

# Agenda

**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 27 October 2021 at 7pm**  
**Gisborne Administration Centre**  
**40 Robertson Street, Gisborne**

## Table of contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Recording of live streaming of this Council meeting</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Present</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Apologies</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Conflicts of interest</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Mayor's report</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	6.1 Mayor's report - October 2021.....	5
<b>7</b>	<b>Petitions</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Adoption of minutes</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Record of meetings of Councillors and Council staff</b> .....	<b>10</b>
	9.1 Record of meetings of Councillors and Council staff - September to October.....	10
<b>10</b>	<b>Deputations and presentations to Council</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Director Planning and Environment reports</b> .....	<b>27</b>
	PE.1 Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031.....	27
	PE.2 Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan 2021.....	30
	PE.3 Environment Strategy 2021.....	44
	PE.4 Small Project Grants - Consideration of applications.....	57
	PE.5 Annual Environment Report 2020/21.....	60
	PE.6 Lancefield Development Plan – Area 1, Part 1 - 128 and 132 High Street and 69 Park Street Lancefield.....	64
	PE.7 Meeting with Landholders within the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24 - Lancefield.....	79
<b>12</b>	<b>Chief Executive Officer reports</b> .....	<b>82</b>
	CX.1 Drummond and Lauriston Locality boundary adjustment.....	82
	CX.2 Contracts to be Awarded October.....	87
	CX.3 Delegations from Council to Council staff.....	90
	CX.4 Chief Executive Officer Review.....	92

CX.5	Management of Stanley Park.....	94
<b>13</b>	<b>Director Corporate and Community reports .....</b>	<b>97</b>
CC.1	Affordable Housing .....	97
CC.2	Annual Report 2020/21 .....	100
CC.3	Future of the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee .....	103
CC.4	Community Vision and Council Plan 2021-2031.....	107
CC.5	Draft Financial Plan 2021-2031 .....	166
CC.6	Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.....	171
CC.7	Disability Action Plan 2021-2025 .....	174
<b>14</b>	<b>Director Assets and Operations reports .....</b>	<b>188</b>
AO.1	Update on the Old Lancefield Road Woodend petition .....	188
AO.2	Opportunities to Improve Wildlife Safety on our Roads .....	193
<b>15</b>	<b>Notices of motion and rescission .....</b>	<b>196</b>
	Nil	
<b>16</b>	<b>Urgent business .....</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>Confidential reports .....</b>	<b>196</b>
	Nil	

**1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Council acknowledges that Macedon Ranges Shire is on Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Countries. Council acknowledges that we are gathering today on the land of Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples. Council pays its respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and the Elders from other communities who may be here today.

**2 RECORDING OF LIVE STREAMING OF THIS COUNCIL MEETING**

This meeting is being recorded and streamed live on the internet, in accordance with Council's 'Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Meetings' policy, which can be viewed on Council's website.

**3 PRESENT****4 APOLOGIES****5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

**6 MAYOR'S REPORT****6.1 MAYOR'S REPORT - OCTOBER 2021****Summary**

This report provides an update from the Mayor on recent Council activities and initiatives of a shire-wide nature.

**Recommendation**

**That Council receives and notes the Mayor's report.**

---

**Mayor's report**

This month's Mayor's report includes items mentioned in my verbal report last month that were too late to make the written report, followed by new updates up to 19 October 2021.

**Seniors Festival**

The Victorian Seniors Festival Reimagined returned in 2021 and, to celebrate, Council delivered 'celebration boxes' to 30 older residents who have made significant contributions to the Macedon Ranges community, nominated by other community members. Congratulations to all recipients, and thank you for your contributions to the shire. Thank you to those who put forward the nominations. This project was funded by a \$3,000 grant from the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.

**Webchat trial**

Council has secured funding via an Information and Technology (ICT) grant to trial a Zendesk (web chat) pilot. This pilot intends to ascertain how well it delivers value to our customers before we consider fully releasing other Zendesk features. The trial has commenced and is available during business hours. The chat icon is yellow and is located on the bottom left of our Top 10 frequented webpages. These are:

1. Bins collection days
2. Transfer station locations and hours
3. Planning forms and fees
4. Make a payment
5. How to Contact us
6. Waste index A-Z
7. Paying your Rates
8. Register your pet
9. Building – do I need a permit?
10. Road repairs and maintenance

**COVID update**

Council will be following all Victorian Government directions regarding the operations of our services and venues. Please check our website for information about what is required before you attend places such as pools, concerts or community information sessions.

Thanks again to all residents who have been vaccinated. As of 19 October, 95 per cent of our residents had received their first vaccination and 81.1 per cent are double vaccinated. Thank you for protecting our community and for continuing to follow COVID safe practices.

Council has employed a part-time Business Continuity and Recovery Officer through State Government funding to assist with the delivery of the COVID-19 Community and Business Continuity and Recovery program through effective planning, consultation with and education of the business community as it responds to the impacts of the pandemic. Please be in touch if you would like any more information.

**Storm recovery update**

Council continues to work with residents and Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) to assess ongoing damage and issues related to the storm in June. We will continue to advocate for funding to support Council's recovery costs and encourage residents to register with BRV online before applications close on 31 October 2021. See our website for details.

We have also successfully coordinated pick up of firewood from our Romsey and Woodend transfer stations to 99 residents. Those on the waiting list will be contacted when future pick up times have been arranged.

Council held the final two community recovery sessions last month to help local residents and landholders directly affected by storm damage. Sessions focussed on areas including Lancefield, Romsey, Kyneton, Macedon, Mount Macedon, Woodend, Ashbourne and surrounds. Representatives from Council, BRV, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Country Fire Authority, Parks Victoria, State Emergency Service and Sunbury Cobaw Community Health were available to provide advice and information.

**Current consultations**

Please see our website under the have your say section if you would like to provide feedback on any of the following current consultations:

- Mobility and Road Safety survey until 31 October
- Amendment c143 (protection of Gisborne's Bunjil Creek bridge, bluestone channel and three historically significant trees before works commence on the Kilmore Road Intersection upgrade) until 12 November
- Public Toilet and Barbecue Strategy survey

**Citizenship ceremonies**

Since our September Scheduled Council Meeting, 26 residents completed their citizenship journey via individual online ceremonies conducted by myself and greatly assisted by Debbie Peter. Although I really miss the Kyneton Municipal Band and Kyneton Town Hall atmosphere, each ceremony was a privilege and I enjoyed hearing all your stories. Good luck Felix, who recently had a small role in the ABC mini-series *Fires*, on your acting career.

**Virtual visit from the Governor of Victoria, the Honourable Linda Dessau AC**

On Friday 8 October, the Governor and Mr Howard met with the CEO and Councillors online before commencing a virtual tour with businesses and community groups of the Macedon Ranges. The Governor did a real tour of the shire four years ago, and with such a beautiful

spring day up here in the Macedon Ranges, it was a shame that COVID restrictions meant we could not show her around in person. Twenty minutes online goes very fast. We thank them for their time.

**Fire season update**

Council, in consultation with local CFA brigades, is advising residents to begin clearing their properties. In October, owners of land less than 4,000 square metres (one acre) do not need a permit to burn off leaves, twigs and small branches, to minimise fire risk. A permit is required from the Fire Prevention Officer outside of October for owners of smaller properties wishing to burn off.

Residents must ensure that when burning off they do not create a nuisance for their neighbours and should continue to monitor any burn-off for at least seven days to ensure it is fully extinguished.

Council also reminds residents to consider the safety of wildlife and check their piles for animals before they burn tree debris. Wildlife officers recommend residents use a torch and a broom, or pole, to carefully check the centre and bottom areas of the bonfire. A spade or fork could cause serious injury to an animal.

Large loads of green waste (excluding noxious weeds) can also be taken and tipped for free at Council's transfer stations. Residents are also encouraged to make use of their Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) weekly bin.

**Award finalist**

Council is one of three 2021 finalists for the Premier's Sustainability Award in the health environment category for Healthy Landscapes for Healthy Livestock program. This program has been well received by landowners, regardless of whether we win, the program has been a great success, and it's wonderful to be recognised as a finalist.

**Biodiversity Crisis: Animals and plants of the Macedon Ranges exhibition**

A new interactive exhibition at the Kyneton Museum showcases the unique flora and fauna of the Macedon Ranges while exploring the threats to our biodiversity and what we can do to help. The exhibition will run until 27 February 2022. Entry fees: Adult \$5.10, Senior/Concession \$3.10, Family \$10.20. No prior booking required.

**Community Funding Scheme and Events and Festivals Grant Celebration**

Unfortunately, the Community Funding Scheme and Events and Festivals Grant celebration was unable to be held in person this year. A local facilitator injected some fun into the evening and helped participants connect with each other in between successful recipient announcements. Congratulations again to all recipients.

**2022 Autumn Festival**

Although autumn seems far away, planning is well underway for the 2022 Macedon Ranges Autumn Festival. Registrations are now open for community groups, businesses and creatives who are interested in running an activity or event and being part of next year's festival program.

**Free mulch**

Council is pleased to offer residents free mulch at all Council transfer stations until the end of the year. With the improvement in weather, I encourage residents to head along to their local transfer station and claim up to one cubic metre of free self-loaded mulch.

**Staff changes***Coordinator Environment*

This month we saw Michelle Wyatt, former Coordinator Environment, resign from Macedon Ranges Shire Council to take up an exciting role at city of Greater Bendigo, closer to where she lives. Michelle has been greatly involved with many of our Landcare and Friends of Groups, and has supported staff and Councillors to create many new policies on sustainability, environmental protection and climate change action. Her input has been significant and we wish her every success in her new role.

*Director Planning and Environment*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Angela Hughes who has been our Director Planning and Environment since May 2018. Angela has recently announced her resignation to take up the position of Director Communities at the City of Frankston.

On behalf of the Councillors, I wish Angela well for the future and thank her for her dedicated service and support to the organisation, community and Councillors.



**7      PETITIONS**

**8      ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**Recommendation**

**That Council confirms the minutes of the Scheduled Council Meeting of Macedon Ranges Shire Council held on 22 September 2021 and the Unscheduled Council Meeting of Macedon Ranges Shire Council held on 5 October 2021, as circulated.**

---

**9 RECORD OF MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STAFF****9.1 RECORD OF MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS AND COUNCIL STAFF - SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER****Attachments:** Record of Meetings - September to October 2021 [↓](#)**Summary**

Rule 31(a) of Council's Governance Rules requires a written record of matters discussed at specified meetings of Councillors and Council staff to be reported to the next practicable scheduled Council Meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting. This report provides a summary of meetings of Councillors and Council staff held since the last Council Meeting.

**Recommendation**

**That Council receives and notes the record of meetings of Councillors and Council staff, as attached to this report.**

---



**Record of Meeting involving Councillors and Council staff**

<b>Meeting</b>	Councillor briefings		
Date	21-Sep-2021	Time	9am
Location	Gisborne Administration Centre		
Responsible officer completing this form	Allison Watt, Coordinator Governance		

<b>Councillors present</b>		<i>Tick all Councillors in attendance</i>	
Cr Jennifer Anderson (Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Mark Ridgeway (Deputy Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Dominic Bonanno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Annette Death (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Rob Guthrie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Anne Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Geoff Neil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Janet Pearce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Bill West	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

<b>Officers present</b>		<i>Tick / list all staff in attendance</i>	
Bernie O'Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Angela Hughes, Director Planning and Environment			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shane Walden, Director Assets and Operations			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gina Lyons, Interim Director Corporate and Community			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chrissy Gordon, Interim Executive Manager People, Culture & Performance (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Allison Watt, Coordinator Governance			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colin Marshall, Manager Facilities and Operations (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Luke Beattie, Coordinator Aquatics and Leisure (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Simon Finlay, Manager Open Space and Recreation (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Nolte, Project Officer - Recreation PPT (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meaghan McNamara, Manager Major Project Management Office (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



<b>Others present</b>	<i>List all other persons in attendance</i>

<b>Matters considered</b>	<i>List all items</i>
Water Play Space Feasibility Study	
Daylesford to Hanging Rock Shared Trail Update	
Mount Macedon Memorial Cross Update	
Tree Policy & Tree Management Plan	
Review of Draft Annual Report 2020/21	
22 September Council Meeting Agenda Review	



**Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Time departed
			Time returned

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Time departed
			Time returned

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Time departed
			Time returned

Office use

1. The responsible officer must complete this form at any meeting, other than a meeting of Council or a delegated committee, as specified in Rule 31 of the Governance Rules.
2. Once completed, the responsible officer must forward this form to the Coordinator Governance within two days of the meeting.



**Record of Meeting involving Councillors and Council staff**

<b>Meeting</b>	Councillor briefings		
Date	28-Sep-2021	Time	10am
Location	Gisborne Administration Centre		
Responsible officer completing this form	Kate Young, Manager Legal and Corp Governance		

<b>Councillors present</b>		<i>Tick all Councillors in attendance</i>	
Cr Jennifer Anderson (Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Mark Ridgeway (Deputy Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Dominic Bonanno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Annette Death	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Rob Guthrie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Anne Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Geoff Neil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Janet Pearce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Bill West	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

<b>Officers present</b>		<i>Tick / list all staff in attendance</i>	
Bernie O'Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Angela Hughes, Director Planning and Environment (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shane Walden, Director Assets and Operations			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gina Lyons, Interim Director Corporate and Community			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chrissy Gordon, Interim Executive Manager People, Culture and Performance			<input type="checkbox"/>
Kate Young, Manager Legal and Corporate Governance			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evert Grobbelaar, Manager Statutory Planning (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leanne Khan, Coordinator Strategic Planning (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Travis Harling, Manager Finance and Reporting			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hayley Drummond, Coordinator Property and Valuations (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fiona Alexander, Manager Community Care			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Wyatt, Coordinator Environment (via Zoom)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emma Orchard, Manager Children, Youth and Family Services			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Day, Early Years' Service Planner			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alycia O'Sullivan, Coordinator Early Years' Services			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



<b>Others present</b>	<i>List all other persons in attendance</i>
John Smith (via Zoom)	(Social and Affordable Housing Advisor, Municipal Association of Victoria)
Jessie Pomeroy (via Zoom)	(Policy and Projects Officer, Community Housing Industry Association Victoria)
Stephanie Ng	(Affordable Housing Business Development Officer, Community Housing Industry Association Victoria) (via Zoom)
Gerard Lind	(Senior Associate, SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd)
Julian Szafraniec	(Principal and Partner, SGS Economics & Planning Pty Ltd) (via Zoom)

<b>Matters considered</b>	<i>List all items</i>
MAV & Community Housing Industry Association Presentation	
Affordable Housing Policy	
Final Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan	
SGS Economics & Planning Report & Findings in Relation to Three Year Old Kinder	
Planning Matters - PLN/2020/514 110-112 Willowbank Road, Gisborne	
Future meetings	
Budget process for 22/23	
Firewood	
COVID testing	



**Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Office use

1. The responsible officer must complete this form at any meeting, other than a meeting of Council or a delegated committee, as specified in Rule 31 of the Governance Rules.
2. Once completed, the responsible officer must forward this form to the Coordinator Governance within two days of the meeting.





**Record of Meeting involving Councillors and Council staff**

<b>Meeting</b>	Councillor briefings		
Date	05-Oct-2021	Time	9.40am
Location	Gisborne Administration Centre		
Responsible officer completing this form	Allison Watt, Coordinator Governance		

<b>Councillors present</b> <i>Tick all Councillors in attendance</i>			
Cr Jennifer Anderson (Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Mark Ridgeway (Deputy Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Dominic Bonanno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Annette Death	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Rob Guthrie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Anne Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cr Geoff Neil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Janet Pearce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Bill West	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

<b>Officers present</b> <i>Tick / list all staff in attendance</i>	
Bernie O'Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Angela Hughes, Director Planning and Environment (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shane Walden, Director Assets and Operations (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gina Lyons, Interim Director Corporate and Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chrissy Gordon, Interim Executive Manager People, Culture & Performance (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kate Young, Manager Legal and Corporate Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Allison Watt, Coordinator Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fleur Marshall, Manager Customers, Communication and Engagement (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Wyatt, Coordinator Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Krista Patterson-Majoor, Biodiversity Strategy Projects Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Travis Harling, Manager Finance and Reporting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fiona Alexander, Manager Community Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evert Grobbelaar, Manager Statutory Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Leanne Khan, Coordinator Strategic Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Awais Sadiq, Coordinator Statutory Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Christo Crafford, Coordinator Statutory Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



<b>Others present</b>	<i>List all other persons in attendance</i>

<b>Matters considered</b>	<i>List all items</i>
Complaints and Service Requests Policy	
Governance Rules	
Updated Environment Strategy	
Annual Environment Report	
Submissions to Council Plan, Community Vision, Long Term Financial Plan, Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan	
Flyer - capital works projects	
Affordable Housing Policy	
Roadside Conservation Management Plan - consultation outcomes	
Planning Matters including: Lancefield Development Plan; Urquhart St, Woodend; 237 Sheedy Rd, Gisborne	



**Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

Name	Cr Rob Guthrie	Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Cr Guthrie stated that he had received a phone call from the applicant in the matter at 237 Sheedy Road, Gisborne however he does not have a conflict of interest			
Did they leave the meeting?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting?		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Office use

1. The responsible officer must complete this form at any meeting, other than a meeting of Council or a delegated committee, as specified in Rule 31 of the Governance Rules.
2. Once completed, the responsible officer must forward this form to the Coordinator Governance within two days of the meeting.



**Record of Meeting involving Councillors and Council staff**

<b>Meeting</b>	Councillor briefings		
Date	12-Oct-2021	Time	12.45pm
Location	Gisborne Administration Centre		
Responsible officer completing this form	Allison Watt, Coordinator Governance		

<b>Councillors present</b>		<i>Tick all Councillors in attendance</i>	
Cr Jennifer Anderson (Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Mark Ridgeway (Deputy Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Dominic Bonanno	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Annette Death (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Rob Guthrie (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Anne Moore	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cr Geoff Neil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Janet Pearce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Bill West	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

<b>Officers present</b>	<i>Tick / list all staff in attendance</i>
Bernie O'Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Angela Hughes, Director Planning and Environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shane Walden, Director Assets and Operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gina Lyons, Interim Director Corporate and Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carmen Lawrence, Interim Executive Manager People, Culture and Performance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kate Young, Manager Legal and Corporate Governance (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Allison Watt, Coordinator Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evert Grobbelaar, Manager Statutory Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nathan Upson, Manager People and Wellbeing Operations (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corinne Farley, Coordinator Contracts (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Simon Finlay, Manager Open Space and Recreation (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dean Frank, Coordinator Recreation (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gary Randhawa, Manager Engineering and Resource Recovery (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Daniel Martin, Team Leader Resource Recovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



<b>Others present</b>	<i>List all other persons in attendance</i>

<b>Matters considered</b>	<i>List all items</i>
Workforce Plan update	
Procurement Policy (Local Government Act 2020)	
External Speakers on Planning Matters Policy	
Planning Delegated Committee Agenda Review	
27 October Council Meeting Agenda Review	
Gisborne Sports Fields	
Hard Waste and Tip Vouchers	
Delegations from Council to Council staff	



**Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Office use

1. The responsible officer must complete this form at any meeting, other than a meeting of Council or a delegated committee, as specified in Rule 31 of the Governance Rules.
2. Once completed, the responsible officer must forward this form to the Coordinator Governance within two days of the meeting.



**Record of Meeting involving Councillors and Council staff**

<b>Meeting</b>	Councillor briefings		
Date	19-Oct-2021	Time	9.30am
Location	Gisborne Administration Centre		
Responsible officer completing this form	Allison Watt, Coordinator Governance		

<b>Councillors present</b> <i>Tick all Councillors in attendance</i>			
Cr Jennifer Anderson (Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Mark Ridgeway (Deputy Mayor)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Dominic Bonanno	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Annette Death	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Rob Guthrie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Anne Moore	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Geoff Neil	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cr Janet Pearce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cr Bill West (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

<b>Officers present</b> <i>Tick / list all staff in attendance</i>	
Bernie O'Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Angela Hughes, Director Planning and Environment (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shane Walden, Director Assets and Operations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gina Lyons, Interim Director Corporate and Community	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carmen Lawrence, Interim Executive Manager People, Culture and Performance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Allison Watt, Coordinator Governance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nathan Upson, Manager People and Wellbeing Operations (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fiona Alexander, Manager Community Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rob Ball, Manager Strategic Planning and Environment (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Travis Harling, Manager Finance and Reporting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fiona Alexander, Manager Community Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Evert Grobbelaar, Manager Statutory Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Christo Crafford, Coordinator Statutory Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Awais Sadiq, Coordinator Statutory Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kate Young, Manager Legal and Corporate Governance (via Zoom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



<b>Others present</b>	<i>List all other persons in attendance</i>

<b>Matters considered</b>	<i>List all items</i>
CEO Employment and Remuneration Policy	
Community Vision, Council Plan and Financial Plan - final feedback on documents	
Community feedback on the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan	
Affordable Housing	
Australia Day 2022	
Planning Matters including PLN/2020/514 110-112 Willowbank Rd, Gisborne and PLN/2020/264 Deep Lead Lane, Kyneton	
Management of Stanley Park	
27 October Council Meeting Agenda Review	





**Disclosure of conflicts of interest**

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Name		Title	
Nature of conflict <i>(provide full details of interest as disclosed by Councillor / officer)</i>			
Did they leave the meeting? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Time departed	
		Time returned	

Office use

1. The responsible officer must complete this form at any meeting, other than a meeting of Council or a delegated committee, as specified in Rule 31 of the Governance Rules.
2. Once completed, the responsible officer must forward this form to the Coordinator Governance within two days of the meeting.

**10 DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL**

**11 DIRECTOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT REPORTS**

<b>PE.1</b>	<b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2021-2031</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Bob Elkington, Coordinator Economic Development</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>4. Enhance the social and economic environment</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031 (under separate cover) <a href="#">⇒</a></b>

**Summary**

Following extensive public engagement from 2019 to 2021, the draft Economic Development Strategy 2021 - 2031 was on public consultation from 28 June to 9 August 2021.

The Economic Development Strategy 2021–2031 is ready for adoption by Council.

**Recommendation****That Council:**

- 1. Adopts the Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031 which supersedes the Economic Development Strategy 2009-2019;**
- 2. Acknowledges that Agribusiness specific actions and initiatives are embedded in the Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031; and**
- 3. Confirms that the Agribusiness Strategy 2013-2018 has concluded as a standalone strategy.**

**Background**

Council's most recently adopted Economic Development Strategy (EDS) concluded in 2019. In February 2020 the consultancy, REMPLAN was appointed to develop a vision and strategic direction for the economy of the Macedon Ranges Shire in the context of state, regional and local priorities. Work to produce this Strategy built on the previous Draft Macedon Ranges Economic Development Strategy 2019 – 2029.

**Discussion**

The existence of an EDS creates a framework that guides Council's plans and use of resources, and articulates how to seek to achieve agreed community objectives. The EDS will inform future direction over the long term, while guiding annual action planning and resource allocation at a business unit level for Council's annual plan and budget.

With a view to achieving sustainable economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection, the EDS references the 17 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations. It also identifies five strategic priorities including: Providing Economic

Leadership, Exceptional Landscapes, Thriving Townships, Enabling Connections and Employment, Education and Training.

### **Consultation and engagement**

A significant amount of consultation and engagement has occurred on this draft strategy. The initial public consultation process was undertaken during February-March 2019 and included two community workshops (70 attendees), one-to-one interviews (20), an online survey (154 responses with 53% of responses from business owners) and an industry forum.

Following a COVID-19 interrupted community engagement process during 2020, a range of consultations, based around an updated Issues and Opportunities Paper and survey, were delivered throughout March 2021. Engagement options included three face-to-face afternoon drop in sessions and two evening workshops, an online survey, individual written submissions, targeted zoom style workshops/ conversations and one-to-one interviews. This phase of engagement included both internal and external stakeholder sessions.

The targeted internal sessions included representatives from planning (statutory and strategic), environmental programs, infrastructure/assets, health/wellbeing, positive aging, capital works, communications, environmental health and local laws. The external sessions included representatives from education and training, telecommunications, neighbouring councils, public land managers, regional tourism, local business and tourism associations and local industry peak bodies.

Based on various inputs provided at the consultations, a draft Strategy was developed. In line with Council's Community Consultation Framework, the final phase of consultation concluded on 9 August 2021, when the six-week public exhibition period came to an end.

Opportunities to be involved in the initial round of engagement in March and the subsequent public exhibition of the draft Strategy were promoted widely. This included via Council's website, social media posts, print advertising and media releases, posters in townships, the business eNews and Electronic Direct Mail to Council's business database. Targeted sessions were by invitation via email or recruitment over the phone.

During the six weeks of public exhibition of the draft Strategy a range of ways that feedback could be provided were promoted and included:

- completing an online survey at [mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay](https://mrsc.vic.gov.au/yoursay);
- emailing a response to [mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au);
- providing a hard copy/written submission; and
- calling the Economic Development team.

Submissions from the public exhibition of the draft Strategy include 40 survey responses (including a mix of business operators and members of the public), 14 email responses and one hard copy response.

A regular comment expressed verbally during this long period of consultation with business people and other stakeholders focussed on the need to complete the consultation, have the Strategy and Implementation Plan adopted and proceed to the implementation phase.

