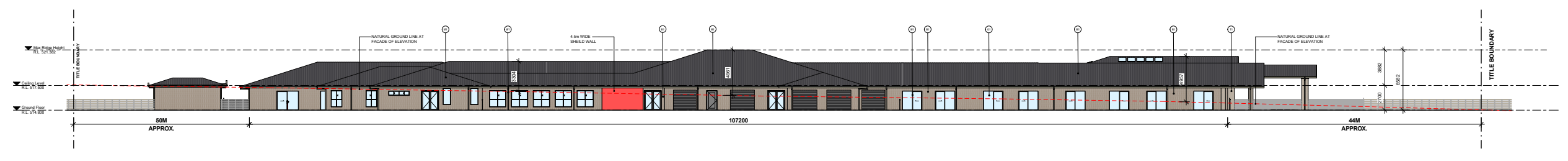
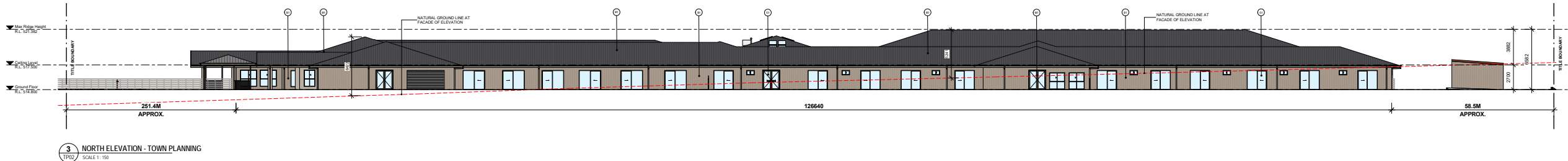
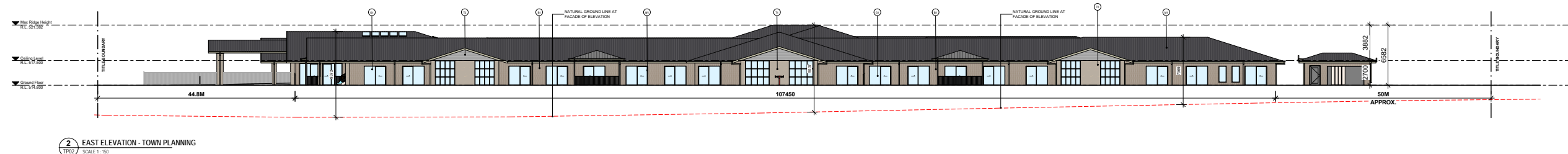
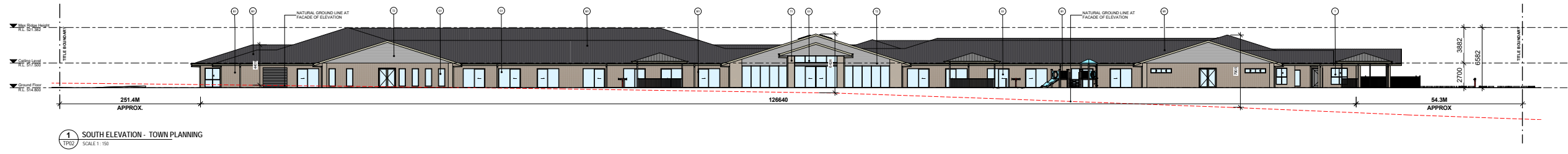
1 SITE PLAN  
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TREE SYMBOL	FENCING	SITE
EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN (SOLID BLACK LINE)	FARMLAND POST & RAIL FENCE	ELECTRICAL POWER POLE (PP)
EXISTING TREES TO BE REMOVED	PROPOSED NEW 2.4m SCREEN FENCE	SWALE REFER TO CIVIL ENGINEERS DRAWINGS
PROPOSED FEATURE TREE	PROPOSED NEW 1.4m COLORBOND FENCE	ASPHALT CARPARK
	PROPOSED NEW 1.2m POOL FENCE	FOOTPATH
		HYDRANTS
		GRATED PIT

PROJECT <b>ROMSEY</b>	SHEET SERIES TOWN PLANNING	SCALE: A4 DATE: 14.09.2021	 Croft Developments Pty Ltd an Equal Opportunity Employer 89 Warrigals Road, Chesham VIC 3192 Tel: (03) 9581 0100 Fax: (03) 9585 6363
CLIENT CROFT DEVELOPMENTS ADDRESS: 100 MELBOURNE - LANCEFIELD ROAD & HUTCHINSONS LANE WEST	SHEET TITLE PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN	DRAWING NUMBER: <b>TP03</b> REVISION: 1	

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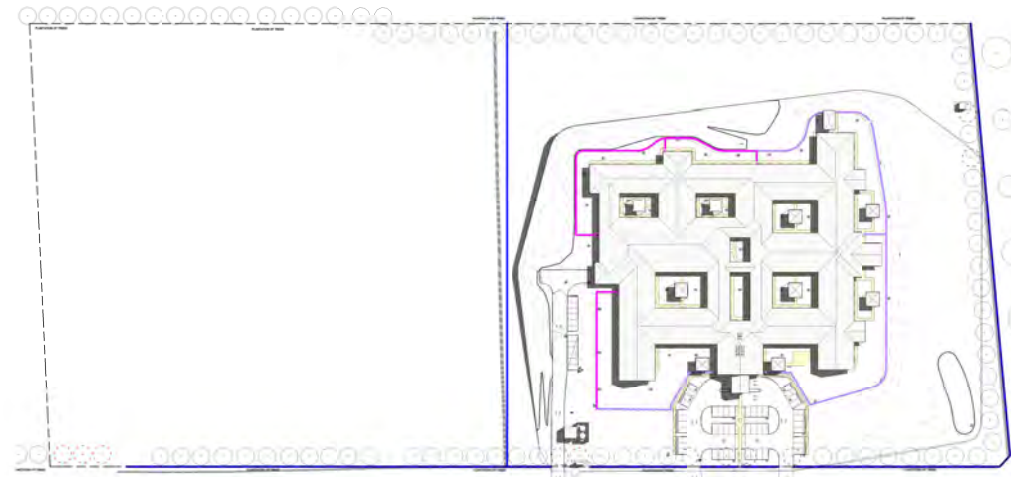
PROPOSED EXTERNAL MATERIALS & FINISHES SCHEDULE


PROJECT: ROMSEY	SHEET SERIES: TOWN PLANNING	SCALE: As Shown	 CROFT DEVELOPMENTS Pty Ltd An Equal Opportunity Employer 19 Wingara Road, Chesham VIC 3192 Tel: (03) 9581 0100 Fax: (03) 9585 8363
CLIENT: CROFT DEVELOPMENTS	SHEET TITLE: PROPOSED ELEVATIONS & SECTIONS	DATE: 14.08.2021	
ADDRESS: CORNER/BOUNDARY LANCEFIELD ROAD & HUTCHINSONS LANE WEST	REVISION: 1	DRAWN BY: AJW	



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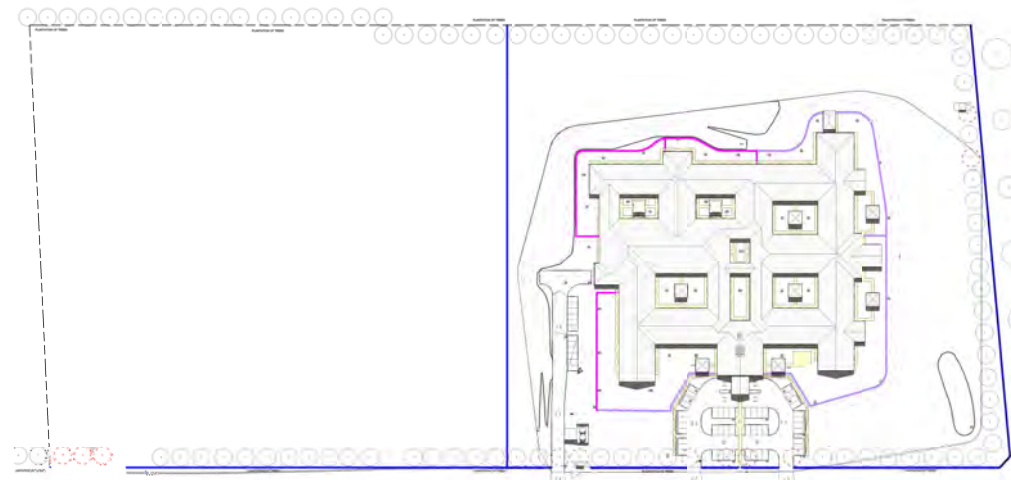
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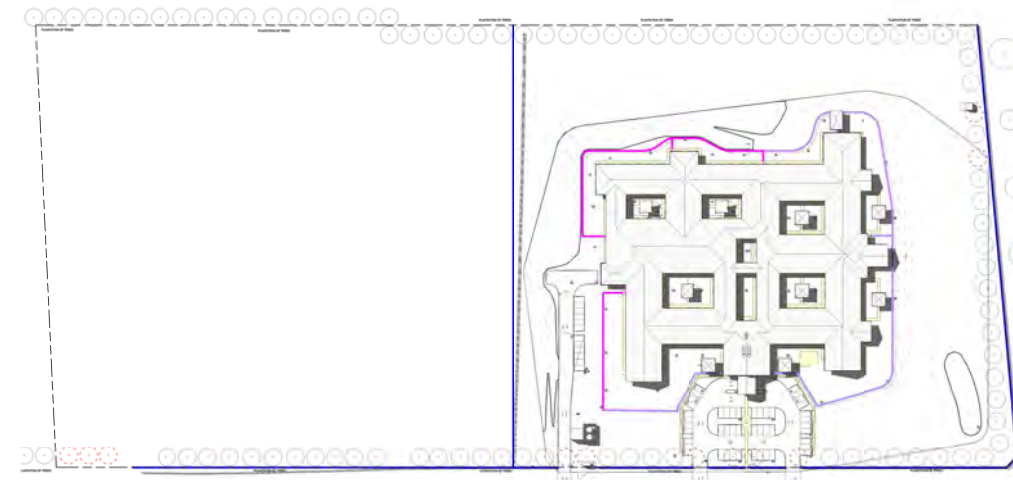
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 SCALE 1:1000



2 SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 10am  
 SCALE 1:1000



3 SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 12pm  
 SCALE 1:1000



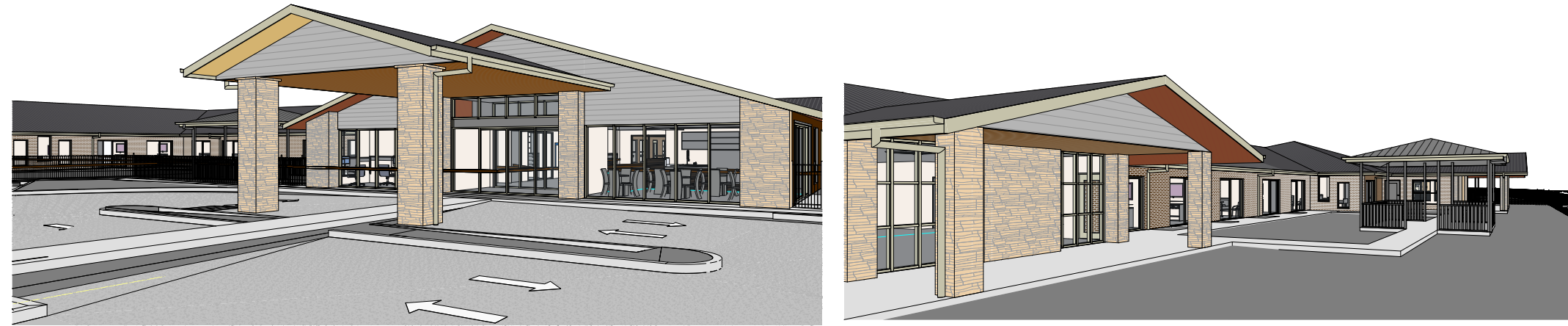
4 SHADOW DIAGRAMS - 3pm  
 SCALE 1:1000


<p>PROJECT <b>ROMSEY</b></p> <p>CLIENT CROFT DEVELOPMENTS</p> <p>ADDRESS 100 WINGHAM LANE, LANCEFIELD ROAD &amp; HUTCHINGS LANE WEST</p>		<p>SHEET SERIES <b>TOWN PLANNING</b></p> <p>SHEET TITLE <b>SHADOW DIAGRAMS</b></p>	<p>SCALE 1:1000/40</p> <p>DATE 14.08.2021</p> <p>DRAWN BY AUBREY</p> <p>DESIGNED/NO. DRAWING</p>	<p><b>TOWN PLANNING</b></p> <p><b>CROFT DEVELOPMENTS</b> <small>enviro.com.au</small></p> <p>Croft Developments Pty Ltd an Equal Opportunity Employer          19 Wingham Road, Chesham VIC 3192          Tel: (03) 9581 0100 Fax: (03) 9585 6363</p>
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PROJECT <b>ROMSEY</b>		SHEET SERIES: <b>TOWN PLANNING</b>		SCALE: 6/40
CLIENT: CROFT DEVELOPMENTS		SHEET TITLE: <b>PERSPECTIVE VIEWS</b>		DATE: 14.08.2022
ADDRESS: CROFT DEVELOPMENTS - LANCEFIELD ROAD & HUTCHINGS LANE WEST		DRAWN BY: AJW		DESIGNED/NO. DRAWN: <b>TP06</b>
		REVISION: 1		 Croft Developments Pty Ltd an Equal Opportunity Employer 89 Wiggins Road, Chesham VIC 3192 Tel: (03) 9581 0100   Fax: (03) 9585 8363



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# ROMSEY COMMUNITY AGED CARE

## TOWN PLANNING

AUGUST 2020



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## EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

SEASONALITY EXPRESSED IN DECIDUOUS TREE LINED STREETS  
 AUTUMNAL COLOURS & DAPPLED LIGHT  
 RURAL CHARACTER, MATERIALITY & SETTING



## DESIGN INTENT

THE LANDSCAPE & PLANTING DESIGN FOR THE ROMSEY AGED CARE FACILITY IS BASED ON CREATING COMFORTABLE OUTDOOR SPACES WHICH ARE RELEVANT AND WELCOMING, AND REFLECTIVE OF THEIR RURAL SETTING. THEMED PLANTING OF SPACES HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO ENCOURAGE OUTDOOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND MULTIPLE SOURCES OF STIMULATION, AS WELL AS PROVIDING A STRONG LANDSCAPE SETTING FOR THE BUILDING.

A RURAL THEME HAS INFORMED PLANTING SELECTIONS TO COMPLEMENT THE ESTABLISHED STREET TREES ALONG LANCEFIELD - MELBOURNE ROAD, AND THE BROADER ROMSEY TOWNSHIP. RURAL THEMING IS ALSO REFLECTED IN A COMBINATION OF DECIDUOUS EXOTIC TREE SPECIES & NATIVE PLANTING. BIRD BATH & RUSTIC STYLED POTS BRINGS A RURAL FEELING INTO INTERNAL COURTYARD SPACES.

INTERMITTENT VIEWS OF BUILT FORM AND ENGAGEMENT FROM THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE HAS INFORMED PLANTING SELECTIONS, AND DESIGN OF PERIMETER INTERFACE.

THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN COMPRISES OF A SERIES OF COURTYARD SPACES WHICH PROMOTE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND SENSE OF PLACE FOR RESIDENTS AND STAFF. A COMBINATION OF OPEN GRASS AREAS, AND PATHS SET AMONG LUSH PLANTING OFFER VARIED EXPERIENCES. CORE PRINCIPLES OF MEMORY STIMULATION, ENABLEMENT, PLACEMAKING AND CONNECTION FORM THE BASIS FOR LANDSCAPE DESIGN IN HIGH CARE FACILITIES

KEY OBJECTIVES FOR LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL INCLUDE:

- CREATING COMFORTABLE OUTDOOR SPACES WHICH ARE USE SPECIFIC, RELEVANT AND WELCOMING TO THE AGED CARE FACILITY, INCLUDING VISITORS AND STAFF, AND TO ENCOURAGE SOCIAL INTERACTION AND A SENSE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH GOOD DESIGN;
- PROVIDE LANDSCAPE PLANTING SETTING WHICH EVOKES SENSE OF SEASONALITY & EXPRESSES CHANGE WITH FOLIAGE COLOUR, FLOWERING SPECIES & EDIBLE SEASONAL PLANTING;
- INCORPORATE PLANTING AND WAYFINDING TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO EXPLORE THE COURTYARD SPACES AND GAIN BENEFITS, SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND MOVEMENT OUT DOORS;
- TO PROVIDE AND PROMOTE SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE SPACES WHERE RESIDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PERSONALISE EXTERNAL SPACES THROUGH RESIDENT LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE AND PLANTING OF SEASONAL FRUITING / FLOWERING SPECIES,
- TO ALLOW RESIDENTS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE BROADER GROUNDS AND ASSIST WITH MANAGEMENT OF THE ORCHARD;
- TO ESTABLISH PLANT SPECIES THAT ARE KNOWN TO TOLERATE THE LOCAL CONDITIONS, ARE ADAPTABLE TO THE LOCAL SOIL TYPES AND CLIMATIC CHARACTERISTICS, AND PROVIDE SEASONAL COLOUR, SMELL AND TEXTURE TO ENHANCE THE OUTDOOR AREAS. TO USE LOW WATER USE PLANTS, WITH A PREFERENCE FOR HARDY NATIVE AND EXOTIC SPECIES TO ENSURE THAT THE PROPOSED LANDSCAPE REACHES ITS FULL POTENTIAL; AND
- PROVIDE AREAS FOR FOOD PRODUCTION ACROSS THE SITE TO ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO ENGAGE WITH THE LANDSCAPE.



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- 01 FEATURE & SHADE TREES TO ENTRY CARPARKING AREA
  - 02 TRANSPLANT SIZE PALM TREE TO FLANK ENTRY EXPERIENCE
  - 03 SCREENING TREE PLANTING THROUGH ACCESS & CARPARKING AREA
  - 04 OPEN ROLL ON TURF SPACES WITH DECIDUOUS SHADE TREES
  - 05 SCREENING PLANTING TO EDGE OF TURF SPACES WITH SCREENED VIEWS OVER DRAINAGE BASIN
  - 06 OPEN TURF AREAS WITH VIEWS OVER INFORMAL FRUITING TREE ORCHARD. SIMPLE EXISTING GROUND TRACK TO MEANDER THROUGH ORCHARD SETTING
  - 07 STORMWATER BYPASS CHANNEL - BY OTHERS
  - 08 DRY SEEDING GRASS TREATMENT ADJACENT DISTURBED AREAS OF SITE
  - 09 RURAL STYLE CENTRAL COURTYARDS WITH DECIDUOUS TREES FOR PASSIVE SOLAR GAIN. COMBINATION OF FEATURE GARDEN POTS & BIRD BATH STYLE BOWLS. PLANTING INCLUDES A COMBINATION OF BIRD ATTRACTING FLOWERING NATIVE & EXOTIC TREES & PLANTS
  - 10 CENTRAL COURTYARD SPACE INFORMAL PATH & FEATURE LUSH PLANTING FOR A SENSORIAL ALTERNATIVE TO OTHER COURTYARDS
  - 11 FORMAL PAVING & SEATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESIDENT GATHERING & SEATING SPACES
  - 12 SHADE TREES TO WESTERN CARPARK AREA. MANAGED PASTURAL GRASS AREA UNDER TREE PLANTING
  - 13 TREE & LOW SHRUB PLANTING THROUGH DRAINAGE BASIN
  - 14 EXISTING BOUNDARY TREES TO BE RETAINED & PROTECTED DURING CONSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE FILTERED VIEWS THROUGHOUT DEVELOPMENT
  - 15 DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE - BY OTHERS
  - 16 NEW FENCE - BY OTHERS
- DASHED LINE INDICATES EXTENT OF IRRIGATED AREA  
 IRRIGATION BUBBLERS TO ALL TREES
- REFER M1.102 FOR BUSHIRE MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS



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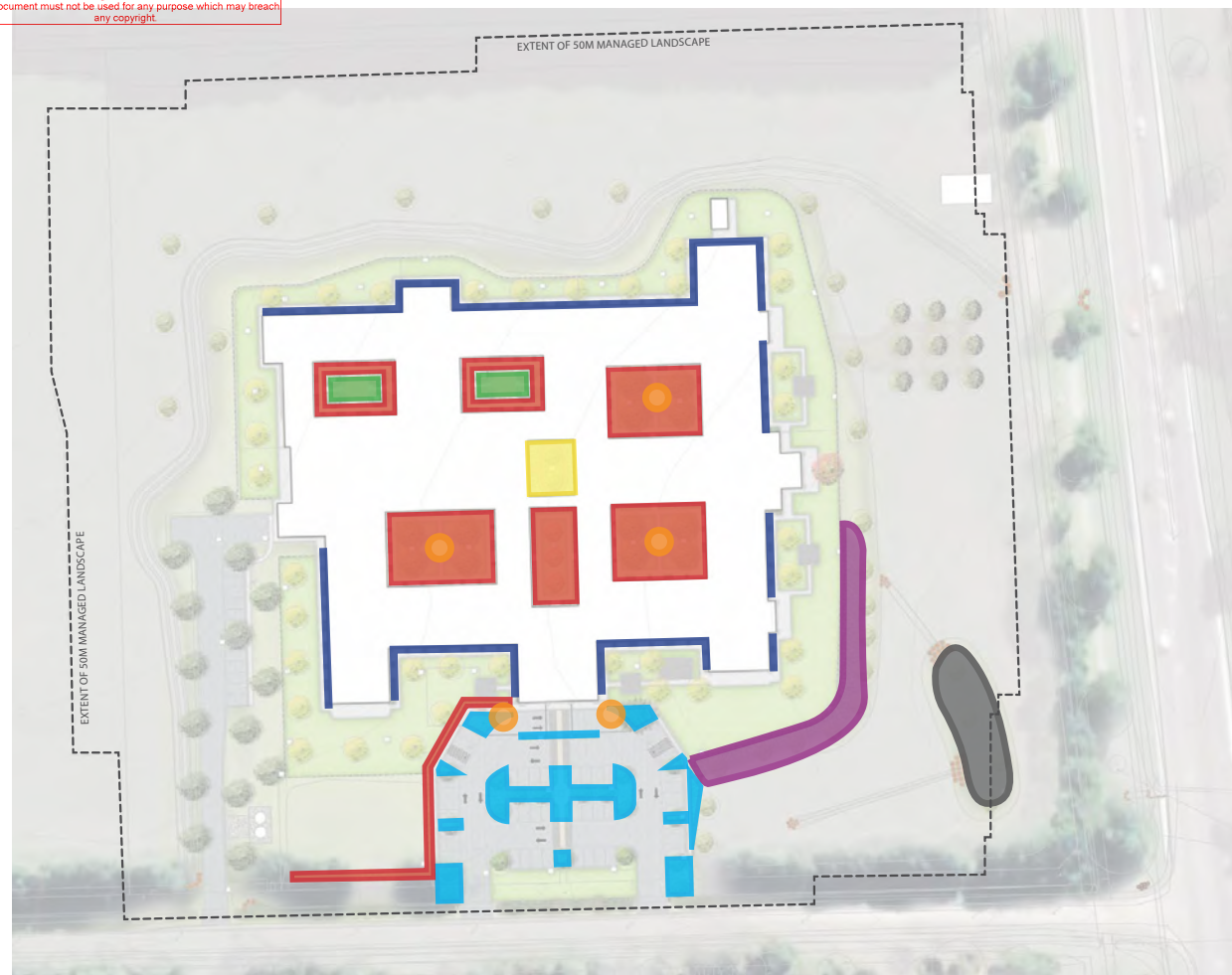
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LOCATION PLAN NTS

BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE NOTES

- PASTURAL GRASS WITHIN 50M OF THE DEVELOPMENT SHALL BE MAINTAINED AND MOWN TO A SHORT CROPPED HEIGHT DURING THE DECLARED FIRE DANGER PERIOD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LANDSCAPE BEST PRACTICES
- ALL LAWN/GRASS AREAS SHALL BE MAINTAINED AND MOWN TO A SHORT CROPPED HEIGHT DURING THE DECLARED FIRE DANGER PERIOD, IN ACCORDANCE WITH LANDSCAPE BEST PRACTICES
- ALL LEAVES, DEADWOOD & VEGETATION DEBRIS SHALL BE REMOVED AT REGULAR INTERVALS DURING THE DECLARED FIRE PERIOD
- NO PLANTS GREATER THAN 100MM HIGH ARE PROPOSED WITHIN 3M OF THE FACE OF THE BUILDING
- INDIVIDUAL SHRUBS AND CLUMPS OF SHRUBS WILL NOT EXCEED 5 SQ.M AND ARE TO BE SEPARATED BY A MINIMUM OF 5M
- THE DEVELOPMENT IS SEPARATED FROM THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY BY A MINIMUM OF 20M

FEATURE PLANTING - IMPACT SPECIES PLANTING

- ALOE ALOE 'BIG RED'
- OLEA EUROPEA 'DWARF OLIVE'
- HYDRANGEA SPP.