### **Collaboration**

Input from a number of stakeholders was sought as part of the engagement process. This included representation from neighbouring councils, public land managers, the telecommunications and education and training sectors as well as regional tourism.

**Innovation and continuous improvement**

The development of a five year strategy and flexible implementation plan opens the door to innovation and continuous improvement. Given the breadth of input from a wide range of individuals and business/industry sectors, a good level of expert advice and innovative ideas have been forthcoming.

REMPPLAN are highly regarded in the sphere of economic analysis and data provision. The strategy includes a well balanced mix of data, commentary and direction. The structure enables a flexible approach to taking action on the overarching strategic priorities.

The initial five year implementation plan will be supplemented by annual action plans and aligned with the budget cycle, which will be reviewed yearly. The following five year implementation plan will be developed during the final year of the initial implementation plan. This approach makes it possible to adjust actions and outputs in response to a changing economic, social and physical environment and availability of human and financial resources.

**Relevant law**

No direct or indirect human rights implications have been identified.

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

A number of plans, policies, strategies and initiatives have relevance to the Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031. On a regional level the UNESCO Bendigo City and Region of Gastronomy, Loddon Campaspe Digital Plan, Regional Employment & Innovation Corridor, Regional Waste Management and Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage initiatives are worthy of noting.

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

The Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031 is aligned with Council Plan Priority 4: Enhance the social and economic environment.

Numerous actions identified in the Council Plan are addressed in the Strategy including, but not limited to, increasing people's opportunity to work locally, attracting strategic investment that aligns with Council's vision, identifying gaps in business diversity, encouraging new businesses and advocating for improved communications infrastructure.

**Financial viability**

Any financial or resourcing implications relating to this process will be subject to future budget requests/deliberations, private sector investment or grant funding opportunities.

**Sustainability implications**

No sustainability implications or social and environmental risks directly associated with this report have been identified. There is a risk however, should the Strategy not be adopted, that a lack of clarity or agreement on strategic direction will impact negatively on business/investor confidence and the future of the local economy.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>PE.2</b>	<b>HANGING ROCK ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Krista Patterson-Majoor, Acting Coordinator Environment</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>2. Protect the natural environment</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan - Part 1 - Background Report (under separate cover) <a href="#">⇒</a></b></li> <li>2. <b>Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan - Part 2 - Management Plan (under separate cover) <a href="#">⇒</a></b></li> <li>3. <b>Summary of Submissions - Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan review <a href="#">↓</a></b></li> </ol>

### Summary

The Victorian Government recently provided funding to enable Council to review the 2015 Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan. The updated Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan (the Plan) was recently released for public consultation which generated nine submissions. The feedback received has now been reviewed and has informed changes to the Plan.

The final Plan builds on the work completed over the last six years, recommending a range of actions including expansion of the site's revegetation areas to improve habitat connectivity, eradication of the site's high threat weeds, continued pest animal management, establishment of a planned burn program and implementation of flora and fauna monitoring.

Some of the Plan's recommendations can be implemented immediately, while others will require a staged approach and will inform the Hanging Rock Master Plan currently being developed by the Victorian Government.

### Recommendation

**That Council adopts the Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan 2021 as attached.**

### Background

The existing Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan was adopted by Council in 2015. Since that time, many actions have been implemented including extensive weed control and revegetation. In addition, the Hanging Rock Strategic Plan was completed in 2018 which gives priority to protecting and enhancing the site's environmental and indigenous cultural heritage values. The Strategic Plan also includes an action to undertake a detailed environmental assessment of the site.

Following completion of the Strategic Plan, the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) provided funding to Council to review the existing Environmental Management Plan. This project is being undertaken concurrent with the preparation of a Cultural Management Plan aimed at protecting the site's indigenous values which is being managed by DELWP. Both projects will inform the preparation of a Master Plan for the site.

## Discussion

The Plan was prepared by ecological consultants, Practical Ecology. The Plan builds on the work completed over the last six years, establishing the following short to medium term directions:

- Establishment of new “Connectivity Zones” that will be targeted for progressive, staged revegetation while maintaining public access for picnicking and passive recreation.
- Eradication of high threat weeds.
- Preparation and implementation of a Pest Animal Management Plan.
- Establishment of a planned burn program for ecological, cultural and fuel management outcomes.
- Accessing specialist advice about Kangaroo management aimed at reducing the grazing pressure on the site’s native vegetation.
- Implementation of restoration strategies in the Core Conservation Zones aimed at stimulating natural regeneration of trees, shrubs and understory species.
- Development and implementation of a flora monitoring plan and expansion of the current fauna monitoring activities to other species such as reptiles, fish, amphibians, bats and invertebrates.
- Adjustments to existing Fuel Management Zones and fuel management practices to minimise bushfire risk.
- Maintenance of the current events and tourism activities with some guidelines to minimise impacts to the site’s ecological values.

Longer term recommendations to inform the Master Plan include:

- Relocation of the site’s visitor facilities such as the café and Visitor Information Centre away from the site’s core conservation zones.
- Rationalising car parking in designated formalised car parks to reduce the impact of car parking on the site’s mature trees and native vegetation, particularly on high use days and during major events.
- Establishment of a community engagement program to raise awareness about the site’s natural and cultural values, including through interpretive signage.
- Considering limiting visitor impacts to the Summit by providing access via guided tours only.
- Reviewing the site’s water management to reduce extraction from Smoker’s Creek.

## Consultation and engagement

The draft updated Plan was released for public consultation from 28 July until 25 August 2021. Nine submissions were received. The key issues raised in submissions were as follows:

- Concern about the impact expanding revegetation in the proposed Connectivity Zones will have on car parking availability during events and busy periods.
- Query about whether live music will be permitted outside of the East Paddock – e.g. if associated with the camp out, markets or horse races.
- Request to include information about the site’s cultural heritage values.

- Queries regarding minor inconsistencies in the Plan.

In response, the Plan has been updated to:

- Clarify that the revegetation in the Connectivity Zones through expansion of Tree Conservation Areas will be implemented in stages if and when alternative car parking and access arrangements have been established in collaboration with relevant event managers.
- Clarify that “large events” with over 5,000 attendees should be limited to the recreation zones.
- Clarify that “large music events” with over 5,000 attendees should be limited to the East Paddock, allowing musical performances which form part of existing smaller events to continue to occur outside of the East Paddock as existing.
- Clarification that the Llama Trek tours can continue to operate subject to restricting tours to existing made tracks as currently occurs.
- Include information about protection of the site’s cultural heritage values, including referring readers to the Cultural Management Plan currently in development.
- Correct inconsistencies and reduce duplication in recommendations.

In addition, a series of minor changes and corrections have been made following internal review aimed at improving the clarity of the Plan’s recommendations.

A summary of submissions and the officer response is provided at Attachment 1. This attachment also summarises the changes made following internal review.

### **Collaboration**

The Plan was prepared with input from representatives from DELWP, the three Traditional Owner groups and Newham and District Landcare.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

The Plan builds and improves on the directions established in the 2015 Plan, taking into account best practice ecological management principles.

### **Relevant law**

The Plan has been prepared taking into account relevant legislation including:

- *Planning and Environment (Distinctive Areas and Landscapes) Act 2018*
- *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*
- Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

The Plan implements an action of the Hanging Rock Strategic Plan prepared by the Victorian Government in 2018. The Plan also will inform the preparation of the Hanging Rock Master Plan currently in development.

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

The Plan furthers the objective of the current Council Plan to protect the natural environment.

The Plan also takes into account the following Council plans and strategies:

- Biodiversity Strategy 2018



- Hanging Rock Racecourse Grassland Management Plan 2020
- Revegetation Plan – Hanging Rock Reserve 2018

**Financial viability**

Implementation of the Plan can be partly funded utilising the site's recurring revenue. This funding is not likely to be sufficient to enable implementation of all of the plan's actions, especially if COVID restrictions continue to impact the site's income. In the short term additional funding may be required to ensure ongoing implementation of some items such as rabbit control and revegetation. Similarly, significant funds will be required in the future to implement alternative car parking and access arrangements once these are confirmed. As such, it is recommended that Council seek additional funding from the Victorian Government as needed to ensure key actions can be progressed.

**Sustainability implications**

The Plan will improve the site's ecological values, contributing to enhanced sustainability outcomes in the region.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

**Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan Review**

**Summary of Submissions**

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
1	MRSC resident	<b>Support for plan</b> - The plan strikes the right balance between promoting tourism and sporting activities and preserving the site’s environmental values. Support for the principles around culture and heritage.	Noted.  <i>No change required.</i>
2	MRSC resident	<b>Fuel management zones</b> - Request for a marked, 25m fuel management zone in north west corner of the reserve to provide defensible space for the adjoining dwelling.	The existing fuel management zones in this area are considered sufficient and are consistent with the 2015 zones. However, additional fuel management zones have been included further south and the Plan also includes additional fuel management opportunities such as cool burning to help mitigate fire risk. It is always recommended that residents prepare and implement a fire plan for themselves taking into account the characteristics of their property, and not rely on management of adjoining land when making decisions about their safety.  <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Engagement with neighbouring properties</b> - Consultation with neighbouring properties regarding weeds, pest animals and bushfire risk supported.	Noted.  <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Sporting facilities</b> - Question about contradictory statements about the re-use of sporting facilities for educational purposes if their structural integrity undermines their ongoing viability. Request for local interests, such as local recreation, be adequately protected.	Rec 124 (new Rec 80) states that the tennis club could be investigated for re-use. This investigation would take into account relevant costs and benefits. The site’s other sporting facilities, including the tennis court itself, is likely to require significant investment to enable ongoing use in the long term. These matters will be further addressed in the Hanging Rock Master plan currently being prepared.

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
			<i>No change required.</i>
3	Hanging Rock Llama Treks	<b>Llama tours</b> - The tours currently stay on made trails and vehicle tracks and have a minimal impact on the environment. Request to amend Rec 80 to allow animals in the connectivity zones and recreation zones. Map of existing route attached.	<i>Update the Plan to allow the Llama tours to continue to utilise the made trails and tracks.</i>
4	DELWP	<b>Support for plan</b> - The updated Plan aligns with the vision and objectives of the Hanging Rock Strategic Plan. The revegetation plan, creation of natural barriers, weed control plan, EVC modelling and contribution to the Cobaw Biolink.	Noted.  <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Biosecurity</b> - Suggestion to include a bio-control wash station to remove seeds and pathogens from vehicles entering the site.	This matter is addressed in the recommendations in Table 30 – Machinery Maintenance and Hygiene.  <i>Update the Plan to clarify vehicle hygiene requirements.</i>
		<b>Rec 55 (new Rec 36) – Fauna Management Plan</b> - requires zones, years and priorities to be identified (these sections are blank)	<i>Update the Plan accordingly.</i>
		<b>Rec 58 – Fauna Management Activities</b> - consider including a Flora and Fauna Habitat Interpretation trail along the main path to the summit.	This is addressed in Rec 131 (new Rec 88) – Interpretive signage.  <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Phytophthera</b> - Consider monitoring for die-back and Phytophthera	This is addressed in Section 3.2.1.2 – Large Trees.  <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Cultural Zones</b> - Traditional Owner aspirations are required in the development of the Cultural Zones.	Directions for cultural heritage management will be sourced from the Cultural Management Plan which is being prepared by DELWP with significant input from the Traditional Owners.

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
			<b>Update the Plan to include relevant information about cultural heritage values and management.</b>
5	MRSC resident	<b>Plan development</b> – The document does not include a review of the 2015 EMP outcomes.	A review of the 2015 EMP is provided in Part 1.  <b>No change required.</b>
		<b>Definition of remnant patch</b> – The definition of a remnant patch is not consistent with the definition used in Victoria.	The definition used in the EMP is “an area of vegetation where at least 25% of the total perennial understorey plant cover is native or any area with three or more native canopy trees where the canopy foliage cover is at least 20% of the area”. This is generally consistent with the Victorian Government’s guidelines for the removal, destruction or lopping of native vegetation. It is noted that the canopy tree definition in these guidelines is intended to differentiate “patches” from “scattered trees” for the purposes of assessing planning permit proposals to remove native vegetation. The definition in the EMP is more inclusive as this differentiation is not required.  <b>No change required.</b>
		<b>Quality assessments</b> – Question about why habitat hectare assessments were not used instead.	Habitat hectare assessments are resource intensive to undertake on a regular basis and are not necessary to inform on-ground management. Instead the proposed methodology provides a more useful measurement tool which can be repeated in the future.  <b>No change required.</b>
		<b>Photos</b> – There are few photos throughout the report. Photos should be provided for each EVC and vegetation quality types.	The descriptions of these items are considered sufficient by the site’s managers.  <b>No change required.</b>

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
		<p><b>Kangaroos</b> – Question about the outcomes of the Kangaroo Management Plan and whether population controls will be considered.</p>	<p>The aim of the Kangaroo Management Plan will be to identify management actions to ensure the welfare of the site’s Kangaroos is not compromised, and to prevent negative impacts from Kangaroos on the site’s environmental values (e.g. overgrazing). A range of management mechanisms will be considered to achieve these aims.</p> <p><i>No change required.</i></p>
		<p><b>Latin names</b> – The Latin name for Silver Banksias has not been included in Part 1, Section 4.2.1.</p>	<p><i>Update the Plan accordingly.</i></p>
		<p><b>EPBC listed communities</b> – Question about where are the EPBC listed communities are likely to occur.</p>	<p>This is detailed in Table 11.</p> <p><i>No change required.</i></p>
		<p><b>Weeds</b> – Weeds of National Significance should be included in Part 1, Section 5.2.1.</p>	<p><i>Update the Plan accordingly.</i></p>
		<p><b>Offset site</b> – Question about whether consideration has been given to utilising the site as a native vegetation offset site.</p>	<p>Establishing a native vegetation offset site requires significant planning and investment. Publicly managed sites are generally not competitive or financially viable due to the lower security gains they accrue compared to private land.</p> <p><i>No change required.</i></p>
6	Daylesford Macedon Tourism Ltd	<p>Recognition of the importance of protecting the site’s environmental and heritage values in balance with supporting managed visitation.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><i>No change required.</i></p>
		<p><b>Part 2 – Live music</b> – Request to allow small scale live music events in areas other than the East</p>	<p><i>Update the Plan to enable live music associated with existing, smaller scale events (less than 5,000 attendees) to occur outside the East Paddock.</i></p>

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
		<p>Paddock and to review the approval process referred to.</p> <p><b>Part 2 – Car parking</b> - Concern about limiting on-site car parking.</p>	<p>Implementation of revised car parking arrangements will occur in a staged manner in collaboration with event organisers. Most changes are likely to occur following completion of the Masterplan which will review possible long term arrangements to ensure events are able to continue to occur while minimising impacts to the site’s mature trees and more sensitive areas.</p> <p><b>Update the Plan to clarify the staged nature of any car parking changes which will occur in collaboration with event organisers.</b></p>
		<p><b>Part 2 – Car show</b> – Request to allow the car show to operate outside the recreation zones to ensure the event is viable. The threat posed by the shows, including the car revving is over-emphasised.</p>	<p>It is understood that most of the car show can be accommodated in the Recreation Zones depending on the location and management of visitor car parking. Some of these matters will be reviewed and clarified as a part of Master Plan currently in development.</p> <p><b>Update the Plan to clarify the staged nature of any car parking changes which will occur in collaboration with event organisers.</b></p>
		<p><b>Part 2 – Craft market</b> – Restricting the craft market to the recreation zones will negatively impact this event. This should be considered during the Master Plan process.</p>	<p>As with the car show, it is understood that the craft market can be accommodated within the Recreation Zones depending on the location and management of visitor car parking which will be reviewed as a part of the Master Plan.</p> <p><b>Update the Plan to clarify the staged nature of any car parking changes which will occur in collaboration with event organisers.</b></p>
7	Tourism Macedon Ranges Inc	<p><b>Support for the plan</b> - Support for the recommendations in the plan relating to visitors (Section 6) which will result in a far better</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><b>No change required.</b></p>

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
		experience. Support for the short term recommendations relating to facilities and redevelopment (Section 7) pending preparation of the Master Plan.	
8	Macedon Ranges Accommodation Association	<b>Support for the plan</b> – General support for the quality and depth of the plan and the measures proposed to improve the site’s environmental management.	Noted.  <b>No change required.</b>
		<b>Traditional Owners</b> – Information about Traditional Owner values needs to be included. The site should be co-branded with its Aboriginal name.	Information about the site’s cultural heritage values will be sourced from the Cultural Management Plan currently being prepared. Co-branding with the site’s Aboriginal name will be considered as a part of the Master Plan process.  <b>Update the Plan to include relevant information about cultural heritage values and management.</b>
		<b>Café</b> – Support to relocate the café away from the conservation area and expand these facilities to include a new visitor centre with visitor information, education opportunities, dining and meeting / function spaces.	Noted.  <b>No change required.</b>
		<b>Tours</b> – While the Masterplan is being developed, work should continue to improve the visitor experience such as guided tours, night tours, educational tours, indigenous heritage tours and self-guided tours.	Noted. This is recognised in Rec 121 (new Rec 79) visitor engagement and education in the short term.  <b>No change required.</b>
		<b>Interpretive signs</b> – Improvements through interpretive signage is required as well as online resources accessed with QR codes.	Noted. Related actions are included in Part 2, Section 6.3 of the Plan.  <b>No change required.</b>

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
		<b>Sale of East Paddock</b> – The document does not recognise the proposed sale of the East Paddock and whether the East Paddock will continue to be a part of the reserve.	Noted. Sale of the East Paddock is still being negotiated between Council and the Victorian Government. It is understood that the site will continue to be managed as a part of the Hanging Rock Reserve.  <i>No change required.</i>
9	Newham and District Landcare	<b>Support for the plan</b> – Support for the increasing priority given to protecting and enhancing the site’s environmental and Aboriginal cultural heritage values.  Support for various initiatives listed throughout the plan.	Noted.  <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Par 1 – p44 - Dogs</b> – permitted dog activity should be directed by Council’s Domestic Animal Management Plan.	Council’s Dog and Cat Order 2019 lists the conservation areas within Hanging Rock as prohibited to dogs. The Order allows dogs on lead elsewhere. Any change to permitted dog activities can be identified during preparation of the Domestic Animal Management Plan and would require a new Order.  <i>Update the Plan to reflect the existing Dog and Cat Order 2019</i>
		<b>Part 1 – p44 - Predator proof fence -</b>	Section requires updating to confirm whether a predator proof fence is likely.  <i>Update the Plan to recommend a cost-benefit analysis into installing a predator proof fence.</i>
		<b>Part 2 – Management Zones</b> – Support for the management zones as proposed.	Noted.  <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Part 2 – 1.2.4 – Correction required</b> – Inconsistencies between the text and the table in	<i>Update to ensure consistency between the text and the table – both referring to 5 year actions as “short term”.</i>



#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
		terms of whether 10 years is “short term” or “long term”.	
		<b>Part 2 – 2.1.3 – Revegetation</b> – Inconsistencies exist between Part 1 and Part 2 in relation to the threat posed by herbivores.	<i>Update Part 1, P37 to clarify that the “full extent” of kangaroo impacts on biodiversity within the reserve are unknown.</i>
		<b>Part 2 – 3.1 – Revegetation and regeneration</b> – Agreement with the recommendations which are excellent.	Noted. <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Part 2 – 3.1.1 – Fire for regeneration</b> – Further detail and clarification requested for Rec 13 and Rec 14 (new Rec 10 and 11).	<i>Update Rec 13 and 14 (new Rec 10 and 11) with additional information to clarify the intent and outcome of these recommended cool burns.</i>
		<b>Part 2 – 3.1.2 – Tree Conservation Areas</b> – Support for this section, including the extension of these areas.	Noted. <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Part 2 – 3.2 – Weed control</b> – Support for this section, including the goal to eradicate woody and scrambler weeds in 1 to 2 years. Support for the recommendations which should be funded.  Clarification sought about the meaning of para 5 on p26 about the relationship between the implementation of the Bradley Method and grazing and browsing.	<i>Update p26, paragraph 5, last sentence to clarify its meaning.</i>
		<b>Part 2 – 3.3. – Dams</b> – Support for a review of current water practices.	Noted. <i>No change required.</i>
		<b>Part 2 – 3.5 – Fauna management</b> – Support for the recommendations in Table 19 for general fauna management.  Support for the Kangaroo Management Plan.	Noted. <i>No change required.</i>

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
		<p><b>Part 2 – 3.6.4 – Other livestock</b> – Question whether the Llama tours are sustainable and appropriate to the precinct.</p>	<p><i>The Llama tours are considered a low risk activity provided the tours are confined to made tracks.</i></p>
		<p><b>Part 2 – 6.4 – Major events</b> – Support for the recommendations, especially Rec 135 (new Rec 92) about no permanent lighting infrastructure. Newham Landcare does not support musical performances on the Rock itself.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><i>No change required</i></p>
		<p><b>Map 12</b> – Question about whether the map should include the riparian land extending west to Coach Road.</p>	<p>This land can be managed as a part of Council’s general conservation reserve management program if and as required. Confirming the boundaries of the Crown Land parcel on the ground may be a challenge for future land management.</p> <p><i>No change required</i></p>
N/A	Internal Review	<p><b>Part 2 - Connectivity zones</b> – Clarification required about ongoing ability to use of CZs for picnicking and passive recreation. Clarification required about the staged implementation of revegetation in CZs as Council works with event managers to identify alternative parking and access arrangements for events.</p>	<p><i>Update Plan accordingly.</i></p>
		<p><b>Part 2 - Rec 100 (new Rec 58) – Barbed wire and fencing</b> - Clarification required that barbed wire should be replaced with alternative security fencing on the perimeter as required. Clarification about use wildlife friendly fencing.</p>	<p><i>Update Plan accordingly.</i></p>
		<p><b>Part 2 – Use of Machinery</b> – Clarify that some machinery can be used in the Fuel Management Zones where this is not detrimental to conservation outcomes.</p>	<p><i>Update Plan accordingly.</i></p>

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
		<b>Part 2 – Vehicle hygiene</b> – Clearer recommendations required.	<i>Update Plan accordingly.</i>

<b>PE.3</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2021</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Krista Patterson-Majoor, Acting Coordinator Environment</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>2. Protect the natural environment</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Summary of Submissions - Environment Strategy Refreshed 2021</b> <a href="#">↓</a></li> <li>2. <b>Environment Strategy 2021 (under separate cover)</b> <a href="#">⇒</a></li> </ol>

### Summary

The Environment Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted by Council in June 2016. Since that time, most actions in the Strategy have been completed. Council has also adopted new positions on matters such as climate change and the legislative and policy context has evolved, as have community expectations.

As a result, an updated Strategy was prepared and released for public consultation from 9 August until 10 September 2021.

The Strategy has been updated in response to the feedback received. The Final Strategy retains the original vision, but revises other components to be consistent with Council's adopted Biodiversity Strategy 2018 and the draft Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021-26. The updated Strategy also provides a renewed focus on emerging priorities, such as the climate emergency, sustainable transport, waterway health, biolinks, private land conservation and community engagement and partnerships.

### Recommendation

**That Council adopts the updated Environment Strategy 2021, as attached.**

### Background

Since adoption of the Environment Strategy in 2016, Council has completed most of its actions including preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy 2018, the Climate Change Action Plan 2017 and a new draft Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy. In addition, legislative and policy changes have occurred and community expectations have evolved.

In response to this context, a draft updated Strategy was prepared that places additional focus on the climate emergency, waterway health, sustainable transport and community engagement and partnerships.

The draft updated Strategy was released for public feedback in August and September 2021. A summary of the community feedback received is provided at **Attachment 1**. A copy of the updated Strategy showing the changes proposed is provided at **Attachment 2**.

### Discussion

In response to the feedback, the draft Strategy has been updated as follows:

- Elevation of Action C7 - Develop an Urban Cooling Strategy – from a “medium” to “high” priority
- Elevation of Action B7 – Develop a Native Vegetation Compliance Policy – from a “high” to “very high” priority.

- Elevation of Action W2 – Prepare waterway restoration plans for Woodend Five Mile Creek and the Campaspe River in Kyneton – from a “high” to “very high” priority (*note that a plan for Woodend Five Mile Creek is currently being developed in collaboration with Woodend Landcare*).
- Elevation of Action WST5 – Trial the use of recycled and low emissions materials for roads and footpaths – from a “medium” to “high” priority.
- Inclusion of reference to the Victorian Waste Authority which will replace the existing Waste and Resource Recovery Groups.
- Reference to the contribution full organics and garden organics (FOGO) waste collections make to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Inclusion of divestment from banking and financial institutions that finance the fossil fuel industry as an emerging priority and addition of a new related climate change action.
- Inclusion of reference to reducing storm water impacts to sewer networks in Action W7 – Storm Water Management Strategy.
- Editorial changes and corrections as needed.

Some additional corrections and updates were made following internal review, including changes to some of the indicators to improve alignment with available data.

### Consultation and engagement

The draft updated Strategy was released for public feedback from 9 August until 10 September 2021. Council received six written submissions and 36 responses to an online survey. A summary of the consultation outcomes, including the officer’s response to the submissions is provided at **Attachment 1**.

#### Written submissions

Overall submitters expressed support for the draft updated Strategy and made suggestions for minor changes, most of which have been accommodated. The main changes recommended are listed above.

#### Online survey

The online survey asked respondents to identify their 5 priority actions for the Climate Emergency, Biodiversity and Water themes, and their top 3 priorities for the Waste theme. The survey also invited respondents to submit general feedback. The outcomes of the survey are as follows:

- **Climate emergency** – respondents identified the following actions as high priorities: development of an urban cooling strategy, accelerating the roll out of walking and cycling infrastructure, development of a Community Climate Emergency Action Plan, supporting projects that increase community access to renewable energy and installation of additional electric vehicle charging stations in the shire.
- **Biodiversity** – respondents identified the following actions as high priorities: development of an ecological and cultural burn program, private land conservation, treatment of invasive grassy weeds, investigating opportunities to reduce wildlife collisions and continuing Council’s program of cultural heritage assessments of conservation reserves.

- **Water** – respondents identified the following actions as high priorities: preparation of waterway restoration plans for Woodend Five Mile Creek and the Campaspe River in Kyneton, development of a storm water management strategy, completion of on-ground restoration works, incorporating water sensitive urban design infrastructure into new subdivisions and preparing a water efficiency plan for Council operations.
- **Waste** - respondents identified the following actions as high priorities: trialling the use of recycled and low emissions materials for roads and footpaths, developing a litter and illegal dumping management Plan and implementing Council's Towards Zero Single-use Plastics Action Plan.

Despite the limited sample size, this feedback provides a useful indication of the community's priorities.

Some of the priority actions identified by the community are already listed as "high" or "very high" priorities. Where this is not the case, some actions can be elevated in priority where this can be achieved with existing resources. Others require additional resources to enable their commencement. These projects will be considered for funding as a part of future Council budgets taking into account existing staff work programs.

### **Collaboration**

The updated Strategy has been prepared in collaboration with relevant internal Council departments. The Strategy sets out a framework for community partnerships which seek to continue Council's collaborations with community groups. The Strategy also recognises Council's existing collaborative relationships with other government departments, agencies, local governments and regional networks.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

The updated Environment Strategy takes into account the changing policy context for Council's environmental work as well as Council and the community's changing priorities. In doing so, Council demonstrates its commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.

### **Relevant law**

Legislation relevant to Council's environmental work program is listed in the draft updated Strategy.

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

External plans and policies relevant to Council's environmental work program are listed in the draft updated Strategy.

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

Council plans and policies relevant to Council's environmental work program are listed in the draft updated Strategy.

### **Financial viability**

The updated Strategy lists the resources required to deliver on the proposed actions. Most actions can be delivered internally, subject to staff resourcing. Actions requiring additional resources will be considered for funding as a part of Council's annual budget process.

**Sustainability implications**

The draft updated Strategy seeks to establish an environmental work program that furthers Council's aims to protect the natural environment, address climate change and further the organisation's sustainability goals.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

# Environment Strategy Refreshed 2021

## Summary of Consultation

### Online Survey

Altogether Council received 36 responses to the online survey. The survey asked respondents to identify their top 5 priority actions for the Climate Emergency, Biodiversity and Water themes, and top 3 priorities for the Waste theme. The survey also provided respondents with the opportunity to provide general feedback.

The outcomes of the survey are as follows:

#### Climate emergency – most frequently included in respondent's top 5

- *Accelerate implementation of Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy 2014-2024 and Shire-wide Footpath Plan 2018.* (14 responses)
- *Develop a Community Climate Emergency Action Plan in collaboration with the Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group that identifies a pathway to zero net emissions for the community and initiatives to support community adaptation.* (11 responses)
- *Develop an Urban Cooling Strategy that establishes targets for canopy cover and public plantings and which identifies actions to ensure appropriate protections are in place for significant trees across the shire.* (11 responses)
- *Support and, where possible, facilitate local renewable energy projects that increase community access to renewable energy, including through More Australian Solar Homes (MASH).* (11 responses)
- *Continue to install public electric vehicle charging stations across the shire, prioritising the eastern part of the shire following the installation of charging stations in Woodend and Kyneton in 2021.* (10 responses)

#### Biodiversity – most frequently included in respondent's top 5

- *Develop an ecological and cultural burn program for reserves and roadsides.* (19 responses)
- *Establish the private land conservation / regenerative agriculture program as an ongoing program.* (19 responses)
- *Implement a dedicated treatment program for invasive grasses such as Chilean Needle-grass and Serrated Tussock.* (13 responses)
- *Investigate opportunities to reduce wildlife collisions and develop safe wildlife road crossings, including through use of the VicRoads Fauna Sensitive Road Design Guidelines if and as appropriate.* (13 responses)



- *Continue Council's cultural heritage assessments and Traditional Owner engagement program and progressively implement the associated recommendations. (11 responses)*

**Water - most frequently included in respondent's top 5**

- *Prepare waterway restoration plans for Woodend Five Mile Creek and the Campaspe River in Kyneton. (21 responses)*
- *Develop a Storm Water Management Strategy that establishes a prioritised program of new water sensitive urban design treatments aimed at improving the quality of storm water entering waterways, returning waterway flows to predevelopment regimes and identifies opportunities for beneficial reuse - e.g. for watering street trees and open space. (20 responses)*
- *Implement existing waterway restoration plans through on-ground environmental works. (18 responses)*
- *Ensure water sensitive urban design assets planned as a part of future subdivisions are designed and constructed to maximise storm water treatment and, where appropriate, beneficial reuse. Review Council's policies and engineering standards as needed. (17 responses)*
- *Prepare a Water Efficiency Plan for Council operations that identifies priority actions to reduce the organisation's potable water consumption. (14 responses)*

**Waste - most frequently included in respondent's top 3**

- *Trial the use of recycled and low emissions materials for roads and footpaths. (19 responses)*
- *Develop a Littering and Illegal Dumping Management Plan (16 responses)*
- *Implement Council's Towards Zero Single-Use Plastics Action Plan (14 responses)*

**General feedback (summarised)**

- Easy and open public consultation and increased community engagement
- Support private land owners
- Focus on eradicating pest animals
- Less ornamental trees, more natives
- Give greater priority to the environment
- Reduce emphasis on the climate emergency
- More planting and implementation of biolinks
- Reduce waste from Council's operations
- Remove MRSG's energy hub from the pine forest
- Simplify the strategy to 1 page

Written submissions

#	Submitter	Summary of submission	Officer response
1	Loddon Mallee Waste and Resource Recovery Group	Congratulations on achieving most of the goals from the 2016 strategy, support for the priorities in the updated strategy.	Noted  <b>No changes required.</b>
		<b>Page 5 – Citizens Assembly</b> - include “Circular Economy” in the list of priorities as per the executive summary on p3	The priorities listed on page 5 are summarized from the Citizens Assembly and, therefore, any change may mis-represent their views.  <b>No changes required.</b>
		<b>Theme 1 – Climate Emergency</b> – FOGO could be listed under “How are Governments and Industry Responding” and “What we have achieved to date”	<b>Update the Strategy accordingly.</b>
		<b>Theme 4 – Waste</b> - Include the proposed Victorian Waste Authority under “legislative and policy context”	<b>Update the Strategy accordingly.</b>
		<b>Theme 4 - Waste – WST3</b> – ensure waste education is in accordance with state-wide messaging.	<b>Update the Strategy accordingly.</b>
		<b>Community engagement</b> – include reaching out to new and emerging community groups.	<b>Update the Strategy accordingly.</b>
2	Resident	<b>Page 4 &amp; 7 – Community Vision and Council Plan</b> – The Council Plan misses the mark on environment and should include the environment as a separate theme.	The Community Vision section is summarized from the outcomes of the Citizens Assembly. Review of the draft Council Plan will occur via a separate process.  <b>No changes recommended.</b>
		<b>Page 8 – Key priorities</b> – suggestion to establish an Environmental Advisory Committee	Administering an advisory committee is not considered a current priority with the resources available. Instead allocating resources to broader community engagement, including with existing and emerging community groups, is considered a better use of resources.

			<b>No changes required.</b>
		<b>Theme 1 – Climate Emergency – C6</b> – Suggestion to offset Council emissions on Council land.	Council has limited suitable land available for the scale of revegetation required to establish carbon offsets (noting that most existing parks and reserves are not suitable as they provide minimal opportunity for additional plantings and sequestration outcomes). In addition the regulatory requirements associated with legitimising offset sites is onerous and beyond Council’s current resources.  <b>No changes recommended.</b>
		<b>Theme 1 – Climate Emergency – C7</b> – Suggestion that the Environment Unit should oversee an Urban Cooling Strategy.	Given that Council’s Open Space Unit would deliver this strategy through street tree plantings and urban landscaping, it is recommended that they lead this initiative.  <b>No changes recommended.</b>
		<b>Theme 1 – Climate Emergency – C13</b> – Suggest including walking tracks along waterways as a part of the implementation of Council’s walking and cycling strategy and footpath plan.	Opportunities and priorities for new pathways along waterways will be considered as a part of developing a Sustainable Transport Strategy. Some recommendations are already included in the <i>Strategic Environmental Works Plan for Waterway Reserves</i> .  <b>No changes recommended.</b>
		<b>Theme 1 – Climate Emergency – C14</b> – Advocacy for public transport is a great initiative. Other advocacy initiatives should be included as well. List provided.	This section lists public transport has a high priority advocacy initiative to reduce emissions in the shire. The advocacy topics listed by the submitter are relevant to other topics such as protection of native forests and heavy freight impacts on townships. These matters are raised in Council submissions to other levels of government as appropriate.  <b>No changes recommended.</b>
		<b>Theme 2 – Biodiversity – p20</b> – weed infestations on state-owned land is a big issue.	Noted. Council works with adjoining public land managers to coordinate weed control across tenures where appropriate.  <b>No changes recommended.</b>

		<p><b>Theme 2 – Biodiversity – p22</b> - Wildlife links to and around Daly Nature Reserve could be improved through native street trees and encouraging plantings in nature strips.</p>	<p>Noted. Council’s Street Tree Policy guides Council’s street tree program. Other urban biodiversity initiatives will be explored as a part of implementation of Council’s Biodiversity Strategy if and when resources allow.</p> <p><b>No changes recommended.</b></p>
		<p><b>Theme 2 – Biodiversity – B11</b> – Vehicle hygiene is vital. Opportunity exists for improvements within Council in this area.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><b>No changes required.</b></p>
		<p><b>Theme 2 – Biodiversity – B14</b> – VicRoads encourage heavier and irresponsible freight movements which impacts wildlife.</p>	<p>Noted. This action seeks to identify ways to reduce wildlife collisions.</p> <p><b>No changes required.</b></p>
		<p><b>Theme 2 – Biodiversity – new action</b> = suggested new action to review Council’s Preferred Street Tree Species List and Nature Strip Policy to be more ecologically responsible.</p>	<p>Council’s policies encourage use of indigenous species where possible, however they recognise that other matters need to be considered when choosing species for public plantings, such as safety, shade and site suitability.</p> <p><b>No changes recommended.</b></p>
		<p><b>Theme 3 – Water – P28</b> – Include the <i>Strategic Environmental Works Plan for Waterway Reserves</i> in the list of achievements.</p>	<p><b>Update Strategy accordingly.</b></p>
		<p><b>Theme 3 – Water - Priorities</b> – include “circular water economy”</p>	<p>The “circular water economy” is another way of describing water conservation and re-use at a broader scale than Council’s direct influence. The priorities listed are considered to be a good reflection of where Council needs to allocate its attention and resources.</p> <p><b>No changes recommended.</b></p>
		<p><b>Theme 3 – Water</b> – concern about historic horticultural plantings in and around waterways.</p>	<p>Council’s recent strategic plans for waterways provide direction which should prevent inappropriate plantings in the future.</p> <p><b>No changes recommended.</b></p>
		<p><b>Theme 4 – Waste</b> – consider drop off points for soft plastics.</p>	<p>Supermarkets in townships are considered sufficient for collection of most residential soft plastics. Council’s draft Waste and Resource Recovery</p>

			<p>Strategy recommends exploring collection and processing options at Transfer Stations for commercial or agricultural soft plastics. In 2021 a trial of soft plastics collection and processing at Transfer Stations was occurring.</p> <p><b>No changes recommended.</b></p>
		<p><b>Community engagement</b> – Council is not following its own resolutions and is not engaging sufficiently with the community on current capital works projects.</p>	<p>Noted. Council’s Community Engagement Policy sets out the organisation’s commitment to community consultation.</p> <p><b>No changes recommended.</b></p>
		<p><b>Prioritising the environment</b> – Support for the Environment Unit and its work. Council is not prioritising the environment. The Autumn Leaves Festival should be replaced with a nature festival, Council should implement ethical investment, the natural environment should take priority above tourism.</p>	<p>Noted. These comments were not seeking changes to the Strategy.</p> <p><b>No changes required.</b></p>
3	Newham and District Landcare	<p><b>Vision</b> – request for a stronger vision statement incorporating preservation of priceless, significant but vanishing ecosystems.</p>	<p>Given that Council did not receive strong feedback about the existing vision, for continuity, it is recommended that the existing vision be retained.</p> <p><b>No changes recommended.</b></p>
		<p><b>Key Principles</b> – query the underlying rationale of:</p> <p><i>Plans and actions primarily delivering environmental outcomes also deliver other benefits - including social and community well-being, financial benefits for Council, and economic benefits for the local community</i></p>	<p>This principle aims to ensure that Council’s environmental policies and strategies such as climate change action plans, the biodiversity strategy and conservation reserve management plans, also achieve social and financial benefits.</p> <p><b>No changes recommended.</b></p>
		<p><b>Priorities</b> – support for the new suite of priorities.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><b>No changes required.</b></p>
		<p><b>Theme 1 – Climate emergency</b> – Support for the declaration of a climate emergency. Under</p>	<p><b>Update Strategy accordingly.</b></p>

		emerging priorities include a commitment to financial investment in institutions divesting from fossil fuels.	
		<b>Theme 2 – Biodiversity</b> – Support for the emerging priorities listed and congratulations on the achievements to date. Support for Action B5 relating to private land conservation and Action B9 relating to a planned burn program.	Noted.  <b>No changes required.</b>
		<b>Theme 2 – Biodiversity</b> – Actions B6 and B7 relating to compliance - change these from high to very high priorities	While Council can pursue Action B7 to prepare a Native Vegetation Compliance Policy with internal resources, increasing resources for compliance requires additional Council funding would need to be considered through the budget process.  <b>Update Action B7 to a “very high” priority.</b>
		<b>Theme 2 – Biodiversity</b> - Council’s Biodiversity Strategy is being undermined by the draft Rural Land Use Strategy.	Noted. Submissions to the Rural Land Use Strategy will be reviewed separately.  <b>No changes required.</b>
		<b>Themes 3 and 4 – Water and Waste</b> - Support for these themes	Noted.  <b>No changes required.</b>
		<b>Community Engagement</b> – Support for Council’s approach to collaboration with community groups which is demonstrated in various projects Newham Landcare have worked on with Council.	Noted.  <b>No changes required.</b>
		<b>Community Engagement</b> – support for the priority topics for Council’s engagement program.	Noted.  <b>No changes required.</b>
4	Resident	Appreciation for the environmental work completed to date and Council’s commitment to further improvement. Appreciation for the Environment eNewsletter.	Noted.  <b>No changes required.</b>

		<p><b>Place based strategies</b> – Consideration should be given to place-based planning and coordination to achieve environmental outcomes, including biolinks, starting with Mt Macedon. This would involve a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency protect team and local strategy, similar to the place based approach to local climate action plans.</p>	<p>Council’s Cool Changes climate change action planning projects as well as biolink initiatives all take a placed based approach to strategy development.</p> <p><b>No changes recommended.</b></p>
5	Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group	<p><b>Support for the Strategy</b> – “completely supportive” of the strategy, especially:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Emphasis on cultivating and maintaining strong partnerships between Council and community groups that will deliver greater environmental outcomes (pp.45-46).</li> <li>2. Acknowledgement of the role that the proposed Community Energy Park can play in generating sufficient energy to power all households in the shire (pp. 11-12).</li> <li>3. Recognition of the need to convert Council's fleet to EVs and ensure that adequate EV charging infrastructure is available to the public.</li> <li>4. Recognition of the imports of partnership with Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance and MASH.</li> <li>5. Development of a Sustainable Buildings Policy for Council building projects.</li> <li>6. Development of an Urban Cooling Strategy.</li> <li>7. Develop a Sustainable Transport Strategy and implement Walking and Cycling Strategy.</li> <li>8. Reduced use of single use plastics across the organisations and at events and facilitate recycling of soft plastics.</li> </ol>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><b>No changes required.</b></p>

		<p>9. Contribution to a circular economy through sustainable procurement and promoting local solutions for reuse, recovery and end markets for materials.</p> <p>10. Recognition of the emerging priorities with potable water and waterways (p. 35)</p>	
6	Coliban Water (late submission)	<p><b>Support for the Strategy</b> – support for retention of the vision and principles from the 2016 Strategy.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><b>No changes required.</b></p>
		<p><b>Storm water management</b> - Strong support for the prioritisation of the development of a Storm Water Management Strategy (Action W7). Concern about illegal connections of storm water into Coliban’s sewer network and request to include reference to reducing storm water impacts to sewer networks in the proposed action relating to development of the Storm Water Management Strategy.</p>	<p><b>Update Action W7 to refer to the Strategy’s goal to, amongst other things, reduce storm water impacts to sewer networks.</b></p>
		<p><b>Domestic Wastewater Management Plan</b> – Support for inclusion of Action W9 relating to proactive monitoring of domestic wastewater management systems.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><b>No changes required.</b></p>



<b>PE.4</b>	<b>SMALL PROJECT GRANTS - CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Leanne Carlon, Coordinator Community Development</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>1. Promote health and wellbeing 4. Enhance the social and economic environment 2. Protect the natural environment</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

### Summary

The Small Project Grants program supports projects and initiatives that:

- support local needs
- are unlikely to be funded by other Council funding programs
- align with Council Plan priorities.

Council's Small Project Grants budget for 2021/22 is \$30,000 and not-for-profit groups can apply for a maximum of \$1,500 per application.

Applications are assessed against set criteria outlined in the Small Project Grants guidelines. Funding recommendations are presented monthly at a Scheduled Council meeting for review and/or approval.

This report details the process of evaluation and lists recent applications received.

Two applications have been received seeking a total of \$3,000 in funding. The applications have been evaluated against the eligibility criteria and both are deemed to be eligible.

### Recommendation

#### That Council:

- 1. Awards a grant of \$1,500 to the Lancefield Cricket Club for the purchase of two iPads**
- 2. Awards a grant of \$1,500 to Sacred Heart College to support its Mammal Monitoring Project**

### Background

The Small Projects Grants program (previously known as the Community Grants program) has been operating since 2018. The Small Project Grants program, unlike other funding schemes, is open for applications year round, except during the caretaker period leading up to a Council election.

#### Eligibility criteria

The Small Project Grants program enables incorporated, community-based not-for-profit groups operating or being established within the shire the opportunity to submit one application per year for funding. The program is also available to non-government and government schools for projects that are outside of the accepted responsibilities of the school and the Victorian Government.

The Small Project Grants guidelines available on Council’s website, outline the eligibility requirements of applicants and the assessment methodology. The document also provides guidance on the projects or activities that will/will not be funded through the program.

Assessment process

Applications are initially reviewed to determine eligibility. Eligible applications are assessed and scored against the program criteria based on the responses provided in the online application form, however eligibility does not guarantee funding.

Where applications are deemed ineligible, they are not assessed and scored.

The assessment criteria and scoring matrix are outlined in the guidelines to assist applicants with the preparation of their applications. Eligible applications are assessed according to six criteria, as detailed below.

<b>Score</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Details</b>
Pass/Fail	Demonstrating eligibility	Compliance with section 6 of the guidelines
20%	Describing your project	A brief description of the project aim
10%	Unlikely to be funded by other funding programs	The project timing/scale/amount of funding sought is not compatible with other funding programs
30%	Demonstrating community need and benefit	Why the group needs to do the project How the community will benefit from the project/activity
20%	Supporting Council Plan priorities	Promotes or contributes to the achievement of one or more Council Plan priorities
20%	Demonstrating good project planning	The project group practices good governance, considers risks, complies with regulations or similar and has an appropriate budget.

Application summaries and funding recommendations are presented to Council at a Scheduled Meeting.

**Discussion**

Two applications have been received seeking a total of \$3,000 in funding. The applications have been evaluated against eligibility criteria and both are deemed to be eligible.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Lancefield Cricket Club	iPads for scoring	\$1,500	Yes
Sacred Heart College	Mammal Monitoring Project	\$1,500	Yes

**Consultation and engagement**

Information regarding the Small Project Grants program is publicly accessible on Council's website. Officers consult with applicants regarding their applications and seek internal advice as necessary.

**Collaboration**

Council has not undertaken collaboration with other councils, governments and/or statutory bodies in relation to this application.

**Innovation and continuous improvement**

Council is committed to innovation and continuous improvement in relation to the Small Project Grants. We regularly review the promotion of the program and seek out new ways to encourage more community groups to access this small grants program.

**Relevant law**

Nil

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

Nil

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

The Small Project Grants program supports Council's priorities of enhancing the social and economic environment, promoting health and wellbeing and strong and reliable government.

**Financial viability**

Council's Small Project Grants budget for 2021/22 is \$30,000. Grants of up to \$1,500 are available for eligible projects. As at the preparation of this report, \$2,410 has been committed to the Small Project Grants in 2021/22. This leaves \$27,590 unspent in 2021/22 financial year, prior to the review of applications contained within this report.

**Sustainability implications**

Nil

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>PE.5</b>	<b>ANNUAL ENVIRONMENT REPORT 2020/21</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Krista Patterson-Majoor, Acting Coordinator Environment</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>2. Protect the natural environment</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Annual Environment Report 2020/21 (under separate cover) <a href="#">⇒</a></b>

### Summary

Each year officers prepare an Annual Environment Report, which outlines Council's progress towards achieving the vision and the objectives of the organisation's Environment Strategy. For 2020/21, the reporting framework has been updated to be consistent with the indicators included in the updated Environment Strategy - Refreshed 2021.

Key environmental highlights from 2020/21 include a 5.3% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations over the last year, a 4.19km increase to the shire's footpath network, a 19.5% reduction in kerb side waste sent to landfill and a 57% decline in paper use. Most of these reductions relate to facility closures and staff working from home as a result of pandemic induced restrictions. In terms of engagement, Council also delivered 8 land management workshops, 13 biodiversity engagement events, 5 waste education events and 56 on-farm property visits.

For most other indicators, the Annual Environment Report includes baseline data only which will be reported on and analysed in future years to determine trends.

### Recommendation

**That Council notes the Annual Environment Report 2020/21, as attached.**

---

### Background

The Annual Environment Report for 2020/21 reflects the revised reporting framework included in Council's updated Environment Strategy – Refreshed 2021. This new framework focuses on environmental outcomes rather than completed activities or outputs. This approach provides a better indication of the shire's ecological condition and progress towards achieving Council's environmental goals.

A list of highlights from the year has also been included in the 2020/21 report to capture some of the organisation's environmental activities and achievements.

For some indicators data is currently not available to enable reporting. This data will need to be collected as a part of future projects. In other cases, the 2020/21 report provides baseline data only, some of which is for years prior to 2020/21. These indicators will be reported on again in future years to determine trends over time as new data becomes available

A copy of the Annual Environment Report 2020/21 is provided at **Attachment 1**.

### Discussion

Key highlights for 2019/20 include:

*Climate emergency*

- **Emissions from Council operations** – Council achieved a 5.3% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations since 2019/20, equating to a 34.1% reduction from Council's baseline year of 2014/15. This is likely to be attributable to pandemic induced restrictions which resulted in facility and office closures throughout the year.
- **Emissions from kerbside waste** – The community achieved an estimated saving of 16,160 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>-e resulting from the diversion of organic waste from landfill, largely attributable to implementation of the Full Organics Garden Organics collection service.
- **Walking and cycling network** – Council increased the shire's footpath network by 4.19km.
- **Roof top solar** – An additional 1,370 roof top solar systems were installed in the shire.

#### *Biodiversity*

- **Biodiversity monitoring** – Council completed all bird, nest box and spotlight surveys for the first time which form part of Council's Biodiversity Monitoring Program. Surveys were also conducted for Golden Sun Moth, Amethyst Hairstreak and Yellow Ochre butterflies, as well as for Clover Glycine at two conservation reserves.
- **Threatened fauna species** – Council collated baseline data for Phascogale, Greater Glider and Powerful Owl which shows that their presence is generally aligned to suitable habitat, including Council's biolink areas. The data also shows the confinement of Greater Glider to the western edge of the shire along Kangaroo Creek.
- **Roadside weeds** – Council treated 4.7 ha of weeds across 182 roadsides.
- **Aboriginal cultural heritage assessments** – Council completed cultural heritage assessments of Barringo Reserve, Black Hill Reserve and Bald Hill Reserve in collaboration with relevant traditional owners.
- **Bushland reserves** – Council completed weed control and tree safety works across the shire's conservation reserves, as well as security upgrades at Hobbs Road Reserve and track upgrades at Black Hill Reserve.
- **Ecological and cultural burns** – A cultural burn was completed at Daly Nature Reserve by the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Narrap Team.
- **Community engagement** – Council completed the federally funded Healthy Landscapes for Healthy Livestock project which reached over 450 different people. In 2020/21 the program delivered 13 biodiversity focused events and citizen science activities. Council also developed biodiversity videos about the Cobaw Biolink and the shire's wildflowers in collaboration with Newham and District Landcare which received 816 and 476 views respectfully.