MIX A - LUSH AND SENSORIAL PLANTING

- DODONEA X VISCOSA 'PURPUREA'
- POA LABILLARDIERE 'COMMON TUSsock GRASS'
- AGAPANTHIS ORIENTALIS 'BLUE'
- EUPHORBIA AMYGDALOIDES 'SPURGE'
- LOMANDRA 'TANIKA'
- RHAPHIOLEPIS INDICA ALBA 'INDIAN HAWTHORN'
- LIRIOPE MUSCARI VARIEGATA 'VARIEGATED LILLY TURF'



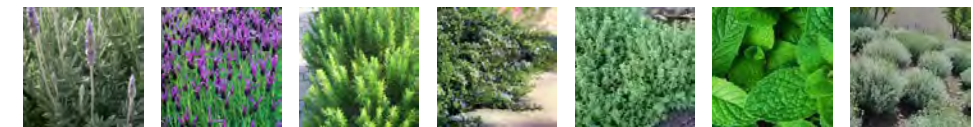
MIX B - LOW GROUNDcover PLANTING  
 100MM HIGH ONLY WITHIN 3M OF BUILDING

- ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS PROSTRATE 'ROSEMARY'
- CHRYSOCEPHALUM APICULATUM 'GAZANIA'
- JUNIPERUS CONFERTA 'SHORE JUNIPER'
- JUNIPERUS WILTONII 'BLUE RUG'
- CARPROBRUTUS MODESTUS 'PIG FACE'



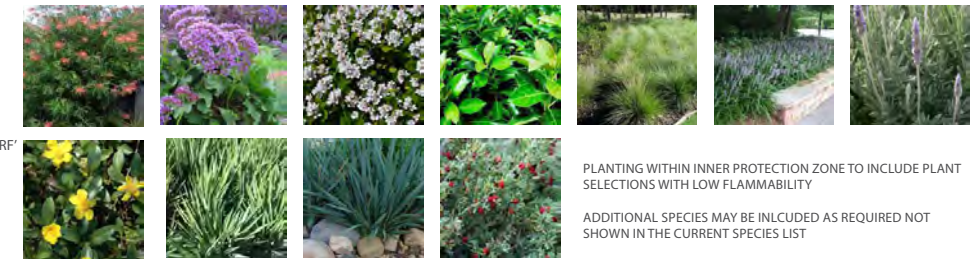
MIX C - EDIBLE AND SENSORIAL PLANTING

- LAVENDULA DENTATA 'FRENCH LAVENDER'
- LAVENDULA STOECHAS 'SPANISH LAVENDER'
- ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS 'ROSEMARY'
- ROSMARINUS OFFICINALIS PROSTRATE 'ROSEMARY'
- THYMUS CITRIODORUS 'LEMON THYME'
- MENTHA LONGIFOLIA 'MINT'
- SANTOLINA CHAMAECYPARISSUS SPP. TOMENTOSA 'COTTON LAVENDER'



MIX D - INFORMAL HEDGE AND FLOWERING PLANTING

- GREVILLEA 'ROBYN GORDON' GREVILLEA
- LIMONIUM PEREZII 'BLUE' SEA LAVENDER
- RHAPHIOLEPIS INDICA ALBA 'INDIAN HAWTHORN'
- VIBURNUM EMERALD LUSTRE'
- ENCHYLAENA TOMENTOSA 'RUBY SALT BUSH'
- LOMANDRA LONGIFOLIA 'TANIKA'
- LIRIOPE MUSCARI VARIEGATA 'VARIEGATED LILLY TURF'
- METROSIDEROS CORRINA 'FIJI FIRE'
- HIBBERTIA SCANDENS
- DIANELLA REVOLUTA 'LITTLE REV'
- DIANELLA TASMANICA 'CASSA BLUE'



PLANTING WITHIN INNER PROTECTION ZONE TO INCLUDE PLANT SELECTIONS WITH LOW FLAMMABILITY  
 ADDITIONAL SPECIES MAY BE INCLUDED AS REQUIRED NOT SHOWN IN THE CURRENT SPECIES LIST

MIX E - HARDY GROUNDcover PLANTING

- WESTRINGIA FRUITICOSA 'FLAT & FRUITY' COASTAL ROSEMARY
- CONVULVULUS CNEORUM 'SILVER BUSH'
- MYOPORUM PARVIFOLIUM 'CREEPING BOOBALIA'
- CARRISA MACROCARPA 'DESERT STAR'
- JUNIPERUS CONFERTA 'SHORE JUNIPER'
- DIANELLA TASMANICA 'TASMAN FLAX LILLY'



MIX F - MEDIUM HEIGHT SHRUB PLANTING

- ACACIA BROWNII 'HEATH WATTLE'
- KUNZEA ERICOIDES 'BURGAN'
- HARDENBERGIA VIOLACEA 'PURPLE CORAL PEA'
- INDIGOFERA AUSTRALIA 'AUSTRALIAN INDIGO'
- EREMOPHILA NIVEA 'SEA LAVENDER'



MIX G - DRAINAGE BASIN PLANTING

- LOMANDRA LONGIFOLIA 'BASKET GRASS'
- LOMANDRA LONGIFOLIA 'TANIKA'
- ALLOCASUARINA PALUDOSA 'SWAMP SHEOAK'
- CAREX APPRESSA 'TALL SEDGE'



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 JULY 2020

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LOCATION PLAN NTS

DECIDUOUS SHADE TREES

- PYRUS CALLERYANNA 'ARISTOCRAT'
- ACER FREEMANII 'JEFFERS RED'
- PYRUS CALLERYANA 'CHANTICLEER'
- ULMUS GLABRA LUTESCENS 'GOLDEN ELM'



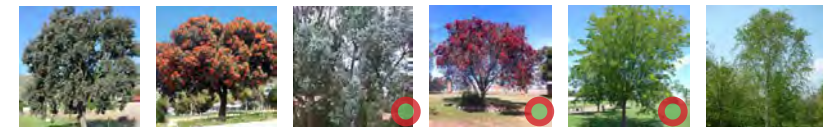
SMALL ORNAMENTAL FEATURE TREES

- LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA 'NATCHEZ'
- BETULA PENDULA 'SILVER BIRCH'
- EUCALYPTUS MANNIFERA 'LITTLE SPOTTY'
- ACER PALMATUM ATROPURPUREUM 'JAPANESE MAPLE'



SHADE & FEATURE TREES

- EUCALYPTUS POLYANTHEMOS 'RED BOX'
- CORYMBIA FICIFOLIA 'RED FLOWERING GUM'
- EUCALYPTUS CEPHALOCARPA 'SILVER LEAF GUM'
- CALLISTEMON VIMINALIS
- BETULA PENDULA 'SILVER BIRCH'



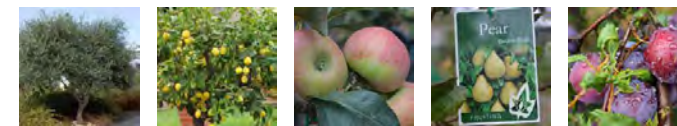
FEATURE TREES - SPECIMEN

- FRAXINUS OXYCARPA 'RAYWOODII'
- QUERCUS PALUSTRIS 'PIN OAK'
- PYRUS CALLERYANNA 'ARISTOCRAT'



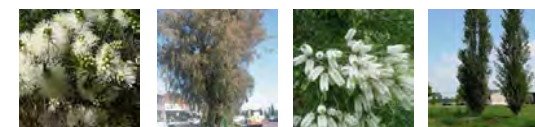
FRUITING/EDIBLE TREES

- OLEA EUROPEA 'EUROPEAN OLIVE'
- CITRUS X MYERI 'MYER LEMON'
- DWARF APPLE - SPP
- PEAR TREE - SPP
- DWARF PLUM - SPP



BASIN PLANTING

- MELALEUCA ERICIFOLIA 'SWAMP PAPERBARK'
- ALLOCASUARINA LITTORALIS 'BLACK SHEOAK'
- MELALEUCA LANCEOLATA 'BLACK PAPERBARK'
- POPULUS NIGRA 'ITALICA'



PALM TREE

- TRACHYCARPUS FORTUNEI 'CHINESE WINDMILL'



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# Reconciliation Action Plan - Innovate - 2021- 2023



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## 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, and present.

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.

## Mayor's Statement

It is with great pleasure that I present Macedon Ranges Shire Council's first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Council is genuinely committed to reconciliation and building strong relationships, respect and trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and all our Macedon Ranges communities. Council recognises that the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples are the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Macedon Ranges is located, and have been so for many thousands of years, with ongoing connection, rights and obligations in its management and care.

A key element of the RAP is supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' right to self-determination. Council sees economic independence and involvement in decision-making as critical to this. The RAP aims to support economic opportunities for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples, as well as developing natural resource management agreements with the Traditional Owners to ensure their voice is central to protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

We recognise the need to create meaningful change, to facilitate a new story about our shared history and to increase awareness about the cultural heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The implementation of the RAP will initiate these community-wide changes and enable all Macedon Ranges residents to celebrate and respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

We also see this as an opportunity to learn from the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples' ongoing connection to Country and make use of their deep knowledge of what works to care for the land and waters and our communities. The RAP will enable us to form strong partnerships to share and learn from each other.

The RAP has been developed over a period of 18 months to ensure that as an organisation we could build our own understanding of what reconciliation means for us and to listen to the voices of the Traditional Owners, local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the broader community. As this is our first RAP we see this as building the foundations for an ongoing process of reconciliation and partnership with Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples. The RAP is our roadmap for this process and provides an opportunity to understand how Council can be most effective in reconciliation, test what works and how to develop meaningful and respectful relationships with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples. We know we may not always get this right but we are committed to continuously learning and changing our approach so there can be genuine reconciliation for all our communities.

## Our vision for reconciliation

Our vision for reconciliation is one of equality and unity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and all Macedon Ranges communities, which recognises past injustices, our shared history and shared future, and strengthens Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' right to self-determination.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council will contribute to a future where Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples' histories, cultures and rights are respected, learnt from and celebrated and where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have access to equitable opportunities that enhance self-determination.

# Reconciliation Australia Statement

Reconciliation Australia commends Macedon Ranges Shire Council on the formal endorsement of its inaugural Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

Commencing an Innovate RAP is a crucial and rewarding period in an organisation's reconciliation journey. It is a time to build strong foundations and relationships, ensuring sustainable, thoughtful, and impactful RAP outcomes into the future.

Since 2006, RAPs have provided a framework for organisations to leverage their structures and diverse spheres of influence to support the national reconciliation movement.

This Innovate RAP is both an opportunity and an invitation for Macedon Ranges Shire Council to expand its understanding of its core strengths and deepen its relationship with its community, staff, and stakeholders.

By investigating and understanding the integral role it plays across its sphere of influence, Macedon Ranges Shire Council will create dynamic reconciliation outcomes, supported by and aligned with its business objectives.

An Innovate RAP is the time to strengthen and develop the connections that form the lifeblood of all RAP commitments. The RAP program's framework of *relationships*, *respect*, and *opportunities* emphasises not only the importance of fostering consultation and collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities, but also empowering and enabling staff to contribute to this process, as well.

With over 2.3 million people now either working or studying in an organisation with a RAP, the program's potential for impact is greater than ever. Macedon Ranges Shire Council is part of a strong network of more than 1,100 corporate, government, and not-for-profit organisations that have taken goodwill and intention, and transformed it into action.

Implementing an Innovate RAP signals Macedon Ranges Shire Council's readiness to develop and strengthen relationships, engage staff and stakeholders in reconciliation, and pilot innovative strategies to ensure effective outcomes.

Getting these steps right will ensure the sustainability of future RAPs and reconciliation initiatives, and provide meaningful impact toward Australia's reconciliation journey.

Congratulations Macedon Ranges Shire Council on your Innovate RAP and I look forward to following your ongoing reconciliation journey.

Karen Mundine  
Chief Executive Officer  
Reconciliation Australia

# Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples

## Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples

The Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples are the Traditional Owners of the Country that stretches from Woodend to the west side of the Campaspe River in Kyneton, north east to Rochester, Boort in the north, Donald in the north-west, St Arnaud and Mount Avoca in the west, and Creswick in the south west. The Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation are the Registered Aboriginal Party that are the voice of the Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples in the management and protection of cultural heritage. On 28 March 2013, the State of Victoria and the Dja Dja Wurrung People signed a Recognition and Settlement Agreement which formally recognises the Dja Dja Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of their land. The agreement also marked the commencement of a new and permanent relationship between the Dja Dja Wurrung Peoples and the State of Victoria.

## Taungurung Peoples

The Taungurung Peoples are the Traditional Owners of a large part of central Victoria. Taungurung country covers over 20,000 square kilometres and stretches from Kyneton in the south-west up to Rochester in the north-west, across to Bright in the north-east and down to Woods Point in the south-east. The Taungurung People describe themselves as the people of the rivers and the mountains, with the Goulburn River running through their heartland country, and the great high country peaks of Buller, Stirling and Buffalo dominating their eastern uplands. The Great Dividing Range marks their southern boundary. The Taungurung Land and Waters Council is the Registered Aboriginal Party for the management and protection of Taungurung cultural heritage. It also manages and administers the rights and interests set out in the Recognition and Settlement Agreement signed off with the Victorian Government in 2018, formally recognising the Taungurung People as Traditional Owners of their land.

## Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples are the Traditional Owners of the Country that covers a large area around Melbourne and extends northwards to include Gisborne, Lancefield, Macedon, Riddells Creek and Romsey in the Macedon Ranges. The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation are the Registered Aboriginal Party that represent the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples and engages in cultural heritage, educational services and land management.

## Local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples

As a result of colonial policies and demographic shifts there are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples living in Macedon Ranges who belong to different Traditional Owner groups from all over Australia. Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples make up 0.6% (298) of the total population in Macedon Ranges shire.

## Our place

Macedon Ranges shire is located approximately 50km North West of Melbourne, in the Central Victoria region. It is a diverse and contrasting landscape, an ancient folded terrain which was once a sea bed, flattened in places by lava flows and cut with gorges by rivers. Relative to other areas of Victoria, the Macedon Ranges shire retains large areas of native vegetation in good condition, with much of it on private land.

At the geographic centre of the region is the Macedon Ranges and Hanging Rock. The Macedon Ranges rises dramatically from the surrounding plains and low rolling hills. Mount Macedon is an extinct volcano rising 1010m above sea-level, making it the highest peak of the Macedon Ranges, as well as being culturally significant for the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples. Hanging Rock is located to the north of Mount Macedon and is on the edge of several Traditional Owner groups' boundaries and is believed to be a shared place.

Wil-im-ee Moor-ring (Mount William), north of Lancefield, is one of the most important cultural sites of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples, with highly-prized green stone being extensively quarried for use as axe tools. Wil-im-ee Moor-ring was recently added to the National Heritage List in recognition of its national significance.

Yelka Park, near Carlsruhe and on Taungurung Country, was named after the word for this section of the Campaspe River which features heavily in local Aboriginal history as a major meeting and trading place between local Aboriginal clans. On this site, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung People from Wil-im-ee Moor-ring traded greenstone blanks that could be shaped into axe heads, spear points and scraping tools.

The Macedon Ranges provides the headwaters for four major Victorian waterways; the Campaspe and Coliban rivers to the north which make their way to Lake Eppalock and on toward the Murray River, and the Maribyrnong and Werribee Rivers to the south which feed into the Maribyrnong River before entering metropolitan Melbourne and Port Phillip Bay.

## Our business

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is responsible for managing, planning and delivering a range of services to residents, businesses and visitors including early years and maternal and child health services, sport and recreation, economic development and tourism, environmental sustainability, community development, parks and open spaces, waste and recycling collection amongst others. We deliver our services from across four sites in Kyneton, Gisborne, Woodend, and Romsey.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council employs over 650 people of which the number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People is unknown.<sup>1</sup> Council is governed by nine elected Councillors who develop the Council Plan which is the primary vision and goal setting document for Council during its term. The Council Plan is organised around five main priorities.

- Promoting health and wellbeing
- Protecting the natural environment
- Improving the built environment
- Enhancing the social and economic environment
- Delivering strong and reliable government

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<sup>1</sup> Council does not yet formally record data on employee's identity, but plans to do so as part of implementing this plan.

## Our RAP Journey

For Macedon Ranges Shire Council, reconciliation is about recognising and respecting the rights of Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples of this country. It is about understanding and accepting the wrongs of the past, including dispossession, violence and upheaval of the land and waters, and the impact of this on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples. Council sees reconciliation as strengthening Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' right to self-determination and working together for a more just, equitable and reconciled Australia.

Council sees a RAP as a way to build better relationships with Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples. It will help identify ways for Council to respect and recognise Traditional Owners' cultures, provide an opportunity to learn from the connection Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People have with their Country and empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to participate equally in all areas of life.

This is Macedon Ranges Shire Council's first RAP but Council has been recognising and acknowledging the histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and partnering with the Traditional Owners in a number of ways including:

- Regularly organising community activities and events for National Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week
- Developing 'Organisational Protocols for Recognising Traditional Owners and Custodians'
- Commissioning a Taungurung Elder to design a Welcome to Country sign for the Kyneton Community Park
- Establishing Yelka Park as a significant site in partnership with the Taungurung Peoples
- Employing Registered Aboriginal Parties enterprises for cultural burns and natural resource management
- Co-developing the Hanging Rock Strategic Plan with the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples

The outcome of these initiatives is the development of greater partnerships and collaboration with the local Traditional Owner groups and greater understanding and awareness in the local community of Traditional Owners' histories and cultures.

## Guiding Principles

The RAP was developed with five guiding principles. The RAP should:

- Align with the strategic priorities of the Traditional Owner groups in Macedon Ranges
- Reflect the needs and priorities of local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
- Strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's right to self-determination.
- Support partnerships with Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples
- Respect different knowledge systems

## The RAP Working Group

The RAP Working Group includes representatives from across Council's four Directorates, local residents who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, representatives from the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation and Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, and two non-Aboriginal community members. It is chaired by Angela Hughes, Council's Director Planning and Environment, as our RAP champion. The members of the RAP Working Group are as follows:

- Angela Hughes (Planning & Environment) – RAP Working Group Chair
- Awais Sadiq (Statutory Planning)
- Michael O'Dwyer (Parks)
- Daniel Young (Hanging Rock)
- Brad Tellis (Customer Service)
- Moyra Douglas (People, Culture and Performance)
- Leanne Carlon (Community Development)
- Bob Elkington (Economic Development)
- Pauline Ugle (Djandak/Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation)
- Maxine West (Aboriginal Community Member)
- Dennis Batty (Taungurung - Aboriginal Community Member)
- Aunty Julieanne Axford (Elder - Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation)
- Rachel Dettmann (Community Member)
- Georgie Garvey-Hawke (Community Member)
- Bonnie Chew (Mirriyu Cultural Consulting)

The RAP Working Group is grateful to Bonnie Chew, Director of Mirriyu Cultural Consulting and proud Wadawurrung woman, who supported the working group and the development of the RAP.

## The RAP Development Process

The RAP Working Group explored what reconciliation means, what the guiding principles were and what our local context was. It analysed the strategic priorities of the three Traditional Owner groups through looking at their Country Plans, their main direction-setting document, and other strategic documents and Council's existing reconciliation priorities.

Consultation took place with the three Traditional Owner groups (face to face meetings, survey), local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples, (survey, workshop), Council staff (team meetings, survey, workshop), Councillors (workshop), and all Macedon Ranges residents (survey). Ideas from the consultation were ranked on the level of support amongst stakeholders, level of impact, and whether they were achievable in the two-year timeframe. These proposed actions were then discussed with Traditional Owners, Reconciliation Australia and Councillors before being finalised in the RAP.

## Reconciliation Action Plan November 2021 - November 2023

Relationships			
Building strong relationships with Traditional Owners and local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples based on trust and respect is foundational for advancing reconciliation. It enables greater understanding and partnerships and ensures that any actions are relevant and meaningful. Facilitating respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and all Macedon Ranges residents supports a more inclusive community.			
Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
1. <b>Develop and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, communities and organisations to support positive outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations to develop guiding principles for future engagement.</li> </ul>	June 2022	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an engagement plan to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders and organisations.</li> </ul>	June 2023	Community Partnerships Officer
2. <b>Celebrate and participate in National Reconciliation Week by providing opportunities to build and maintain relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other Australians</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise a community National Reconciliation Week event each year to raise awareness and engagement in our local community.</li> </ul>	27 May-3 June 2022 - 2023	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Register our National Reconciliation Week events on Reconciliation Australia's National Reconciliation Week website.</li> </ul>	27 May-3 June 2022 - 2023	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAP Working Group members to participate in an external National Reconciliation Week event.</li> </ul>	27 May-3 June 2022 - 2023	Chair, RAP Working Group



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and support staff and senior leaders to participate in at least one external event to recognise and celebrate National Reconciliation Week.</li> </ul>	27 May-3 June 2022 - 2023	Manager Community Economic Development Arts Events
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunities for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to participate with their cultures and communities during National Reconciliation Week.</li> </ul>	27 May-3 June 2022 – 2023	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circulate Reconciliation Australia’s NRW resources and reconciliation materials to our staff.</li> </ul>	27 May-3 June 2022 – 2023	Manager Community Economic Development Arts Events
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore hosting a youth event during National Reconciliation Week.</li> </ul>	27 May-3 June 2022 – 2023	Coordinator, Youth Development
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a model and partnerships for supporting football-netball clubs in Macedon Ranges shire to conduct an Indigenous round, as part of Reconciliation Week.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Community Partnerships Officer
<b>3. Promote reconciliation through our sphere of influence.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop, implement and review a communications plan to promote our Reconciliation Action Plan to all internal and external stakeholders.</li> </ul>	November 2021	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate our commitment to reconciliation publically by communicating the Council-endorsed vision for reconciliation, displaying on our website and in our customer service centres.</li> </ul>	November 2021	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement strategies to engage our staff in reconciliation.</li> </ul>	June 2022	Manager Community Economic

			Development Arts Events
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to positively influence our external stakeholders to drive reconciliation outcomes.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Manager Community Economic Development Arts Events
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collaborate with RAP and other like-minded organisations to develop ways to advance reconciliation including identifying collaborative opportunities with Reconciliation Victoria.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Manager Community Economic Development Arts Events
<b>4. Promote positive race relations through anti-discrimination strategies.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a review of Human Resources policies and procedures to identify existing anti-discrimination provisions, and future needs.</li> </ul>	January 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisors to consult on our anti-discrimination policy.</li> </ul>	June 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop, implement and communicate an anti-discrimination policy for our organisation.</li> </ul>	June 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Educate senior leaders on the effects of racism.</li> </ul>	June 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance

<b>Respect</b>			
Respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, knowledge and rights acknowledges their position as Traditional Owners of the land and First Nations people. Respect is key to building strong relationships and by demonstrating and building respect in the community it will enable all Macedon Ranges residents to appreciate and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, histories and cultures.			
<b>Action</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
<b>5. Increase understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories, knowledge and rights through cultural learning.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the cultural learning needs within our organisation.</li> </ul>	January 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with local Traditional Owners on the development and implementation of a cultural learning strategy that incorporates Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung cultural awareness training.</li> </ul>	March 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training strategy which is integrated into Council's Learning and Development Strategy.</li> </ul>	September 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of, and provide training on, Land Use Activity Agreements from the Recognition and Settlement Agreements and cultural heritage requirements under the Cultural Heritage Act.</li> </ul>	December 2021	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide opportunities for RAP Working Group members, Human Resource managers and other key leadership staff to participate in formal and structured cultural learning.</li> </ul>	September 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate awareness of cultural protocols into our corporate induction process.</li> </ul>	September 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
<b>6. Demonstrate respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples by observing cultural protocols.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement, review and update our Organisational Protocols for recognising Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples.</li> </ul>	February 2022	Manager Community Economic Development Arts Events

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an Acknowledgment of Country on all staff email signatures.</li> </ul>	December 2021	Manager, Communications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a standardised Acknowledgment of Country to be used across all kindergartens.</li> </ul>	December 2021	Coordinator, Early Years
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an Acknowledgment of Country on all online external-facing communications (e.g. tourism website, Council website, intranet, social media site page guideline areas etc.).</li> </ul>	June 2022	Manager, Communications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have an Acknowledgment of Country on Council print material where possible.</li> </ul>	June 2022	Manager, Communications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff and senior leaders provide an Acknowledgment of Country or other appropriate protocols at all public events.</li> </ul>	February 2022	Manager Community Economic Development Arts Events
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase staff understanding of the purpose and significance behind cultural protocols, including Acknowledgment of Country and Welcome to Country protocols.</li> </ul>	February 2022	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite a local Traditional Owner or Custodian to provide a Welcome to Country or other appropriate cultural protocol at significant events each year.</li> </ul>	November 2021 – November 2023	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include an Acknowledgement of Country or other appropriate protocols at the commencement of important meetings.</li> </ul>	February 2022	Community Partnerships Officer
<b>7. Build respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and histories by</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In consultation with Traditional Owner groups, organise at least one internal and external NAIDOC Week event.</li> </ul>	July 2022 - 2023	Manager, Community Economic Development Arts Events

celebrating NAIDOC Week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAP Working Group to participate in an external NAIDOC Week event.</li> </ul>	July 2022 - 2023	Chair, RAP Working Group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Human Resources policies and procedures to remove barriers to staff participating in NAIDOC Week.</li> </ul>	May 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and encourage participation in external NAIDOC events to all staff.</li> </ul>	July 2022 – 2023	Manager Community Economic Development Arts Events

Opportunities			
<p>Opportunities, particularly related to economic development, are central to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' self-determination. Increasing economic opportunities will support individual autonomy and a greater ability for people to determine their future. Creating opportunities will also allow Council and the community to benefit from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples' unique histories, cultures and knowledge systems.</p>			
Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
8. Improve employment outcomes by increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment, retention and professional development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build understanding of current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staffing to inform future employment and professional development opportunities.</li> </ul>	June 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to consult on our recruitment, retention and professional development strategy.</li> </ul>	June 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment, retention and professional development strategy which is integrated into Council's Workforce Strategy.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advertise job vacancies to effectively reach Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review HR and recruitment procedures and policies to remove barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in our workplace.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff employed in our workforce.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Manager People, Culture and Performance
<b>9. Increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander supplier diversity to support improved economic and social outcomes.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update procurement practices to remove barriers to procuring goods and services from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.</li> </ul>	December 2021	Manager, Finance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander procurement strategy which is integrated into Council's procurement policy.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Manager, Finance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and communicate opportunities for procurement of goods and services from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to staff.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Manager, Finance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate Supply Nation and Kinaway membership.</li> </ul>	December 2022	Manager, Finance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop commercial relationships with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander businesses.</li> </ul>	June 2023	Manager, Finance
<b>10. Establish natural resource management opportunities on Council-managed reserves</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a program with Traditional Owners to map cultural heritage values and develop Aboriginal cultural heritage land management agreements or similar agreements for Council reserves.</li> </ul>	November 2021 – November 2023	Coordinator, Environment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate the process to develop Aboriginal cultural heritage land management agreements or similar agreement with the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung.</li> </ul>	May 2023	Coordinator, Environment
<b>11. Investigate and develop opportunities for</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a feasibility study to establish the Lancefield Megafauna Interpretation Centre that engages with and includes local Aboriginal histories and cultures.</li> </ul>	June 2022	Coordinator, Arts & Culture

economic and educational outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate a preference for Reconciliation projects into the Community Funding Scheme.</li> </ul>	December 2021	Coordinator, Community Development
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Governance			
Action	Deliverable	Timeline	Responsibility
12. Establish and maintain an effective RAP Working group (RWG) to drive governance of the RAP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on the RAP Working Group.</li> </ul>	November 2021 - November 2023	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and apply a Terms of Reference for the RAP Working Group.</li> </ul>	November 2021	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet at least four times per year to drive and monitor RAP implementation.</li> </ul>	October 2023	Community Partnerships Officer
13. Provide appropriate support for effective implementation of RAP commitments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define resource needs for RAP implementation and develop business cases for each year's implementation.</li> </ul>	December 2021 - 2022	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage our senior leaders and other staff, at least four times per year in the delivery of RAP commitments.</li> </ul>	October 2023	Chair, RAP Working Group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define and maintain appropriate systems to track, measure and report on RAP commitments.</li> </ul>	January 2022	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint and maintain an internal RAP Champion from senior management.</li> </ul>	December 2021	Chair, RAP Working Group

<b>14. Build accountability and transparency through reporting RAP achievements, challenges and learnings both internally and externally.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete and submit the annual RAP Impact Measurement Questionnaire to Reconciliation Australia.</li> </ul>	30 September 2022 - 2023	Community Partnerships Officer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report RAP progress to all staff and senior leaders quarterly.</li> </ul>	October 2023	Chair, RAP Working Group
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publically report our RAP achievements, challenges and learnings, annually.</li> </ul>	May 2022 - 2023	Manager, Communications
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate participating in Reconciliation Australia's biennial Workplace RAP Barometer.</li> </ul>	May 2022	Community Partnerships Officer
<b>15. Continue our reconciliation journey by developing our next RAP.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Register via Reconciliation Australia's website to begin developing our next RAP.</li> </ul>	January 2023	Community Partnerships Officer

#### Further Information

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Woodend Kindergarten

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE COUNCIL  
EARLY YEARS PLAN  
2021-2025

# CREATE





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The start of a child's life has a profound and lasting impact on their future health, learning and development and, as a result, the wellbeing of the whole community.

As at the 2016 Census, we had 6,168 children aged 0-9 years in the Macedon Ranges. Unlike many other regional communities, our population of young people and young families is growing, with around 500 babies born every year.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council provides, supports, promotes and values varying levels of early years services throughout the municipality. Additionally, we play a critical and increasingly strong part in advocating for families and children.

We support children's access to services and infrastructure including kindergartens, Maternal and Child Health, playgroup/toy library, parks, playgrounds, pools and recreation reserves. The 2021-2025 Municipal Early Years Plan provides a framework for the provision of early years services, corresponding with the municipal population and the needs of the communities themselves.

There are a number of different areas we will focus on, including advocacy, planning for and/or funding of high-quality services and infrastructure, and facilitating partnerships. These issues were identified through community consultation and have guided the development of themes and priority areas for the next few years.

We know that positive early childhood development has a direct impact on a child's long-term health outcomes and future opportunities. With this in mind, we are committed to achieving the best outcomes for children, young people and their families. Supporting, continuing and creating new services that are integrated, prevention-focused and evidence based, and tailored to best reflect our region and unique communities, will not only assist early childhood development now, but well into the future.

**Jennifer Anderson**  
Mayor



## CREATE - An introduction

CREATE is a five year plan that responds to the needs, priorities and aspirations of children, as identified by the community. The plan now replaces the previous Early Years Plan 2016-2020.

CREATE recognises that 'children' (for the purposes of this plan those aged under nine years) are citizens and contributors to the communities that they live in, and acknowledges that the participation of children in community life is largely influenced by the beliefs, practices and decisions of adults.

As such, Council was keen to hear from children and adults about what would support a child-friendly Macedon Ranges. A child-friendly community is a place where children's rights and needs are at the centre of good community planning and design. It is place where adults listen to children and young people and take what they say seriously.

CREATE is informed by community and sector consultation undertaken in late 2019 and early 2021, and includes children's voices. It includes priority areas for action and responsibilities across Council departments and, in some instances, shared with the community.





### Highlights from the previous plan

Below is a list of significant initiatives achieved from the Early Years Plan 2016-2020:

- Introduction of Maternal and Child Health parent survey in 2018, with findings used to improve service functions.
- Introduction of annual kindergarten parent survey, with findings used to improve service functions.
- Upgrade of Riddells Creek Kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health and Toy Library.
- Upgrade of Romsey Kindergarten and Maternal and Child Health.
- Upgrade of Swinburne Avenue, Romsey and Woodend kindergarten outdoor areas.
- Implementation of Young Parent Connect program.
- Implementation of Central Enrolment project, focussing on identifying barriers to participation in kindergarten.
- Introduction of Wi-Fi in early years facilities.
- Successful application for a number of funding opportunities: IT grants; inclusive equipment grants; Children's Facilities Capital Program grant.
- Review of Occasional Care program across the shire and cessation of program due to poor utilisation.
- Advocacy to State and Federal Government for a long term commitment to fund 15 hours of kindergarten for eligible four year olds.
- Implementation of Smiles for Miles program.
- Establishment of a breastfeeding clinic in Woodend.
- Establishment of a *smalltalk* Supported Playgroup program.
- Implementation of a Family Support Worker position.
- Expansion of the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health program.
- Coordination of training across Council for assisting vulnerable families and children.
- Coordination of a wheelies forum to advocate for improved infrastructure and footpaths.
- Participation in strategic planning forums to advocate for improved public transport.
- Seeking of funding opportunities to support necessary facility upgrades.
- Introduction of iPad technology and IT equipment (computers/laptops) to kindergartens.
- Moving kindergarten registration process online in 2019, creating administrative efficiencies.
- Child Development Information System (CDIS) fully operational.
- Participation in a Council-wide Place Making Forum to ensure that children's and families' needs are considered at a municipal level.
- Continued evaluation of Maternal and Child Health service data, with services planned according to the number of births and child enrolments in specific townships.
- Introduction of a State Government initiative that funds one additional family violence visit for families identified through the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health program.
- Staff attendance at Multiagency Risk Assessment and Management Framework (MARAM) training.
- Staff attendance at My Early Relational Trauma Informed Learning (MERTIL) training.

## CREATE - What we did

Council is committed to meaningful consultation with all members of the community and recognises a strong community plan should reflect the community's needs, concerns, priorities and aspirations.

We sought the views of a range of stakeholders, including children, but also community groups, service providers and other community members in the shire. Some of these activities included creative 'Big Ideas' workshops with kindergarten and primary school children, meetings with stakeholders and community groups, place-based community pop-ups and a survey available online via Council's website and in hard copy.

These activities attempted to capture people's views on **four main questions**:

1. What three things are the most important to improve in Macedon Ranges to ensure children can live a safe, healthy, connected and happy life?
2. What challenges do you think children have living in the Macedon Ranges?
3. What are your ideas for making the Macedon Ranges a child-friendly shire?
4. What do you like about being a child in the Macedon Ranges?

We also looked at the issues that we know will shape the funding and supply of services for children. There are many changes that Council and others will need to consider in the period 2021-2025.

## CREATE - Why we did it

It is well researched and understood that children develop in the context of family, community and society, and the experience of childhood has a profound impact on adulthood. Investment in the early years is more cost effective than intervention at a later stage of life. For these reasons, investing in early years matters.

Our work in the development of this plan has been guided by the vision, themes and priority areas outlined in the current Council Plan (2017-2027). A brief summary of some of the many ways that the Council Plan Priority Areas relate to childhood is provided below.

Council Plan Priority Area	Childhood context
Promote health and wellbeing	<p>Positive early experiences support optimal brain development, providing the foundation for skills and abilities needed for success at school and throughout a child's life. If a child is exposed to negative or stressful experiences, such as those associated with neglect, family violence, poverty or lack of adequate housing, this can lead to lifelong problems related to learning, behaviour and physical and mental health<sup>1</sup>. Cumulative or sustained exposure to family violence can result in the experience of trauma symptoms, including post-traumatic stress disorder, which if left untreated can have long-lasting impacts on children's development, behaviour and wellbeing<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Almost 40% of residents are experiencing mortgage or rental stress (mortgage 8.4% and rental 29%), with a further 7.6% of households</p>

<sup>1</sup> Australian Early Development Census Brain Development in Children <https://www.aedc.gov.au/resources/detail/brain-development-in-children>

<sup>2</sup> Child Family Community Australia & Australian Institute of Family Studies. 2015, *Children's exposure to domestic and family violence : key issues and responses*, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne, Vic <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/childrens-exposure-domestic-and-family-violence>

	<p>experiencing housing stress<sup>3</sup>. It is still unknown what the long-term impact of COVID-19 will have on housing affordability and availability in the Macedon Ranges, as greater numbers of people relocate from Melbourne<sup>4</sup>.</p> <p>Government plays a role in ensuring that children are not disadvantaged by virtue of the place that they live. Services, supports and connected communities can help to reduce the impact of negative and stressful experiences on children’s health and wellbeing, both now and into adulthood.</p> <p>Over the life of this plan, the Victorian Government will work with local government and other service providers to roll out initiatives to support children’s health and wellbeing, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• funded three year old kindergarten providing an extra year of teacher-led learning prior to beginning school<sup>5</sup></li> <li>• school readiness funding to better support children’s communication (language development), wellbeing (social and emotional) and access and inclusion<sup>6</sup></li> <li>• resources to strengthen support for children starting school and children with additional needs including Kindergarten Inclusion Support funding<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• resources to promote cultural competency in services and education (including Indigenous culture)</li> <li>• integrated services and supports to ensure women and children are free from violence and harm as a result of family violence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Promote the natural environment</b></p>	<p>Infants and young children are among the most vulnerable members of our community to the impact of climate change<sup>8</sup>. This fact, along with an understanding that children will inherit custodianship of the natural environment, can harness the commitment of children and adults to promote and protect the natural environment.</p> <p>Early childhood provides a window of opportunity to facilitate the connections with the natural environment that will last a lifetime.</p> <p>In formal early learning settings, the importance of caring for the environment and supporting children to become environmentally responsible is a requirement of the National Quality Standards<sup>9</sup>. In school settings, the Australian Curriculum requires schools to teach ‘sustainability’ across multiple learning areas<sup>10</sup>.</p> <p>Ensuring children experience connections with the natural environment in meaningful ways will assist their understanding of connectedness both with and in the natural environment and ultimately promote action for sustainability<sup>11</sup>.</p>

<sup>3</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 (Enumerated data). Compiled and presented in atlas.id by .id (informed decisions) <https://atlas.id.com.au/macedon-ranges>

<sup>4</sup> Macedon Ranges Shire Impact of COVID-19 on population growth <https://forecast.id.com.au/macedon-ranges/forecast-covid19-impact>

<sup>5</sup> Victorian Government Department of Education and Training (DET) three year old kindergarten funding information <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/Pages/funding-three-year-old-kinder.aspx>

<sup>6</sup> Victorian Government DET School readiness funding information <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/providers/funding/Pages/srf.aspx>

<sup>7</sup> Victorian Government DET Kindergarten Inclusion Support program information <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/childhood/professionals/needs/Pages/kinderinclusion.aspx>

<sup>8</sup> UNICEF, 2015, *Unless we act now: The impact of climate change on children* available online at <https://www.unicef.org/media/60111/file>

<sup>9</sup> National Quality Standards Area 3 <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/nqf/national-quality-standard/quality-area-3-physical-environment>

<sup>10</sup> Australian Curriculum Priorities: Sustainability <https://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/f-10-curriculum/cross-curriculum-priorities/sustainability/>

<sup>11</sup> Davis, J and Elliott, S 2004, ‘Mud pies and daisy chains: Connecting young children and nature’, *Every Child*, 10(4) pages pp. 4-5



<p><b>Improve the built environment</b></p>	<p>Universal design principles guide the design of built environments to be usable by all people of different ages and abilities over time, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialised design<sup>12</sup>.</p> <p>Universal design, including walking and cycling paths, safe crossings, accessible facilities and public spaces, creates vibrant, healthy and equitable environments that benefit people of all ages.</p> <p>Play stimulates a child's intellectual, physical, social and creative abilities<sup>13</sup>. The presence of physical environments and materials that encourage physical activity, encourage children to explore, solve problems, communicate, think, create and construct and are therefore essential to facilitate healthy development<sup>14</sup>.</p> <p>Safe and stimulating play spaces are needed for children at home, in education and care settings and in community places. Through good design, play spaces can be gathering places for people of all ages and abilities.</p> <p>Ensuring adequate supply of infrastructure to meet demand for early childhood services and schools will be a focus in coming years.</p>
<p><b>Enhance the social and economic environment</b></p>	<p>Giving children the best possible start in life is the best investment we can make as a society to ensure its future success<sup>15</sup>.</p> <p>The labour force participation rate of the population in the Macedon Ranges Shire in 2016 shows that there was a higher proportion in the labour force (62.0 per cent) compared with Regional VIC (56.1 per cent)<sup>16</sup>.</p> <p>Parents and carers contribute economically as workers, business owners, consumers and volunteers. Around 51.9 per cent of the shire's working residents travel outside of the area to work<sup>17</sup>.</p> <p>Whilst many policy interventions or solutions to support parents and carers to balance family and work responsibilities, such as subsidised childcare, rest with both employers and other tiers of government, Council plays a role in stimulating local jobs and ensuring where possible that services meet the varied community need.</p> <p>Flexible employment arrangements and opportunities for local employment can help parents and carers to balance family and work responsibilities<sup>18</sup>.</p>
<p><b>Deliver strong and reliable government</b></p>	<p>The early years' sector is experiencing major reform with change driven from the Australian and Victorian Governments<sup>19</sup>.</p> <p>CREATE has been developed after consultation with children and those who support them. The issues, priorities and values expressed through consultation have been taken into account in developing CREATE.</p> <p>Council's Community Consultation Framework was used to complete the consultation for the development of this plan adhering to best practice guidelines.</p>

<sup>12</sup> Principles of Universal Design [https://projects.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud/about\\_ud/udprinciplestext.htm](https://projects.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud/about_ud/udprinciplestext.htm)

<sup>13</sup> Department of Education and Training, 2016, *Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework*

<sup>14</sup> The importance of play in children's learning and development <https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/other-resources/factsheets/the-importance-of-play-in-children-s-learning-and-development/>

<sup>15</sup> Importance of early childhood development <https://www.child-encyclopedia.com/importance-early-childhood-development/introduction>

<sup>16</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2011 and 2016. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions) <https://profile.id.com.au/macedon-ranges/employment-status>

<sup>17</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2016 (Usual residents data). Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions) <https://profile.id.com.au/macedon-ranges/residents>

<sup>18</sup> Flexible work arrangements <https://www.humanrights.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/flexible-work/>

<sup>19</sup> Education State Early Childhood Reform Plan <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/educationstate/Pages/earlychildhood.aspx>

	<p>CREATE will inform Council in relation to the implications of decisions and resource allocation for children.</p> <p>CREATE will be supported by the development of annual action plans that will report to Executive on a quarterly basis and to Council annually.</p>
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**The current situation**

The actions identified in CREATE require Council departments to work together and as such are linked to several Macedon Ranges Shire Council plans and strategies including:

- Macedon Ranges Shire Council Plan 2017–2027
- Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (in Council Plan)
- Disability Action Plan (in Council Plan)
- Arts and Culture Strategy 2018-2028
- Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2017
- Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2018-2028
- Elevate Youth Strategy 2018-2028
- Walking and Cycling Strategy 2014
- Shire-wide Footpath Plan 2018
- Asset Management Plan – Footpaths 2019
- Asset Management Plan – Open Spaces 2013
- Climate Change Action Plan 2017
- Draft Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-2023
- Macedon Ranges Shared Trail Project 2020-21
- Environment Strategy 2016
- Visitor Economy Strategy 2019-2029
- Open Space Strategy 2013

**Children and Council**

Council currently delivers a variety of functions aligned with the themes outlined in CREATE. These include:

- Service delivery in community and home settings, including maternal and child health services, immunisation, kindergartens, playgroups, prevention of family violence activities, library services, recreation and leisure activities, community planning and safety.
- Implementing the Child Safe Standards to promote the safety of children, prevent child abuse and ensure processes are in place to respond to and report all allegations of child abuse.
- Advocacy on behalf of children and their families to influence other levels of government and other organisations or agencies.
- Managing open spaces, parks and playgrounds.
- Planning, building and maintaining community service infrastructure.
- Planning public spaces, including town and precinct plans to revitalise or create communities.



Swinburne Avenue Children’s Centre

- Providing varying levels of support to community based childcare centres, commercial childcare services, occasional care services and a network of registered playgroups and Toy Libraries.
- Promoting community connection and community engagement, for example, working with parent management committees at kindergarten services, providing opportunities for volunteering, community events and supporting community groups.

### Australian and Victorian Governments

Over the past decade, all levels of government have increasingly demonstrated that they understand the importance of investing in children in the early years, to build resilience and provide the best opportunity for children to thrive.

Local government works with the Victorian and Australian Governments to plan communities, deliver services, build infrastructure and promote community wellbeing. As a planner, advocate and provider of children's services, Council must continue to consider direction and policy frameworks supporting children including:

- keeping children safe from harm and abuse
- promoting children's rights, including their right to have a say in the decisions that directly impact them
- focussing on child and family health, including access to pre-natal and maternity services
- supporting vulnerable children, including children known to Child Protection
- providing early intervention and support for children with additional needs
- improving access to, and affordability of, child care
- improving access to quality education, with national standards in place for kindergartens and schools
- providing meaningful education and culturally safe services for Indigenous children, students and families
- promoting healthy eating and exercise for child and family health
- providing opportunities to build connected and resilient communities.



Manna Gum Family & Children's Centre

### Rights of the Child

Relevant to the focus of CREATE, the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* (1989), sets out the basic human rights of a child no matter where they live, setting standards in health care, education, legal, civil and social services.

The *Victorian Charter for Child-friendly Cities and Communities* has been developed for local governments, organisations and individuals in Victoria. The Victorian Charter is consistent with state, national and international protocols and embraces rights that are embedded in the *Convention of the Rights on the Child* (1990), the *Chiba Declaration for a Child-Friendly Asia Pacific* (2004) and the *Victorian Human Rights and Responsibilities Charter* (2006).

The State Government has various policies and frameworks in place to uphold the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Victorian Charter for Child-friendly Cities and Communities*. Some councils across Australia have committed to formal membership of UNICEF's Child-friendly Cities initiative.

Developing a Child-friendly Cities Initiative under the UNICEF banner requires establishing a partnership with UNICEF and obtaining UNICEF recognition if recognition criteria are met. Council has not committed to formal membership at the time of preparing this Municipal Early Years Plan.

### Demographic profile

#### Data from the 2016 Census of Australian Households<sup>20</sup>

- Macedon Ranges Shire was home to 6,168 children aged below nine years. Approximately 85 per cent of children aged 0-8 lived in one of the shire's urban settlements. This is a higher percentage of children living in urban settlements than in 2011.
- 862 children attended preschool and 4,351 children attended primary school. 2,921 primary aged students attended a Government school, and 1,079 children attended a Catholic Primary School. Independent schools accounted for 351 primary aged students. Of note, there were over 1,000 more students in primary school than secondary school across the shire.
- Macedon Ranges Shire was home to 7,482 households with children, with an average of 1.9 children per household. 5.1 per cent of couple families with children were step families, 3.4 per cent were blended families and 3.7 per cent were single parent families with children aged under 15 years.
- 54 children aged 0-9 identified as Indigenous in the 2016 Census, which accounts for 26.7 per cent of the total Indigenous population in the Macedon Ranges Shire.
- 4.5 per cent of children aged between 0 and 9 years required assistance with core activities due to severe or profound disability. This is greater than the level of need identified in the 2011 Census, with an increase of 42 children in the 5-9 age group requiring assistance.
- The role of unpaid childcare is determined by many different factors. For example, areas with high levels of unpaid childcare may have a dominance of single income families with one significant earner, or there could be a lack of provision of paid childcare in the area. The level to which people care for others children can also indicate the role of extended family (e.g. grandparents caring for grandchildren, family day care).
- The number of people who provided unpaid childcare for their own and/or other people's children increased by 1,003 between 2011 and 2016. Compared to Regional Victoria (27.2 per cent) the Macedon Ranges Shire (31.6 per cent) had a higher proportion of people who provided unpaid childcare either to their own or to other children.
- Overall, more households were paying high mortgage repayments (20.8 per cent) compared with 9.0 per cent in Regional Victoria. Overall, more households (11.5 per cent) were paying high rental payments compared with 2.9 per cent in Regional Victoria.
- Overall, 11,275, or 51.9 per cent of the Macedon Ranges Shire's working residents travel outside of the area to work.



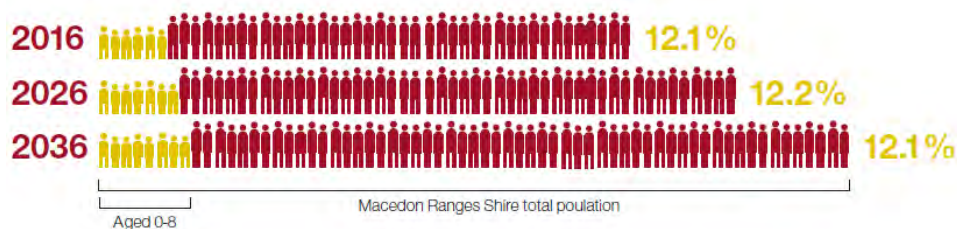
Lancefield Kindergarten

<sup>20</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics, multiple years. Compiled and presented by .id (informed decisions) <https://profile.id.com.au/macedon-ranges>



**Forecast data<sup>22</sup>**

- The Macedon Ranges Shire population forecast for 2021 is 51,020, and is forecast to grow to 65,405 by 2036
- Between 2016 and 2036 there will be a projected 35 per cent increase in the population of children under 9 years.
- Almost 50 per cent of all growth in the 0-9 age group is projected to occur in the Gisborne District. Strong growth in percentage terms is also projected for the Riddells Creek and Romsey Districts, resulting in large proportional increases in the younger population in these areas (80 per cent and 49 per cent to 2036 respectively).
- In Macedon Ranges, the largest five-year age group projected in both 2026 and 2036 is children 5 to 9 years, with a total of 4,005 persons and 4,712 persons respectively. Five year age groups are used by social planners to project the level and type of services a community will need.