#### *Water*

- **Council water consumption** – Council operations resulted in consumption of 68,899 litres of potable water and 58,008 litres of recycled water.
- **Waterway restoration works** – Council completed weed control along 5 waterways and revegetation along one waterway (Romsey Five Mile Creek), some of which was co-funded by Melbourne Water.
- **Waterway plans** – Council completed environmental works plans for all waterways in the southern part of the shire (within the Port Philip and Westernport catchment).

#### *Waste*

- **Waste to landfill** – There was a decrease in waste sent to landfill of 83.5kg per serviced property which is a 19.5% reduction from 2019/20.
- **Paper use** – Council reduced its paper use by 57%, largely due to staff working from home due to the pandemic related restrictions.
- **Community engagement** – Council delivered 5 waste education events.

### **Consultation and engagement**

No community engagement is required to inform the Annual Environment Report.

### **Collaboration**

Officers collaborate with external agencies as required to source data for the Annual Environment Report.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

The Annual Environment Report provides an overview of Council's environmental performance as well as the shire's ecological health. This information helps identify areas for improvement and future focus.

In particular, the outcomes of the Annual Environment Report 2020/21 highlight the following areas for future work:

- Reducing Council emissions from fuels and gas.
- Even though as of 1 July 2021, all of the organisation's electricity is being sourced from renewable sources, opportunity still exists to reduce emissions.
- Gaining updated data on community emissions to inform future community emission reduction projects.
- Increasing the extent of the shire's active transport network.
- Facilitating the transition to electric vehicles, both for Council fleet and the community.
- Decreasing use of single use plastics at Council facilities.
- Continuing to implement Council's Biodiversity Monitoring Program to enable identification of trends and changes over time.
- Improving data collection for conservation reserve values, water quality, waste from public places and events, waste from Council facilities and emissions from Council's glass and recycling collection services.

### **Relevant law**

No legislation is directly relevant to this report.

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

No regional, state or national plans or policies are directly relevant to this report.

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

The Annual Environment Report provides information on the implementation progress of the following Council plans and strategies:

- Environment Strategy - Refreshed 2021
- Biodiversity Strategy 2018

- Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021 (draft)

**Financial viability**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

**Sustainability implications**

The Annual Environment Report provides an overview of how Council is progressing towards achieving its environmental and sustainability agenda.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>PE.6</b>	<b>LANCEFIELD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – AREA 1, PART 1 - 128 AND 132 HIGH STREET AND 69 PARK STREET LANCEFIELD</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Jack Wiltshire, Strategic Planner</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>3. Improve the built environment</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lancefield DP Area 1 - Part 1 - documents for endorsement (under separate cover) ⇨</li> <li>2. SoPP Assessment - DP20202 Lancefield Development Plan - Area 1 - Part 1 ↓</li> </ol>
<b>Applicant:</b>	<b>Chris Smith and Associates</b>
<b>Date of receipt of application:</b>	<b>30 November 2020</b>
<b>Trigger for report to Council</b>	<b>Development Plan Application</b>

### Summary

Application DP/2020/2 seeks the approval of Part 1 of a Development Plan for Area 1 under the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24 (DPO24) for the land at 128 and 132 High Street and 69 Park Street, Lancefield.

Adjoining and surrounding landholders and occupiers were informed of the application from 19 August 2021 to 2 September 2021. Two (2) submissions have been received.

Key issues raised in the submissions relate to built form outcomes, bushfire risk, heritage and cultural heritage concerns, traffic outcomes, lot density, stormwater issues, contamination of land, ecological values, development contributions, impact on the views and character of the area in general and amenity concerns from the proposal.

The application has been assessed against the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme and is considered that it is consistent with the requirements of DPO24. It is recommended that application DP/2020/2 be supported and the attached proposed Development Plan approved.

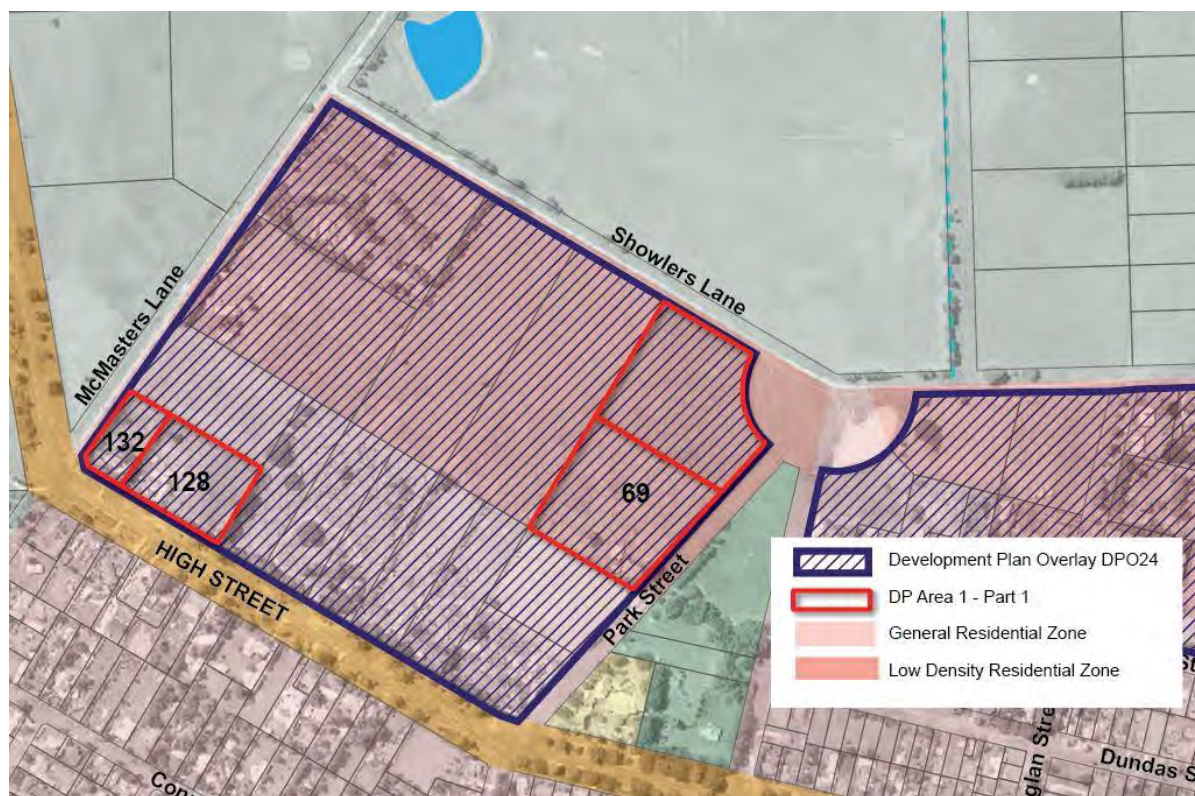
### Recommendation

**That Council approves the Lancefield Development Plan – Area 1 – Part 1 by Chris Smith and Associates dated 3/6/2021, Revision 7 covering the land situated at Lot 1 LP 143486, Lot 2 LP 143486, 128 and 132 High Street, Lancefield and CA 68 TP 419012V and CA 69 TP 419012V T/ Lancefield P/Lancefield, 69 Park Street, Lancefield, prepared for the purposes of Clause 43.04, Schedule 24 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.**



## Existing conditions and relevant history

### Subject land



The subject land shown above with red boundary encompasses four parcels of land. The parcels are located on the northern side of High Street and east of Park Street. The sites fronting High Street have a gentle slope and each contain an existing dwelling. Some vegetation and outbuildings are present. Whilst it is noted that native vegetation is located on the subject land, most is planted. A breakdown of each site is as follows:

- 128 High Street** – comprises a rectangular site with an area of 1.263ha with a frontage of 128.86m. The site is developed with a single dwelling, a number of outbuildings and access from High Street. The eastern side of the property comprises a vacant paddock. There are a number of trees generally clustered around the dwelling and along the frontage of the site. The site is zoned General Residential Schedule 1.
- 132 High Street** – comprises a rectangular site with an area of 0.54ha with a High Street frontage of 47m. The site is developed with an existing dwelling, and has a number of trees clustered around the dwelling and a single tree at the rear of the site. Access is currently provided via a crossover along High Street. The site is zoned General Residential Schedule 1.
- 69 Park Street** – comprises two rectangular parcels located on the corner of Park Street and Showlers Lane. The total area of the two parcels comprises 4.79ha. The land falls from the dwelling located on Park Street to the northern boundary along Showlers Lane. Major vegetation is largely located around the existing dwelling however, a patch of native vegetation is located on the western boundary. The site is zoned Low Density Residential.

### Surrounds

The sites are located generally to the western side of the Lancefield Township with 128 High Street located around 1.2km west of the intersection of The Crescent and High Street. No. 69 High Street is located approximately 754m west of the same intersection. The area north of High Street and west of Park Street is characterised by a landscape comprised of large properties developed with single dwellings bordered by larger Farming Zone properties across McMasters Lane and Showlers Lane. Land to the east of Park Lane comprises a municipal park, primary school and men's shed. Land to the south of High Street comprises larger General Residential Zone land parcels generally comprising single dwellings. Some of these have been subdivided into battle-axe subdivisions.

The site is not located within 100m of a waterway and is located in a bushfire prone area.

The intersection of Showlers Lane, Park Street and Foy Street contains a capped landfill site on its western side.

### Registered restrictive covenants and/or Section 173 Agreements affecting the site

There are no restrictive covenants or Section 173 Agreements affecting the subject sites.

### Previous planning permit history

An existing planning permit application PLN/2019/564 is currently associated with 69 Park Street, Lancefield seeking a 2 lot re-subdivision. This permit cannot be decided on until a development plan is approved for the site.

### **Proposal**

The application is to approve a development plan for three properties within Area 1 under the Schedule 24 of the Development Plan Overlay (DPO24). Lancefield Development Plan Area 1 can be approved in two parts. This application proposes Part 1.

The development plan proposes the following for the development plan:

- **128 High Street** – A two stage subdivision creating 4 lots in the first stage and 6 lots in the second stage. An access off High Street will be created running north-south to create a future connection to the land to the north. The High Street fronting lots will range between 739m<sup>2</sup> and 1290m<sup>2</sup>. The internal lots under stage 2 will range between 990m<sup>2</sup> and 1167m<sup>2</sup>.
- **132 High Street** – A two stage subdivision creating 2 lots in stage 1 and 3 lots in stage 2. Stage 1 lots will be 748m<sup>2</sup> and 1320m<sup>2</sup> in area. Stage 2 lots will be 1112m<sup>2</sup>, 1112m<sup>2</sup> and 1130m<sup>2</sup> respectively.
- **69 Park Street** – A five stage low density subdivision creating a total of 19 lots in total ranging between 2000m<sup>2</sup> up to 2689m<sup>2</sup>. The subdivision would create an internal road off Park Street which will run internally and connect to land to the south and west. A drainage reserve would also be created on the corner of Showlers Lane and Park Street.

### **Relevant Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme controls**

#### **Statement of Planning Policy**

Section 46AZK of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 requires Council as a Responsible Public Entity to not act inconsistently with any provision of the Statement of Planning Policy (SOPP) in exercising decision making powers. Attachment 2 contains the officer assessment against the SOPP.

Planning Policy Framework

Clause no.	Clause name
11.01-1S	Settlement
11.01-1R	Settlement – Loddon Mallee South
11.03-3S	Peri-urban Areas
13.02-1S	Bushfire planning
13.04-1S	Contaminated and potentially contaminated land
15.01-1S	Urban Design
15.01-3S	Subdivision design
15.01-4S	Healthy Neighbourhoods
15.01-5S	Neighbourhood Character
15.02-1S	Energy and Resource Efficiency
16.01-1S	Housing Supply
16.01-2S	Housing Affordability

Local Planning Policy Framework

Clause no.	Clause name
21.01	Municipal Profile
21.02	Key Issues and Influences
21.03	Vision – Strategic Framework Plan
21.04	Settlement
21.08	Built Environment and Heritage
21.09	Housing
21.13	Local Areas and Small Settlements

Zoning

Clause no.	Clause name
32.03	Low Density Residential Zone LDRZ
32.08	General Residential Zone (Schedule 1) – GRZ1

Overlay

Clause no.	Clause name
43.04	Development Plan Overlay (Schedule 24) – DPO24
45.06	Development Contributions Plan Overlay (Schedule 2) – DCPO2

Particular provisions

Clause no.	Clause name
56	Residential Subdivision

General provisions

Clause no.	Clause name
-	-

**Cultural Heritage Management Plan assessment**

	Assessment criteria	Assessment response
1	Is the subject property within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity as defined within the cultural heritage sensitivity mapping or as defined in Part 2 Division 3 or 4 of the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> ?	No
2	Does the application proposal include significant ground disturbance as defined in Regulation 5 <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> ?	Yes
3	Is the application proposal an exempt activity as defined in Part 2 Division 2 <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> ?	No
4	Is the application proposal a high impact activity as defined in Part 2 Division 5 <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018</i> ?	Yes

Based on the above assessment, a cultural heritage management plan is not required in accordance with Part 2 Division 1 of *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018*.

**The process to date**Referral

Authority (Section 52)	Response
MRSC Engineering	No objection.
MRSC Environment	No objection.
MRSC Parks and Gardens	No objection.
MRSC Recreation Unit	No objection.
Environment Protection Authority	No objection.
Country Fire Authority	No objection.
Melbourne Water	No objection.
Western Water	No objection.
Powercor	No objection.
Tenix	No objection.

Advertising

The application was advertised and two submissions were made. They raised the following concerns:

- Traffic outcomes..
- Effects and review of the application.
- Fire risk.
- Heritage concerns.
- Cultural Heritage concerns.
- Views and landscape impacts.
- Tree impacts.
- Land contamination issues.
- Ecological impact.
- Infrastructure outcomes.
- Stormwater impact.
- Melbourne Water response.
- Statement of Planning Policy.
- Developer contributions.
- Image and character response.

### **Officer assessment**

#### Planning Policy Framework and Local Planning Policy Framework

The Planning Policy Framework (PPF) seeks to promote growth and development of settlements within identified townships within the Macedon Ranges Shire yet while maintaining their attractiveness, amenity and character of these areas.

The PPF required the creation of quality environments which contribute positively to the local urban character and sense of place and reflect the particular characteristics, aspirations and cultural identity of the community. Clause 11.03-3S seeks to 'manage growth in peri-urban areas to protect and enhance their identified valued attributes'. Clause 15.01-5 seeks to 'recognise and protect cultural identity, neighbourhood character and sense of place. This includes ensuring development responds to its context such as the underlying natural landscape and values and needs of the community.

Clause 15.01-3S specifically seeks 'attractive, safe, accessible, diverse and sustainable neighbourhoods'. This can be achieved by providing a range of lot sizes to suit a variety of dwelling and household types to meet the needs and aspirations of different groups. It also relates to creating a strong sense of place by emphasising existing cultural values and well designed, attractive built forms.

The development plan proposed is considered to meet the objectives of these policies in providing for residential development on a site within an existing settlement, which is zoned for such a use. The design and layout of the subdivision is considered appropriate to respect the existing neighbourhood character and future residential development will have a minimal impact on existing vegetation or the amenity of neighbours. The design response avoids the need for excessive earthworks.

13.02-1S seeks the protection of human life by prioritising the protection of human life over all other policy considerations. It further seeks directing population growth and development to low risk locations and ensuring the availability of, and safe access to, areas where human life can be better protected from the effects of bushfire. The need of reducing the vulnerability of communities to bushfire through the consideration of bushfire risk in decision making at all stages of the planning process.

The proposal contributes to this by creating appropriately designed residential development to the western side of Lancefield Township that provides for appropriate buffers and water supply.

13.04-1S seeks to ensure that contaminated and potentially contaminated land is used and developed safely. The proposal has reviewed known contamination for the subject sites and found no risk. The application was also referred to the Environment Protection Agency who had no objection to the development plan.

The Local Planning Policy Framework seeks to promote population growth within existing settlements within the shire. This is to ensure greater use of existing infrastructure while being better located to social, community and commercial services. The development is required to be sustainable and respect the existing character of the local towns and settlements.

Clause 21.04 seeks to encourage development which in future will form Lancefield from a "small town" to a "district town", with a population greater than 6,000, by 2036. The subject area is a key location in achieving that outcome.

Clause 21.06 outlines the risks of bushfire, climate change and contamination to land. As stated above the proposal responds appropriately to bushfire and has reviewed contamination risk.

Clause 21.07 outlines natural resource policy including protecting agriculture and protecting water supplies. The proposal is to occur on existing residential zoned land and will be connected to reticulated services to avoid adverse off-site impacts.

Clause 21.08 seeks to protect the rich heritage of the Shire and high landscape qualities of the area. It seeks to have appropriate control on these built form outcomes. It is considered the development plan has appropriately taken these values into consideration and provide a suitable response in balance with the growth of the town. It will also ensure growth is well co-ordinated and minimises its impact on the landscape.

Clause 21.13-8 outlines Lancefield's character as:

- Surrounding hills that give the town an attractive landscape and scenic setting.
- Wide treed avenues into and through the town.
- Strip based historic town centre and streetscape.
- Small scale established residential development on a grid network.

It is considered that the proposed subdivision is consistent with the outcomes envisioned within the PPF and LPPF. The Lancefield Township is identified for growth and this site is located within the existing town boundary and fully serviced. The design of the subdivision is considered to achieve the strategies, including the lot sizes and retention of wide frontages.

#### General Residential Zone Schedule 1 (GRZ1)

A review of the provisions under the GRZ1 including the particular provisions of clause 56 as occurred. As the General Residential Zone does not trigger the assessment of the development plan, it is considered an application for subdivision under the proposed development plan would be in accordance with the provisions of the GRZ1 and subsequently Clause 56 of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

#### Low Density Residential Zone (LDRZ)

Similarly, a review of the provisions of the LDRZ has occurred however, the LDRZ does not trigger a review of a development plan application. It is satisfied that a subdivision that is generally in accordance the proposed development plan would be in accordance with the provisions of the LDRZ and Clause 56.

#### Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24 (DPO24)

The DPO24 seeks to implement the Municipal Planning Strategy and Planning Policy Framework for the Macedon Ranges Shire Council. It seeks to identify areas which require the form and conditions of future use and development, to be shown on a development plan before a permit can be granted to use or develop the land. It also seeks to exempt an application from notice and review if a development plan has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Clause 43.04-4 outlines the matters relating to the preparation of a development plan. Point 4 of Schedule 24 outlines that one or two development plans may be approved for the area shown as Area 1 on Figure 1 (the Lancefield Development Plan Areas - Indicative Development Pattern Concept Plan) forming part of this schedule. The development plans may be approved separately from each other. The proposal is one part of this allowance.

An application for a Development Plan must include a number of requirements as outlined in the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24. The Development Plan application as per Attachment 1 of this report satisfies the list of requirements These includes a context analysis, subdivision layout plan, movement network plan, infrastructure delivery and staging plan, stormwater and drainage plan, open space and landscape plan and an image and character report. These documents have been reviewed by Council departments and external authorities who have not objected to the proposal. Officers have reviewed and are satisfied the documents meet the outcomes sought by the DPO24 and can be endorsed.

It is noted 69 Park Street will contain a drainage reserve which has been supported by MRSC Engineering Unit due to the requirement that land is serviced by one and the adjoining land to the west does not fall part of this development plan.

Furthermore, the DPO24 outlines specific requirements for Area 1 of DPO24. This includes:

Area 1 specific requirements:

- A development plan that: Maximises lot width frontage onto High Street, with lots providing a minimum frontage width of 20 metres and an area of at least 700 square metres.
- Minimises additional road connections to High Street.
- Provides lots fronting High Street with a minimum front setback of 6 metres to any building to integrate with the existing character of the township.
- Provides lots fronting High Street with a front fence no higher than 1.2 metres, which is visually permeable.
- Designs and locates shared crossovers to minimise the visual impact on High Street and avoid the removal of the existing vegetation within the road reservation.

- Provides for lots of at least 1,000 square metres along McMasters Lane to provide a transition between the General Residential Zone and the Farming Zone.
- Incorporates the same avenue tree planting as other streets within the township in Park Street, McMasters Lane and Showlers Lane.

It is considered that the proposed development plan meets these requirements relating to lot size, lot width, setbacks and street tree planting. Specific design controls for lots such as front and side setbacks are provided in the Image and Character report, the outcomes of which can be actioned through a Section 173 Agreement on the subject sites. This will ensure a built form outcome that is reflective of the Lancefield character but also provides opportunities for development.

Overall, it is considered the development provides an appropriate response to the provisions of the DPO24 and can be adopted by Council.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

**Conclusion**

The proposed development plan application for approval meets the objectives and provisions of the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme and should be adopted by Council.



Consistency of a proposal with the Statement of Planning Policy: DP/2020/2 – Lancefield Development Plan - Area 1 - Part 1.

Objective number	Objective in the SoPP (Direct quote)	Strategies to deliver the objective (Direct quote)	Meets	Does not meet	N/A	Planner's Comment
1	To ensure the declared area's natural and cultural landscapes are conserved and enhanced.					
		Manage land use, development and infrastructure to ensure that significant landscapes, views and vantage points are conserved and enhanced.	✓			The proposal is considered to appropriately manage land use, significant landscapes, views and vantage points in consideration of the DPO24 and State and Local Policy.
		Encourage retention of native vegetation and revegetation that contributes to significant landscapes, particularly on escarpments and ridgelines and along riparian areas.	✓			A small patch of native vegetation is required to be removed as part of the development plan. All trees to be removed are planted natives.
		Manage development around significant landscapes of visual, scientific or education value, including along ridgelines and at vantage points.	✓			There are no applicable ridgelines however, the development plan layout will protect view lines to the Cobaw Ranges from Lancefield.
		Manage development and infrastructure provision to ensure sequences of views from key road and rail corridors are maintained for current and future users.	✓			The Development Plan seeks to ensure development does not impact on any view sequences from key roads or rail corridors.
2	To ensure the significant biodiversity, ecological and environmental values of the declared area are conserved and enhanced					
		Conserve and enhance high-value native vegetation and biodiversity and their ecological integrity by undertaking responsible environmental management, planning, procedures and practices.	✓			There are no areas of high-value native vegetation or biodiversity within the land applicable to the subject development plan.
		Utilise appropriate historical ecological knowledge and practices from Traditional custodians of the land in the management of biodiversity and ecological and environmental values.			N/A	
		Encourage ecological restoration works in areas of identified state, regional and locally significant biodiversity value			N/A	
		Establish and improve bio links to connect high-value ecological areas, including areas along waterways and areas within and between towns.			N/A	
		Minimise the effects of weeds and pest animals on biodiversity values by establishing and			N/A	

Objective number	Objective in the SoPP (Direct quote)	Strategies to deliver the objective (Direct quote)	Meets	Does not meet	N/A	Planner's Comment
		implementing best practice land management plans.				
3.	To prioritise the conservation and use of the declared area's water catchments to ensure a sustainable local, regional and state water supply, and healthy environment.					
		Protect water quality and natural systems by discouraging development that contributes to the degradation of water quality and quantity.	✓			The Development Plan seeks to ensure stormwater and runoff does not degrade local water quality or quantity.
		Manage land use and development, including dams, in Declared Water Supply Catchments to retain and improve water quality and improve yield to support regional water needs and to increase system-wide capacity to Respond to demand.			N/A	
		Reinforce the role of waterways as biodiversity Linkages and as corridors for native plants and animals.			N/A	
		Ensure water supply and land use planning policies are integrated, to realise efficiencies in regional catchment management and best practice, water-sensitive urban design.			N/A	
		Address the expected impacts of climate change, including changes in the duration and frequency of rainfall events and changes in the intensity and frequency of bushfire events.			N/A	
		Review and improve regulation and monitoring of groundwater licences and surface water diversions.			N/A	
4.	To recognise, protect, conserve and enhance the declared area's Aboriginal cultural and spiritual heritage values and work in partnership with Traditional Owners in caring for Country.					
		With Traditional Owners, identify, protect, conserve and enhance sites, landscapes and views of Aboriginal cultural significance, consistent with the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 and Cultural Heritage Management Plans.			N/A	

Objective number	Objective in the SoPP (Direct quote)	Strategies to deliver the objective (Direct quote)	Meets	Does not meet	N/A	Planner's Comment
		With Traditional Owners, acknowledge, protect, promote and interpret tangible and intangible Aboriginal cultural values, heritage and knowledge when planning and managing land use and development, water and other environmental resources.			N/A	
5.	To recognise, conserve and enhance the declared area's significant post-contact cultural heritage values.					
		Conserve and enhance the character of state and/or nationally significant post-contact cultural heritage values (including aesthetic, historic, scientific, social and spiritual values) in the declared area's heritage places, precincts and landscapes, including sequences of views along main road and rail routes.	✓			It is considered the proposed development achieves this objective and does the approval of the plan would not adversely impact on adjoining heritage values.
		Acknowledge, promote and interpret significant post-contact cultural heritage values in the planning, design, development and management of land uses, including infrastructure.			N/A	
6.	To support and encourage agricultural land uses that strengthen the declared area's economy and contribute to the rural landscape.					
		Encourage the use of rural-zoned land for agricultural purposes and encourage the use of high-quality soils for soil-based agriculture.			N/A	
		Encourage and support innovations in agricultural practices (such as sustainable farming, water reuse, technologies to enable farming to adapt and respond to emerging and niche markets).			N/A	
		Support agricultural practices that improve soil health and respond to and encourage adaptation to climate change.			N/A	
		Encourage measures to ensure agricultural practices protect and enhance soil quality, water quality, biodiversity and native plants and animals.			N/A	
		Manage the effects of rural land use and development on important environmental and cultural values.			N/A	

Objective number	Objective in the SoPP (Direct quote)	Strategies to deliver the objective (Direct quote)	Meets	Does not meet	N/A	Planner's Comment
		Restrict the supply of rural-living-zoned land to conserve and protect agricultural practices.			N/A	
		Protect strategic extractive resource areas and existing quarry operations from encroachment from inappropriate development.			N/A	
		Proposals to establish an extractive industry must adhere to best practice measures to avoid and minimise impacts on significant environments and landscapes.			N/A	
7.	To provide for a diverse and sustainable visitor economy compatible with the natural and cultural values of the area.					The subject land is designated to residential living and does not anticipate commercial land uses.
		Support and facilitate sustainable and responsible tourism and recreation-related land uses and developments (such as agritourism) in keeping with the declared area's significant landscapes, environmental and cultural values.			N/A	
		Facilitate tourism-related land use and development that encourages people to recognise and understand Aboriginal and post-contact cultural heritage.			N/A	
		Ensure the conservation and enhancement of Declared Water Supply Catchment Areas of regional or state significance in the planning of tourism and recreational land uses.			N/A	
		Protect the unique rural character of towns in the declared area.	✓			The Development Plan appropriately responds to the rural character of Lancefield.
8.	To plan and manage growth of settlements in the declared area consistent with protection of the area's significant landscapes, protection of catchments, biodiversity, ecological and environmental values, and consistent with the unique character, role and function of each settlement.		✓			
		Direct urban development to a hierarchy of settlements identified for growth, through clearly defining long-term settlement boundaries.	✓			The proposed development plan is in accordance with the settlement hierarchy and within the settlement boundaries of Lancefield.