<sup>22</sup> Population and household forecasts, 2016 to 2036, prepared by .id (informed decisions), November 2017  
<https://forecast.id.com.au/macedon-ranges>

### CREATE - How we did it

In late 2019, Council engaged consultation experts to plan an extensive community engagement program using Council’s Community Consultation Framework<sup>24</sup>. The framework aligns with IAP2 methodology and ensures a strategic approach to identifying and reaching key stakeholders, selecting engagement methods and tools, and identifying the information needed from people to inform planning.

Consultation for CREATE engaged nearly 1,000 people, with responses from across the shire, including:

- seven ‘Big Ideas’ workshops with kindergarten and primary school children
- a range of meetings and workshops with early years service providers, health service providers and seniors groups across the municipality
- drop-in sessions at community lunches and with key groups
- five place-based community pop-ups.

With an aim of reaching 10 per cent of households with children (approximately 370 households), a focus of the consultation was to ensure we used appropriate engagement strategies and consultation methods that were accessible to children and families.

Below is a breakdown of the consultation activities process that led to CREATE.

Municipal Early Years Plan specific engagement activities	Participants*
Municipal Early Years Plan surveys (hard copy and online)	424
Municipal Early Years Plan meeting participants	42
Municipal Early Years Plan social media engagements (Twitter/Facebook)	119
Children’s Big Ideas workshop participants	183
Children’s Big Ideas drawing participants at pop-up events	31
Pop-Up engagement participants (99 under 18 years old)	156
<b>Total participation</b>	<b>955</b>

\*Some individuals may have participated in more than one engagement activity.

\*\*Not all engagement activities and participants produced useable community feedback for this report.

\*\*\* Participants may have written one or more comments.



Woodend Kindergarten

<sup>24</sup> Superseded by the Community Engagement Policy 2021

## CREATE - What we found

Most people we heard from were aged between 35-49 years (61.79 per cent), followed by 24-34 years (24.67 per cent). At least 214 respondents were under nine years of age, and 99 respondents at pop ups were under 18 years of age.

We received input from people across all towns in the Macedon Ranges. Of the 424 respondents who indicated where they live, 29.25 percent lived in Gisborne, 16.98 per cent in Kyneton, and 10.38 per cent in Woodend.

More women than men participated in our consultation and most identified as a parent or carer of a child under nine years (76.25 per cent). 1.66 per cent identified as LGBTIQA+, and 0.4 percent identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. 1.19 per cent were people living with disability.

Just over 63 per cent of survey respondents indicated that they currently use Council's early years' services (kindergarten or Maternal and Child Health).

There were four areas of focus that we gathered data and information on. This included:

- improvements needed to ensure that children can live safe, healthy, connected and happy lives
- challenges that children have living in the Macedon Ranges
- ideas for making municipality a child-friendly shire
- what is liked about being a child in the Macedon Ranges.

We received a large amount of feedback through the consultation process. CREATE includes the 'top four' most frequent responses to each focus area, although input with lower frequency has also informed our action table.

### Children's feedback and big Ideas

Seven big ideas workshops were held with children at local primary schools and kindergartens around the shire. 183 children participated in these workshops.

School/Kindergarten	Number of participants
Romsey Kindergarten	52
Macedon Kindergarten	28
Lancefield Kindergarten	16
Kyneton Primary School	24
Gisborne Primary School	22
St Mary's Primary School (Lancefield)	25
Woodened Kindergarten	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>183</b>

The workshops included some brainstorming sessions, drawing activities and presentations by the children wearing the Big Ideas hat. All of these activities were designed to seek feedback on how to make the shire more child-friendly.

Children were also encouraged to provide their ideas at place-based pop-up events by drawing their ideas on the Big Ideas drawing sheet (31 participants) and adding their ideas to the chat boards (99 respondents under 18 years).

During the workshops children came up with a list of 124 things they love about their towns now, 113 things they would like to see in the future to make their town more child-friendly and 183 Big Idea drawings.

### Brainstorming Sessions

#### What children love about their town

Children told us that they love the parks and playgrounds including the swings, slides and monkey bars, they love the trees and climbing them, the libraries and the schools, visiting friends and family, skate parks, dance lessons and the local pools. They love having their friends living in the same town and they definitely love shops like the bakery, ice cream shop, and pizza and fish n chip shop.



#### Children's ideas for making the Macedon Ranges more child-friendly

Children told us that they'd like to see more parks and playgrounds with more swings, slides, monkey bars and flying foxes, safer roads with more crossings, more trees and green grass, outdoor basketball hoops and lots more large retail outlets including ice cream and lolly shops. They would also like to see more bike and walking paths so they can ride their bikes and scooters, more pools in their own town and a movie cinema and bowling alley.

#### Lancefield Children

The children in Lancefield love the park and footy oval, the trees and cricket pitch, the library and post office, the cemetery and skate park, lots of shops like the bookshop and fruit shop, the pool and the Op Shop, ducks crossing the road, nan and pop's house, local shops and ice creams. They love that they know how to get home from anywhere in town and that their house is close to kinder. They love climbing trees, running and rolling on the grass, going on the slide as many times as they want, riding bikes, the kinder library, playing with parents and helping nanna in the garden.

They also like things out of town such as the netball centre in Gisborne, the Kyneton Sports & Aquatic Centre, the Riddells Creek Dance School, shops in Romsey and Sunbury and the ice cream van in Romsey.



To make the Macedon Ranges more child-friendly, they would like to see an ice cream shop, bike racks, bike path to school, a zoo, kids soccer club, basketball hoop, a hotel for visitors, footpaths and safer road crossings. They would also like to see a closer library, a cubby house, more gardens, a trampoline, a pool at every house and a festival nearby so they don't have to drive too far.

They would like to see a water park, hospital, dance school, more trees and swings, a flying fox and jumping pillow and a park with rock climbing in Romsey. They would also like to see a Bounce Centre and pool.

### Macedon Children

The children in Macedon love the rope swings at home, kangaroos hopping around and park visits where they get to play on the monkey bars, swings and slides and to climb trees. They love to ride their bikes, scooters and skateboards to the park and visit friends and neighbours. They also love the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross, the river walk near the waterfall, the pinecones, the turtles, trees for shade for families and the library.

To make the Macedon Ranges more child-friendly, they would like to see more turtles, kangaroos, echidnas, people, forests, flowers, trees and snow. They would also like to see more roads and paths for walking and bike riding, taller trees to climb, more playgrounds with flying foxes, swimming pools, a closer library, safer road crossings, a footy oval, a basketball hoop, more parks and places for animals to live. Toy trains, transformers, unicorns and tooth fairies also featured for Macedon children.



Maternal & Child Health

### Gisborne Children

The children in Gisborne love the fountain and arcade games, the pool and skate park, big houses and the community, green grass, parks, footpaths and safe walking routes.

To make the Macedon Ranges more child-friendly they would like to see an outdoor basketball hoop at the park, gymnastics and dance schools, more large retail chain stores, a water park, an outdoor pool with slide, more trains, a bowling alley and a cinema. They would also like to see more playground equipment like swings, slides, rock-climbing wall, a fireman's pole, monkey bars, a spider swing, a trampoline and a bouncy castle.

### Romsey Children

The children in Romsey love the skate park and school, visiting their friends' and cousins' houses and swimming. They also love the parks, bees and bugs, the creek, the grass, the playground (and all its equipment), the big buildings, the trees and visiting the library, the bakery, cafes and the sports field.

To make the Macedon Ranges more child-friendly, they would like to see more parks, a pool, more running paths (so they can run with their parents), more ice cream, cafes, nail salons and a fairyland. They would also like to play more, have more sleepovers, and see more unicorns, diggers, frogs and dinosaurs.

### Kyneton Children

The children in Kyneton love the feel of their town including that it is small (so they don't get lost), quiet (with no city traffic) and has old buildings. They love the quick train to Melbourne, the opportunities for sport such as soccer, tennis, football, cricket, netball and basketball, the

Kyneton Show, the Kyneton Daffodil Parade, the river walking track and the shops. They also love the water play area at the Kyneton Botanic Gardens, dance classes and out of school hours care.

To make the Macedon Ranges more child-friendly they would like more things to do. Examples included a movie theatre and shopping centre, inside playgrounds (for when it's too hot and cold outside), trams (like in Bendigo and Melbourne), playgroups, paths and parks, exciting play equipment, a weather station and motorbike tracks.

**Woodend Children**

Woodend children love the slide at the park, the pool, fresh air, the skate park, school, ballet classes, swimming lessons, little athletics, cricket, TV, iPads and bed. They also love the Kyneton Show, the market, the library, going out for dinner and local shops.

To make the Macedon Ranges more child-friendly they would like to see parkour equipment, a dog school, more parties and events, better public toilets, a fence to help them cross the road, an ice cream shop, a theme park and a place to do gymnastics.

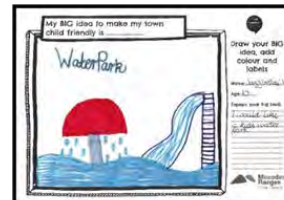
**Big Ideas Drawings**

There were a total of 214 Big Ideas drawings, 183 from Big Ideas workshops and 31 from pop-up engagement events.

Many of the drawings showed parks and playgrounds with slides, swings and monkey bars, water parks and pools, flowers and trees, friends, family and people, bike paths and places to meet. All of which are very important to children to live happy, healthy and connected lives.



Sample drawings from children:



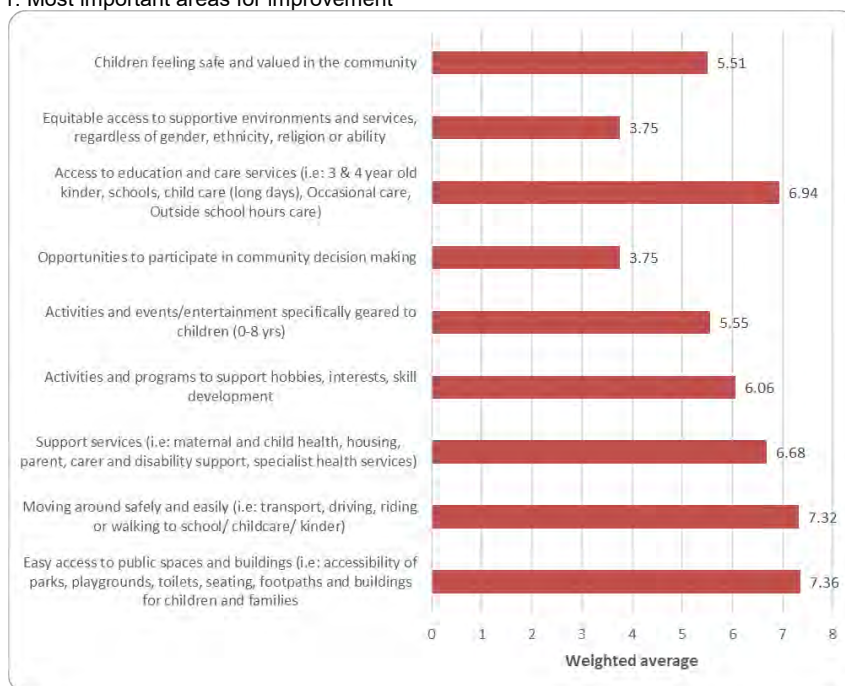
Through consulting and engaging directly with children, we're able to see how positive many of their experiences are in the Macedon Ranges, and how creative and expansive their dreams of a more child-friendly community are. While some of the suggestions are not practical for Council to implement, or are outside the scope of local government planning, it highlights the importance of including children's voices in the development of infrastructure and other strategic planning that will directly impact them.

**Community Feedback**

**Things that are the most important to improve in the Macedon Ranges to ensure children can live safe, healthy, connected and happy lives**

Respondents were asked to indicate the things that are the most important to improve in the Macedon Ranges to ensure children live safe, healthy, connected and happy lives. Respondents were able to select from a list of nine predetermined options.

Chart 1. Most important areas for improvement



The top-rated priority areas across 371 responses are:

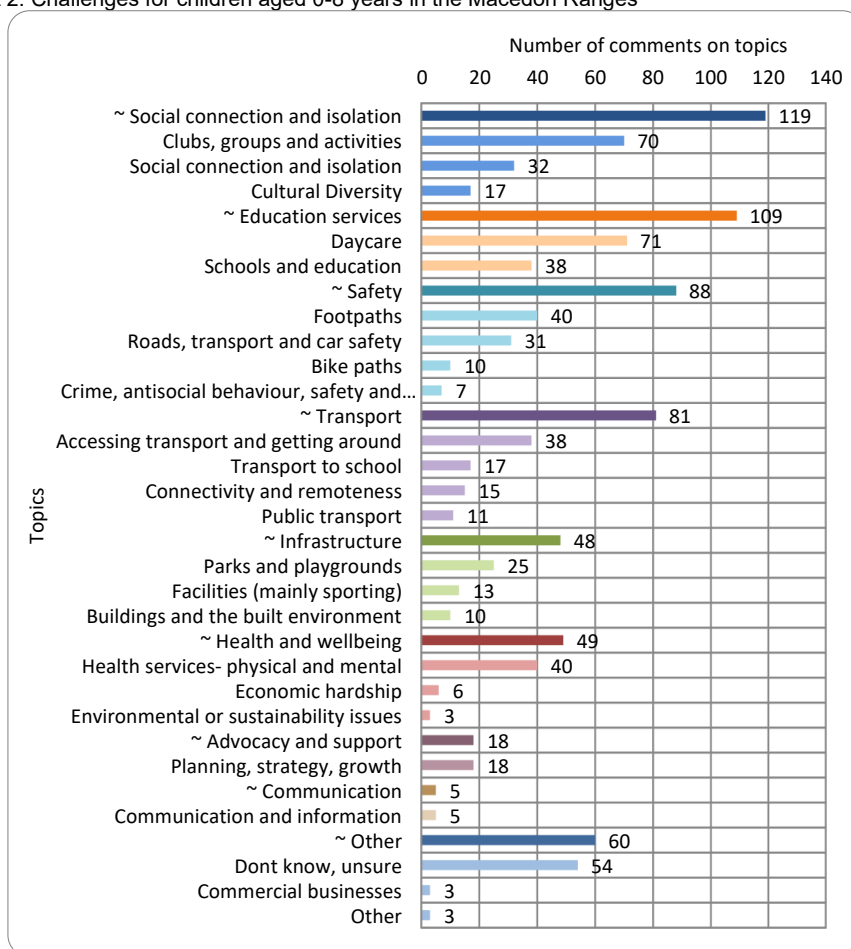
1. easy access to public spaces and buildings (including accessibility of parks, playgrounds and footpaths)
2. children being able to move around easily and safely (including transport options and safety on paths and roads)
3. better access to, and increased, early childhood and educational services

These themes are consistently repeated throughout the consultation data, from parents, other adults and importantly from children too.

**What challenges do you think children aged eight years and younger have living in Macedon Ranges?**

Three hundred and eleven respondents listed 571 challenges that children under eight years have living in Macedon Ranges. No single item was listed by more than 100 people, with responses scattered from 3 – 71 respondents. Given the broad range of issues raised we have chosen to include the top four challenges for children – given equal response rates, the top four is actually a top six.

Chart 2. Challenges for children aged 0-8 years in the Macedon Ranges



Given the broad range of issues raised we have chosen to include the six most commonly identified topics, highlighting what challenges exist for children aged 0-8 in the Macedon Ranges.

### Day care services (71 comments)

Daycare, childcare, kindergarten and afterschool programs are an issue facing families in the area. The availability of childcare and limited spaces in kinder and daycare was commented on frequently.

*“Programs are too full (e.g. 100 kids at rhyme time at the library)”*

*“Lack of Kinder programs that run 5 days a week”*

*“Hard to find childcare for children/long waiting lists”*

Afterschool/holiday programs were also highlighted, as well as the costs of daycare services, which respondents commented needs to be more affordable.

### Clubs, groups and activities (70 comments)

Access to clubs, groups and activities is a challenge that children face in the shire. Primarily these are things to do in winter, lack of sporting/hobby options, there not being enough entertainment and a lack of community events.

*“A lack of social opportunities and activities/groups to join”.*

Respondents highlighted that the timing of activities was a challenge, with many stating activities should be on weekends or outside work hours. The lack of variety and range of activities was also commented on by respondents, as well as the difficult in accessing activities, including travel and availability/space for activities.

Participation costs and the availability of age-appropriate activities for children are also identified challenges.

### Footpaths (40 comments)

Footpaths are a significant challenge for children in several contexts. Respondents commented on a general lack of footpaths, particularly an absence of complete footpath networks, which make it difficult to scooter safely, push prams, or safely get to school and community spaces.

### Health services (40 comments)

Accessing health services is a challenge for children in the Macedon Ranges. Respondents are concerned that health facilities are difficult to access and there is limited availability of health services, resulting in long wait times. A lack of locally available specialist services creates a need to travel out of the shire for health services.

*“Need better access to specialist services e.g. Paediatrician”*

*“Support services like nurses are sometimes not available”*

Having access to a full range of health services suitable to their children's needs is important to people in the area. Respondents identified a lack of the following medical services: mental health services including child psychology; occupational therapy; special needs support; and emergency dental.



**Accessing transport and getting around (38 comments)**

Respondents identified transport and the ability to get around town as a challenge facing children in the area. The need to travel by car, as well as the distance required to travel to activities, school and services is an issue for families.

Children’s inability to get around safely and somewhat independently is potentially inhibiting their ability to make the most of opportunities in the shire, whether play, education or activities and events.

*“Distances required to travel for learning opportunities”*

*“An inability to get around actively, lack of walking and cycling paths increasing car dependence”*

*“Hard to get around without a car”*

Road safety and the ability for children to walk around town were also raised:

*“Roads getting busier - hard to safely walk/ride to school/for leisure (Gisborne)”*

*“Safe access to local community & environment”*

**Schools and Education (38 comments)**

Schools are perceived as ‘at capacity’ due to population growth and large classroom sizes, with the following comments being representative of these:

*“Overcrowding in childcare, kinders and schools”*

*“Overflowing education services due to rapidly expanding population”*

Comments about a lack of schools generally, and limited options for different schools were also raised as issues:

*“Public schools being zoned so if you’re unhappy with the one your child is at or meant to go to, it’s difficult to move to a better school”*

*“Lack of schools in rural areas”*

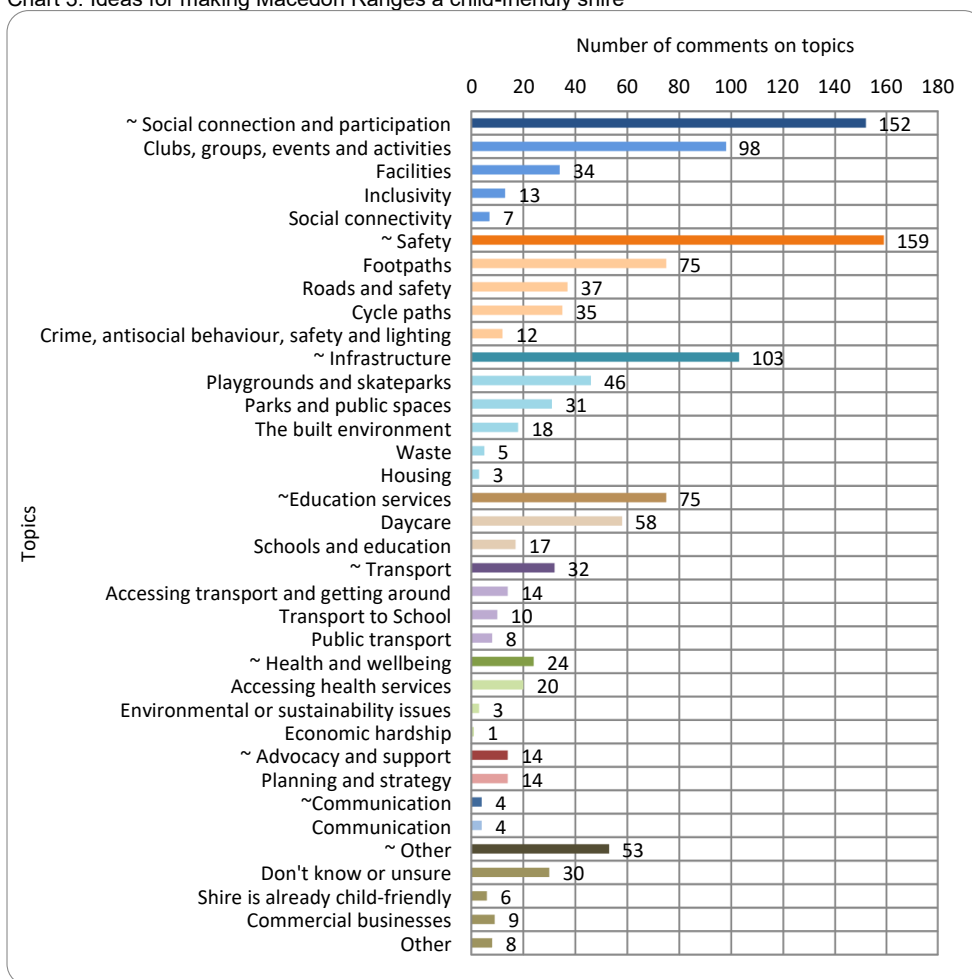


Lancefield Kindergarten

**Ideas for making a child-friendly shire**

311 respondents listed 576 ideas for making the Macedon Ranges child-friendly. The frequency of comments ranged from three to 98 comments per theme. Given the broad range of issues raised, we have included below the ‘top four’ ideas for making a child-friendly shire.

Chart 3. Ideas for making Macedon Ranges a child-friendly shire



Given the broad range of issues raised, we have chosen to include the top four ideas for making the Macedon Ranges a child-friendly shire.

**Clubs, groups, events and activities (98 comments)**

Clubs, groups, events and activities were suggested by a sizeable number of respondents as a way towards becoming more child-friendly. Events and activities are supported with the proviso that they are accessible (physically and financially), age appropriate for younger children, and are conducted at suitable times.

A range of activities and events were suggested, including the simple call for better or more activities or events generally, with the key sentiment being that more activities will allow children to connect with their families and the community.

The following comments are representative of respondents' opinions:

*"Free and accessible activities for families in public spaces"*  
*"Continue to invest in free options for fun and educational activities"*

Respondents also suggested that there should be more exercise and sporting activities in the area, with swimming lessons common amongst these comments in some townships.

School holiday programs and parents' groups or playgroups were also suggested by respondents as ideas to promote a child-friendly shire.

*"Need more activities for under 5-year olds during school holidays. There are lots of good things planned but all for 5 up"*  
*"Free sporting and extracurricular activities"*

#### **Footpaths (75 comments)**

Respondents suggest improving and adding to the footpath networks in the shire will make it more child-friendly and allow children to get around with more freedom and safety.

Suggestions include that the current footpath networks should be fully interconnected, the quality of the footpaths should be improved and more pedestrian crossings should be added.

*"More footpaths, they seem to just end and have nowhere but the road to continue on"*  
*"More footpaths and crossings to keep families safe and able to keep fit and walk around the town"*  
*"Creating safe & accessible routes for cycling & walking around town (to kinder/schools, libraries, playgrounds). Should include pedestrian's right of way over vehicles, safe crossings of all roads"*  
*"We need a better network of footpaths so we can walk, and kids can ride into town"*

#### **Daycare (58 comments)**

Families want to see childcare be more available within existing providers, more affordable and they would like a greater selection of options to choose from, including Council run childcare. Several comments also suggested school holiday programs for the area, and subsidised after school care.

A moderate number of respondents commented on kindergartens, suggesting there should be an increased number of spaces available and the hours should be extended:

*"Increase the hours of the 3 year old kinder program"*

#### **Playgrounds and skate parks (46 comments)**

Playgrounds and skate-parks can actively encourage a child-friendly shire, and respondents requested the addition of new facilities, and the improvement of existing ones by, for example, adding shade and improving the safety of these play areas with fences. A few respondents suggested improving and adding facilities such as BBQ areas and toilets near the playgrounds so families can enjoy these areas together.