Objective number	Objective in the SoPP (Direct quote)	Strategies to deliver the objective (Direct quote)	Meets	Does not meet	N/A	Planner's Comment
		Direct rural residential development to rural-living-zoned land as provided for in the Macedon Ranges Council's rural living strategy, In the Rural Living Zone – Strategic Direction (2015).			N/A	
		Encourage infill development that respects the townships' character.	✓			The Development Plan includes an Image and Character report which suitably identifies and makes appropriate recommendations to ensure the protection of Lancefield's character.
		Limit the expansion of settlements in high risk locations, actively reducing the risks associated with natural hazards.	✓			The Development Plan will contribute to an improved interface with bushfire prone land.
		Encourage a range of housing types within settlement boundaries to support a diverse range of housing needs.	✓			The Development Plan will provide for both low density and conventional development opportunities within the provisions of the DPO24.
		Encourage provision of an adequate supply of well-serviced employment land within settlement boundaries to support local and regional jobs and services.			N/A	
		Encourage the use of voluntary Cultural Heritage Management Plans.		✓		A voluntary Cultural Heritage Management Plan was not provided.
9.	To manage the provision of infrastructure consistent with protection of the area's significant landscapes and protection of environmental values to support the social and economic needs of communities and increase resilience to climate change effects.					
		Provide timely infrastructure and services to meet community needs in sequence with development.	✓			The Development plan includes appropriate infrastructure delivery and staging.
		Maintain and enhance transport connections that provide links between and within regional communities and to major cities.	✓			The Development plan seeks to limit connections to High Street.
		Reduce use of fossil fuels and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by prioritising active transport and public transport modes.			N/A	Limited public transport options within Lancefield. Suitable footpaths will be created to add to local networks.
		Maintain view lines of state-significant landscape features from the main road and rail transport corridors.	✓			

Objective number	Objective in the SoPP (Direct quote)	Strategies to deliver the objective (Direct quote)	Meets	Does not meet	N/A	Planner's Comment
		Ensure the future operation and development of major transport linkages and rail corridors and upgrading and improved management of freight routes are considered when managing the growth of settlements.			N/A	
		Ensure equitable access to community infrastructure.			N/A	
		Encourage the use of active and public transport by planning infrastructure and facilities in accessible locations, and improve walking and cycling routes.	✓			The development plan supports the provision of walking and cycling within Lancefield.
10.	<b>Respond to the challenges and threats of climate change and natural hazards with careful planning and mitigation strategies.</b>		✓			The proposal addresses bushfire risk and supports planning for climate resilience.
		Support community and government planning for disaster preparedness and climate resilience.	✓			
		Manage bushfire risks while also retaining valued biodiversity and landscape character.	✓			
		Plan for more renewable energy generation and distribution.			N/A	
		Ensure proposals to establish renewable energy facilities adhere to best practice measures to avoid and minimise impacts on significant environments and landscapes.			N/A	
		Ensure planning for future use and development of land prone to flooding minimises the consequences of inundation.			N/A	

<b>PE.7</b>	<b>MEETING WITH LANDHOLDERS WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OVERLAY SCHEDULE 24 - LANCEFIELD</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Leanne Khan, Coordinator Strategic Planning</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

### Summary

This report provides a brief update on the progress to organise a meeting with landholders within the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24 – Lancefield Development Plan Areas (DPO24), as resolved by Council at the Scheduled Council Meeting held on 28 July 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a community meeting has not been organised to occur in line with Council’s resolution. Given future COVID-19 restrictions are still unclear, a number of options to achieve Council’s resolution are outlined in this report.

### Recommendation

**That Council resolves to hold an online meeting with landholders within the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24 – Lancefield Development Plan Areas on Thursday 2 December 2021 at 7pm.**

### Background

This report responds to Council’s resolution made at the Scheduled Council Meeting held on 28 July 2021:

*That Council:*

1. *Requests the Chief Executive Officer to engage an external facilitator to assist Council with a meeting with interested landowners who are within the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24 area in Lancefield. The purpose of the meeting is to enable a discussion about Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24 and enable landowners to seek clarity on any matters regarding the Development Plan Overlay. The meeting will be run by an external facilitator and attended by the Chief Executive Officer, planning staff and Councillors as appropriate. Minutes from the meeting will be recorded and presented to Council at a future Councillor briefing session. The meeting to be held within 3 months of 28 July 2021.*
2. *Notifies all landholders within the Schedule 24 to the Development Plan Overlay of this decision.*

### Discussion

Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions have resulted in the meeting with Lancefield landholders being unable to be held in person by 28 October 2021, as required by Council’s July resolution.

Whilst Regional Victoria (Macedon Ranges) COVID-19 lockdown restrictions lifted on 9 September 2021, density limits in venues have continued to apply. Council’s preferred venue to hold such an event has an ongoing restriction of 40 people.

In addition to density restrictions, advice was provided by Council's Risk and Occupational Health and Safety teams that Council events were not proceeding at this point in time, due to the ongoing risk posed by COVID-19, and have strongly recommended that any meeting with landowners within the DPO24 area be postponed.

### Options for the Meeting

Council remains committed to a meeting with landholders within the DPO24 area. The following provides two options for Council to consider moving forward.

#### *Online meeting*

An online meeting:

- allows Council to set a date in advance and could ensure that all landholders have access to the meeting
- ensures that all landowners, regardless of vaccination status, have access to attend
- provides certainty regardless of future lockdowns and restrictions and minimises the risk of unnecessary COVID-19 exposure

Zoom functionality also allows for the recording of the meeting, which can be provided to all landholders as a transparent record of events.

For the reasons above it is the officer's recommended option to hold the meeting online as soon as practicable.

#### *In person meeting*

An in person meeting can be organised and run once COVID-19 restrictions change, to allow it to be held in accordance with Victorian Government directions.

Victoria's Roadmap - Delivering the National Plan indicates that a public meeting in a community facility could take place indoors, for up to 100 vaccinated people, when Victoria's vaccination rate reaches 80% double dose. The roadmap indicates that this is likely to occur in early/mid November. It is still unclear if these restrictions will apply to Council events, or the process which would be used to check vaccination status of attendees. Until Council has further clarity around these matters, it is not in a position to schedule or set a timeframe for when this meeting can occur.

Due to the above, an in person meeting is currently limited by \ COVID-19 restrictions, and an assessment of such an event suggests that the risks are too high, even if restrictions can be adhered to. Given the ongoing uncertainty about when restrictions may change and what they will entail, an in person meeting is unlikely to be able to be held in 2021, therefore it is recommended to consider the option of an online meeting instead.

### **Consultation and engagement**

No community consultation has been undertaken regarding this report.

Consultation took place across the Risk, Occupational Health and Safety, and Communications Teams within Council to prepare this report.

### **Collaboration**

Collaboration was not required in relation to this report.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

This report is consistent with the principles outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*.



**Relevant law**

This report does not have any direct or indirect human rights implications.

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

- Victoria's Roadmap- Delivering the National Plan

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

Council's relevant plans and policies are:

- Draft Council Plan (2021-2031)
- Community Engagement Policy (2021)
- Risk Management Policy (2019)
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council COVIDsafe Plan (September 2021)

**Financial viability**

It is anticipated that an online meeting with landholders within the Development Plan Overlay Schedule 24 – Lancefield Development Plan Areas will cost under \$5,000, and would come from existing budget sources.

**Sustainability implications**

There are no sustainability implications and risks of note.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter.

12 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS

<b>CX.1</b>	<b>DRUMMOND AND LAURISTON LOCALITY BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Jessica Baguley, Senior Governance Officer</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Drummond/Lauriston locality boundary change <a href="#">↓</a></b>

**Summary**

This report seeks Council approval to adjust the locality boundary between Drummond and Lauriston in the north-east of the Shire to correct a mapping anomaly.

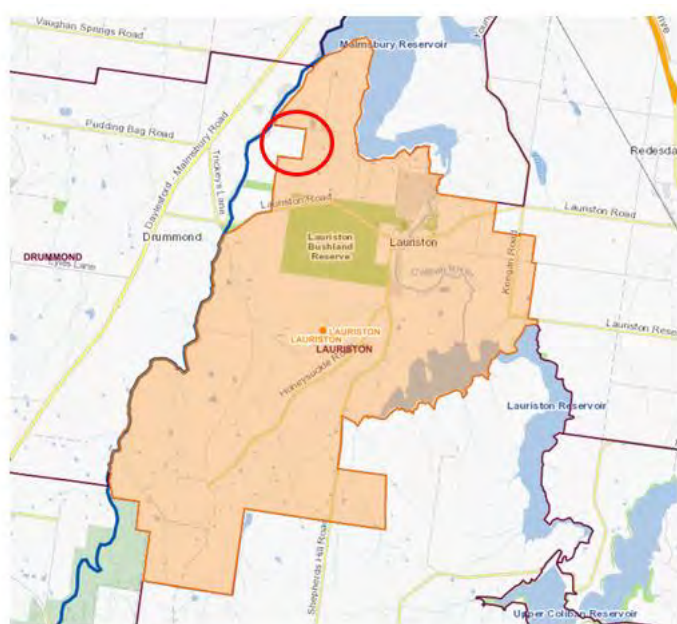
**Recommendation**

**That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the proposed locality boundary change between Drummond and Lauriston.**
- 2. Refers the proposed change to the Registrar of Geographic Names Victoria for endorsement and gazettal.**

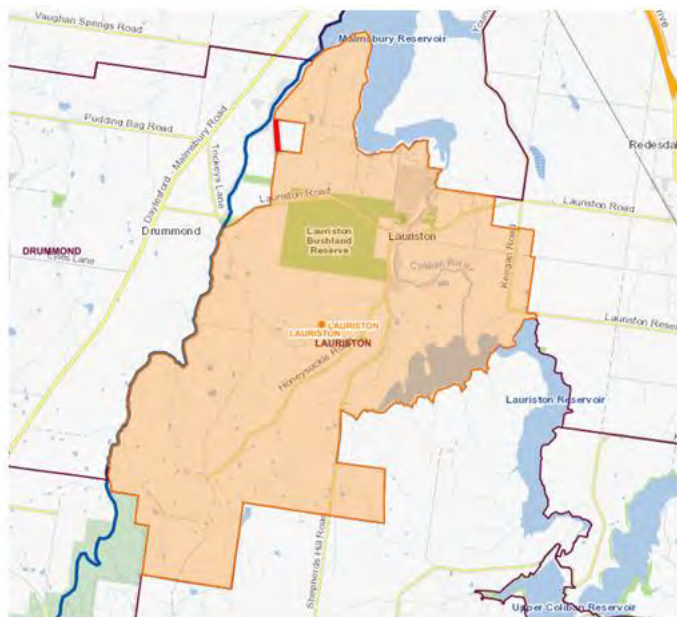
**Background**

On 23 May 2018, Council resolved to amend the locality boundary to include the property at 251 Portwines Road into the locality of Lauriston from Drummond North to re-position the locality boundary to align with Kangaroo Creek. This adjustment created an anomaly whereby the locality boundary does not include the property at 173 Portwines Road, which is currently located in Drummond. (Map 1).



*Map 1. No inclusion of affected property*

Council has received a request from the property owner at 173 Portwines Road for the locality boundary around their property to be changed so it is included in the locality of Lauriston, consistent with other properties on Portwines Road. (Map 2)



Map 2. Affected property included (locality change in red)

Council is the naming authority within the municipality and responsible for naming roads, parks (including reserves), public features (waterways, buildings or structures) and localities. Applications for changing or renaming can be submitted by anyone, including community groups, government departments or individuals.

Council must abide by the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria (Naming Rules), which were developed by Geographic Names Victoria (GNV). The naming rules outline principles and statutory requirements to be taken into account when considering a request.

Locality boundaries must align with road centre lines or easily distinguishable topographical features (waterways) and a locality should not cross municipal boundaries. Drummond and Drummond North are currently located in the Shire of Hepburn and Macedon Ranges Shire Council which is contrary to this principle.

Mapping and locality issues such as these can impact residents when confirming their address with State and Federal Government agencies, postal services, Medicare, utilities addressing (gas, water and electricity), VicRoads or emergency services for confirming their identity and location.

## Discussion

The request for a boundary locality amendment was assessed by Council officers and deemed an acceptable change (see *Table 1*). The locality boundary creates an irregular shape and follows the boundary of the affected property. The property is currently reflected in Council's rates database as Drummond, in the GNV VicMaps system as Drummond, but as Lauriston with Federal agencies.

Following discussions with GNV, Council has considered this request as an acceptable solution to correct the mapping anomaly so that Council's records will reflect the property as being in Lauriston.

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Compliant</b>
Principle (A) Ensuring public safety	Yes
Principle (B) Recognising the public interest	Yes
Principle (C) Linking the name to the place	Yes
Principle (D) Ensuring names are not duplicated	Yes
Principle (E) Names must not be discriminatory	Yes
Principle (F) Recognition and use of Aboriginal names	N/A
Principle (G) Dual names	N/A
Principle (H) Using commemorative names	N/A
Principle (I) Using commercial and business names	N/A
Principle (J) Language	Yes
Principle (K) Directional names to be avoided	N/A
Principle (L) Assigning extent to a road, feature or locality	Yes

*Table 1. Assessment Principles*

To remain consistent with GNV principles, officers will need to investigate another future relocation of the locality boundary along the waterway known as Kangaroo Creek, which will affect about 11 property owners who are currently located in Drummond. This future boundary relocation will see the entire locality of Drummond located in the Shire of Hepburn and will require consultation with affected residents and agencies.

### **Consultation and engagement**

Council consulted with the property owner impacted by the proposed locality boundary change and has their support.

### **Collaboration**

There was no collaboration required for the preparation of this report.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

This locality boundary change addresses an anomaly that is impacting a local resident.

### **Relevant law**

The proposed changes have been assessed in accordance with the *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2016* and Council's Naming Protocol.

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

The proposed changes have been assessed in accordance with the *Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2016*.

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

The proposed changes have been assessed in accordance with Council's Naming Protocol and Community Engagement Policy 2021.

**Financial viability**

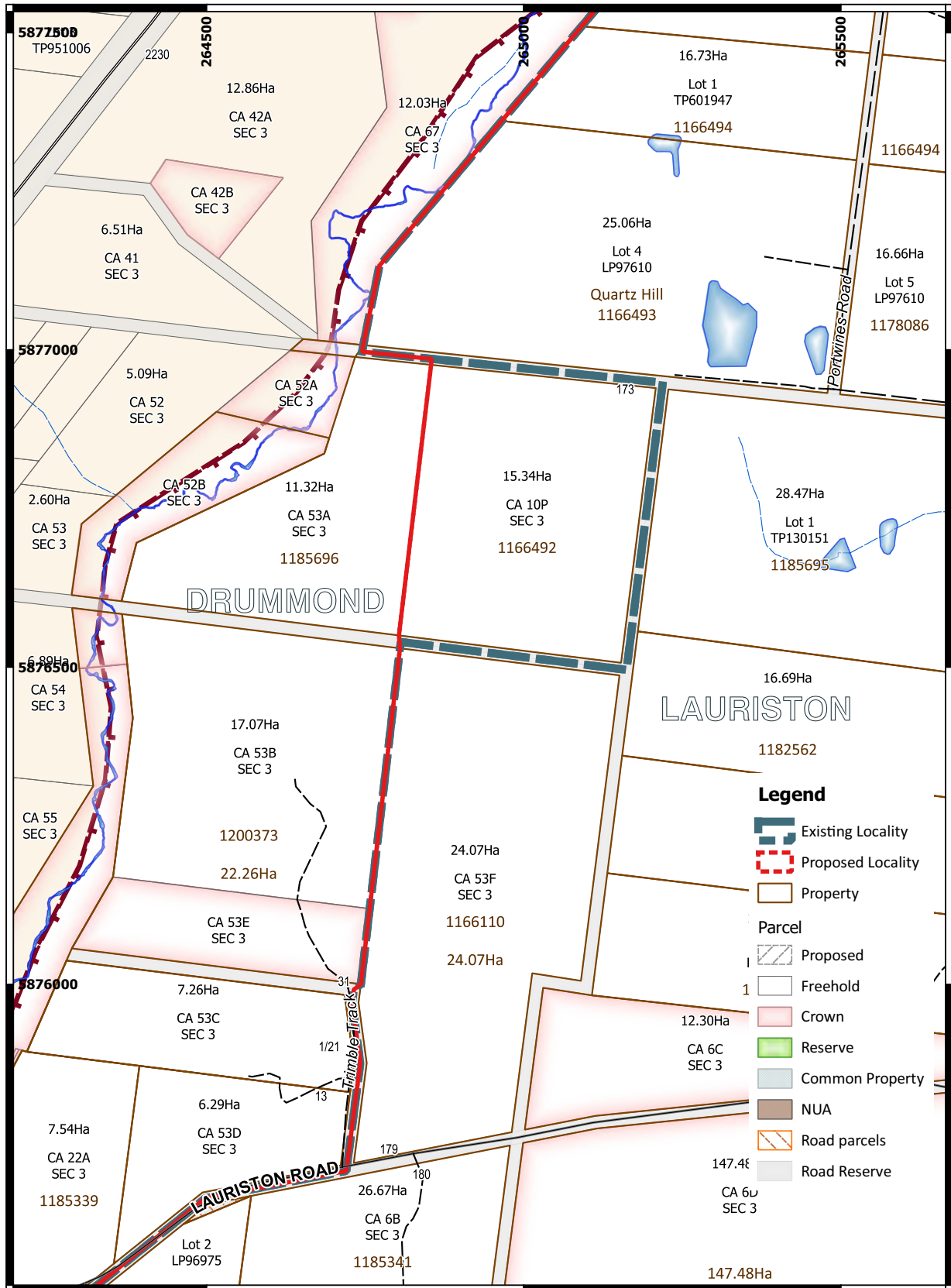
There are no financial implications for the proposed locality boundary change.

**Sustainability implications**

There are no sustainability implications for the proposed locality boundary change.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.



**Proposed Locality Boundary  
Drummond - Lauriston**

0 50 100 150 200 m  
 Horizontal Datum - GDA 2020  
 Vertical Datum - AHD  
 Map projection - MGA Zone 55  
 Map Date - 25/8/2021 Produced by MRSC GIS Unit



<b>CX.2</b>	<b>CONTRACTS TO BE AWARDED OCTOBER</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Corinne Farley, Coordinator Contracts</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

### Summary

This report provides details of contracts proposed to be awarded under a delegation from Council, from the date of the last report to this meeting. Although this report recommends noting the power delegated to Council officers in relation to the first four contracts listed in the recommendation, Council has the power to:

- a) direct that the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) award the contract under the direct delegation from Council; or
- b) specifically delegate the power to the CEO.

### Recommendation

#### That Council:

1. **Notes that the following contracts will be awarded by Council officers under delegated authority:**
  - (a) **C22.1130 Condition Assessment and Data Collection**
  - (b) **Q22.1134 Design and Construct Footbridge Ash Wednesday Park**
  - (c) **C22.1138 Lighting Upgrade Lancefield Park**
  - (d) **C22.1141 Supply Panel Traffic Management**
2. **Grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to award the following contract:**
  - (a) **C22.1137 Sports Precinct Construction**

---

### Background information

Council's delegated authority to its officers to award a contract is controlled by the financial value of the contract. The various financial limits of the authority are specified in Appendix 1 of the Procurement Policy.

### Opportunity to review delegated authority

This report provides Council with a brief summary of proposed contracts which are being advertised and also indicates whether or not delegated authority to award the contract exists.

### C22.1130 Condition Assessment and Data Collection

Council is seeking to engage a contractor to visit Council sites to conduct visual inspections and prepare condition assessments on Council Buildings, Facilities and Structures. The data collected is used to support core asset management activities such as risk management,

predictive modelling, planned maintenance and rehabilitation, asset valuation, work prioritisation, budget forecasting, recording spatial relationships and dataset integration.

The Director Assets and Operations has delegated authority to award this contract.

**Q22.1134 Design and Construct Footbridge Ash Wednesday Park**

This is a selective tender process for the design and construction of a footbridge to replace the existing footbridge over a drain in Ash Wednesday Park Macedon.

The Manager, Engineering and Resource Recovery has delegated authority to award this contract.

**C22.1138 Lighting Upgrade Lancefield Park**

This contract covers the upgrade of existing sports oval lighting infrastructure at Lancefield Park oval, with lighting levels meeting Australian standards suitable for AFL Amateur Level, Club Competition and Match Practice.

The CEO has delegated authority to award this contract.

**C22.1137 Sports Precinct Construction**

This contract is for the construction of stage 1 of the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct Project. These works include the construction of a three court basketball stadium and associated services, a car park and landscaping on the western side of the precinct. The eastern side of the precinct includes a new AFL/cricket oval, sports pavilion and function room, fitness track, playground, outdoor table tennis, half-court basketball, BBQ spaces, outdoor fitness equipment, a further car park and associated landscaping.

The contract exceeds the \$1 million financial delegation of the CEO.

**C22.1141 Supply Panel Traffic Management**

This is contract is for the appointment of a number of suppliers to a panel for the provision of traffic management services for the protection of traffic and pedestrians affected by the conduct of any works or events undertaken by or facilitated by Council.

This contract replaces the previous contract C18.939 which expired 30 June 2021.

The CEO has delegated authority to award this contract.

**Consultation and engagement**

The nature of this report does not require any consultation or community engagement.

**Collaboration**

The nature of this report does not require collaboration with other councils, governments or statutory bodies.

**Innovation and continuous improvement**

Council reviews its Procurement Policy regularly, in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*. These reviews consider options for innovation and are part of continuous improvement processes.



**Relevant Law**

The *Local Government Act 2020* provides for Council to delegate powers to staff, including the power to award contracts.

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

There are no regional, state or national plans and policies that are relevant to the subject matter of this report.

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

The awarding of contracts is undertaken in accordance with the provisions of Council's Procurement Policy.

**Financial viability**

Funds for all contracts to be awarded, as listed above, have been provided in the 2021/2022 operational and capital works budget and future annual budgets.

**Sustainability implications**

Council's Procurement Policy requires staff to procure goods, services and works from suppliers who actively employ sustainable practices in their operations.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>CX.3</b>	<b>DELEGATIONS FROM COUNCIL TO COUNCIL STAFF</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Kate Young, Manager Legal and Corporate Governance</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>S6 - Instrument of Delegation - Council to Staff - July 2021 (under separate cover) <a href="#">⇒</a></b>

### Summary

Council has a number of delegations in place to ensure efficient working of its operations, including delegations directly from Council to Council staff. These delegations are required to be reviewed within 12 months of a general election of Council (section 11(7) of the *Local Government Act 2020*).