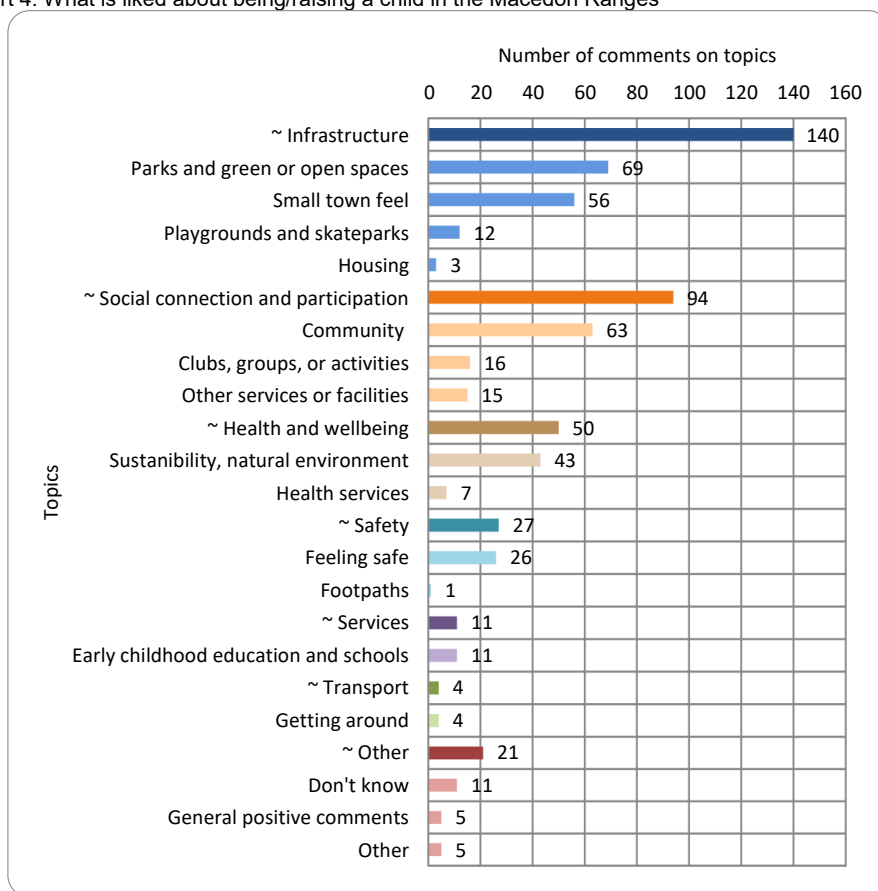


**What is liked about raising a child in the Macedon Ranges shire?**

311 respondents provided 589 comments on what they like about raising a child in the Macedon Ranges. The most common reason is the natural environment, specifically the access to parks and open spaces, enabling a broad-range of safe activities. In addition, the small town feel of places in the Macedon Ranges are appealing for a substantial number of respondents.

People value their communities and the community spirit they experience. The quiet, unhurried lifestyle and supportive community spirit are also valued aspects for respondents.

Chart 4. What is liked about being/raising a child in the Macedon Ranges



Given the broad range of issues raised, we have chosen to include the top four topics highlighting what is liked about raising a child in the Macedon Ranges.

**Parks and green or open spaces (69 comments)**

It is important to residents that they and their children have access to open spaces, parks and outdoor areas for play, sport or enjoying nature. For many, this is a significant part of what they like about living in the Macedon Ranges and a key resource for those with children aged

nine years or under. Comments were typically short, and often simply stated 'space', 'open spaces', 'parks' or 'outdoor areas'. The following are examples of the more descriptive comments:

*"Great open outdoor play spaces available"*  
*"Open spaces, beautiful parks, gardens, bushland"*  
*"Natural settings at the ovals, parks etc"*

There is some concern about protecting access to these areas – increases in population and housing developments are viewed as having potential to reduce access to open spaces for residents.

#### **Community (63 comments)**

Respondents describe their communities in the following ways; good, happy, friendly, strong, welcoming, small and inclusive. In several comments, people simply stated, 'community'.

People are happy with the level of community spirit they observe, and with the sense of community:

*"The close knit and safe community"*  
*"Good community feel, there is a focus on kids within it"*  
*"Sense of community is significantly higher than in the city"*

A small number of people note that the abundance of other children nearby is an asset, and they value that their children can make good friends.

#### **Small town feel (56 comments)**

The country-feel, smaller communities, and the slower pace of life are viewed favorably by respondents, and a valued aspect of life with children. The atmosphere is relaxed, peaceful, and quiet and removed from the busyness of city life. These comments extend to traffic, which is considered relatively light, and to population density, which is also considered light.

In a few cases comments compared conditions with city living, stating that the quality of rural life is better:

*"Feels like the country still"*  
*"The aspect of being raised and raising in a country community environment"*  
*"Children can grow up more slowly, away from city attitudes and affluence"*

#### **Sustainability, natural environment (43 comments)**

Respondents like the natural environment, including the bush, nature, trees, fresh air and the environment more generally. They stated that the relatively un-built environment is appealing for its natural state and abundance of wild or treed places.

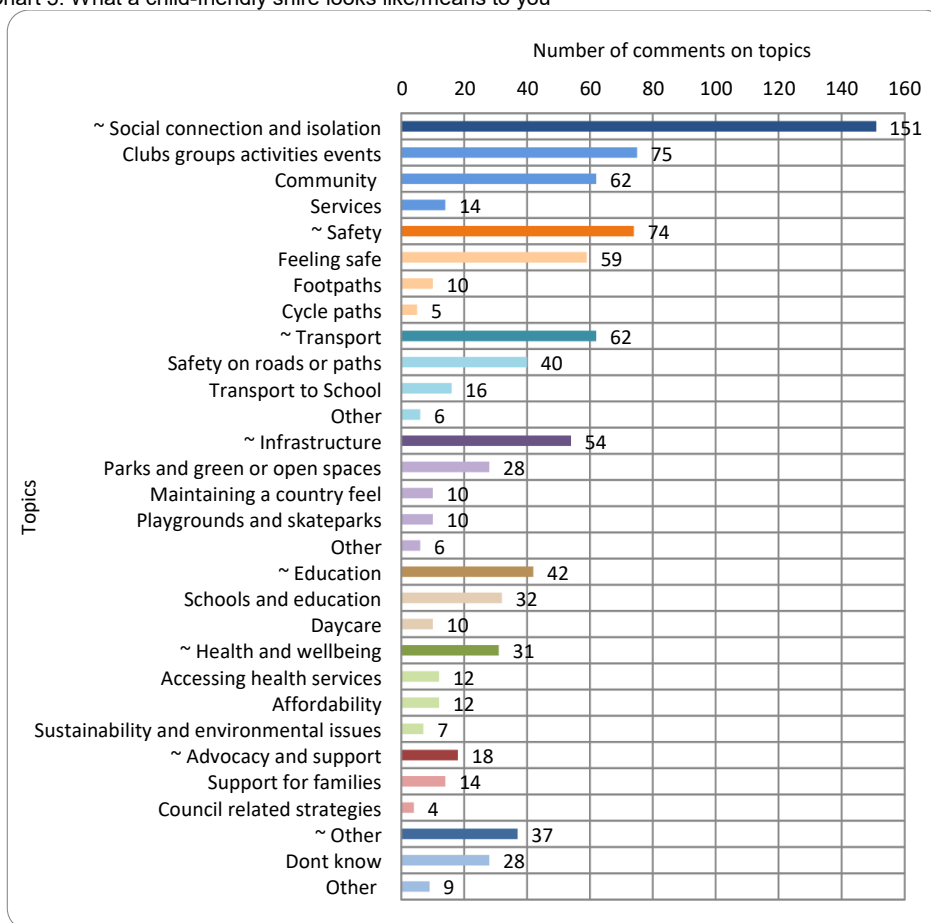
*"Raising children it was a safe, friendly and free of pollution environment"*  
*"Lots of natural areas to explore"*

**What a child-friendly shire looks like**

303 respondents provided ideas of what a child-friendly shire looks like. Respondents most often envisaged a child-friendly shire as one which is safe, with an abundance of activities for children to participate in.

Safety was discussed in two contexts; people report that they want to feel safe generally, and that they want their children to be able to be safe when going about the business of being children – that is, when going between home, the places they play and the places they learn.

Chart 5. What a child-friendly shire looks like/means to you



Given the broad range of issues raised, we have included the top four indicators of what a child-friendly shire looks like.

**Clubs, groups, activities, and events (75 comments)**

A child-friendly shire is one that provides enough activities to keep children entertained, developing, socialising and connecting with their families. Activities need to be affordable, age appropriate and varied in type.

*“Children have things to do - where they are encouraged to go outside and explore/enjoy their environment”*

*“All children have access to activities and spaces where they can engage with other community members (including other children) for fun, culture and development”*

It was also suggested by several people that a child-friendly shire is one that has community events in order to entertain families and bring people together. A moderate number of comments suggest that a child-friendly shire is one where there are enough sporting facilities, pools, and child play/learning centres, as the following comments show:

*“The kids feel part of the community with lots of sporting facilities”*

*“Indoor play space due to weather”*

*“Free activities to allow families to mingle, and room to move and facilities to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the shire”*

### **Community (62 comments)**

A community that is respectful, inclusive, diverse and supportive is desirable, and a child-friendly shire is one where there is a strong sense of community that children and their families feel a part of. The following comments exemplify this:

*“All children have access to opportunities and are free to experience differences, making the community inclusive”*

*“Kids feel carefree in a community that looks out for everyone”*

*“Children feel included and safe in their community”*

### **Being safe (59 comments)**

Respondents comment that a child-friendly shire is one where children are safe. The majority of these comments were put simply, for example:

*“One where kids can play at park and feel safe”*

*“Children are safe and parents are confident in a safe community”*

### **Safety on roads or paths (40 comments)**

While respondents typically feel that the areas they live in are safe, they envisage a child-friendly shire as one with greater safety for pedestrians and cyclists. A considerable number of people commented on road or path safety:

*“Children being able to move around the Shire without parents – safely”*

*“Good site lines on roads and paths, so children can see vehicles approaching intersections”*

*“Children can walk to and from school safely and to friends' houses nearby”*

## CREATE – Vision and themes

The Municipal Early Years Plan articulates a child centred vision for young children and their families. Our vision remains unchanged from the Early Years Plan 2016-2020, as it is still an accurate reflection of what the community and other stakeholders told us is most important and is supported by our identified priority action areas.

### CREATE Vision statement

The Macedon Ranges is a place where childhood is valued and where every child can thrive, reach their potential and actively participate in the community, now and into the future.

Collated feedback from the community consultation process identified four key themes:

- Children are safe.
- Children can move around easily.
- Children can access an abundance of services, opportunities and spaces to live active, healthy and connected lives.
- Children are raised within a supportive and strong community.

## CREATE – Priority action areas

Four priority action areas were identified using information from the community engagement, Council Plan priorities and strategies, important work being undertaken across various areas of Council and other known community priorities. These areas are included below along with the key aspects of the themes highlighted by the community:

### Priority area - Children are socially connected and active

- Provide opportunities for children to connect in community settings, including parks, playgrounds, shops and neighbourhoods.
- Provide opportunities for children to establish positive relationships with friends and adults outside the family.
- Support the community to deliver a diverse range of clubs, groups and events inclusive of children and supporting social connections.
- Protect opportunities for children to connect with nature.
- Deliver child-friendly events.

### Priority area - Children thrive in their community

- Support children to move safely in the community.
- Further investigate issues about supply of health, education and care raised in consultation.
- Continue staff development to ensure council delivered services contribute to positive outcomes for children.
- Support and advocate for the interests of children.
- Enable and empower children to participate in decisions about their needs and interests.
- Support services that support families to provide a stable and loving home environment.

### Priority area - Children's needs are recognised in infrastructure and the built environment

- Provide solutions to how children and families navigate their communities to achieve easy and safe access to public spaces and buildings.
- Collaborate with other levels of government to progress infrastructure reform priorities for children.
- Actively seek and respond to opportunities for children to play, explore, solve problems, communicate, think, create and construct.
- Actively seek and respond to the needs of people of all ages and abilities in planning processes.

### Priority area - Children are respected and valued in their community

- Promote children's rights and reduce risks to their safety.
- Deliver opportunities for children to contribute to community decision-making processes.
- Inform the community about matters that affect them.
- Recognise and celebrate child-friendly aspects of the local community.
- Deliver initiatives to address ageism and promote child-friendly practices.

These priority action areas were used to guide the development of the CREATE actions. These actions provide the practical framework that sets out Council's response to community feedback within the current environment. The action plan sets out how Council will continue to work towards a child-friendly community.

### CREATE - How we will implement

Council's Children, Youth and Family Services department will be responsible for leading the implementation of CREATE and reporting to Council annually.

A collaborative approach is required and, in several instances, responsibilities will extend across other areas of Council and to partner agencies. This includes a range of service providers and agencies of state and federal government.

An annual work plan will be developed by the Children, Youth and Family Services department that incorporates CREATE actions. This work plan will inform reporting to key stakeholders and review of strategies as appropriate in the light of changing priorities at all levels of government, emerging issues and opportunities such as new funding streams.

It is acknowledged that the success of the plan is founded on Council, identified stakeholders and the community working together openly and strategically. We recognise that collaboration is critical to maximising positive outcomes for young children and their families in our community, as identified in this plan.



Riddells Creek Kindergarten



Council acknowledges the ongoing role of numerous agencies, organisations and community groups in the Macedon Ranges shire that support young children and their families.

Each action listed outlines the internal Council stakeholders who carry responsibility for the implementation of that action as well as the role of Council in its delivery. Council's role has been defined as one of the following:

- **Lead:** Council adopts full responsibility for delivery of the action.
- **Facilitate:** Council drives a process heavily involving other stakeholders.
- **Support:** Council adds value to activities that are initiated by, and the responsibility of, other stakeholders. This may include promotion, in-kind support or providing advice.
- **Advocate:** Council uses its role in the community to influence and lobby external stakeholders to undertake an action.

### CREATE - How we will evaluate

A quarterly review will be conducted internally to formally evaluate our progress and identify any emerging gaps that need to be addressed and to highlight how effectively programs are achieving the objectives set out in this strategy. Evaluation methods will include:

- measuring against the indicators specified in the action plan
- inclusion and measurement in service planning
- reporting as part of the quarterly reporting process
- reviewing annually and reporting to Council.



Macedon Kindergarten



CREATE – What we will do

Priority area – Children are socially connected and active

OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE WILL DO	CORRESPONDING STRATEGIES	INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	COUNCIL ROLE	PRIORITY	WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE
<b>1.1 Increase accessible parking options for families</b>	1.1.1 In conjunction with community consultation, Early Years and Maternal and Child Health are engaged as knowledge experts for projects in the community impacting children and families, to gain a better understanding of children's and families' needs, including parking for parents with prams at shopping areas, five minute drop off zones near primary schools and increasing disability parking bays.	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 3 – Improve the built environment – increase the number of accessible parking spaces	Statutory Planning Strategic Planning and Environment Engineering and Resource Recovery Early Years/MCH	Advocate/ Facilitate	Medium	More family friendly and accessible parking options are made available or are planned for in the future
<b>1.2 Improve footpath connectivity</b>	1.2.1 In conjunction with community consultation, Early Years and Maternal and Child Health are engaged as knowledge experts for projects in the community impacting children and families, to gain a better understanding of children's and families' needs, including footpath improvements and better connectivity to meet community expectations, child/family needs and address safety concerns.	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 3 – Improve the built environment – increase walking and cycling connectivity  2018 Shire wide Footpath Plan  2019 Asset Management Plan – Footpaths  2018-28 Sport and Active Recreation Strategy	Engineering and Resource Recovery  Strategic Planning and Environment  Early Years/MCH	Facilitate	Medium	More footpaths are built in the shire or are planned for in the future that improve access to schools, childcare and kindergarten services, play areas and other community resources and services frequented by young children and their families

<p><b>1.3 Increase the number of bike paths</b></p>	<p>1.3.1 In conjunction with community consultation, Early Years and Maternal and Child Health are engaged as knowledge experts for projects in the community impacting children and families, to gain a better understanding of children's and families' needs, including more interconnected bike paths that benefit the whole community</p>	<p>2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Facilitate physical activity</p> <p>2017-27 Council Plan priority area 3 – Improve the built environment – Progress construction of primary pedestrian and cycling networks for each town</p> <p>2020-21 Macedon Ranges Shared Trail Project</p> <p>2014 Walking and Cycling Strategy</p> <p>2018 Shire wide Footpath Plan</p> <p>2018-28 Sport and Active Recreation Strategy</p>	<p>Major Projects</p> <p>Open Space and Recreation</p> <p>Engineering and Resource Recovery</p> <p>Strategic Planning and Environment</p> <p>Early Years/MCH</p>	<p>Facilitate</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>More interconnected bike paths are built or are planned for in the future that improve walking and cycling access to schools, childcare and kindergarten services, to play areas and other community resources and services frequented by young children and their families</p>
<p><b>1.4 Improve pedestrian crossings and school crossings</b></p>	<p>1.4.1 In conjunction with community consultation, Early Years and Maternal and Child Health are engaged as knowledge experts for projects in the community impacting children and families, to gain a better understanding of children's and families' needs, including a review of pedestrian crossings and school crossings in each township to identify possible improvements that ensure child and family safety</p>	<p>2017-27 Council Plan priority area 3 – Improve the built environment – Progress construction of primary pedestrian and cycling networks for each town</p> <p>2018 Shire wide Footpath Plan</p>	<p>Engineering and Resource Recovery</p> <p>Early Years/MCH</p>	<p>Lead</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Safety issues related to young children's and their families' use of pedestrian crossings and school crossings are identified</p> <p>There are additional pedestrian crossings, or improvements to existing pedestrian crossings and school crossings, in locations with identified need</p>

<b>1.5 Improve children's bike safety on paths and roads</b>	1.5.1 Introduce bike safety initiatives at Council managed kindergartens	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Contribute to community safety  2014 Walking and Cycling Strategy	Open Space and Recreation  Early Years	Lead	Medium	All Council managed kindergartens offer bike safety initiatives  Increase in the number of children successfully participating in bike safety initiatives at Council managed kindergartens
	1.5.2 Encourage not for profit and private kindergarten providers, and local primary schools, to participate in bike safety initiatives		Early Years	Advocate/ Facilitate	Medium	Increase in the number of schools and non-Council kindergartens offering bike safety initiatives  Increase in the number of children successfully participating in bike safety initiatives across the shire
<b>1.6 Expand local transport options</b>	1.6.1 Advocate for the expansion of bus services and on-demand services including taxis, ride sharing, car sharing and volunteer transport	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 3 – Improve the built environment – Advocate for better access to public transport  2016 Environment Strategy	Strategic Planning and Environment  Engineering and Resource Recovery  Community & Economic Development Arts & Events  Early Years/MCH	Advocate	Medium	Availability of increased public transport options that allow for young children and their families to commute throughout the shire

<p><b>1.7 Strengthen relationships between playgroups and toy libraries</b></p>	<p>1.7.1 Review Council's role in supporting playgroups and toy libraries and develop opportunities to strengthen the connections between user groups</p>		<p>Early Years/MCH</p>	<p>Lead</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Council provides clearly defined support to playgroups and toy libraries in the shire</p>
<p><b>1.8 Improve social connection for children and families with barriers to social engagement</b></p>	<p>1.8.1 Explore and advocate for additional funding with State Government to increase social connections amongst children and families who are at risk of experiencing social isolation and who may not engage in traditional community programs, eg young parents, families with child protection involvement, families from low socio-economic-status background, families from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities</p>	<p>2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Foster social connection and inclusion</p> <p>2017-27 Council Plan priority area 4 – Enhance the social and economic environment – Consider socio-economic disadvantage</p>	<p>Early Years/MCH Youth Services</p>	<p>Advocate</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Children and families experiencing social isolation have stronger links to peers, community groups and service providers</p> <p>Programs run within the shire that seek to engage and connect with isolated families, and are referred into by local service providers</p>
	<p>1.8.2 Use existing Council relationships to connect local community groups and services to support initiatives encouraging connection/participation of families with young children, including opportunities for intergenerational relationships</p>		<p>Early Years/MCH</p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Community groups and organisations are supported to run programs that connect families</p>
<p><b>1.9 Increase access to Council managed pools</b></p>	<p>1.9.1 Review accessibility of Council managed pools on an annual basis, and where possible explore options to increase access for young children and their families</p>	<p>2018-28 Sport and Active Recreation Strategy</p>	<p>Facilities and Operations Early Years</p>	<p>Lead</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Annual review of Council managed pools occurs resulting in increased access for young children and their families</p>

<b>1.10 Explore partnerships with local schools</b>	1.10.1 Explore partnerships with local schools around children's use of school grounds outside of school hours and during school holidays		Facilities and Operations  Legal and Corporate Governance  Early Years  Youth Services	Facilitate	Medium	An agreement is reached between schools and Council to support children's access to school grounds outside of school hours
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**Priority area – Children thrive in their community**

OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE WILL DO	CORRESPONDING STRATEGIES	INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	COUNCIL ROLE	PRIORITY	WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE
<b>2.1 Provide and support access to quality kindergarten programs across the shire</b>	2.1.1 In Council's role as early years planner, work with all kindergarten providers to ensure there are sufficient places for every three and four year old child to attend kindergarten within the shire	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Increase our capacity to provide accessible facilities and services	Early Years	Facilitate	High	All eligible children in the shire have access to fifteen hours of four year old kindergarten and there are no wait lists  All eligible children in the shire have access to five hours of funded three year old kindergarten by 2022  All eligible children in the shire have access to fifteen hours of funded three year old kindergarten by 2029
	2.1.2 Advocate for increased funding and resource investment by the State Government to co-locate new facilities with relevant early childhood services, eg	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Increase our capacity to	Strategic Planning and Environment  Early Years	Advocate	High	Increase in number of new facilities with co-located early years services

	schools and Maternal and Child Health	provide accessible facilities and services				
	2.1.3 Explore new partnership opportunities with not-for-profit and private sector agencies		Early Years	Facilitate	Medium	Number of activities occurring in the shire in partnership between Council, and not for profit and private kindergarten providers  The Macedon Ranges Approved Provider Network is established and chaired by Council, meeting at least four times a year and facilitating partnership projects
	2.1.4 Explore feasibility of bush kinder programs being run across the shire		Early Years	Lead/ Facilitate	Medium	Bush kinder programs are offered across the shire where appropriate
<b>2.2 Plan for early education reform within Council managed kindergartens</b>	2.2.1 Implement funded three year old kindergarten in Council managed kindergartens from 2022	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Increase our capacity to provide accessible facilities and services	Early Years	Lead	High	Council provides five hours of funded three year old kindergarten in all Council managed services from 2022, and 15 hours of funded kindergarten by 2029, in line with State Government reform  Council sets a strategic direction for the delivery of three and four year old funded kindergarten in the shire

<b>2.3 Continue initiatives that improve school readiness</b>	2.3.1 Continue to access School Readiness Funding (SRF) to assist children with communication, wellbeing, access and inclusion outcomes prior to attending school		Early Years	Lead	Medium	School Readiness Funding is accessed on an annual basis with identified outcomes for children and staff
	2.3.2 Explore options and funding for allied health professionals including speech therapists, dietician, autism specialists to identify developmental issues and maximise school readiness		Early Years	Support	Medium	Families feel their children are more equipped for the transition to, and learning once in, school
	2.3.3 Investigate the need for a shire-wide transition strategy		Early Years	Facilitate	Medium	Families, schools and service providers have clarity of steps around transition planning
<b>2.4 Establish a Child and Family Services Network</b>	2.4.1 Facilitate the development of a Child and Family Services Network to strengthen interagency partnerships with early childhood services in the shire		Early Years/MCH	Facilitate	Medium	Regular meetings are held with early childhood services to respond to community needs
<b>2.5 Strengthen early childhood education and health services</b>	2.5.1 Develop a shire wide workforce recruitment and retention strategy for Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services		Early Years/MCH  Community & Economic Development Arts & Events	Facilitate	High	A recruitment and retention strategy is in place to support a full complement of qualified staff at ECEC services across the shire
	2.5.2 Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture in Macedon Ranges Shire Council		Macedon Ranges Shire Council	Lead	High	Protecting children from harm and abuse is embedded in the everyday thinking and practice of leaders, staff and volunteers