### Recommendation

#### That Council:

- 1. Delegates the powers, duties and functions of Council to Council staff, as set out in the attached Instrument of Delegation, subject to the conditions and limitations specified in that instrument.**
- 2. Revokes all previous delegations from Council to Council staff, except the S5 Instrument of Delegation from Council to the CEO (28 July 2021) and the S18 Instrument of Sub-Delegation under the Environment Protection Act 2017 (28 July 2021).**

### Background

Delegations to Council staff are necessary for Council to conduct business efficiently by enabling Council staff to make routine decisions under different acts and regulations. Various acts and regulations, including the *Local Government Act 2020*, empower Council to delegate statutory functions, powers and duties. This report recommends that specific functions, powers and duties be delegated to identified staff positions in accordance with the attached "S6 – Instrument of Delegation by Council to Members of Council Staff". The recommended delegations to staff are in addition to the delegation from Council to the Chief Executive Officer.

### Discussion

Council currently has delegations from Council to Council staff in place but they must be reviewed within 12 months of a general election of Council (section 11(7) of the *Local Government Act 2020*). Like most local councils, Council subscribes to a delegation and authorisation service provided Maddocks Lawyers which provides template instruments of delegation for use by councils and bi-annual updates to those templates.

Maddocks released updates to the templates in January 2021 and July 2021. Officers from across Council have reviewed the amendments and have proposed revisions to the Instrument of Delegation from Council to council staff for adoption by Council. The revisions reflect legislative changes made since January 2021, but noting that Council already made changes in relation to the *Environment Protection Act 2017* at its meeting on 28 July 2021.

Changes:

- References to sections 36A, 36B, 38G(1), 38G(2) and 40F of the *Food Act 1984* have been inserted
- The reference to section 181H of the *Local Government Act 1989* has been removed because the section has been repealed. The repeal results in the Chief Executive Officer now having the ability to sub-delegate the power to enter into an environmental upgrade agreement and declare and levy an environmental upgrade charge to a member of Council staff
- References to section 24A of the *Road Management Act 2004* have been updated and references to VicRoads have been replaced by Head, Transport Victoria to reflect legislative change.

Delegations in the Instrument are to positions (such as Environmental Health Officer) so the instrument also reflects changes to role titles from the current Instrument.

### **Consultation and engagement**

Directors reviewed the revised Instrument of Delegation and provided advice in relation to the proposed amendments.

### **Collaboration**

Collaboration was not required in relation to this report.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

This is not an appropriate matter for innovation because delegations must reflect specific legal requirements.

### **Relevant law**

The proposal aims to ensure Council's powers, duties and functions under the LGA 2020 and other legislative provisions are appropriately delegated. The review must be completed within 12 months of the general election of Council (section 11(7) of the LGA 2020).

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

None

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

Delegation Framework, Policy and Procedure.

### **Financial viability**

None

### **Sustainability implications**

None

### **Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>CX.4</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REVIEW</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Cr Jennifer Anderson, Mayor</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

### Summary

This report relates to the first six month review of the performance of Mr Bernie O'Sullivan who commenced in the position of Chief Executive Officer on 10 May 2021.

### Recommendation

#### That Council:

1. **Notes the CEO's status update on the 100 day plan and confirm that this has been satisfactorily completed;**
2. **Notes the CEO Performance Appraisal Advisory Group's assessment following the first six month review of Bernie O'Sullivan's performance as Chief Executive Officer of Macedon Ranges Shire Council; and**
3. **Confirms the engagement of Bernie O'Sullivan as Chief Executive Officer of Macedon Ranges Shire Council, following the successful completion of the six month probationary period, in accordance with the terms outlined in the employment agreement dated 24 March 2021.**

---

### Background

Mr Bernie O'Sullivan commenced as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Macedon Ranges Shire Council on 10 May 2021.

Agreed key performance indicators (KPIs) were outlined in the employment agreement for the first twelve months of the CEO's engagement, to be assessed post 30 June 2022. However, in accordance with the standard employment process, a review has been undertaken of the CEO's performance within the first six month period of the employment agreement, conducted by the CEO Performance Appraisal Advisory Group.

The CEO Performance Appraisal Advisory Group consists of Councillor Jennifer Anderson, Councillor Annette Death and Councillor Rob Guthrie. The Advisory Group met on 7 September 2021, and then invited Mr O'Sullivan to join discussions on 14 September 2021 to discuss his progress against the set 100 day plan which was developed by the CEO upon commencement and shared and discussed with Councillors.

All Councillors were given the opportunity on 21 September 2021 to discuss and provide feedback regarding the CEO's self-assessment of his performance and the Advisory Groups's evaluation against the 100 day plan. Councillor Jennifer Anderson also met with the CEO on 22 September 2021 to provide feedback following the discussion of Councillors.

### Discussion

The CEO Performance Appraisal Advisory Group has reviewed and discussed the CEO's self-assessment on the progress undertaken against the 100 day action plan.

**Consultation and engagement**

In addition to the separate meeting of the CEO Performance Appraisal Advisory Group, the CEO was also invited to meet with the Advisory Group to discuss his self-assessment.

All Councillors were provided with the opportunity to provide feedback on the review process and evaluation, and Councillors met collectively as a group to discuss this, both with and without Mr O'Sullivan.

**Collaboration**

Councillors Anderson, Death and Guthrie were appointed as delegates of the CEO Performance Appraisal Advisory Group at the Scheduled Council Meeting on 25 November 2020.

**Innovation and continuous improvement**

Whilst the Mayor currently meets with the CEO on a weekly basis, the Councillors agree that it is good practice to also undertake regular reviews of the CEO's performance to ensure that the agreed KPIs are progressing in a timely manner. The review process also allows both the CEO and Councillors to highlight any opportunities or discuss any challenges for continuous improvement across Council's operations.

**Relevant law**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020.

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

Not applicable

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

Not applicable

**Financial viability**

Not applicable

**Sustainability implications**

Not applicable

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All those involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>CX.5</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT OF STANLEY PARK</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Kate Young, Manager Legal and Corporate Governance</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>2. Protect the natural environment 5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

### Summary

This report seeks a Council resolution to defer any decisions about the future management of Stanley Park to the December 2021 Council meeting. This will allow Councillors additional time to consider the feedback from the community and other matters relevant to the decision about future management.

### Recommendation

**That Council requests the Chief Executive Officer bring a report on the future management of Stanley Park to the December 2021 Scheduled Council Meeting.**

### Background

#### Overview of the reserve

Stanley Park is a native bushland reserve of approximately 6.5 hectares located at 15 Salisbury Road, Mount Macedon. The site contains a unique and ecologically significant grassland and good quality riparian and woodland native vegetation. Visitors are attracted to the reserve to view the site's waterfall, bushwalk through the site's natural landscape or picnic at the existing BBQ facilities.

The reserve's infrastructure is in moderate condition with some items needing attention to ensure visitor safety, protect the site's natural values and enhance the presentation of the reserve. This includes the waterfall viewing areas, the stairs and walking tracks and the site's interpretive signage. Rationalising the site's walking paths and car parking areas would also help reduce visitor impacts. Funds were allocated in the 2021/22 Council budget to review these items collectively as a part of preparation of an infrastructure masterplan for the site. The progression of this work will depend on the outcome of this governance review.

#### Governance history

Until 1 September 2020, there was a committee of management for Stanley Park, which was made up of members of the community. This committee conducted weed control and revegetation at the site in consultation with Council.

The Stanley Park Committee of Management was previously a 'Special Committee' under section 86 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. However, the introduction of the new *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA 2020) resulted in such committees no longer existing from 1 September 2020.

In light of the legislative change, Local Government Victoria applauded councils who were undertaking "significant reviews" of the committees that existed under section 86 of the LGA 2020 rather than automatically rolling those committees into community asset committees.

### Current management

Since 1 October 2020, the reserve has been managed under a Memorandum of Understanding between Council and the members of the former Committee of Management (for convenience referred to as the Interim Committee). This was put in place as an interim arrangement pending Council making a decision on the future management of Stanley Park.

### **Discussion**

Council received a report at its Scheduled Council Meeting on 28 July 2021 which detailed the history of Stanley Park and its management. At this meeting, Council endorsed community consultation on five options for the management of Stanley Park and resolved that the matter would return to Council at its September meeting to report on the outcomes of community consultation and provide a recommended option for ongoing management. Additional time was required for extensive community consultation.

Community consultation has now been completed in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. It included:

- A media release with the item covered in newspapers The Local (Daylesford) (short note) and the Midland Express (short note and an opinion piece by a member of the Interim Committee)
- Social media posts referring the community to Council's webpage
- Council's 'Have Your Say' webpage, including a survey
- A letter to the Interim Committee
- Letters to households surrounding the reserve
- Signs at the park
- Council's website

The community was given various options to provide its feedback including via the survey, by email, post and telephone. Council received a large volume of feedback, a number of which were very detailed.

Council has been carefully considering the community feedback and other matters relevant to the decision in relation to the future management of Stanley Park. To ensure that all matters can be fully considered, officers recommend that a decision on this matter be deferred until the December 2021 Scheduled Council Meeting.

### **Consultation and engagement**

As set out above.

### **Collaboration**

This is not relevant to this report.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

Council continues to consider the best approach for the future management of Stanley Park.

### **Relevant law**

A community asset committee, which is one of the options for future management, can be established by Council under section 63 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

There are none relevant to this report.

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

There are none relevant to this report.

**Financial viability**

This is not relevant to this report.

**Sustainability implications**

This is not relevant for this report.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.



**13 DIRECTOR CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY REPORTS**

<b>CC.1</b>	<b>AFFORDABLE HOUSING</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Fiona Alexander, Manager Community Care</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>1. Promote health and wellbeing 3. Improve the built environment 4. Enhance the social and economic environment 5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Draft Affordable Housing Interim Policy 2021-2023 (under separate cover) <a href="#">⇒</a></b>

**Summary**

Council is undertaking the development of a new Affordable Housing Interim Policy. Officers seek approval for the draft policy to be placed on public exhibition.

**Recommendation****That Council:**

- 1. Endorses the draft Affordable Housing Interim Policy 2021-2023 (the draft interim policy) for a public exhibition period of no less than 28 days.**
- 2. Notes that following consultation, the draft interim policy will be presented to a future Council meeting for adoption.**

**Background**

Affordable housing, as distinct from housing affordability or affordable living, specifically focusses on the housing needs of very low, low and moderate income households.

Announced by the Victorian Government in November 2020, Victoria's *Big Housing Build* will invest \$5.3 billion to increase the supply of social and affordable housing. Homes Victoria will deliver Victoria's *Big Housing Build*.

\$30 million has been identified as the minimum investment in the Macedon Ranges Shire.

Officers presented a report to the August 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council, at which time Council resolved:

*That Council directs the Chief Executive Officer to:*

- 1. Commence development of a high level Affordable Housing Policy for consideration at the October 2021 Council Meeting*
- 2. Engage with Homes Victoria about opportunities under Victoria's Big Housing Build*
- 3. Include affordable housing as a priority in the draft Council Plan 2021-2031*

This report relates to item three of the resolution.

**Discussion**

The draft interim policy has been developed as a first step to enable a broader range of work that will be required. The intent of this approach is to put affordable and social housing on

Council's agenda and to convey Council's intent to engage with the Victorian Government and our community on this important issue.

The draft interim policy proposes that Council's goal is:

*To increase the supply of appropriate affordable housing in the Macedon Ranges Shire through our role as advocate, decision maker, facilitator and investor.*

The draft interim policy is supported by background papers including:

- Affordable housing policy and legislation
- Overview of affordable housing
- Macedon Ranges affordable housing profile
- Our Action Plan. The action plan includes the development of a comprehensive affordable and social housing policy.

### **Consultation and engagement**

If the recommendation is carried, the draft Affordable Housing Interim Policy 2021-2023 will be placed on public exhibition for a period of not less than 28 days.

### **Collaboration**

Collaboration has not been required in relation to this report.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

Not applicable in relation to this report.

### **Relevant law**

The most relevant acts are:

- The *Local Government Act 2020*, which provides the legal framework in which Victorian councils operate. The Act controls the sale and leasing of council-owned land, procurement of goods and services by a council, the administration of public open space, and governance and probity requirements for councils.
- The *Housing Act 1983*, which has the broad objective of ensuring every person in Victoria has adequate and appropriate housing at a price within his or her means. The Housing Act, together with the Office of the Housing Registrar, provides the framework for the establishment, compliance and recognition of registered housing agencies.
- The *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, which provides a framework for the administration of the use and development of land, and includes objectives relevant to affordable housing supply.

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

The National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA) recognises the Commonwealth and the states' mutual interest in improving housing outcomes across the housing spectrum, including outcomes for Australians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Under the NHHA, around \$1.5 billion is provided to states and territories each year to improve Australians' access to secure and affordable housing, targeting social housing investment and provision of homelessness support services.

Homes for Victorians (2017) is the Victorian Government's current housing strategy. The Victorian government is developing a ten-year Social and Affordable Housing Strategy, due for release in late 2021.

The Victorian government is developing a ten-year Social and Affordable Housing Strategy, due for release in late 2021. Homes for Victorians (2017) is the State government's current Housing Strategy.

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

Neither federal nor state legislation sets out mandatory requirements for affordable housing. Instead federal, state and in some cases local policy is used to influence investment and decision making around supply.

Council does not have an affordable housing policy or strategy, however the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme promotes a range of housing options to improve housing affordability.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's 2007 Housing Strategy, which has not been revoked, includes reference to social housing. Council's role as a provider of social housing has changed significantly since this document was prepared.

**Financial viability**

The high level Affordable Housing Interim Policy 2021-2023 can be achieved within the adopted 2021/22 budget.

**Sustainability implications**

Not applicable in relation to this report.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>CC.2</b>	<b>ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Gina Lyons, Director Corporate and Community</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Annual Report 2021/21 (under separate cover) <a href="#">⇒</a></b>

### Summary

Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Annual Report 2020/21 has been prepared and submitted to the Victorian Government, in accordance with Section 131 of the Victorian *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act). Section 134 of the Act requires a Council to consider its annual report at a meeting of Council.

### Recommendation

#### That Council:

- 1. Receives the Annual Report 2020/21 and notes the audit opinions; and**
- 2. In accordance with Section 133 of the Victorian Local Government Act 1989, gives public notice that the Annual Report 2020/21 has been prepared and that it will be available on Council's website and at Council offices.**

---

### Background

Council's Annual Report 2020/21 reports on the fourth year of the Council Plan, and is the seventh Annual Report which has been structured under the Victorian Government's Local Government Performance Reporting Framework. It includes comparative data for previous years for each of the standardised performance indicators in the areas of service performance, financial performance and sustainability capacity. It also includes the audited Performance Statement and Financial Statements

### Discussion

The Annual Report highlights many of Council's achievements during the 2020/21 financial year which included:

- installation of outdoor fitness stations at Gisborne, Romsey, Woodend and Kyneton
- introduction of the new MRSC waste app
- the "Go Local First" awareness raising campaign to support local businesses
- completion of the design for the Macedon Ranges Sports Precinct project
- the Creative Encounters art and culture events
- engaging Taungurung and Wurundjeri Traditional Owner groups to undertake cultural heritage assessments of Black Hill, Bald Hill and Barringo Reserves

Capital expenditure included major works completed at a number of our facilities across the shire including:

- Gardiner Reserve new netball/umpires change rooms
- Woodend kindergarten renewal

- IR Robertson Reserve pavilion
- Kyneton Library upgrade works
- Swinburne Avenue Kindergarten refurbishment
- Transfer station eWaste buildings

Significant expenditure was also allocated to renewing and improving our roads and footpaths.

Council approved the 2020/21 Financial Statements and Performance Statement in principle at the Scheduled Council Meeting on 22 September 2021.

Since then, the Victorian Auditor-General has completed Council's audit and issued the "Independent Auditor's Report".

The Auditor-General has formed the opinion that the Statements were presented fairly and in accordance with the applicable Australian Accounting Standards and the requirements of the Act.

The statements and the associated audit opinions are included in the Annual Report.

### **Consultation and engagement**

There has been internal consultation on the Annual Report. The Audit and Risk Committee approved the Financial Statements and Performance Statements.

### **Collaboration**

Nil

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 131 of the Act. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with relevant Australian Accounting Standards and Financial Reporting Standards. The 2021/22 Annual Report will be prepared under the requirements of the Act.

### **Relevant law**

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with Section 131 of the Act. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

Nil

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

In order to ensure Council carries out its requirements in accordance with the Act, this report is provided to acquit those requirements. Delivering on the above requirement ensures that Council delivers on its priority of strong and reliable government.

### **Financial viability**

In terms of financial sustainability, the Financial Statements within the report indicate that the Council remains in a sound financial position.

**Sustainability implications**

Nil

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>CC.3</b>	<b>FUTURE OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Gina Lyons, Director Corporate and Community</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>1. Promote health and wellbeing</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

### Summary

This report provides an overview of the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee (HWBAC), including current membership, and provides options regarding the future of the HWBAC for consideration by Council.

### Recommendation

#### That Council:

1. **Dissolves the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee and its current membership;**
2. **Requests the Chief Executive Officer to write to those current members, inform them of the outcome above, thank them for their contributions to the Advisory Committee and advise them of Council's wish to involve them in future deliberative engagement processes on health and wellbeing topics;**
3. **Continues to engage with the community on health and wellbeing topics using deliberative engagement processes as outlined in Council's Community Engagement Policy.**

---

### Background

Macedon Ranges Shire Council resolved to establish the HWBAC on 25 June 2014, as a continuation of its commitment to an integrated approach to planning. The independent and diverse community-based committee's aim was to provide input and advice to Council on the many and varied activities it pursues to positively contribute to community health and wellbeing.

The HWBAC is a representative body of the Macedon Ranges Shire community. The committee's vision is to work with Macedon Ranges Shire Council to assist in the delivery of best practice health and wellbeing policy, programs and services.

The intended purpose of the HWBAC is to provide input to strategy and policy development work undertaken across Council in the context of its impact on the health and wellbeing of all residents and other stakeholders of the Macedon Ranges.

The current HWBAC Terms of Reference permits the committee to be represented by up to 14 members, including two youth ambassadors, plus three Councillors and nominated Council officers. The HWBAC is scheduled to meet approximately four times per year.

### Discussion

A report was presented to Council at its meeting of 25 November 2020, which outlined the challenges the HWBAC faced in terms of membership, and provided a report of an external

consultant, Renton and Co., in regards to the future operations of the HWBAC. This report sought that Council,

1. *Continue the Committee for a further 12 months with a targeted focus on priority health and wellbeing actions as outlined within this report.*
2. *Appoint the four expiring members who indicated an interest to continue on the Committee for an additional year through to 31 October 2021.*
3. *Adopt the updated attached Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.*
4. *Request the Chief Executive Officer to present a review of the effectiveness of the Committee over the next 12 months, to the October 2021 scheduled meeting of Council.*

Since this time, effort has been made to ensure a more targeted focus for the HWBAC and to address some of the advice provided by the consultants, Renton and Co. This has included adopting a forward planner for the committee, which detailed proposed topics for each of the four meetings scheduled until 21 July 2021. Fundamental to this was including two key items of committee influence, being Council’s Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan, which the committee recommended be removed from the Council Plan, and made into two standalone plans. In addition, meeting agendas were reformatted to include questions to encourage committee input and allow greater influence into decision-making processes.

Additionally, the creation of the Corporate Reporting Team in mid-2020 has allowed for more dedicated resourcing of staff for the HWBAC.

Meetings

The following four meetings have been held since November 2020, with the following topics discussed:

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
9 December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommendations following Council meeting 25 November 2020</li> <li>• Updated Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Local Government 101 session</li> <li>• Proposed objectives of HWBAC for next 12 months</li> <li>• Overview of Strategic Reporting and Planning Framework</li> <li>• Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (MPHWBP)</li> <li>• Disability Action Plan (DAP)</li> <li>• Macedon Ranges Sexual Health Working Group</li> <li>• Communication platform for Committee</li> <li>• Meeting schedule for 2021</li> </ul>
17 February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 Response Updated</li> <li>• Budget Vision and Financial Plan Update</li> <li>• Senior Housing Update</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Years Plan Consultation</li> <li>• Revised HWBAC Objectives for discussion</li> <li>• Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Project Plan</li> <li>• Disability Action Plan</li> </ul>
19 May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Speaker: Emma Shannon (CVPCP)</li> <li>• Guest Speaker: Phillip Ripper (Sunbury Cobaw Community Health)</li> <li>• Deliberative Engagement Outcomes</li> <li>• Disability Action Plan and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan</li> <li>• Young Parents Connection Group</li> <li>• Sex Smart Youth Working Group Update</li> <li>• Move It Program Update</li> <li>• Committee Skills Matrix</li> </ul>
21 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthier Masculinities Project Update</li> <li>• Gender Equality Action Plan Update</li> <li>• Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Project Plan and Disability Action Plan</li> <li>• Review of Committee's Effectiveness</li> </ul>

#### Membership and attendance at meeting

The HWBAC has continued to experience resignation of community members. It is worth noting, that the Terms of Reference state that members must attend at least 75% of meetings per year and all current community members' tenures are due to expire on 31 October 2022. Two of the remaining six members attended 75% of meetings in the last 12 months.

#### Effectiveness of the committee

A report was provided to the committee at its meeting on 21 July 2021, encouraging members to consider the current state and effectiveness of the HWBAC and provide feedback on the following possible options for its future:

- Continue the committee as is, prioritising the recruitment of new members and holding accountable attendance requirements.
- Replace regular committee meetings with committee inclusion in future deliberative engagement process, or schedule ad hoc committee meetings only as they are required.
- Recommend to Council that the committee dissolve.
- Provide an alternate suggestion for the committee moving forward.

There was a consensus amongst members that the committee was not performing to an optimum level and, for various reasons, there was a lack of engagement amongst members. The committee members present on the night expressed support for continuing their engagement with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council by other means, such as involvement

in deliberative engagement or community consultation processes, or as subject matter experts on groups where they are contributing to a dedicated piece of work for a finite period of time, rather than participation in the HWBAC in its current format.

It was acknowledged that should it be decided that the committee continue in its current format, recruitment of a larger and more diverse representation of the community would be required, as well as a change in the format whereby members felt they were actively working on policy projects, rather than reviewing and commenting on reports from Council officers.

### **Consultation and engagement**

At its July 2021 meeting, the future of the committee was an agenda item which was discussed.

Council staff have continued to provide support and topics for discussion by this committee.

This proposal would see future engagement with community members with knowledge and expertise using deliberative engagement methods as outlined in the Council's Community Engagement Policy.

### **Collaboration**

Council continues to collaborate with multiple community partnership and services.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

The use of deliberative engagement methods of consultation for future topics sees Council continuously seek new ideas for improvement.

### **Relevant law**

Council's health and wellbeing priorities are contained in the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025.

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

Nil

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

Council's health and wellbeing priorities are contained in the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021 – 2025.

### **Financial viability**

Nil

### **Sustainability implications**

Nil

### **Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>CC.4</b>	<b>COMMUNITY VISION AND COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2031</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Travis Harling, Manager Finance and Reporting</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>1. Community Vision 2021-2031 <a href="#">↓</a></b> <b>2. Council Plan 2021-2031 <a href="#">↓</a></b>

## Summary

The Community Vision and Council Plan form part of the Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework, as outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020* (LGA). The Community Vision captures what community members most value about their community. It sets out the future vision and aspirations for the community for at least a ten year period, while the Council Plan must provide the strategic direction of Council, its objectives, the strategies to achieve these objectives and strategic indicators for monitoring the achievements.

At the Submitters Committee Meeting on 13 October 2021, Council received 29 submissions (including late submissions), 2 verbal submissions were received. A summary of the submissions and an officer response have also been included in this report.

Therefore, the purpose of this report is to note a summary of the submissions received and to adopt the Community Vision and Council Plan.

## Recommendation

### That Council

- 1. Adopts the Community Vision 2021–2031 and the Council Plan 2021–2031, prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and gives public notice of its decision.**
- 2. Endorses the officer responses to submissions as contained in this report.**
- 3. Requests the Chief Executive Officer to write to all submitters, thanking them for their submission.**
- 4. Notes that the Council Plan 2021-2031 will supersede the Council Plan 2017-2027.**

---

## Background

The Local Government Act 2020 (LGA) introduced strategic planning principles for Victorian councils, which include an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting. The Council Plan forms part of the core legislated elements of the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework.

### Conduct and establishment of Community Vision Assembly

To ensure compliance with the Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework, as outlined in the LGA, the Community Vision and Council Plan have been developed utilising deliberative engagement processes in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. As noted by Council in a report presented on the 16 December 2021, a consultant had recommended a Jury (or People's Panel) as the best approach for Council to undertake deliberative engagement. This technique involves randomly selecting a group of people who

are broadly representative of the community who would come together over a considerable period of time to learn, reflect, debate and then arrive at consensus on particular issues.

Council engaged an independent consultant to undertake an expression of interest process to randomly select 20 – 30 participants to align with the demographic of the Macedon Ranges community, this representative sample included:

- An equal split of gender (and also be open to including non-binary)
- A mix of ages from 18 and up, this should take into consideration the population aged over 70 and ensure inclusion from this age group
- A mix of postcodes/location
- A mix of ratepayers, renters and business owners
- Inclusion of people whose first language is other than English
- Members who identify as parents/carers for children
- Members who identify with a disability and/or those caring for people with a disability.

A total of 28 individuals were invited to form part of the Community Vision Assembly. The following illustrates the membership of the assembly:



\*It should be noted one participant withdrew just prior to the induction night, and three participants withdrew during the course of the sessions for a variety of reasons. As a result, a core group of 24 participants completed the sessions.

The sessions of the Community Vision Assembly were facilitated by specialist deliberative engagement practitioners, i.e. community (independent from Council and its officers). The Assembly met on five occasions during March and April 2021, working together for a total of 22 hours to produce the Community Vision, and related themes and recommendations. The Assembly was provided with information from Council officers and community surveys during the process, as well as written answers to questions raised at each session.

Council's existing strategic priorities were used as the basis for framing the conversations that were held with the Community Vision Assembly, along with Council's 2017 – 2027 Council Plan. The Community Vision Assembly was not presented with the strategic objective "Deliver strong and reliable government" as this is an inherent requirement of a local council.

### Community Vision

The Community Vision is a requirement under Section 88 of the LGA whereby Council must develop, maintain and review a Community Vision with its municipal community, using deliberative engagement practices. The Vision must have an outlook of at least 10 years and describe the municipal community's aspirations for the future including social, economic, cultural and environmental aspirations for adoption by 31 October 2021.

The Community Vision was developed in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy.

The Community Vision Assembly created a community vision statement at the conclusion of the process, this statement was presented to Councillors who were present at the final workshop:

*"With our unique regional identity, Macedon Ranges Shire embodies a caring, resilient approach to community; through our robust local economy, protection of the natural environment and a collaborative commitment to inclusivity for all."*

The Citizens Assembly also developed themes, priorities and actions that supported the Community Vision for consideration by Council. The key themes were:

- Connecting communities - *A connected community is where people have access to the services they need and are empowered to contribute, creating a sense of belonging. Our community is diverse and has a range of needs. We need to ensure we are addressing all of them. We also need to bridge any gaps between Council actions and community expectations.*
- Healthy environment, healthy people - *The community prioritises the protection of the natural environment and recreational facilities. There is also strong community support for initiatives to minimise our shire's impact on the earth and its resources. Resilient communities and robust economies rely entirely on a healthy environment.*
- Business and tourism - *Business and tourism is about prioritising and promoting the people, resources, services and our regional identity to ensure economic growth. Economic development is crucial for the continued growth of the economy of the Macedon Ranges Shire.*

### Council Plan

The Council Plan is a requirement under Section 90 of the LGA, whereby Council must prepare and adopt a Council Plan for a period of at least the next four financial years after

a general election. The Plan must be adopted by 31 October in the year following a general election. The Plan must be developed using deliberative engagement and other consultation processes, and must provide:

- • The strategic direction of Council
- • Strategic objectives for achieving that direction
- • Strategies for achieving the objectives (for at least four years)
- • Strategic indicators for monitoring achievement
- • Description of initiatives and priorities for services, infrastructure and amenity

In preparing the Council Plan, Councillors agreed to incorporate the themes created by the Community Vision Assembly as the Strategic Objectives in the Council Plan. It was recognised that this would allow the two documents to interface more easily.



Councillors also indicated they wished to have a Council Plan that linked directly with all other plans that are currently being developed. On this basis this Council Plan is a 10 year plan for the period 2021–2031.

Officers commenced the process by incorporating a review of the strategic priorities and actions included in the 2017– 2027 Council Plan for relevance to remain in the Council Plan 2021 – 2031. Officers have added actions relating to the 2021/22 delivery of services that relate to each of the strategic priorities which ultimately ensures Council achieves the strategic objectives of the Council Plan.

The strategic objectives included in the Council Plan for 2021 – 2031 include:

*Connecting communities –*

We will maintain our built environment – including roads, paths, buildings, open space and other assets – in a fiscally, environmentally and socially sustainable way. This includes effective land-use planning, which has a direct impact on the liveability of our shire.

*Healthy environment, healthy people –*

We will contribute to positive health and wellbeing in our community by proactively supporting mental health, the prevention of violence against women, healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities, social connection and inclusion, volunteers, community safety, and arts and culture.

We will protect our natural environment through proactive environmental planning, advocacy and policy to address climate change, support biodiversity and enhance water catchment quality. The Macedon Ranges Shire declared a Climate emergency in 2021.

We will take action to reduce waste in order to protect public health and the environment.

*Business and tourism –*

We will foster economic vitality in a way that promotes positive individual and community health outcomes, including business diversity, housing, transport and employment options. Investment attracted to the shire will be consistent with Council's vision.

*Deliver strong and reliable government –*

We will demonstrate the qualities of good governance, including a clear vision and culture, transparency, respect, consistency, accountability and responsiveness.

The below image set outs the link between the Community Vision and aspects of the Council Plan:



At the Scheduled Council Meeting of 25 August 2021, Council resolved to:

1. Endorse the draft Community Vision 2021 – 2031 and the draft Council Plan 2021 – 2031 for the purpose of public display;
2. Undertake community engagement and consultation in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council's Community Engagement Policy;
3. Note that following hearing from submitters at a meeting of the Submitters Delegated Committee, a report and recommendations will be presented to a Scheduled Meeting of Council on 27 October 2021, to enable Council to consider the submissions and adopt the Community Vision 2021 – 2031 and Council Plan 2021 – 2031.

When Council adopts these documents it will rescind Council's current Plan, the Council Plan 2017 – 2027.

**Discussion**

Submissions

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council’s Community Engagement Policy, the draft Community Vision and Council Plan was released for public display on Thursday 26 August 2021, for a 28-day period.

A total of 29 submissions were received as part of the community consultation process which include the draft Community Vision 2021-2031, draft Council Plan 2021-2031 and draft Financial Plan 2021-2031. A list of these submissions and officers response is provided below:

	Community Vision		Council Plan	
	Summary	Officer response and recommendation	Summary	Officer response and recommendation
01	Led by community development	Noted.  <b>Officer Recommendation:</b>  No change.	Inclusion of additional action to support partnership with Goldfields Library Corporate (GLC), specifically assistance to deliver key messages and education to support sustainability.  Additional action to consider opportunities for low cost internet embed workspaces and meeting in future community/hub infrastructure developments to support micro business and remote working.	Comments noted and responsible Officers will continue to work with GLC staff in offering library services and assisting where possible to delivery GLC library plans across the Shire.  <b>Officer Recommendation:</b>  Officers recommend an action be included under connecting communities in relation to the GLC.
02	Suggest amendment to wording in relation to Connected Communities.  "Continue to Acknowledge Aboriginal People" be replaced with "Continue to deliver improved outcomes and recognition for our Aboriginal people".	Noted.  <b>Officer Recommendation:</b>  Officers in considering this recommendation have updated the wording in the Community Vision. Officers have also carried this wording through to the Council Plan for consistency.	Clear and concise document, supportive of focus on youth and supporting our young people.	Noted.  <b>Officer Recommendation:</b>  No change.
03	Submission did not provide feedback to this plan		Inaccuracy in regards to the way Live4Life is articulated and request for amendment.	Officers have reviewed the submission and agree with the request for amendments.  <b>Officer Recommendation:</b>  Officers agree with the changes submitted and recommend that changes be made, this is included in the summary of changes as detailed in this report.
04	Submission did not provide feedback to this plan		Support for strategic priorities of 1. Promote Health and Wellbeing and 2. Protect the Natural Environment.  Seek clarity on how the budget aligned to the strategic priorities.	Noted. The annual budget includes an allocation of funds and resources to undertake the annual actions incorporated under each Strategic Priority. The allocation of funds to roads each year is what is required to



			<p>Noted that Council will continue to focus support on road upgrades and resurfacing, above important community, health and environment projects such as storm water improvement to Five Mile Creek.</p>	<p>maintain the road network across the shire.</p> <p>The Council has recently endorsed a Macedon Ranges Waterway Strategy and the current plan identifies a range of ongoing programs for improvement and enhancement of waterways, including Five Mile Creek.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of reference to the Woodend and Romsey Five Mile Creek.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity</p>
05	Submission Withdrawn			
06	<p>Inclusion of emphasis on the importance of our environment to be recognised and emphasised. Request for support for Council to get involved and educate locals on how to do and maintained local native plant and animals in the region.</p>	<p>The work currently being undertaken is recognised. While the Environment may not have a separate theme within the Council Plan, working with the environment in a sustainable way to ensure acceptable land management practices remains a key action of Council.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>No change.</p>	<p>Inclusion of emphasis on the importance of our environment to be recognised and emphasised. Request for support for Council to get involved and educate locals on how to do and maintained local native plant and animals in the region.</p>	<p>The work currently being undertaken is recognised. While the Environment may not have a separate theme within the Council Plan, working with the environment in a sustainable way to ensure acceptable land management practices remains a key action of Council.</p> <p>Council has a number of programs and has a number of events and initiatives planned to assist the community understand native plants and fauna.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity</p>
07	<p>Support for process and development of Community Vision.</p> <p>Additional options to be included.</p> <p>Request for inclusion of dog park.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Council is currently preparing a new Open Space Strategy which will consider the strategic provision of dedicated dog parks in major towns.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>No change.</p>	<p>Request for inclusion of dog park</p>	<p>Council is currently preparing a new Open Space Strategy which will consider the strategic provision of dedicated dog parks in major towns.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>No change.</p>

<p>08</p>	<p>Disagree of process and selection method of assembly.</p> <p>Fails to recognise the protection of the natural environment, the importance of protecting heritage and the need to protect the rural nature of town in the Macedon Ranges.</p> <p>Include more to assist farmers in the region and ensure the rural conservation zones protect rural activities.</p>	<p>This process and selection method of the assembly was endorsed by Council. Further information on this process has been included in this report.</p> <p>Draft Vision includes a specific priority to protect the natural environment.</p> <p>There is also an existing range of programs that Council is already undertaking/and or highlighted in the Council Plan that reflects Council's commitment to the natural environment. Including assistance to landowners.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change.</p>	<p>Inclusion of conversation of farming land to rural conservation does not protect rural activities. Greater protection of farming uses.</p>	<p>There is an existing range of programs that Council is already undertaking/and or highlighted in the Council Plan that reflects Council's commitment to the natural environment. Including assistance to landowners.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of an action to Continue the healthy landscapes for healthy livestock project</p>
<p>09</p>	<p>Support for structure of document.</p> <p>Inclusion of rights of primary producers and Council's responsibility to deliver key principles.</p> <p>Climate change ignored in terms of KPI's and action</p> <p>Noted that the vision is based on a number of people which is not statistically significant.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This process and selection method of the assembly was endorsed by Council. Further information on this process has been included in this report.</p> <p>Council has declared a climate emergency and this is reflected in the draft Council Plan.</p> <p>An updated Environment Strategy is expected to be considered by Council in October 2021. When adopted this strategy will deliver a number of outcomes that support's Councils Declaration along with a number of other initiatives. This updated strategy will form part of Year 2 of the Council Plan. Whilst this Council Plan will ensure the continuation of the current Environment Strategy.</p> <p>There are a number of actions and initiatives included in the Council Plan that support Council in responding to its Declaration of Climate Emergency.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change.</p>	<p>Fundamentally flawed when it uses as its guide the Community Vision.</p> <p>Does not deliver on how it will protect the region.</p> <p>Does not deliver on a structured approach to climate change, fires and floods and its role in also safeguarding primary production in the region, water restoration.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Council has declared a climate emergency and this is reflected in the draft Council Plan.</p> <p>An updated Environment Strategy is expected to be considered by Council in October 2021. When adopted this strategy will deliver a number of outcomes that support's Councils Declaration along with a number of other initiatives. This updated strategy will form part of Year 2 of the Council Plan. Whilst this Council Plan will ensure the continuation of the current Environment Strategy.</p> <p>There are a number of actions and initiatives included in the Council Plan that support Council in responding to its Declaration of Climate Emergency.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Additional action included in Council Plan to references Council's Environment Strategy and action to adopt a new Environment Strategy by October 2021. These documents provide a number of initiatives that support Council's Declaration of Climate Emergency</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>No new ideas or innovation on Community Vision.</p> <p>No mention of caring for natural environment.</p> <p>Concerned for Community Vision Assembly not being voted representatives or declare person information.</p>	<p>This process and selection method of the assembly was endorsed by Council. Further information on this process has been included in this report.</p> <p>Council has declared a climate emergency and this is reflected in the draft Council Plan.</p> <p>Council has an adopted Environment Strategy and Biodiversity strategy that outlines Council's commitment for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>Submission did not provide feedback to this plan</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Process fundamentally flawed with independent members, Community Vision appears to steam roll previous commitments.</p> <p>Fails to recognise the environmental importance and significance of the critical role our community-hub towns and priceless heritage play in the Shires liveability and identity.</p> <p>Request for inclusion of additional theme of protecting of our natural and built environment.</p> <p>Noted recent survey results highlighting Council's repeated failures across all fields of responsibility and deliverance.</p>	<p>This process and selection method of the assembly was endorsed by Council. Further information on this process has been included in this report.</p> <p>The current Vision and Council Plan are structured to ensure the continued liveability within the Shire and protection of natural environment.</p> <p>Refer to Submission No. 10</p> <p>Noted. A report was presented to Council at its September Meeting which noted the Community Satisfaction Survey results.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>Submission did not provide feedback to this plan</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Submission did not provide feedback to this plan</p>	<p>Concerns for Council's expectation to comprehend and scope the complexity of matters, hence decision to employ extra staff is wasteful.</p> <p>Council involvement is uncoordinated.</p>	<p>Noted. A requirement of the Local Government Act 2020 is to complete a Workforce Plan, this information will inform staffing levels. This document is required to be adopted by 31 December 2021.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p>

			Reference to the completion and implementation of the Workforce Plan to be made.
13	Submission did not provide feedback to this plan	<p>The current council plan (2017-2027) has a full objective of “Protect the Natural Environment” this needs to be included in the new one. The draft strategic objective 2 Healthy environment, healthy people has virtually no relevance to protecting the natural environment, and concentrates only on the “healthy people” component.</p> <p>Noted concern in regards to closed deliberative consultation.</p>	<p>Noted. No change for 2021/22 Councillors supported the approach of aligning the Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan with the themes of the Community Vision.</p> <p>Process for deliberative engagement process was provided to Council for endorsement and was consistent with Council’s Engagement Policy.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity</p>
14	<p>Support that it was produced by a citizen assembly process.</p> <p>Request for more emphasis on environmental protection and that it isn’t lumped in with recreation.</p> <p>Disappointed economy trumps environment. A healthy environment is a prerequisite for a healthy economy and social wellbeing.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>No change for 2021/22 Councillors supported the approach of aligning the Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan with the themes of the Community Vision.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>Request for the environment objectives to be moved up the list and include additional objectives.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Biodiversity actions included in the current plan waterway restoration works and Stanley Park initiative.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>The environment actions have be reordered.</p>
15	<p>Request for inclusion of environment being its own theme.</p> <p>No protection of natural environment, business and tourism is destructive to the natural environment.</p>	<p>No change for 2021/22 Councillors supported the approach of aligning the Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan with the themes of the Community Vision.</p> <p>The inclusion of business and tourism section highlights support for those that are aligned to the vision which includes protecting the natural environment</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that</p>	Submission did not provide feedback to this plan

		support and enhance our environment.	
16	Submission did not provide feedback to this plan	<p>Request focus on 'young adults' and mental health for youth.</p> <p>Request inclusion of action to build "Youth Playground" to challenge, amuse and promote fitness with young people.</p>	<p>Noted. A project of this nature would require a budget allocation. Officers could certainly engage with the submitter to undertake initial concept design which would allow for consultation to gauge levels of interest.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change.</p>
17	Submission did not provide feedback to this plan	<p>Disappointed removal of Protect the Natural Environment. Request for inclusion as per previous plan.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> Additional action included in Council Plan to references Council's Environment Strategy and action to adopt a new Environment Strategy.</p> <p>Council plan also includes a range of priorities that will support the protection and enhancement of the Shire's natural environment.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity</p>

<p>18</p>	<p>Submission did not provide feedback to this plan</p>	<p>Support for inclusion of difficulties experienced by the community during COVID-19 with an emphasis on mental health and connectivity.</p> <p>Greater emphasis on biodiversity and saving intact grassland and woodlands i.e. Barrm Birrms. Private blocks to be acquired for Trust for Nature or similar funding body.</p> <p>Environment seems to have been taken for granted when it should be centre stage.</p> <p>Also request for inclusion of traffic management for Riddells Creek prior to further proposed development.</p>	<p>Mental health and connectivity comments noted.</p> <p>Officers are currently undertaking work to have land relating to Barrm Birrm gifted back to Council. In the past 6 months a total of 10 owners have shown interest in gifting back blocks. Work will continue in this area.</p> <p>The Environment remains as high a priority as ever, the Plan does not allocate the Environment a separate a strategic objective, it has been incorporated with healthy people to align with the Community Vision.</p> <p>Planning for future development areas in Riddells Creek are required to understand the impact of the development on the movement network.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>Reject Community Vision as it is not the voice of all community.</p> <p>Please control development across the shire in a manner that does not impact overly on our rural/peri urban lifestyle, petition the State Government to formulate a bypass to prohibit heavy haulage passage through a village with a topography that is unsuitable. Protect the Macedon Ranges in line with our “Distinctive Areas and Landscapes legislation, and the Statement of Planning policy for future generations.</p>	<p>This process and selection method of the assembly was endorsed by Council. Further information on this process has been included in this report.</p> <p>Council is required to keep its planning scheme up to date. Council understands that the planning scheme is complex and officers are investigating new approaches to the way we communicate planning projects. Officers are always available to discuss these projects with members of the community as required.</p> <p>The Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy and the declaration of the Macedon Ranges Shire as a Distinctive Area and Landscape was one of the multitude of legislative and policy frameworks that informed the development of the Council Vision. It does not need to be specifically identified in the vision itself</p>	<p>Submission did not provide feedback to this plan</p>

		<p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p> <p>Officers note the comments in regards to concerns for heavy haulage vehicles within townships,</p>	
20	<p>The draft community “vision” offers no vision of protecting and preserving what is most valuable in this shire. The draft community “vision” has no awareness that its “vision” of economic and population growth will inexorably destroy what is most valued by most residents of the shire.</p>	<p>Council endorsed the deliberative engagement at its Council Meeting in December 2020. Further this process was conducted in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Policy and is detailed in this report. The vision was prepared by the Community Assembly.</p> <p>The Community Vision does include protecting the natural environment and strategic actions about protecting the natural environment are located under the heading protecting the natural environment and enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change.</p>	<p>Submission did not provide feedback to this plan</p>
21	<p>Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners is good but we must do much more to improve relationships and share knowledge and expertise</p> <p>Information gathering should be all age groups (not just elderly)</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> Officers in considering this recommendation have updated the wording in the Community Vision. Officers have also carried this wording through to the Council Plan for consistency.</p>	<p>Council Plan is lacking information about planning for a Climate Emergency. Needs specific action plan for each topic about the Climate Change and Councils plans to deliver. Inclusion of a Definition of Climate Emergency would be good. Building regulations will Council change now insisting on good ventilation in all buildings to reduce build-up of carbon dioxide.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Council has declared a climate emergency and this is reflected in the draft Council Plan.</p> <p>An updated Environment Strategy is expected to be considered by Council in October 2021. When adopted this strategy will deliver a number of outcomes that support’s Councils Declaration along with a number of other initiatives. This updated strategy will form part of Year 2 of the Council Plan. Whilst this Council Plan will ensure the continuation of the current Environment Strategy.</p> <p>There are a number of actions and initiatives included in the Council Plan that support Council in responding to its Declaration of Climate Emergency.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> Additional action included in Council Plan to references</p>

				<p>Council's Environment Strategy and action to adopt a new Environment Strategy. These documents provide a number of initiatives that support Council's Declaration of Climate Emergency</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p>
22	<p>Document fails to reflect the intent and purpose of the Macedon Ranges Distinctive Area and Landscape legislation, planning policy and many of the environmental policies.</p> <p>Request for inclusion of natural environment.</p>	<p>Council endorsed the deliberative engagement at its Council Meeting in December 2020. Further this process was conducted in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy as detailed in this report. The vision was prepared by the Community Assembly.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>Document fails to reflect the intent and purpose of the Macedon Ranges Distinctive Area and Landscape legislation, planning policy and many of the environmental policies.</p> <p>Request for inclusion of natural environment.</p>	<p>Council has an adopted Environment Strategy and Biodiversity strategy that outlines Council's commitment for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> Additional action included in Council Plan to references Council's Environment Strategy and action to adopt a new Environment Strategy. These documents provide a number of initiatives that support and enhance our environment.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p>
23	<p>Council Plan does not acknowledge that there is no other way forward with climate change,</p> <p>Inclusion of further theme to confirm support of MRSC Climate Emergency declaration.</p>	<p>Council has an adopted Environment Strategy and Biodiversity strategy that outlines Council's commitment for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>The MRSC needs to explain its governance role so that the community can better understand how local government responds to community expectations. So structure a section of the draft Council Plan into Understand the Context and then Community Engagement.</p>	<p>Council is governed by the Local Government Act 1989 and the more recent Local Government Act 2020. There are many services offered by Council that fall under other Acts and legislation.</p> <p>Council recently adopted a Community Engagement Policy under the Local Government Act 2020 which requires Council to engage with the community. This provides opportunities for the community to provide feedback and input into policy into decisions that impact community expectations.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change</p>
24	<p>Concerns for deliberative engagement process.</p> <p>Failure to recognise distinctive area and landscape.</p> <p>Concern with reduction of 3 themes from 4.</p>	<p>Council endorsed the deliberative engagement process at its Council Meeting in December 2020. Further this process was conducted in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy as detailed in this report.</p>	<p>Concern with reduction of 3 themes from 4.</p> <p>Request for document to be restructured to easier to use.</p> <p>Request to address agriculture.</p>	<p>The Council Plan has been informed by the Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers note feedback provided in regards to structure and will consider for future years Council plan.</p>



	<p>Request for document to be restructured to easier to use</p> <p>Amend wording to community vision theme statement.</p> <p>Amend wording to themes.</p>	<p>The vision was prepared by the Community Assembly.</p> <p>No change for 2021/22 Councillors supported the approach of aligning the Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan with the themes of the Community Vision.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>Additional performance measures to be requested.</p> <p>Requested to include initiatives theme relating to a community “plant it back” revegetation program.</p> <p>More logical ordering of issues and themes.</p> <p>Amendment to a number of actions.</p> <p>Add additional key performance indicator and outcome measure for the implementation of Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy (SoPP).</p>	<p>Council does not currently offer a plant it back program. It is something that may be considered as part of a future review of Councils Biodiversity Strategy. Some local Landcare Groups offer reduced rate native plants through Tree Project (Woodend, Newham, Malmesbury).</p> <p>The MR SoPP includes requirements around monitoring and review and specifically talks about continuous improvement. The Statement of Planning Policy does not include any KPI’s and these have not been identified as part of the implementation of the SoPP at this time.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> Additional action included in Council Plan to references Council’s Environment Strategy and action to adopt a new Environment Strategy. These documents provide a number of initiatives that support and enhance our environment.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p> <p>Officers have recommended a number of amendments to actions, these are detailed in the below summary of changes.</p>
25	<p>The draft Council Vision and Council Plan fails to recognise the Shire’s environmental importance and significance or the critical role our community-hub towns and priceless heritage play in the Shire’s liveability and identity. Please add an additional ‘theme’ of protecting our natural and built environments to ensure Council’s direction is representative of most residents’ values as shared in 2017 community consultation and also reflects its legislative responsibilities.</p>	<p>This is a process as defined by the Local Government Act 2020. Council endorsed the deliberative engagement process at its Council Meeting in December 2020. Further this process was conducted in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Policy.</p> <p>The vision was prepared by the Community Assembly.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>The draft Council Vision and Council Plan fails to recognise the Shire’s environmental importance and significance or the critical role our community-hub towns and priceless heritage play in the Shire’s liveability and identity. Please add an additional ‘theme’ of protecting our natural and built environments to ensure Council’s direction is representative of most residents’ values as shared in 2017 community consultation and also reflects its legislative responsibilities.</p>	<p>Council has an adopted Environment Strategy and Biodiversity strategy that outlines Council’s commitment for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> Additional action included in Council Plan to references Council’s Environment Strategy and action to adopt a new Environment Strategy. These documents provide a number of initiatives that support and enhance our environment.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p>
26	<p>Support for submission number 24.</p>	<p>Refer to response to Submission 24.</p>	<p>Support for submission number 24.</p>	<p>Refer to response to Submission 24.</p>