	2.5.3 Advocate for funding and service opportunities that facilitate connections for families and children who are hard to reach/overlooked, eg young parents		Early Years/MCH	Advocate/ Facilitate	High	Hard to reach/overlooked families and children have stronger community connections
	2.5.4 Advocate for funding and service opportunities with the State and Federal Government to increase holistic access to local family support and educational services such as new parent groups, allied health care providers, paediatricians and child psychologists		Early Years/MCH	Advocate	High	Children and families are connected and have greater access to qualified health professionals  Children and families are able to access local allied health care providers, paediatricians and child psychologists  There is an increase in paediatricians and child psychologists and a decrease in average wait times for these services in the shire
<b>2.6 Build on existing Maternal and Child Health initiatives</b>	2.6.1 Develop an education campaign to improve breastfeeding awareness, rates and duration in the shire		Maternal and Child Health	Facilitate	Medium	The Breastfeeding Support Service continues to provide early access to a lactation consultant  Further breastfeeding education activities are initiated across the shire  'Fully breastfeeding' rates at 6 months are improved from the 2019/20 rate of 24 percent

						Breastfeeding rates improve in the shire and remain consistently above the state average
	2.6.2 Implement the State Government funded sleep settling initiative		Maternal and Child Health	Lead	Medium	The sleep settling initiative is delivered within the Universal Maternal and Child Health services as per the identified targets of 59 education sessions and 183.6 hours of outreach consultation annually
	2.6.3 Continue to strengthen the <i>smalltalk</i> supported playgroup program		Maternal and Child Health	Lead	Medium	All families assessed as meeting the criteria have access to a <i>smalltalk</i> playgroup
	2.6.4 Continue to strengthen Enhanced Maternal and Child Health programming to support eligible families and children					All families who meet the criteria for Enhanced Maternal and Child Health support have access to the service
	2.6.5 Support, educate about and promote use of reusable cloth nappies		Maternal and Child Health	Support	Medium	Number of families indicating they use reusable nappies
	2.6.6 Support, enable and deliver innovative programs and activities targeting diverse parents of young children, eg young parents, parents who are socially isolated, new dads		Maternal and Child Health Youth Services	Support/ Facilitate	Medium	There is an increase in programs and activities in the shire that support a broad range of parents and families

						Vulnerable parents report they feel better connected, resourced and supported
	2.6.7 Implement learnings of COVID-19, to explore innovative ways for MCH Nurses to connect with new parents and to enable new parents to connect with one another		Maternal and Child Health	Lead	High	New parents report that they feel connected, resourced and supported  New parents develop relationships with peers outside of the traditional new parent groups
<b>2.7 Support the promotion of events and activities for families</b>	2.7.1 Contribute to the annual planning and promotion of Council-led arts, culture and sporting activities and events for children of all abilities and backgrounds	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Foster social connection and inclusion  2018-28 Arts and Culture Strategy  2018-28 Sport and Active Recreation Strategy  2019-29 Visitor Economy Strategy  2016 Environment Strategy	Community & Economic Development Arts & Events  Open Space and Recreation  Strategic Planning and Environment  Early Years/MCH	Lead	Medium	More children are engaged with arts, culture, sports and learning
	2.7.2 Explore and promote activities, events and programs for children organised by external stakeholders	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Foster social connection and inclusion	Early Years/MCH	Support	Medium	More children are engaged with arts, culture, sports and learning

	2.7.3 Partner with Goldfields Library Corporation to explore opportunities, including events and activities, to enhance social connection, participation, wellbeing, fun, literacy and introduction of lifelong learning for children	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Foster social connection and inclusion	Goldfields Library Corporation  Early Years/MCH	Support	Medium	More children are engaged with arts, culture, sports and learning
<b>2.8 Increase capacity of Council staff and programs to support Indigenous children and their families</b>	2.8.1 Provide cultural competency training to Council staff in early childhood and Maternal and Child Health settings	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Celebrate and respect Indigenous culture  2021-23 Reconciliation Action Plan (in draft form - currently awaiting Council endorsement)	Early Years/MCH  Community & Economic Development Arts & Events	Lead	Medium	Number of Early Years/MCH staff participating in cultural competency training
	2.8.2 Continue to work towards goals as identified in the Reconciliation Action Plan		Early Years/MCH	Lead	Medium	Indigenous culture is celebrated across the shire
	2.8.3 Encourage other Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) providers in the shire to participate in cultural competency training	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Celebrate and respect Indigenous culture	Early Years	Advocate	Medium	Number of ECEC services in the shire participating in cultural competency training
	2.8.4 Continue to explore ways to celebrate Indigenous cultures in public spaces in planning, design and activation of the space		Community & Economic Development Arts & Culture  Early Years	Support/ Facilitate	Medium	Indigenous cultures are celebrated in public spaces
<b>2.9 Continue to deliver an immunisation service to babies and children</b>	2.9.1 Continue to provide an immunisation service to families and children in the shire as per the national immunisation schedule		Environmental Health  Early Years/MCH	Lead	Medium	An accessible immunisation service is available to all residents across the shire

	2.9.2 Explore opportunities to support hard to reach families to have their babies and children immunised		Environmental Health Early Years/MCH	Lead	Medium	All eligible babies and children in the shire are immunised as per the national immunisation schedule
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Priority area – Children’s needs are recognised in infrastructure and the built environment

OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE WILL DO	CORRESPONDING STRATEGIES	INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	COUNCIL ROLE	PRIORITY	WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE
<b>3.1 Support children and families of all abilities to access open spaces</b>	3.1.1 In conjunction with community consultation, Early Years and Maternal and Child Health are engaged as knowledge experts for projects in the community impacting children and families, to gain a better understanding of children’s and families’ needs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all ability access to Council outdoor and community open spaces including seating, shade, BBQ facilities and toilets with baby change facilities and breast feeding amenities</li> <li>improvements to parks and public spaces to make them more child and family friendly</li> <li>fencing of playgrounds as appropriate to increase safety of children</li> </ul>	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Increase our capacity to provide accessible facilities and services  2013 Open Space Strategy	Open Space and Recreation  Strategic Planning and Environment  Early Years/MCH	Lead	Medium	All families can access and enjoy open spaces

<b>3.2 Understand community need and satisfaction with baby change facilities in the shire</b>	3.2.1 Undertake a review of baby change facilities within each township		Facilities and Operations Early Years/MCH	Lead	Medium	Review undertaken that provides clarity on possible gaps in baby change facilities in each township
	3.2.2 Support budget bids and grants that allow for upgrade of facilities with baby change facilities as needed		Facilities and Operations Early Years/MCH	Lead/Support	Medium	Number and location of baby change facilities in the shire reflect community need
<b>3.3 Strengthen municipal planning of early years services</b>	3.3.1 Identify the feasibility of a substantive Early Years Planner to address social planning priorities, and to support and lead collaboration and development of the early years sector across the shire	2017-27 Council Plan priority area 1 – Promote health and wellbeing – Increase our capacity to provide accessible facilities and services  2021 SGS Early Years Modelling Report	Strategic Planning and Environment  Early Years	Lead	Medium	It is proposed to employ an Early Years Planner on an ongoing basis subject to feasibility and budget
	3.3.2 Work with stakeholders on a process that considers early years expertise in the provision of public play spaces and early years infrastructure in the shire, and broader infrastructure and development projects including new planning applications			Lead	Medium	Multiple early childhood services are available locally to meet expanding community needs
	3.3.3 In Council's role as Early Years' Planner, review the provision of childcare in the Macedon Ranges and investigate opportunities to increase the access			Lead	Medium	Sufficient childcare options are available to meet the need across the shire

Priority area – Children are respected and valued in their community

OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE WILL DO	CORRESPONDING STRATEGIES	INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS	COUNCIL ROLE	PRIORITY	WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE
<b>4.1 Involve children and families in consultation to inform services and program planning, and infrastructure and development projects in the shire</b>	4.1.1 Develop engagement strategies to ensure children and families are included in the planning and development of local activities, services, programs and projects	2021 Community Engagement Policy	Early Years/MCH Communications	Lead	Medium	Children and parent views inform decision making
	4.1.2 Communicate with children and families in child-friendly ways about changes to programs and services that impact them		Early Years/MCH Communications	Lead	Medium	Relevant information is communicated to children in ways that they can understand
<b>4.2 Explore the use of video technology in early childhood services</b>	4.2.1 Explore the use of video tours of Maternal and Child Health centres, toy libraries and playgroups, as per video tours of kindergartens, allowing greater access for families	2021 Community Engagement Policy	Early Years/MCH Communications	Lead	Medium	Video tours are available for Council Early Years/MCH programs and services
	4.2.2 Explore other innovative ideas to showcase early childhood services and add elements of creativity to programs		Early Years/MCH	Lead	Medium	Increase in the use of creative and contemporary technologies in Council's early childhood services
	4.2.3 Kindergarten and MCH staff build a collection of strategies, resources and activities that can be utilised to support with the intention of strengthening children's and families' engagement with services during periods of restrictions due to COVID-19		Early Years/MCH	Lead	High	Children and their families remain connected to Council's early years services when face to face service provision isn't possible



<b>4.3 Explore feasibility of Macedon Ranges becoming a child friendly community</b>	4.3.1 Identify processes and criteria involved in recognising the Macedon Ranges as a child-friendly community		Early Years/MCH	Lead	Medium	Council agrees to work towards becoming a child-friendly shire
	4.3.2 Establish a partnership with UNICEF and obtain UNICEF recognition if recognition criteria are met		Early Years/MCH	Facilitate	Medium	A child-friendly framework is adopted in the Macedon Ranges

**Macedon Ranges Shire Council  
Financial Statements**

*For the Year Ended 30 June 2021*

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## Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

*Travis Harling*  
**Principal Accounting Officer**

September 2021  
*Kyneton*

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of Macedon Ranges Shire Council for the year ended 30 June 2021 and the financial position of Council as at that date.

As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances which would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify the financial statements in their final form.

*Mark Ridgeway*  
**Councillor**

September 2021  
*Kyneton*

*Geoff Neil*  
**Councillor**

September 2021  
*Kyneton*

*Bernie O'Sullivan*  
**Chief Executive Officer**

September 2021  
*Kyneton*

## Independent Auditors Report

Report to be added once approval is given by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO).

*<INSERT VAGO REPORT - PAGE 1>*



## Independent Auditors Report

Report to be added once approval is given by the Victorian Auditor-General's Office (VAGO).

*<INSERT VAGO REPORT - PAGE 2>*

## Comprehensive Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Income</b>			
Rates and charges	3.1	53,185	50,750
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	5,177	4,274
User fees	3.3	4,415	5,688
Grants - operating	3.4	15,244	14,968
Grants - capital	3.4	9,824	7,956
Contributions - monetary	3.5	469	808
Contributions - non monetary	3.5	2,837	5,913
Fair value adjustments for investment property	6.3	(18)	(270)
Share of net profits of associates	6.2	73	57
Other income	3.7	1,311	2,224
<b>Total income</b>		<u>92,517</u>	<u>92,368</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee costs	4.1	35,858	34,374
Materials and services	4.2	28,494	26,063
Depreciation	4.3	16,376	13,968
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.4	236	198
Amortisation - right of use assets	4.5	357	327
Bad and doubtful debts	4.6	(16)	11
Borrowing costs	4.7	172	267
Finance cost - leases	4.8	48	54
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	3.6	268	182
Decrease in provision for landfill liability	5.5	(269)	(220)
Other expenses	4.9	3,038	3,405
<b>Total expenses</b>		<u>84,562</u>	<u>78,629</u>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<u>7,955</u>	<u>13,739</u>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
<i>Items that will not be reclassified to surplus or deficit in future periods</i>			
Net asset revaluation increment	6.1	7,021	18,107
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>		<u>14,976</u>	<u>31,846</u>

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**Balance Sheet** as at 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	40,663	17,567
Trade and other receivables	5.1	6,140	6,271
Other financial assets	5.1	5,000	16,000
Right-of-use assets	5.8	358	357
Other assets	5.2	479	512
<b>Total current assets</b>		52,640	40,707
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Other financial assets	5.1	21	21
Investments in associates	6.2	1,353	1,280
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6.1	1,142,307	1,131,089
Right-of-use assets	5.8	582	939
Investment property	6.3	2,566	2,584
Intangible assets	5.2	552	632
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		1,147,381	1,136,545
<b>Total assets</b>		1,200,021	1,177,252
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	5.3	6,844	7,081
Trust funds and deposits	5.3	5,491	3,072
Provisions	5.5	6,873	6,567
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	508	485
Unearned Income	5.3	7,008	427
Lease liabilities	5.8	400	381
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		27,124	18,013
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	5.5	4,431	4,888
Interest-bearing liabilities	5.4	3,515	4,023
Lease liabilities	5.8	608	961
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		8,554	9,872
<b>Total liabilities</b>		35,678	27,885
<b>Net assets</b>		1,164,343	1,149,367
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus		659,581	653,364
Reserves	9.1	504,762	496,003
<b>Total equity</b>		1,164,343	1,149,367

*The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**Statement of Changes in Equity** for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
<b>2021</b>					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,149,367	653,364	483,658	12,345
Surplus for the year		7,955	7,955	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment	6.1	7,021	-	7,021	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(4,039)	-	4,039
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	2,301	-	(2,301)
<b>Balance at end of the financial year</b>		<b>1,164,343</b>	<b>659,581</b>	<b>490,679</b>	<b>14,083</b>

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
<b>2020</b>					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,117,521	637,170	465,551	14,800
Surplus for the year		13,739	13,739	-	-
Net asset revaluation increment	6.1	18,107	-	18,107	-
Transfers to other reserves	9.1	-	(3,925)	-	3,925
Transfers from other reserves	9.1	-	6,380	-	(6,380)
<b>Balance at end of the financial year</b>		<b>1,149,367</b>	<b>653,364</b>	<b>483,658</b>	<b>12,345</b>

*The above statement of changes in equity should be read with the accompanying notes.*

**Statement of Cash Flows** for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000	2020 Inflows/ (Outflows) \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Rates and charges		52,851	50,035
Statutory fees and fines		5,177	4,274
User fees		11,655	4,328
Grants - operating		15,244	14,968
Grants - capital		9,824	7,956
Contributions - monetary		469	808
Interest received		200	563
Trust funds and deposits taken		2,278	(494)
Other receipts		2,332	1,241
Net GST refund		3,308	4,356
Employee costs		(36,495)	(33,097)
Materials and services		(28,251)	(27,431)
Other payments		(7,631)	(7,941)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	9.2	<u>30,961</u>	<u>19,566</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Net (increase)/decrease in other financial assets		11,000	13,011
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		(18,386)	(23,807)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment		226	404
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<u>(7,160)</u>	<u>(10,392)</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Finance costs		(220)	(345)
Repayment of borrowings		(485)	(4,685)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		<u>(705)</u>	<u>(5,030)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		23,096	4,144
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year		17,567	13,423
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	5.1(a)	<u>40,663</u>	<u>17,567</u>
Financing arrangements	5.6		
Restrictions on cash assets	5.1		

*The above statement of cash flows should be read with the accompanying notes.*



**Statement of Capital Works** for the year ended 30 June 2021

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Property</b>		
Buildings and building improvements	4,418	5,037
<b>Total property</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>5,037</b>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
Plant, machinery and equipment	430	1,942
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	-	94
Computers and telecommunications	574	689
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>2,725</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
Roads	7,584	9,189
Bridges	387	361
Footpaths and cycleways	1,861	1,308
Drainage	281	673
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	1,362	2,441
Parks, open space and streetscapes	753	901
Other infrastructure	739	1,349
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>12,967</b>	<b>16,222</b>
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	<b>18,389</b>	<b>23,984</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
New asset expenditure	4,132	2,368
Asset renewal expenditure	12,255	13,834
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,002	7,782
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	<b>18,389</b>	<b>23,984</b>

*The above statement of capital works should be read with the accompanying notes.*

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

### Overview

#### Introduction

Macedon Ranges Shire Council (Council) was constituted in January 1995 following the amalgamation of the former Shires of Gisborne, Romsey, Newham and Woodend, and Kyneton. The Council's main office is located at 129 Mollison Street Kyneton, Victoria.

#### Statement of compliance

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), the *Local Government Act 1989*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

#### Significant accounting policies

##### (a) Basis of accounting

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.2)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.5)
- the determination of landfill provisions (refer to Note 5.5)
- the determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific so as to determine whether an arrangement is within the scope of *AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers* or *AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* (refer to Note 3)
- the determination, in accordance with *AASB 16 Leases*, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.8)
- the determination, in accordance with *AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements*: (refer to Note 10)
- other areas requiring judgements

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

##### (b) Impact of COVID 19 pandemic on Council operations and 2020/21 financial report

On 16 March 2020 a state of emergency was declared in Victoria due to the global pandemic COVID-19 virus, known as coronavirus. A state of disaster was subsequently declared on 2 August 2020. While the impacts of the pandemic have abated somewhat through the 2020-21 year, Council has noted the following significant impacts on its financial operations:

- Additional revenue – grant for Working for Victoria \$2.43m.
- Revenue reductions – user fees and charges for Aquatic, Leisure, Economic Development, Arts and Cultural venues approx \$551k
- Additional costs – additional employee costs associated with the Working for Victoria \$2.20m

## Note 1 Performance against budget

The performance against budget notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a budget variation materiality threshold of 10% and \$100,000. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its size or nature.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by Council on 22 July 2020 and were based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the Budget. Council sets guidelines and parameters for income and expense targets in this budget in order to meet Council's planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long-term. The budget did not reflect any changes to equity resulting from asset revaluations, as their impacts were not considered predictable.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

## Note 1 Performance against budget (cont.)

### 1.1 Income and expenditure

	Budget 2021 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000	Variance \$'000	%	Ref
<b>Income</b>					
Rates and charges	52,915	53,185	270	1%	
Statutory fees and fines	4,133	5,177	1,044	25%	1
User fees	7,295	4,415	(2,880)	-39%	2
Grants - operating	15,035	15,244	209	1%	
Grants - capital	12,458	9,824	(2,634)	-21%	3
Contributions - monetary	186	469	283	152%	4
Contributions - non monetary	7,920	2,837	(5,083)	-64%	5
Fair value adjustments for investment property	-	(18)	(18)	-100%	
Share of net profits/(losses) of associates	-	73	73	100%	
Other income	2,063	1,311	(752)	-36%	6
<b>Total income</b>	<b>102,005</b>	<b>92,517</b>	<b>(9,488)</b>	<b>-9%</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Employee costs	39,727	35,858	3,869	10%	7
Materials and services	24,764	28,494	(3,730)	-15%	8
Depreciation	14,242	16,376	(2,134)	-15%	9
Amortisation - intangible assets	318	236	82	26%	
Amortisation - right of use assets	357	357	-	0%	
Bad and doubtful debts	10	(16)	26	260%	
Borrowing costs	187	172	15	8%	
Finance cost - leases	50	48	2	4%	
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	-	268	(268)	-100%	10
Increase/(decrease) in provision for landfill liability	-	(269)	269	100%	11
Other expenses	3,116	3,038	78	3%	
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>82,771</b>	<b>84,562</b>	<b>(1,791)</b>	<b>-2%</b>	
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>19,234</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>(11,279)</b>	<b>-59%</b>	

#### (i) Explanation of material variations

Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Statutory fees and fines	Developer cash contributions favourable to budget (\$708k) and Engineering fees for plan reviews favourable to budget (\$214k).
2	User fees	Aquatic & Leisure unfavourable to budget (\$1.625m), Kinder fees unfavourable to budget (\$767k) due to additional offsetting grants, Arts Facilities unfavourable venue fees (\$55k) and unfavourable Hanging Rock entrance fees (\$276k). These were all due to closure of facilities during Covid-19.
3	Grants - capital	Unfavourable variance for the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure grants (\$1.44m) announced in 2020/21 will mostly be received in 2021/22. Unfavourable variance due to Roads to Recovery grant (\$1.001m) to be received in 2021/22.
4	Contributions - monetary	Favourable variance due to unbudgeted contribution received for Five Mile Creek pedestrian bridge (\$100k).
5	Contributions - non monetary	Development slower than anticipated during 2020/21. Some larger developments delayed to 2021/22.
6	Other income	Investment interest unfavourable (\$369k) due to reduction in interest rates.
7	Employee costs	Working for Victoria favourable (\$1.041m) due to positions not able to be filled and staff moving on prior to the end of their contract. Aquatic & Leisure favourable (\$735k) due to closures during Covid-19. Vacant positions across the organisation taking longer to recruit during Covid-19.
8	Materials and services	Emergencies due to natural disasters unfavourable (\$2.218m), which may be claimable from the Victorian State Government. Transfer stations unfavourable (\$615k) due to increased green waste from storms and increased attendance as people working from home. Kerbside collection unfavourable (\$483k) due to additional transport and disposal costs.
9	Depreciation	Unfavourable depreciation (\$2.134m) due to higher revaluation in 2019/20 than expected increases the depreciation expense in future years.
10	Net (gain)/loss on disposal of property,	Unfavourable loss on disposal (\$268k) due to the early replacement of some infrastructure assets which were written off.
11	Increase/(decrease) in provision for landfill liability	Favourable variance in the Landfill liability provision (\$269k) due to works undertaken and assessment of future likely works.

## Note 1 Performance against budget (cont.)

### 1.2 Capital works

	Budget 2021 \$'000	Actual 2021 \$'000	Variance \$'000	%	Ref
<b>Property</b>					
Buildings and building improvements	6,726	4,418	2,308	34%	1
<b>Total property</b>	<b>6,726</b>	<b>4,418</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>34%</b>	
<b>Plant, machinery and equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	1,646	430	1,216	74%	2
Computers and telecommunications	633	574	59	9%	
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>1,004</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>56%</b>	
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	7,473	7,584	(111)	-1%	
Bridges	460	387	73	16%	
Footpaths and cycleways	6,824	1,861	4,963	73%	3
Drainage	570	281	289	51%	4
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	2,877	1,362	1,515	53%	5
Parks, open space and streetscapes	998	753	245	25%	6
Other infrastructure	1,814	739	1,075	59%	7
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>21,016</b>	<b>12,967</b>	<b>8,049</b>	<b>38%</b>	
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	<b>30,021</b>	<b>18,389</b>	<b>11,632</b>	<b>39%</b>	
<b>New asset expenditure</b>					
New asset expenditure	11,455	4,132	7,323	64%	
Asset renewal expenditure	16,452	12,255	4,197	26%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,114	2,002	112	5%	
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>	<b>30,021</b>	<b>18,389</b>	<b>11,632</b>	<b>39%</b>	

#### (i) Explanation of material variations

Ref	Item	Explanation
1	Buildings and building improvements	Favourable variance due to Kyneton Early Years (\$1.6m) budgeted in 2020/21 will be constructed in 2021/22 and several building projects in progress will be completed in 2021/22.
2	Plant, machinery and equipment	Favourable variance (\$1.216m) due to difficulties in the purchase of plant and vehicles during Covid-19.
3	Footpaths and cycleways	Favourable variance due to Macedon Shared Trail (\$4.487m) being completed over several years.
4	Drainage	Favourable variance due to delays in several drainage projects (\$289k), Farrell St New Gisborne, Dunsford Street Lancefield and Skyline Drive Gisborne.
5	Recreational, leisure and community facilities	Favourable variance due to Macedon Ranges Sports Hub (\$1.778m) being completed over several years and three projects not receiving grant funding and therefore did not proceed, Barkly Square field, Gilbert Gordon netball and Lancefield Park lighting.
6	Parks, open space and streetscapes	Favourable variance due to several projects being in progress at June 2021, Gisborne Fields playground (\$250k), Romsey Ecotherapy Park (\$261k) and Healthy Heart of Victoria (\$287k).
7	Other infrastructure	Favourable variance due to the Kyneton Saleyards upgrade (\$1.117m).

## Note 2 Analysis of Council results by program

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following directorate areas. Each directorate is led by a director who reports through to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), with the exception of the CEO group which reports directly through to the CEO.

### 2(a) Council directorates

#### Assets & Operations

The responsibilities of the Assets and Operations directorate include the maintenance of Council roads, footpaths, bridges, drains, parks, buildings, kerbside bin collection, transfer stations, aquatics, recreation and engineering.

#### CEO Group

The CEO group includes legal, governance, risk management, insurance, contracts and the CEO's administrative support.

#### Community Wellbeing

Final expenditure for the Director Community Wellbeing area which was finalised July 2020.

#### Corporate & Community Services

Corporate Services is responsible for early years, youth, maternal child health, healthy aging, information technology, finance services, property management and rates.

#### People Culture & Performance

The responsibilities of the human resources, Occupational Health and Safety, employee training, communications and customer service.

#### Planning & Environment

The responsibilities of the Planning and Environment directorate include strategic planning, environment and conservation services, statutory planning, building services, local laws, environmental health, emergency management economic development, tourism, Hanging Rock, libraries, arts and culture.

#### Restructure - June 2020

The comparative figures of 2020 are representative of the previous structure of the organisation applicable to 30 June 2020.

### 2(b) Summary of revenues, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program

	Income	Expenses	Surplus/ (Deficit)	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2021</b>					
Assets & Operations	26,345	45,684	(19,339)	8,975	668,916
Chief Executive	34	2,843	(2,809)	15	-
Community Wellbeing	83	115	(32)	-	-
Corporate & Community Services	57,840	15,901	41,939	12,735	528,467
People Culture & Performance	2,148	7,451	(5,303)	1,975	-
Planning & Environment	6,067	12,568	(6,501)	1,368	2,638
	<u>92,517</u>	<u>84,562</u>	<u>7,955</u>	<u>25,068</u>	<u>1,200,021</u>
<b>2020</b>					
Assets & Operations	24,576	37,235	(12,659)	7,040	578,684
Chief Executive	700	4,152	(3,452)	426	-
Community Wellbeing	14,343	20,883	(6,540)	9,280	82,065
Corporate Services	49,639	8,887	40,752	5,942	516,503
Planning & Environment	3,110	7,472	(4,362)	236	-
	<u>92,368</u>	<u>78,629</u>	<u>13,739</u>	<u>22,924</u>	<u>1,177,252</u>



## Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services

### 3.1 Rates and charges

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Council uses capital improved value as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. The capital improved value of a property is its estimated market value at the date of valuation. The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2020/21 was \$16,393 million (2019/20 \$15,201 million). The 2020/21 general rate in the capital improved value dollar was \$0.0023814 (2019/20, \$0.00224765).		
General rates	34,073	32,816
Agricultural land rates	2,235	2,241
Commercial/industrial rates	2,204	2,182
Municipal charge	4,888	4,824
Waste management charge	8,736	7,955
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	678	489
Other rates	70	71
Interest on rates	301	172
<b>Total rates and charges</b>	<b>53,185</b>	<b>50,750</b>

The date of the general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2021, and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2021. Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.

### 3.2 Statutory fees and fines

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Animal control fees	696	658
Infringements and costs	205	138
Permits	1,324	1,214
Roads and infrastructure fees	2,515	1,800
Town planning fees	267	226
Other statutory fees	170	238
<b>Total statutory fees and fines</b>	<b>5,177</b>	<b>4,274</b>

Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the payment is received.

### 3.3 User fees

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Aged and health services	162	171
Child care/children's programs	220	615
Cultural activities	136	168
Gravel pit sales	112	102
Hanging Rock Reserve fees	412	611
Leisure centre and recreation	1,946	2,544
Saleyards	299	324
Waste management services	960	752
Other fees and charges	168	401
<b>Total user fees</b>	<b>4,415</b>	<b>5,688</b>

User fees are recognised as revenue at a point in time, or over time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

## Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services (cont.)

### 3.4 Funding from other levels of government

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
<b>Summary of grants</b>		
Commonwealth funded grants	11,832	14,228
State funded grants	13,236	8,696
<b>Total grants received</b>	<b>25,068</b>	<b>22,924</b>
<b>(a) Operating Grants</b>		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Aged and disability services	1,025	1,582
Financial Assistance Grants	5,695	5,748
<i>Recurrent - State Government</i>		
Aged and disability services	60	260
Family and children	3,064	2,939
Maternal and child health	587	514
School crossing supervisors	119	117
Youth and culture	118	116
Other	261	102
<b>Total recurrent operating grants</b>	<b>10,929</b>	<b>11,378</b>
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Planning & Environment	-	26
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	-	1,838
Other	20	-
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Aged and disability Services	-	30
Emergency management	398	120
Family and children	1,415	-
Maternal and child health	15	10
Planning and Environment	-	12
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	-	33
Working for Victoria	1,927	-
Youth and culture	1	14
Other	539	1,507
<b>Total non-recurrent operating grants</b>	<b>4,315</b>	<b>3,590</b>
<b>Total operating grants</b>	<b>15,244</b>	<b>14,968</b>
<b>(b) Capital Grants</b>		
<i>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Roads to Recovery	603	1,691
Financial Assistance Grants	2,319	2,433
<b>Total recurrent capital grants</b>	<b>2,922</b>	<b>4,124</b>
<i>Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government</i>		
Buildings	468	-
Footpaths and cycleways	252	-
Roads and bridges	1,450	910
<i>Non-recurrent - State Government</i>		
Buildings	259	975
Footpaths and cycleways	-	45
Parks, open space and streetscapes	746	657
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	2,684	72
Roads and bridges	943	1,173
Other	100	-
<b>Total non-recurrent capital grants</b>	<b>6,902</b>	<b>3,832</b>
<b>Total capital grants</b>	<b>9,824</b>	<b>7,956</b>

## Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services (cont.)

### 3.4 Funding from other levels of government (cont.)

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>(c) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner</b>		
<i>Operational</i>		
Balance at start of year	190	-
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	1,374	190
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(190)	-
<b>Balance at year end</b>	<u>1,374</u>	<u>190</u>
<i>Capital</i>		
Balance at start of year	323	2,036
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	5,217	-
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(323)	(1,713)
<b>Balance at year end</b>	<u>5,217</u>	<u>323</u>

Grant income is recognised at the point in time when the council satisfies its performance obligations as specified in the underlying agreement.

### 3.5 Contributions

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Monetary	469	808
Non-monetary	2,837	5,913
<b>Total contributions</b>	<u>3,306</u>	<u>6,721</u>
<i>Contributions of non monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes:</i>		
Land	53	685
Land under roads	574	1,185
Infrastructure	2,210	4,043
<b>Total non-monetary</b>	<u>2,837</u>	<u>5,913</u>

Monetary and non monetary contributions are recognised as revenue when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

### 3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Proceeds of sale	164	404
Written down value of assets disposed	(432)	(586)
<b>Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment</b>	<u>(268)</u>	<u>(182)</u>

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

### 3.7 Other income

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Commission	78	107
Interest on investments	133	528
Insurance recoveries	211	296
Investment property rental	442	497
Merchandise and material sales	362	432
Other	85	364
<b>Total other income</b>	<u>1,311</u>	<u>2,224</u>

Interest is recognised as it is earned. Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

## Note 4 The cost of delivering services

### 4.1 Employee costs

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Wages and salaries	29,669	28,311
Casual staff	2,448	2,740
Superannuation	2,982	2,737
WorkCover	412	312
Fringe benefits tax	347	274
<b>Total employee costs</b>	<b>35,858</b>	<b>34,374</b>

#### (a) Superannuation

Council made contributions to the following funds:

##### Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	87	87
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##### Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	1,261	1,378
Employer contributions - other funds	1,322	1,268
	<u>2,583</u>	<u>2,646</u>
Employer contributions payable at reporting date	412	100

Refer to note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

### 4.2 Materials and services

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Administration	2,138	1,390
Building maintenance	679	1,093
Consultants	1,782	2,274
Contract payments - Parks Maintenance	1,456	1,713
Contract payments - Resource Recovery	10,095	6,989
Contract payments - Other	6,418	5,944
General maintenance	663	509
Information technology	1,005	1,013
Insurance	616	613
Materials and supplies	1,722	2,239
Utilities	1,920	2,286
<b>Total materials and services</b>	<b>28,494</b>	<b>26,063</b>

### 4.3 Depreciation

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Land and buildings	2,971	1,990
Plant and equipment	1,595	1,484
Infrastructure	11,810	10,494
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>16,376</b>	<b>13,968</b>

Refer to note 5.2(b) and 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

### 4.4 Amortisation - intangible assets

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Software	236	198
<b>Total amortisation</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>198</b>

## Note 4 The cost of delivering services (cont.)

### 4.5 Amortisation - right of use assets

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Right of use assets	357	327
<b>Total amortisation</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>327</b>

Refer to note 5.2(b) and 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.

### 4.6 Bad and doubtful debts

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Other debtors	(16)	11
<b>Total bad and doubtful debts</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>11</b>

#### Movement in provisions for doubtful debts

Balance at the beginning of the year	33	33
New provisions recognised during the year	-	11
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible	(1)	(11)
Amounts provided for but recovered during the year	(16)	-
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>33</b>

Provision for doubtful debt is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

### 4.7 Borrowing costs

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest - borrowings	172	267
<b>Total borrowing costs</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>267</b>

Borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

### 4.8 Finance Costs - Leases

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Interest - right of use assets	48	54
<b>Total finance costs</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>

### 4.9 Other expenses

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	31	50
Auditors' remuneration - Internal	41	50
Contributions and donations	2,284	2,686
Councillors' allowances	294	312
Operating lease rentals	155	115
Other expenses	233	192
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>3,038</b>	<b>3,405</b>

## Note 5 Our financial position

### 5.1 Financial assets

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>(a) Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand	59	9
Cash at bank	6,861	8,869
Money market call accounts	27,712	2,689
Term deposits	6,031	6,000
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u>40,663</u>	<u>17,567</u>
<b>(b) Other financial assets</b>		
<i>Current</i>		
Term deposits - current	5,000	16,000
<i>Non current</i>		
Shares in Lancefield Community Bank - at fair value	12	12
Shares in Gisborne Community Bank - at fair value	9	9
<b>Total other financial assets</b>	<u>5,021</u>	<u>16,021</u>
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<u>45,684</u>	<u>33,588</u>

Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:

- Trust funds and deposits (Note 5.3)	5,491	3,072
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>5,491</u>	<u>3,072</u>
<b>Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u>35,172</u>	<u>14,495</u>

#### *Intended allocations*

Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:

- Cash held to fund carried forward capital works	15,977	9,228
- Cash held for statutory reserves (Note 9.1)	7,032	6,376
- Cash held for non-statutory reserves (Note 9.1)	7,051	5,968
<b>Total funds subject to intended allocations</b>	<u>30,060</u>	<u>21,572</u>

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at original cost. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

Cash held in statutory reserves have some restrictions on how the funds can be spent but there is limited restrictions on the timing of expenditure so these funds are classified under intended allocations.

### **(c) Trade and other receivables**

#### *Statutory receivables*

Rates debtors	4,100	3,625
Net GST receivable	1,304	648

#### *Non statutory receivables*

Other debtors	732	1,394
Accrued income	12	564
Accrued interest income	6	73
Provision for doubtful debts - other debtors	(14)	(33)
<b>Total trade and other receivables</b>	<u>6,140</u>	<u>6,271</u>

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred.



## Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)

### 5.1 Financial assets (cont.)

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>d) Ageing of other debtors</b>		
The ageing of the Council's other receivables was:		
Current (not yet due)	512	213
Past due by up to 30 days	34	829
Past due between 31 and 180 days	66	191
Past due between 181 and 365 days	52	104
Past due by more than 1 year	68	57
<b>Total other debtors</b>	<u>732</u>	<u>1,394</u>

### (e) Ageing of individually impaired Receivables

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$14k (2020: \$33k) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$14k (2020: \$33k). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements.

The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

Past due between 181 and 365 days	2	3
Past due by more than 1 year	12	30
<b>Total trade &amp; other receivables</b>	<u>14</u>	<u>33</u>

### 5.2 Non-financial assets

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>(a) Other assets</b>		
Prepayments	479	512
<b>Total other assets</b>	<u>479</u>	<u>512</u>
<b>(b) Intangible assets - software</b>		
Opening carrying amount	2,857	2,460
Additions	156	397
<b>Closing carrying amount</b>	<u>3,013</u>	<u>2,857</u>
Opening accumulated amortisation	(2,225)	(2,027)
Amortisation expense	(236)	(198)
Closing accumulated amortisation	<u>(2,461)</u>	<u>(2,225)</u>
<b>Net intangible assets</b>	<u>552</u>	<u>632</u>

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised as an expense on a systematic basis over the asset's useful life. Amortisation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at a rate that allocates the asset value over its estimated useful life. Estimates of the remaining useful lives and amortisation method are reviewed at least annually, and adjustments made where appropriate.

## Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)

### 5.3 Payables

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>(a) Trade and other payables</b>		
Trade payables	4,254	4,175
Accrued general expenses	1,607	1,092
Accrued payroll expense	323	1,489
Accrued interest expense	3	3
Other payables	657	322
<b>Total trade and other payables</b>	<u>6,844</u>	<u>7,081</u>
<b>(b) Trust funds and deposits</b>		
Fire services levy	716	575
Trust funds and deposits	4,775	2,497
<b>Total trust funds and deposits</b>	<u>5,491</u>	<u>3,072</u>
<b>(c) Unearned income</b>		
Grants received in advance - operating	1,374	396
Grants received in advance - capital	5,217	-
Other	417	31
<b>Total unearned income</b>	<u>7,008</u>	<u>427</u>

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

#### **Purpose and nature of items**

Fire Service Levy - Council is the collection agent for fire services levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the state government in line with that process.

Retention Amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

### 5.4 Interest-bearing liabilities

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Current borrowings - secured	508	485
Non-current borrowings - secured	3,515	4,023
<b>Total interest-bearing loans and borrowings</b>	<u>4,023</u>	<u>4,508</u>

The borrowings are secured by a charge over the rates of Council.

#### **a) The maturity profile for Council's borrowings is:**

Not later than one year	508	485
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,515	4,023
Later than five years	-	-
<b>Total interest-bearing loans and borrowings</b>	<u>4,023</u>	<u>4,508</u>

Borrowings are measured at fair value, being the cost of the interest bearing liabilities. Council determines the classification of its interest bearing liabilities at initial recognition.

## Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)

### 5.5 Provisions

	2021	2020	
	\$'000	\$'000	
<b>Current</b>			
Employee	6,556	6,171	
Landfill	317	396	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,873</b>	<b>6,567</b>	
<b>Non current</b>			
Employee	827	1,018	
Landfill	3,604	3,870	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,431</b>	<b>4,888</b>	
	<b>Employee</b>	<b>Landfill</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$ '000</b>	<b>restoration</b>	<b>\$ '000</b>
		<b>\$ '000</b>	
<b>2021</b>			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	7,189	4,266	11,455
Additional provisions	3,087	(320)	2,767
Amounts used	(2,614)	(76)	(2,690)
Increase/(decrease) in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(279)	51	(228)
<b>Balance at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>7,383</b>	<b>3,921</b>	<b>11,304</b>
<b>2020</b>			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	6,555	4,666	11,221
Additional provisions	2,682	(276)	2,406
Amounts used	(2,135)	(180)	(2,315)
Increase in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	87	56	143
<b>Balance at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>7,189</b>	<b>4,266</b>	<b>11,455</b>
<b>(a) Employee provisions</b>			
<b>Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months</b>			
Annual leave		2,423	2,023
Long service leave		2,112	1,995
		<b>4,535</b>	<b>4,018</b>
<b>Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months</b>			
Annual leave		46	38
Long service leave		1,975	2,115
		<b>2,021</b>	<b>2,153</b>
<b>Total current employee provisions</b>		<b>6,556</b>	<b>6,171</b>
<b>Non-current</b>			
Long service leave		827	1,018
<b>Total non-current employee provisions</b>		<b>827</b>	<b>1,018</b>
<b>Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:</b>			
Current		6,556	6,171
Non-current		827	1,018
<b>Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions</b>		<b>7,383</b>	<b>7,189</b>

The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.

## Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)

### 5.5 Provisions (cont.)

#### *Wages and salaries and annual leave*

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulated sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employee services up to the reporting date, classified as current liabilities and measured at their nominal values.

Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at the present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

*Long service leave* - Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. LSL is measured at present value. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non - current liability.

	2021	2020
<b>Key assumptions:</b>		
- discount rate	1.13%	0.70%
- index rate	2.95%	4.25%
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>(b) Landfill restoration</b>		
Current	317	396
Non-current	3,604	3,870
<b>Total landfill restoration</b>	<b>3,921</b>	<b>4,266</b>

Council is obligated to restore three landfill sites in Bullengarook, Kyneton and Lancefield to a particular standard. All three landfill sites are closed and are not receiving any further infill. The provision for landfill restoration has been calculated based on the present value of the expected cost of works to be undertaken. The expected cost of works has been estimated based on the current understanding of work required to reinstate the site to a suitable standard. Accordingly, the estimation of the provision required is dependent on the accuracy of the forecast timing of the work, work required and related costs.

	2021	2020
<b>Key assumptions:</b>		
- discount rate	1.32%	1.32%
- index rate	2.00%	2.00%

### 5.6 Financing arrangements

	2021	2020
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Credit card facilities	100	100
Used facilities	(8)	(6)
<b>Unused facilities</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>94</b>

## Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)

### 5.7 Commitments

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

	Not later than 1 year \$'000	Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years \$'000	Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years \$'000	Later than 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>2021</b>					
<b>Operating</b>					
Animal pound services	195	200	-	-	395
Cleaning contracts	600	250	-	-	850
Consultancies	196	-	-	-	196
Housing management	19	-	-	-	19
Software support	157	137	-	-	294
Waste Collection	6,028	6,119	6,241	-	18,388
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,195</b>	<b>6,706</b>	<b>6,241</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>20,142</b>
<b>Capital</b>					
Buildings	403	-	-	-	403
Roads	739	-	-	-	739
Bridges	102	-	-	-	102
Landfill	84	-	-	-	84
Recreational, leisure and community	333	309	-	-	642
Open space & streetscapes	1,500	428	-	-	1,928
Other infrastructure	1,567	-	-	-	1,567
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,728</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>5,465</b>
<b>2020</b>					
<b>Operating</b>					
Animal pound services	190	195	200	-	585
Cleaning contracts	725	600	250	-	1,575
Consultancies	95	-	-	-	95
Landfill services	58	38	-	-	96
Roadside maintenance	437	-	-	-	437
Housing management	103	-	-	-	103
Security Services	38	-	-	-	38
Software support	226	226	89	-	541
Waste Collection	5,423	5,505	11,286	-	22,214
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,295</b>	<b>6,564</b>	<b>11,825</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,684</b>
<b>Capital</b>					
Buildings	1,793	-	-	-	1,793
Roads	1,480	-	-	-	1,480
Bridges	58	-	-	-	58
Recreational, leisure and community	1,372	110	126	-	1,608
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,703</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,939</b>

## Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)

### 5.7 Commitments (cont.)

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<b>Operating lease receivables</b>		
Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment property. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually. Future minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:		
Not later than one year	86	88
Later than one year and not later than five years	279	289
Later than five years	48	142
<b>Total operating lease receivables</b>	<u>413</u>	<u>519</u>

### 5.8 Leases

At inception of a contract, all entities would assess whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset;
- The customer has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use; and
- The customer has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

As a lessee, Council recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain measurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, an appropriate incremental borrowing rate. Generally, Council uses an appropriate incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- Fixed payments
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate as at the commencement date;
- Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- The exercise price under a purchase option that Council is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if Council is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless Council is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Council has elected to apply the temporary option available under *AASB 16 Leases* which allows not-for-profit entities to not measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.



## Note 5 Our financial position (cont.)

### 5.8 Leases (cont.)

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Right-of-use Assets</b>		
Current	358	328
Non-Current	582	968
Total	<u>940</u>	<u>1,296</u>
	<b>Property</b>	<b>Equipment</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Balance at 1 July 2019	1,459	1,459
Additions	-	165
Amortisation charge	(325)	(3)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<u>1,134</u>	<u>162</u>
Balance at 1 July 2020	1,134	162
Additions	-	-
Amortisation charge	(324)	(32)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<u>810</u>	<u>130</u>
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Lease Liabilities</b>		
<i>Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows</i>		
Less than one year	433	425
One to five years	703	1,067
More than five years	-	-
<b>Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:</b>	<u>1,136</u>	<u>1,492</u>
<i>Lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet at 30 June:</i>		
Current	400	381
Non-current	608	961
<b>Total lease liabilities</b>	<u>1,008</u>	<u>1,342</u>

## Note 6 Assets we manage

### 6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

#### Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment

	Note	At Fair Value 30 June 2020 \$'000	Additions \$'000	Contributions \$'000	Revaluation \$'000	Depreciation \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Transfers \$'000	At Fair Value 30 June 2021 \$'000
Property	6.2(a)	562,814	-	744	-	(2,971)	-	5,658	566,245
Plant and equipment	6.2(b)	11,187	-	-	-	(1,595)	(146)	865	10,311
Infrastructure	6.2(c)	544,259	-	2,093	7,021	(11,810)	(217)	7,510	548,856
Work in progress		12,829	18,099	-	-	-	-	(14,033)	16,895
<b>Total property, infrastructure, plant and equipment</b>		<b>1,131,089</b>	<b>18,099</b>	<b>2,837</b>	<b>7,021</b>	<b>(16,376)</b>	<b>(363)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,142,307</b>

#### Summary of Work In Progress (WIP)

	Opening WIP \$'000	Additions \$'000	Transfers to assets \$'000	Write offs \$'000	Closing WIP \$'000
Property (a)	4,244	4,784	(5,658)	-	3,370
Plant and equipment (b)	-	865	(865)	-	-
Infrastructure (c)	8,585	12,450	(7,510)	-	13,525
<b>Total Work In Progress</b>	<b>12,829</b>	<b>18,099</b>	<b>(14,033)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,895</b>

## Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

### 6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)

#### (a) Property

	Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Land improvements	Total land and land improvements	Buildings - specialised	Buildings - non specialised	Total buildings	Work In Progress	Total property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2020	387,139	83,921	681	471,741	46,186	47,443	93,629	4,244	569,614
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2020	(2,556)	-	-	(2,556)	-	-	-	-	(2,556)
	<b>384,583</b>	<b>83,921</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>469,185</b>	<b>46,186</b>	<b>47,443</b>	<b>93,629</b>	<b>4,244</b>	<b>567,058</b>
<i>Movements in fair value</i>									
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,784	4,784
Contributions	744	-	-	744	-	-	-	-	744
Transfers	-	-	-	-	2,755	2,903	5,658	(5,658)	-
	<b>744</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>744</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>2,903</b>	<b>5,658</b>	<b>(874)</b>	<b>5,528</b>
<i>Movements in accumulated depreciation</i>									
Depreciation and amortisation	(173)	-	-	(173)	(1,571)	(1,227)	(2,798)	-	(2,971)
	<b>(173)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(173)</b>	<b>(1,571)</b>	<b>(1,227)</b>	<b>(2,798)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,971)</b>
At fair value 30 June 2021	387,883	83,921	681	472,485	48,941	50,346	99,287	3,370	575,142
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2021	(2,729)	-	-	(2,729)	(1,571)	(1,227)	(2,798)	-	(5,527)
	<b>385,154</b>	<b>83,921</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>469,756</b>	<b>47,370</b>	<b>49,119</b>	<b>96,489</b>	<b>3,370</b>	<b>569,615</b>

## Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

### 6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)

#### (b) Plant and Equipment

	Plant machinery and equipment	Fixtures fittings and furniture	Computers and telecomms	Cultural assets	Work In Progress	Total plant and equipment
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2020	11,998	1,435	2,223	2,638	-	18,294
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2020	(4,604)	(776)	(1,727)	-	-	(7,107)
	<b>7,394</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>2,638</b>	-	<b>11,187</b>
<b>Movements in fair value</b>						
Additions	-	-	-	-	865	865
Disposal	(310)	-	-	-	-	(310)
Transfers	547	10	308	-	(865)	-
	<b>237</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>308</b>	-	-	<b>555</b>
<b>Movements in accumulated depreciation</b>						
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,119)	(137)	(339)	-	-	(1,595)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	164	-	-	-	-	164
	<b>(955)</b>	<b>(137)</b>	<b>(339)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,431)</b>
At fair value 30 June 2021	12,235	1,445	2,531	2,638	-	18,849
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2021	(5,559)	(913)	(2,066)	-	-	(8,538)
	<b>6,676</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>2,638</b>	-	<b>10,311</b>

**Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)****6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)****(c) Infrastructure**

	Roads	Bridges	Footpaths and cycleways	Drainage	Recreational, leisure and community	Parks open spaces and streetscapes	Other infrastructure	Work In Progress	<b>Total infrastructure</b>
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2020	551,114	48,382	32,761	74,817	32,663	2,828	5,310	8,585	<b>756,460</b>
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2020	(146,655)	(16,460)	(10,150)	(18,013)	(10,040)	(1,273)	(1,025)	-	<b>(203,616)</b>
	<b>404,459</b>	<b>31,922</b>	<b>22,611</b>	<b>56,804</b>	<b>22,623</b>	<b>1,555</b>	<b>4,285</b>	<b>8,585</b>	<b>552,844</b>
<b>Movements in fair value</b>									
Additions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,450	<b>12,450</b>
Contributions	1,100	119	344	477	53	-	-	-	<b>2,093</b>
Revaluation	-	2,383	-	-	7,738	36	-	-	<b>10,157</b>
Write-off	(40)	(86)	(10)	-	(388)	-	-	-	<b>(524)</b>
Transfers	4,002	76	622	329	1,365	1,077	39	(7,510)	-
	<b>5,062</b>	<b>2,492</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>8,768</b>	<b>1,113</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>4,940</b>	<b>24,176</b>
<b>Movements in accumulated depreciation</b>									
Depreciation and amortisation	(7,918)	(520)	(731)	(814)	(1,347)	(211)	(269)	-	<b>(11,810)</b>
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	9	65	2	-	231	-	-	-	<b>307</b>
Revaluation increments/ decrements	-	(1,631)	-	-	(1,661)	156	-	-	<b>(3,136)</b>
Transfers	-	-	-	-	(300)	300	-	-	-
	<b>(7,909)</b>	<b>(2,086)</b>	<b>(729)</b>	<b>(814)</b>	<b>(3,077)</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>(269)</b>	-	<b>(14,639)</b>
At fair value 30 June 2021	556,176	50,874	33,717	75,623	41,431	3,941	5,349	13,525	<b>780,636</b>
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2021	(154,564)	(18,546)	(10,879)	(18,827)	(13,117)	(1,028)	(1,294)	-	<b>(218,255)</b>
	<b>401,612</b>	<b>32,328</b>	<b>22,838</b>	<b>56,796</b>	<b>28,314</b>	<b>2,913</b>	<b>4,055</b>	<b>13,525</b>	<b>562,381</b>

## Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

### 6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)

#### (d) Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment accounting policies

##### Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads. In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

##### Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$'000
<b>Land and land improvements</b>		
land	-	10
land improvements	-	10
landfill	30 years	10
<b>Buildings</b>		
heritage buildings	50 years	10
buildings	50 years	10
building improvements	50 years	10
leasehold improvements	50 years	10
<b>Plant and equipment</b>		
plant, machinery and equipment	3 - 26 years	2.5
fixtures, fittings and furniture	5 - 20 years	2.5
computers and telecommunications	3 - 5 years	2.5
<b>Infrastructure</b>		
road pavement - spray seal	18 years	10
road pavement - asphalt	35 years	10
road pavement - sealed pavement	60 - 90 years	10
road pavement - sealed sub-pavement	-	10
road pavements - unsealed roads	20 - 25 years	10
road formation and earthworks	-	10
road kerb, channel	50 - 150 years	10
bridges and major culvers	70 - 200 years	10
footbridges	30 - 100 years	10
footpaths and cycleways	15 - 60 years	10
drainage	100 years	10
recreational, leisure and community facilities	10 - 50 years	10
parks, open space and streetscapes	10 - 15 years	10
other infrastructure	10 - 50 years	10
<b>Intangible assets</b>		
intangible assets	3 - 5 years	10

##### Land under roads

Council recognises land under roads it controls at fair value.



## Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

### 6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)

#### (d) Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment accounting policies (cont.)

##### *Depreciation and amortisation*

Buildings, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually. Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component. Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life. Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year. Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

##### *Repairs and maintenance*

Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

##### *Valuation of land and buildings*

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by qualified valuer, Hayley Drummond AAPI, Municipal Valuer. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement. See section 8.4 for description of fair value measurement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserved) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The date of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. Details of the Council's land and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2021 are as follows.

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Date of Valuation
Land - non-specialised	-	83,921	-	Jun-20
Land - specialised	-	-	385,154	Jun-20
Land Improvements	-	-	681	Jun-20
Buildings - non-specialised	-	49,119	-	Jun-20
Buildings - specialised	-	-	47,370	Jun-20
<b>Total</b>	-	133,040	433,205	

## Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

### 6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (cont.)

#### (d) Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment accounting policies (cont.)

##### *Valuation of infrastructure*

Valuation of infrastructure assets has been determined utilising internal resources and expertise. The date of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. The valuation is at fair value (see section 8.4 for fair value measurement) based on replacement cost less accumulated depreciation as at the date of valuation. Details of Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2021 are as follows:

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Date of Valuation
Roads	-	-	401,612	Jun-19
Bridges	-	-	32,328	Jun-21
Footpaths and cycleways	-	-	22,838	Jun-20
Drainage	-	-	56,796	Jun-20
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	-	-	28,314	Jun-21
Parks, open space and streetscapes	-	-	2,913	Jun-21
Other infrastructure	-	-	4,055	Apr-16
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>548,856</b>	

##### *Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations*

**Specialised land and land under roads** is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values of up to 85%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$1.29 (Land under Roads Rural-Low) and \$890 (central Kyneton prime business land) per square metre.

**Specialised buildings** are valued using a depreciated replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs is calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$1,100 to \$2,200 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings at 50 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

**Infrastructure assets** are valued based on the depreciated replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 1 year to 200 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets.

##### *Reconciliation of specialised land*

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Land under roads	350,783	350,783
Landfill	2,621	2,621
Other	31,750	31,179
<b>Total specialised land</b>	<b>385,154</b>	<b>384,583</b>

## Note 6 Assets we manage (cont.)

### 6.2 Investments in associates

Council has one investment in an associate which is the North Central Goldfields Library Corporation. The equity holders in the North Central Goldfields Library Corporation and their relevant holdings are:

	2021	2020
Macedon Ranges Shire Council	23.24%	23.06%
Greater Bendigo City Council	61.05%	61.11%
Loddon Shire Council	4.89%	4.96%
Mount Alexander Shire Council	10.82%	10.87%
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Fair value of Council's investment in North Central Goldfields Library Corporation</b>	1,353	1,280
<b>Council's share of accumulated surplus/(deficit)</b>		
Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at start of year	421	374
Reported surplus(deficit) for year	62	46
Transfers (to) from reserves	34	(3)
Adjustment arising from change to equity share	5	4
<b>Council's share of accumulated surplus(deficit) at end of year</b>	<u>522</u>	<u>421</u>
<b>Council's share of reserves</b>		
Council's share of reserves at start of year	290	285
Adjustment arising from change to equity share	2	2
Transfers (to) from reserves	(34)	3
<b>Council's share of reserves at end of year</b>	<u>258</u>	<u>290</u>
<b>Movement in carrying value of specific investment</b>		
Carrying value of investment at start of year	1,280	1,223
Share of surplus(deficit) for year	62	46
Adjustment arising from change to equity share	11	11
<b>Carrying value of investment at end of year</b>	<u>1,353</u>	<u>1,280</u>
<b>Council's share of expenditure commitments</b>		
Operating commitments	37	1
<b>Council's share of expenditure commitments</b>	<u>37</u>	<u>1</u>

(Council's share of equity as per the un-audited 30 June 2021 financial statements of the Library Service)

Associates are all entities over which Council has significant influence but not control or joint control. Investments in associates are accounted for using the equity method of accounting, after initially being recognised at cost.

### 6.3 Investment property

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance 1 July	2,584	2,854
Fair value adjustments	(18)	(270)
<b>Balance 30 June</b>	<u>2,566</u>	<u>2,584</u>

Investment property is held to generate long-term rental yields. Investment property is measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefit in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the Council. Subsequent to initial recognition at cost, investment property is carried at fair value, determined annually by independent valuers. Changes to fair value are recorded in the comprehensive income statement in the period that they arise.

#### Valuation of investment property

Valuation of investment property has been determined by a qualified Valuer, Hayley Drummond AAPI, who has recent experience in the location and category of the property being valued. The valuation is at fair value, based on the current market value for the property at 30 June 2021.

## Note 7 People and relationships

### 7.1 Council and key management remuneration

#### (a) Related Parties

##### Parent entity

Macedon Ranges Shire Council is the parent entity.

##### Subsidiaries and Associates

Macedon Ranges Shire Council does not have any subsidiaries. Interests in associates are detailed in note 6.3.

#### (b) Key Management Personnel

Details of persons holding the position of Councillor or other members of key management personnel at any time during the year are:

##### Councillors

Councillor Jennifer Anderson	01/07/2020 - 30/06/2021	(Mayor from 23/11/2020 - 30/06/2021)
Councillor Janet Pearce	01/07/2020 - 30/06/2021	(Mayor from 01/07/2020 - 22/11/2020)
Councillor Bill West	01/07/2020 - 30/06/2021	
Councillor Andrew Twaits	01/07/2020 - 24/10/2020	
Councillor Helen Radnedge	01/07/2020 - 24/10/2020	
Councillor Henry Bleeck	01/07/2020 - 24/10/2020	
Councillor Mandi Mees	01/07/2020 - 24/10/2020	
Councillor Natasha Gayfer	01/07/2020 - 24/10/2020	
Councillor Roger Jukes	01/07/2020 - 24/10/2020	
Councillor Annette Death	16/11/2020 - 30/06/2021	
Councillor Geoff Neil	16/11/2020 - 30/06/2021	
Councillor Dominic Bonanno	16/11/2020 - 30/06/2021	
Councillor Rob Guthrie	16/11/2020 - 30/06/2021	
Councillor Ann Moore	16/11/2020 - 30/06/2021	
Councillor Mark Ridgeway	16/11/2020 - 30/06/2021	

##### Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel

Chief Executive Officer - Margot Stork	01/07/2020 - 09/09/2020
Chief Executive Officer - John Hausler	10/09/2020 - 21/10/2020
Chief Executive Officer - John Nevins	22/10/2020 - 21/04/2021
Chief Executive Officer - Angela Hughes	22/04/2021 - 09/05/2021
Chief Executive Officer - Bernie O'Sullivan	10/05/2021 - 30/06/2021

Director Assets & Operations	
Director Corporate & Community Services	
Director Planning & Environment	
Director Incident Response	01/07/2020 - 10/09/2020 & 21/10/2020 - 03/05/2021
Executive Manager People, Culture & Performance	12/08/2020 - 30/06/2021

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Total Number of Councillors	15	9
Total Number of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel	8	7
<b>Total Key Management Personnel</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>

#### (c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term benefits	1,385	1,533
Long-term benefits	106	78
Termination benefits	67	132
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>1,743</b>

## Note 7 People and relationships (cont.)

### 7.1 Council and key management remuneration (cont.)

#### (c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

	2021 No.	2020 No.
The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council fall within the following bands:		
\$1,000 - \$9,999	6	-
\$10,000 - \$19,999	6	-
\$20,000 - \$29,999	1	8
\$40,000 - \$49,999	3	-
\$60,000 - \$69,999	-	1
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	-
\$90,000 - \$99,999	1	1
\$120,000 - \$129,999	1	-
\$140,000 - \$149,999	-	1
\$170,000 - \$179,999	-	1
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	-
\$210,000 - \$219,999	-	1
\$230,000 - \$239,999	-	1
\$240,000 - \$249,999	-	1
\$250,000 - \$259,999	3	-
\$330,000 - \$339,999	-	1
<b>Total</b>	23	16

The amounts above are calculated as the total remuneration, which includes salaries paid, superannuation, value of vehicles provided and any movement in provision for annual leave.

#### (d) Senior Officer Remuneration

A Senior Officer is an officer of Council, other than Key Management Personnel, who:

- a) has management responsibilities and reports directly to the Chief Executive; or
- b) whose total annual remuneration exceeds \$151,000

The number of Senior Officers are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Less than \$151,000*	4	8
\$151,000 - \$159,999	1	3
\$160,000 - \$169,999	3	2
\$180,000 - \$189,999	1	-
<b>Total</b>	9	13

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Total remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above, amounted to:	1,147	1,696

## Note 7 People and relationships (cont.)

### 7.2 Related party disclosure

#### (a) Transactions with related parties

During the period Council entered into the following transactions with related parties:

- goods and services were purchased from a local supplier, Bridgestone Kyneton, owned by Councillor Jukes. The transactions amounted to \$54,452 Inc.GST from 1 July to 15 November 2020 (\$86,899 during 2019/20). All purchases were at arms length in the normal course of Council's operations.

#### (b) Outstanding balances with related parties

There were no balances outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties (2019/20, \$0).

#### (c) Loans to/from related parties

There were no loans in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a related party (2019/20, \$0).

#### (d) Commitments to/from related parties

There were no commitments in existence at balance date that have been made, guaranteed or secured by the Council to a related party (2019/20, \$0).



## Note 8 Managing uncertainties

### 8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

#### (a) Contingent assets

Council can claim a reimbursement of some costs associated with natural disasters. There was a storm event in June 2021 which Council is in the process of cleaning up. As this is ongoing at 30 June the total amount of the claim is not known at this time but is expected to be several million dollars.

#### Operating lease receivables

The Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment property, consisting of surplus freehold office complexes. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 10 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

Future undiscounted minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Not later than one year	86	88
Later than one year and not later than five years	279	289
Later than five years	48	142
	413	519

#### (b) Contingent liabilities

##### Superannuation

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined in section 9.3. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

##### Liability Mutual Insurance

Council is a participant of the MAV Liability Mutual Insurance (LMI) Scheme. The LMI scheme provides public liability and professional indemnity insurance cover. The LMI scheme states that each participant will remain liable to make further contributions to the scheme in respect of any insurance year in which it was a participant to the extent of its participant's share of any shortfall in the provision set aside in respect of that insurance year, and such liability will continue whether or not the participant remains a participant in future insurance years.

#### (c) Guarantees for loans to other entities

Council guaranteed a loan taken out by the Romsey Junior Football Club Incorporated. The original loan (and extent of possible Council exposure) was \$17,300. This loan was paid in full during the financial year so the balance is now zero.

Council guaranteed a loan taken out by the Romsey Football Netball Club Incorporated. The original loan (and extent of possible Council exposure) was \$17,500. This loan was paid in full during the financial year therefore the balance is now zero.

Council has guaranteed a loan taken out by the Woodend Heskett Football Netball Club Incorporated. The original loan (and extent of possible Council exposure) was \$30,000. This loan was paid in full during the financial year therefore the balance is not zero.

All of the loans above relate to Club contributions to the construction of oval lighting.

## Note 8 Managing uncertainties (cont.)

### 8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities (cont.)

Financial guarantee contracts are not recognised as a liability in the balance sheet unless the lender has exercised their right to call on the guarantee or Council has other reasons to believe that it is probable that the right will be exercised.

### 8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2021 reporting period. Council assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2021 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2022 that are expected to impact Council.

### 8.3 Financial instruments

#### Objectives and policies

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables and bank borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the Notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

#### a) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of Council financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

#### b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Our interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes us to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has some exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and term deposits that are at floating rates. Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the Local Government Act 1989. Council manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period. Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

#### c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause Council to make a financial loss. Council have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the balance sheet. Particularly significant areas of credit risk exist in relation to outstanding fees and fines as well as loans and receivables from sporting clubs and associations. To help manage this risk:

- council have a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities council deal
- council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- council only invest surplus funds with financial institutions which have a

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

## Note 8 Managing uncertainties (cont.)

### 8.3 Financial instruments (cont.)

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when council provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1(b).

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral.

#### (d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of Council's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or will be forced to sell a financial asset below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset. To help reduce these risks Council:

- has an investment policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- has a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid instruments; and
- monitors budget to actual performance on a regular basis.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1(c), and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk. There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period. With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade. Details of the maturity profile for borrowings are disclosed at Note 5.4.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

#### (e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of + 0.5% and -0.25% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 0.25%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

### 8.4 Fair value measurement

#### *Fair value hierarchy*

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy. Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

Council measures certain assets and liabilities at fair value where required or permitted by Australian Accounting Standards. AASB 13 Fair value measurement, aims to improve consistency and reduce complexity by providing a definition of fair value and a single source of fair value measurement and disclosure requirements for use across Australian Accounting Standards.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

## Note 8 Managing uncertainties (cont.)

### 8.4 Fair value measurement (cont.)

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy, as explained above.

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

#### *Revaluation*

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 1 to 5 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts.

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are offset.

#### *Impairment of assets*

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

### 8.5 Events occurring after balance date

Since 30 June 2020, there has continued to be restrictions on some Council services due to outbreaks of COVID-19 in Victoria. This has impacted Council through closure of Aquatic and Fitness, Libraries, Economic Development, Tourism and Arts and Culture facilities. Essential services continue to be provided.

While these events have impacted Council's financial performance, the overall effect is not considered material. The Council has determined that these events are non-adjusting subsequent events. Accordingly, the financial position and results of operations as of and for the year ended 30 June 2021 have not been adjusted to reflect their impact. The duration and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic remains unclear at this time. It is not possible to reliability estimate the duration and severity of the consequences, as well as their impact on the financial position and results of Macedon Ranges Shire Council for future periods.

Council is not aware of any other after reporting date events.

## Note 9 Other matters

### 9.1 Reserves

#### (a) Asset revaluation reserves

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
<b>2021</b>			
<i>Property</i>			
Land	98,199	-	98,199
Land under roads	44,677	-	44,677
Buildings	21,499	-	21,499
	<b>164,375</b>	-	<b>164,375</b>
<i>Infrastructure</i>			
Roads	248,975	-	248,975
Kerb and channel	8,129	-	8,129
Bridges	13,238	752	13,990
Drainage	32,991	-	32,991
Footpaths	2,470	-	2,470
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes	6	191	197
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	10,834	6,078	16,912
	<b>316,643</b>	<b>7,021</b>	<b>323,664</b>
<i>Other assets</i>			
Cultural assets	2,491	-	2,491
Equity in North Central Goldfields Library	149	-	149
	<b>2,640</b>	-	<b>2,640</b>
<b>Total asset revaluation reserves</b>	<b>483,658</b>	<b>7,021</b>	<b>490,679</b>
<b>2020</b>			
<i>Property</i>			
Land	93,909	4,290	98,199
Land under roads	31,587	13,090	44,677
Buildings	16,750	4,749	21,499
	<b>142,246</b>	<b>22,129</b>	<b>164,375</b>
<i>Infrastructure</i>			
Roads	248,975	-	248,975
Kerb and channel	11,776	(3,647)	8,129
Bridges	13,238	-	13,238
Drainage	31,980	1,011	32,991
Footpaths	3,856	(1,386)	2,470
Parks, Open Space & Streetscapes	6	-	6
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	10,834	-	10,834
	<b>320,665</b>	<b>(4,022)</b>	<b>316,643</b>
<i>Other Assets</i>			
Cultural assets	2,491	-	2,491
Equity in North Central Goldfields Library	149	-	149
	<b>2,640</b>	-	<b>2,640</b>
<b>Total asset revaluation reserves</b>	<b>465,551</b>	<b>18,107</b>	<b>483,658</b>

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

## Note 9 Other matters (cont.)

### 9.1 Reserves (cont.)

#### (b) Other reserves

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
<b>2021</b>				
Asset conversion	864	-	(120)	744
Car parking*	136	-	-	136
Commercial development	3,599	-	(362)	3,237
Community facilities*	418	-	(20)	398
Debt repayment	91	400	-	491
Drainage*	446	253	-	699
Footpaths*	128	24	(10)	142
Gisborne development plan*	759	366	(86)	1,039
Gravel pit operations	545	129	-	674
Hanging Rock	612	-	(185)	427
Plant replacement	257	1,439	(218)	1,478
Public open space*	3,697	1,190	(1,135)	3,752
Road contributions*	427	104	-	531
Romsey development plan*	113	46	(100)	59
Senior citizens accommodation maintenance*	253	88	(65)	276
<b>Total other reserves</b>	<b>12,345</b>	<b>4,039</b>	<b>(2,301)</b>	<b>14,083</b>
<b>2020</b>				
Asset conversion	881	-	(17)	864
Car parking*	136	-	-	136
Commercial development	3,636	-	(37)	3,599
Community facilities*	254	164	-	418
Debt repayment	3,449	700	(4,058)	91
Drainage*	392	54	-	446
Footpaths*	107	21	-	128
Gisborne development plan*	699	60	-	759
Gravel pit operations	397	148	-	545
Hanging Rock	463	149	-	612
Plant replacement	564	1,210	(1,517)	257
Public open space*	3,109	1,137	(549)	3,697
Road contributions*	261	166	-	427
Romsey development plan*	257	31	(175)	113
Senior citizens accommodation maintenance*	195	85	(27)	253
<b>Total other reserves</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>3,925</b>	<b>(6,380)</b>	<b>12,345</b>

\* Non-discretionary reserves subject to statutory requirements and/or other agreements - \$7.032m (\$6.376m 2019/20)



## Note 9 Other matters (cont.)

### 9.1 Reserves (cont.)

#### (b) Other reserves (cont)

**Asset conversion** - net proceeds from the sale of land for capitals works projects.

**Car parking** - developer contributions for car parking projects.

**Commercial development** – net proceeds from the sale of industrial/commercial land for the purchase and development of land to be used for industrial/commercial purposes.

**Community facilities** - developer contributions for community infrastructure facilities.

**Debt repayment** - budget allocation to accumulate the required amount of funds to repay the borrowed money when it is due to be repaid.

**Drainage** - developer contributions for drainage works.

**Footpaths** - developer contributions for footpath works.

**Gisborne development plan** - developer contributions for capital works projects in Gisborne.

**Gravel pit operations** - surplus from gravel pit operations for capital works projects.

**Hanging rock** - surplus from Hanging Rock operations for capital works projects and operational projects.

**Plant replacement** – surplus from plant operations for capital replacements.

**Public open space** - developer contributions for open space projects.

**Roads contributions** - developer contributions for roads works.

**Romsey development plan** - developer contributions for capital works projects in Romsey.

**Senior citizens accommodation maintenance** – resident contributions for maintenance of units.

### 9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	7,955	13,739
Depreciation/amortisation	16,969	14,493
Profit/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	268	182
Fair value adjustments for investment property	18	270
Contributions - non-monetary assets	(2,837)	(5,913)
Share of net profits/losses of associates	(73)	(57)
Borrowing costs	220	321
<b>Change in assets and liabilities:</b>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	131	(1,344)
(Increase)/decrease in other assets	33	(496)
Increase/(decrease) in trade payables	(237)	(674)
Increase/(decrease) in unearned income	6,581	407
Increase/(decrease) in trust funds and deposits	2,419	(1,315)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(151)	(1,389)
Increase/(Decrease) in right of use assets	(335)	1,342
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	30,961	19,566

## Note 9 Other matters (cont.)

### 9.3 Superannuation

Macedon Ranges Shire makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in Comprehensive Operating Statement when they are made or due.

#### *Accumulation*

The Fund's accumulation categories, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2021, this was 9.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation).

#### *Defined Benefit*

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

#### *Funding arrangements*

Council makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary.

A triennial actuarial review for the Defined Benefit category as at 30 June 2020 was conducted and completed by the due date of 31 December 2020.

The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which [Employer name] is a contributing employer was 104.6%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns	5.6% pa
Salary information	2.5% pa for two years and 2.75% pa thereafter
Price inflation (CPI)	2.0% pa.

As at 30 June 2021, an interim actuarial investigation is underway as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category.

Vision Super has advised that the VBI at 30 June 2021 was 109.7%. The financial assumptions used to calculate this VBI were:

Net investment returns	4.8% pa
Salary information	2.75% pa
Price inflation (CPI)	2.25% pa

The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2020 actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

## Note 9 Other matters (cont.)

### 9.3 Superannuation (cont.)

#### *Employer contributions*

##### *Regular contributions*

On the basis of the results of the 2020 triennial actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2021, this rate was 9.5% of members' salaries (9.5% in 2019/2020). This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2020 triennial valuation.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

##### *Funding calls*

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an actuarial investigation or the Defined Benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the Defined Benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall.

Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound up.

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound-up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

## Note 9 Other matters (cont.)

### 9.3 Superannuation (cont.)

#### *The 2020 triennial actuarial investigation surplus amounts*

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. A full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2020.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2020 (Triennial)	2019 (Interim)
	\$m	\$m
- A VBI Surplus	100.0	151.3
- A total service liability surplus	200.0	233.4
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	217.8	256.7

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2020.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2020.

The discounted accrued benefit surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2020.

Council was notified of the 30 June 2020 VBI during August 2020 (2019: August 2019).

#### *The 2021 interim actuarial investigation*

An interim actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2021 as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by October 2021. Council was notified of the 30 June 2021 VBI during August 2021 (2020: August 2020).

#### *Superannuation contributions*

Contributions by Council (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 are detailed below:

Scheme	Rate	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Vision Super - defined benefits	9.5%	77	87
Vision Super - Accumulation	9.5%	2,905	1,378

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2022 is \$75,000.

## Note 10 Change in Accounting Policy

### *AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors (AASB 1059) (applies 2020/21 for LG Sector)*

Council has adopted AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors, from 1 July 2020. This has resulted in no changes in accounting policies and adjustments to the amounts recognised in the financial statements. Council does not consider it has any assets which are subject to Service Concession arrangements.

### *AASB 2018-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Definition of Material (applies 2020/21 for LG Sector)*

Council has adopted AASB 2018-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - Definition of Material, from 1 July 2020. All information has been disclosed where material in nature, amount and impact to ensure primary users of the general purpose financial statements are informed and can make decisions on the basis of the information disclosed regarding the entity.

### *AASB 2019-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - References to the Conceptual Framework (applies 2020/21 for LG Sector)*

Council has adopted AASB 2019-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards - References to the Conceptual Framework from 1 July 2020. These financial statements present fairly the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of Council. There is a fair presentation of the effects of transactions, other events and conditions in accordance with the definitions and recognition criteria of assets, liabilities, income and expenses set out in the Conceptual Framework for finance reporting.

It is not expected that these standards will have any significant impact on council.