	<p>Dismayed that the Distinctive Landscapes Statement of Planning vision and priorities of protection of landscape environment biodiversity and agriculture had not been represented or visibly reflected, anchoring and aligning both documents to the States vision.</p>	<p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>Dismayed that the Distinctive Landscapes Statement of Planning vision and priorities of protection of landscape environment biodiversity and agriculture had not been represented or visibly reflected, anchoring and aligning both documents to the States vision.</p>	<p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change.</p> <p>Council Plan is consistent with the MR SoPP and ensures the shire's landscapes, environment and waterways are protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p>
27	<p>Support that document exists.</p> <p>It says healthy environment but does not follow through with action, the words are empty without action</p>	<p>Council endorsed the deliberative engagement process at its Council Meeting in December 2020. Further this process was conducted in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy as outlined in this report.</p> <p>The vision was prepared by the Community Assembly.</p> <p>Council Vision is supported by a series of priorities and actions outlined in the Council Plan</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>Missed opportunity for recognising the Shire's environmental importance and significance.</p>	<p>Council has an adopted Environment Strategy and Biodiversity strategy that outlines Council's commitment for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Additional action included in Council Plan to references Council's Environment Strategy and action to adopt a new Environment Strategy. These documents provide a number of initiatives that support and enhance our environment.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p>
28	<p>Submission did not provide feedback to this plan.</p>		<p>Concern for watering down of commitment to the protection of natural environment in Strategic environment 2.</p> <p>Delivery of an entry garden at the Gisborne Botanic Gardens is not a recommendation in the Master Plan of the Gisborne Botanic Garden, suggest that Master Plan priorities are being overridden by staff-driven priorities and process.</p>	<p>Council has an adopted Environment Strategy and Biodiversity strategy that outlines Council's commitment for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p>Officers have reviewed the Master Plan and have identified that this action is consistent within the Master Plan.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Additional action included in Council Plan to references Council's Environment Strategy and action to adopt a new Environment Strategy. These documents provide a number of initiatives that support and enhance our environment.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p>

			<p>No change for entry garden works.</p>	
<p>29</p>	<p>Council Vision does not represent views, specifically valued rural environment.</p> <p>Request for inclusion of State Distinctive Areas legislation.</p>	<p>Council endorsed the deliberative engagement process at its Council Meeting in December 2020. Further this process was conducted in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy as outlined in this report.</p> <p>The vision was prepared by the Community Assembly.</p> <p>The Macedon Ranges Statement of Planning Policy and the declaration of the Macedon Ranges Shire as a Distinctive Area and Landscape was one of the multitude of legislative and policy frameworks that informed the development of the Council Vision. It does not need to be specifically identified in the vision itself.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b> No change to Community Vision.</p> <p>Officers have recommended the inclusion of additional actions to the Council Plan that support and enhance our environment.</p>	<p>Request for prioritisation of natural environment with the distinctive area legislation and statement of planning policy.</p>	<p>Council has an adopted Environment Strategy and Biodiversity strategy that outlines Council's commitment for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p> <p><b>Officer Recommendation:</b></p> <p>Additional action included in Council Plan to references Council's Environment Strategy and action to adopt a new Environment Strategy. These documents provide a number of initiatives that support and enhance our environment.</p> <p>Officers recommend the inclusion of a priority under Strategic Objective 2 – Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</p>

Summary of changes

Officers have considered the community feedback and have made the following changes:

Document	Area	Change
<b>Community Vision</b>	Theme 1 Focus Area	Reference to First Nations People updated
	Theme 2: Focus Area	Clearer reference to Single Use Plastics action
<b>Council Plan</b>	<b>Strategic Objective – Connecting communities</b>	Inclusion of - We will provide support for volunteers, community groups and organisations in recognition of their work in contributing to social connections.
	<b>Strategic Objective – Healthy environment, healthy people</b>	Removal of reference to volunteers
	<b>Strategic Priorities – Connecting communities</b>	Inclusion of priority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target community needs through development programs and grants</li> </ul> Moved from Healthy environment, healthy people <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to deliver improved outcomes for and recognition of our First Nations People (Updated)</li> <li>• Promote a more inclusive community by supporting community groups and vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for affordable and social housing in the shire</li> </ul>
	<b>Strategic Priorities – Healthy environment, healthy people</b>	Inclusion of priority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity.</li> <li>• Reordered strategic priorities to include healthy environment priorities followed by healthy people priorities</li> </ul>
	<b>Four-year strategic priorities – Connecting communities - Improve connectivity and movement, and provide transport choices to the community, including walking trails and bike paths</b>	Inclusion of action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the delivery of the Macedon Ranges Shared Trails project</li> </ul>
	<b>Four-year strategic priorities – Connecting communities</b>  Target community needs through development programs and grants	Inclusion of actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage and consult with the community, groups and organisations to better understand community needs and program design</li> <li>• Promote community centres and their programs</li> <li>• Continue Council's grants programs</li> <li>• Build connections between volunteers and volunteer organisations</li> <li>• Promote the library programs of the Goldfields Library Corporation to engage the community</li> <li>• Review Council's role in supporting playgroups and toy libraries, and develop opportunities to strengthen the connections between users of early years and maternal and child health programs</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore the development of a youth projects funding program to support young people applying to Council for community funding</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities – Connecting communities</b></p> <p>Continue to deliver improved outcomes for and recognition of our First Nations People</p>	<p>Inclusion of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>Develop and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training strategy that is integrated into Council’s Learning and Development Strategy</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities – Connecting communities</b></p> <p>Promote a more inclusive community by supporting community groups and vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Inclusion of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide referral services through our Neighbourhood House programs and increase funding for 2021/22</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities – Connecting communities</b></p> <p>Explore opportunities for affordable and social housing in the shire</p>	<p>Inclusion of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare a social and affordable housing policy</li> <li>Work with the Victorian Government to increase supply of affordable housing, including social housing, in the shire</li> <li>Commit to participating in the development and, where relevant, the implementation of the Loddon Mallee Regional Housing Action Plan</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities – Healthy environment, healthy people</b></p> <p>Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity</p>	<p>Inclusion of actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress action items in the biodiversity strategy</li> <li>Continue the healthy landscapes for healthy livestock project</li> </ul> <p>Re allocated actions from other strategic priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the review of the Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan and commence implementation of priority actions</li> <li>Finalise the Roadside Conservation Management Plan that aims to enhance the conservation value of Council-managed roadsides, while mitigating fire risk and maintaining road safety</li> <li>Protect, preserve and enhance bushland and biodiversity</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities – Healthy environment, healthy people</b></p> <p>Lessen the severity of climate change through actions that enable Council and the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>Inclusion of action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and adopt Council’s Environment Strategy</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities – Healthy environment, healthy people</b></p> <p>Improve the management of water, including flooding risk, water quality of creeks and waterways, and the efficient use of water</p>	<p>Inclusion of action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completing the master plan of the Woodend Five Mile Creek, and continued delivery on the implementation of the Romsey Five Mile Creek Master Plan</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities –</b> Healthy environment, healthy people</p> <p>Encourage active and healthy lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities</p>	<p>Reword the actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–2025</li> <li>• Adopt the Disability Action Plan 2021–2025</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities –</b> Healthy environment, healthy people</p> <p>Assist to improve mental wellbeing within the community</p>	<p>Reword the actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to increase community awareness and resilience in relation to mental health through initiatives such as Live4Life</li> <li>• Support and promote mental health by continued training of mental health first aid sessions through Live4Life and the Older Person Mental Health First Aid course</li> <li>• Continue delivering Live4life in secondary schools and the wider community across the shire</li> <li>• Develop and deliver a primary school-based mental health and wellbeing model for grade 5 and 6 students across the shire</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities –</b> Business and tourism</p> <p>Encourage economic vitality (including tourism, agribusiness, buy local and local employment options)</p>	<p>Removal from action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• and consider implementation into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Four-year strategic priorities –</b> Deliver strong and reliable government</p> <p>Enhance strategy, policy and plan development, and identify alignment to allow for prioritisation of services that are efficient, well planned, accessible and meet community needs</p>	<p>Include the action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and adopt a Workforce Plan to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020</li> </ul>
	<p><b>How we will measure success –</b> Connecting communities</p>	<p>Moved from Healthy environment, healthy people 3 outcome measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender Equality Action Plan to be adopted by Council</li> <li>• Event is hosted and the Rainbow Flag is raised in recognition of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia</li> <li>• Host event to celebrate and acknowledge the Reconciliation Action Plan</li> </ul>

Future reporting on the Council Plan

A number of Strategic indicators have been developed to report on the success of delivering the annual actions of the Council Plan. The reporting of the strategic indicators will be undertaken within the following reports.

- Quarterly reports, Annual Report and performance statements, which are published on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website.

- Council's performance against the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is published annually on the 'Know Your Council' Victorian Government website.

In accordance with the LGA, the Mayor will also be required to ensure that Council reports, at least once a year, report on the implementation of this Council Plan.

### **Consultation and engagement**

The draft Community Vision 2021 – 2031 and draft Council Plan 2021 – 2031 were placed on public display and submissions were received from the public. An opportunity was provided to those who made a submission to the draft documents in accordance with Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to be heard at a Submitters Committee.

The draft Community Vision 2021 – 2031 and draft Council Plan 2021 – 2031 have been prepared under the requirements of the LGA and have been prepared via deliberative engagement method as outlined in Council's Community Engagement Policy.

In addition, Council undertook public consultation on a broader level at the beginning of this process with regard to the Community Vision aspirations and Strategic Objectives.

### **Collaboration**

No collaboration was required with other councils, government and/or statutory bodies.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

Section 88(4) and 90(3) of the LGA requires councils to develop or review the Community Vision and Council Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Plans by 31 October in the year following a general election. The Community Vision and Council Plan has effect from 1 July in the year following a general election.

### **Relevant law**

This report has been prepared in accordance the LGA and is compliant with the requirements. These two plans must be provided to the Minister for Local Government by 31 October 2021.

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework (ISPRF).

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

These plans when adopted will have effect from 1 July 2021 and the new Council Plan will replace Council's current Council Plan 2017 – 2027.

### **Financial viability**

These documents support Council's long-term financial resourcing requirements.

### **Sustainability implications**

Nil

### **Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

# Community Vision 2021–2031







*Bunji's nest, Reconciliation Week*

## Acknowledgement of Country

Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways. Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pays respect to their Elders past and present.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

*Front cover: Two people on Hanging Rock walk*

## A message from the Mayor



*Mayor Jennifer Anderson*

With the introduction of the **Local Government Act 2020** came the requirement for Councils to have a long-term community vision. Developing a community vision is a practical way of involving the community in long-term strategic planning that informs other Council strategies and plans, in order to respond to continuing changes both within our shire and at a state, federal and global level.

A critical element in the development of the vision was the formation of a Community Vision Assembly. This was done via multimedia promotion to email an Expression of Interest invitation, followed by phone recruitment, with 28 members representing the broad demographics of the community, randomly selected by an independent consultant.

The work of the Community Vision Assembly was challenging, as they heard what members of the broader community had told Council, analysed and understood information and data presented by Council officers, and then collectively developed a long-term vision and focus areas to meet the future needs and aspirations of our shire.

The Community Vision Assembly was responsible for the creation of the Macedon Ranges Shire Community Vision 2021–2031, which aims to reflect the hopes and aspirations of the whole community for what life could look like in the shire in 2031, and guides planning for the future of our shire and for the entire community.

All Councillors were invited to attend the conclusion of the final Assembly session to see the unveiling of the Community Vision and chat to members about their deliberations.

I would like to thank all the residents who registered to be part of the Assembly and particularly those who were appointed and gave so much of their valuable time to be part of this new process. I congratulate them for developing the Macedon Ranges Shire Community Vision 2021–2031, which will serve as the heart of all future work that Council and the community undertake together within the shire.

Thank you to everyone who viewed the draft Community Vision and provided feedback.

Council looks forward to using the Community Vision as the basis for ongoing Council Plan action items and each year's annual budget process.

**Mayor Jennifer Anderson**

## A message from the CEO



*CEO Bernie O'Sullivan*

The Macedon Ranges Shire Community Vision 2021–2031 provides Council with a solid foundation for future planning and resource allocation, to ensure a bright future for all.

Officers have had the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session with the Assembly during their deliberations, and regularly provided information to guide their process. It was excellent that staff, in conjunction with Councillors, were able to attend the final Assembly session to see the unveiling of the Community Vision and chat with members.

I thank the Community Vision Assembly for their enthusiasm, commitment, creativity and hard work over the six-week period, culminating in the production of this Community Vision for the entire Macedon Ranges Shire community.

Through the development of our Council Plan every four years, we will work towards achieving the Macedon Ranges Shire Community Vision 2021–2031.

**CEO Bernie O'Sullivan**



*Mechanics Institute, High Street Lancefield*

## Community Vision statement

**With our unique regional identity, Macedon Ranges Shire embodies a caring, resilient approach to community through our robust local economy, protection of the natural environment and a collaborative commitment to inclusivity for all.**

### Theme 1. Connecting communities

A connected community is where people have access to the services they need and are empowered to contribute, creating a sense of belonging.

### Theme 2. Healthy environment, healthy people

The community prioritises the protection of the natural environment and recreational facilities.

### Theme 3. Business and tourism

Business and tourism is about prioritising and promoting the people, resources, services and our regional identity to ensure economic growth.

# The Community Vision Assembly

The recruitment for the Assembly members was conducted by an independent consultant, Deliberately Engaging Pty Ltd, to ensure the selection of participants was made independently of Council.

Commencing on 5 February 2021, an Expression of Interest invitation was emailed to 2,516 email addresses registered with Council and posted to Council social media channels. A market research company also conducted random phone recruitment.

Nearly 320 expressions of interest were received. A range of demographic data, being age, gender, house tenure, education and location were applied to stratify the sample, and other characteristics such as LGBTIQ+, disability and cultural diversity were also applied to proportionally match community representation.

This resulted in the recruitment of 28 participants who were representative of the broader demographics of Macedon Ranges Shire.

One participant withdrew just prior to the induction night, and three participants withdrew during the course of the sessions for a variety of reasons. As a result, a core group of 24 participants completed the sessions.

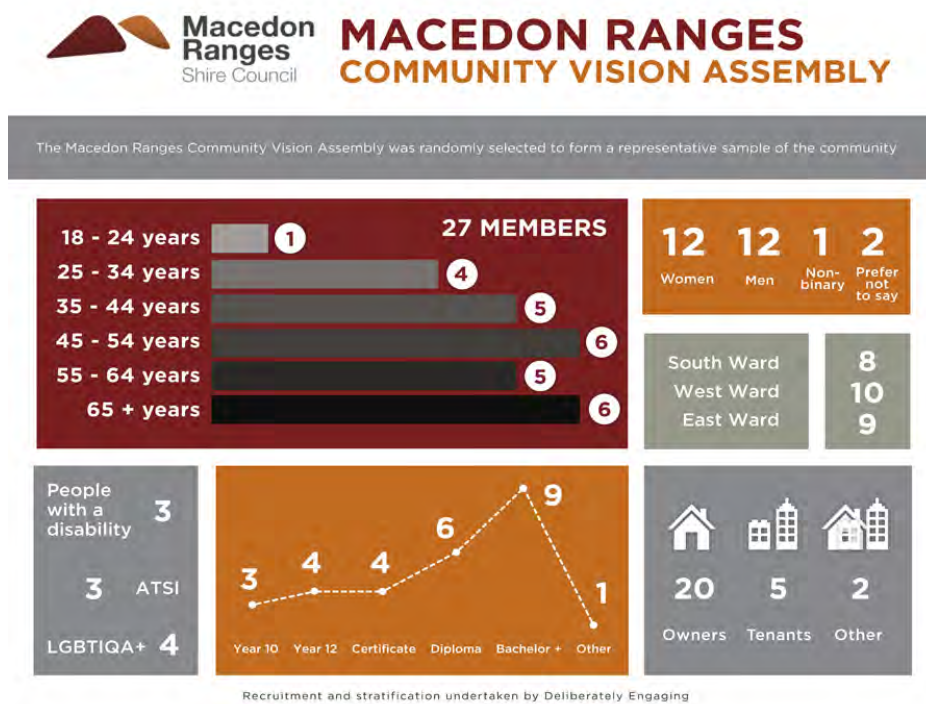
Details of the demographic structure of participants were provided to Council on the day before the panel induction session. This ensured that Council could not influence the final group selected, beyond the requested demographic representation.

Facilitated by specialist deliberative engagement practitioners, i.e. community, the Assembly met on five occasions during March and April 2021, working together for a total of 22 hours to produce the Community Vision and related themes and recommendations. The Assembly was provided with information from Council officers and community surveys during the process, as well as written answers to questions raised at each session.

Council is committed to using the work produced by the Community Vision Assembly to inform our strategies and plans for the future of the Macedon Ranges Shire. Council is also committed to delivering the intent of the Local Government Act and Council's engagement policy, to strengthen the relationship with the community.

The Community Vision was the first element created in the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework. The Council Plan was then developed to outline the agenda for Council over the next four years and this supports the achievement of the Community Vision through strategic objectives and strategies.

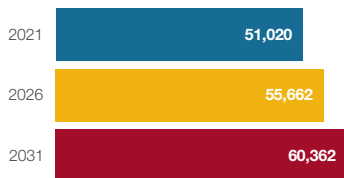
Figure 1. Community Vision demographics



# Our shire

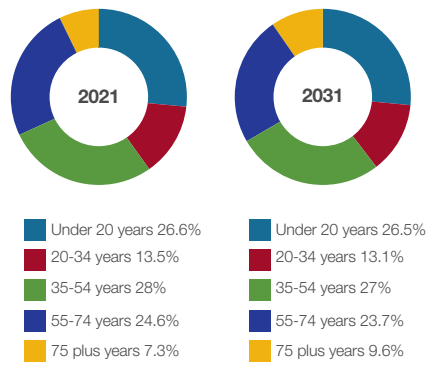
Figure 2. Macedon Ranges Shire demographics forecasts

### Population size



**18.3%** projected increase in population over the next 10 years

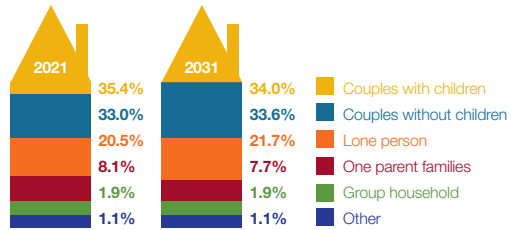
### Population age breakdown



### Households

	2021	2031
Total number of households	19,369	23,197
Average number of people	2.61	2.58
Most likely number of bedrooms	3	3

### Household type



There were **23,113** rateable properties as at 30 June 2020, an increase of **1%** on the previous year, and **8.9%** over the last five years

**35.3%** of people live in a rural setting (outside a town boundary)  
**64.7%** of people live in a township

Population and household forecasts prepared by .id (informed decisions), November 2017.



Kyneton Farmers Market

# Theme 1. Connecting communities

## Description

A connected community is where people have access to the services they need and are empowered to contribute, creating a sense of belonging.

## Aim

Our community is diverse and has a range of needs. We need to ensure we are addressing all of them. We also need to bridge any gaps between Council actions and community expectations.

## Priorities

- Greater transparency from Council to residents through cohesive communications
- Roadways, including kerb, footpath and bike path accessibility
- Respect for all people, places and environment

## Focus areas

- Programs and services to acknowledge and address specific needs of vulnerable groups
- Improvements to kerbs, footpaths and bike paths
- Local access to services, such as shelters, for local people
- Community-triggered reviews of Council decisions and more deliberative engagement
- Continued acknowledgment of First Nations People
- Signage for amenities to aid differing demographics of the community
- Information gathering, such as surveys, to confirm the needs of older people
- Better Council communication, such as a weekly newsletter



Person fishing at Walter J Smith Reserve, Riddells Creek

## Theme 2. Healthy environment, healthy people

### Description

The community prioritises the protection of the natural environment and recreational facilities.

There is also strong community support for initiatives to minimise our shire’s impact on the earth and its resources.

### Aim

Resilient communities and robust economies rely entirely on a healthy environment.

### Priorities

- Waste – promote and educate about responsible waste management
- Energy – achieve 100% renewable energy by Council, residents and business
- Protection of the natural environment – protect, preserve and enhance bushland and waterways
- Transportation – encourage safe everyday alternatives to car use, and provide safe cycle pathways and footpaths
- Health – provide a greater commitment to community health programs and initiatives

### Focus areas

Promotion of phasing out single-use and soft plastics

Promotion of renewable energy usage

A clear, concise long-term environmental plan

Defined walking and cycling trails to protect the surrounding environment within flora and fauna areas

Cycling pathways, outdoor exercise equipment and sporting facilities with signage of distances, approximate time frames and gradients for all walking trails, to make them accessible to everyone



Camel's Hump lookout, Mount Macedon

## Theme 3. Business and tourism

### Description

Business and tourism is about prioritising and promoting the people, resources, services and our regional identity to ensure economic growth.

### Aim

Economic development is crucial for the continued growth of the economy of the Macedon Ranges Shire.

### Priorities

- Attracting diverse industries (and jobs) to the region through incentives, including a reduction in bureaucracy
- Promotion of 'Local First' across the region
- Beautification and improved signage of streets, parks and landmarks
- Community-led and driven activities to engage residents and encourage a local focus with support of Council

### Focus areas

Support of local business that is above the influence from external pressures

Promotion of the local economy by prioritising local purchase and contracting within the shire, such as preferencing local business for contracting goods and services

Investing in the promotion of tourism by enhancing and maintaining local landmarks and parks

Enhance amenities and accessibility for natural assets

Promote local identity to stimulate tourism and the economy, such as waiving venue hire fees and supporting markets and trade fairs



**“The Community Vision Assembly feels as though this initiative has allowed greater input into the direction of our shire. We believe these recommendations provide a good roadmap to achieving the Macedon Ranges Shire that we envision for our community. We trust that our recommendations will guide Council to realise our vision for the future.”**

*Closing statement presented by the Assembly on  
Thursday 8 April 2021*

### **Macedon Ranges Shire Council**

PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444

Tel: (03) 5422 0333

Fax: (03) 5422 3623

Email: [mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

Website: [mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au)

Find us on social media    

### **Office locations**

#### **Kyneton Administration Centre**

129 Mollison Street, Kyneton

#### **Gisborne Administration Centre**

40 Robertson Street, Gisborne

#### **Romsey Service Centre**

96-100 Main Street, Romsey

#### **Woodend Service Centre**

Corner High and Forest Streets, Woodend

# Council Plan 2021–2031





*Bunjils nest, Reconciliation Week*

## Acknowledgement of Country

Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways. Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country, and pays respect to their Elders past, and present.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

## Contents

## Page

A message from the Mayor and Councillors.....	1
What is the Council Plan?.....	3
How we developed our plan.....	4
How we used your input.....	4
Our role.....	5
Our framework.....	6
The Community Vision statement.....	6
The Community Vision becomes the plan.....	7
Strategic objectives.....	8
Strategic priorities.....	9
How we will measure success.....	19
Evaluation and reporting.....	21
Strategic planning principles.....	22
Community Vision Assembly focus ideas for future evaluation.....	24

*Front cover: Woodend Children's Park*

# A message from the Mayor and Councillors

Collaboration with the community is a key theme throughout this Council Plan. Many of the key initiatives in the Council Plan are designed to respond to input from the community.

The Council Plan 2021–2031 will strive to achieve the community’s vision of Macedon Ranges Shire 2021–2031, and is aligned with Council’s four strategic priorities, developed through the Community Vision Assembly’s deliberative engagement process:

1. Connecting communities
2. Healthy environment, healthy people
3. Business and tourism
4. Delivering strong and reliable government.

We are proud of the way that Macedon Ranges Shire Council and the community is responding to the COVID-19 crisis, supporting one another through these challenging times. We all needed to adapt quickly to the sudden changes affecting our community.

We understand the economic and social effects the pandemic has had on people, families and groups in the shire. The pandemic has reminded us all of what really matters and it highlights the power of communities. Thank you all for your understanding, support and acts of kindness during this challenging time.

The Local Government Act 2020 has created fresh opportunities for councils to engage with their communities, and the deliberative engagement process that recently resulted from the requirements of the Act provided Councillors with community input that is comprehensive and well structured.

The deliberative engagement process is all about placing a group of residents closer to Council decision-making by building knowledge and understanding, and then working through data, options, priorities and themes that are relevant to the Community Vision and strategic plans.

While many of the strategies and ideas from the Community Vision Assembly are in line with the existing Council Plan, a large number have helped to improve and enhance the plan and our strategies.

Many other ideas put forward by the Assembly will require further evaluation, analysis and funding.

A number of the ideas put forward are outside the normal scope of operations of local government. As such, consideration will need to be given to Council’s role, and what the implications may be of expanding our current scope of operations.

While Council continues to operate in a constrained financial environment, it will refer these ideas to future budget processes for evaluation and consideration.

This ongoing conversation with the community has never been more important. We remain committed to listening to our community and responding to the diverse ideas, needs and hopes of the shire, and will do that now through broad community consultation on the updated plan.

We are also responding to other global issues. On 24 March 2021, Macedon Ranges Shire Council declared a Climate Emergency, publicly acknowledging that action is urgently required to address the causes and impacts of climate change, and to avoid irreversible disruption to society, the economy and ecosystems.

Feedback from the community told us this is a priority for our residents. Council recognises we are only one part of the solution, with the challenges around waste and recycling continuing to be major issues, and requiring collaboration from consumers, residents, industry and all levels of governments to change practices and reduce waste.

The Local Government Act 2020 is aimed at supporting a new relationship between state and local government and the community, in accordance with principles of transparency, accountability and sound financial management.

The role of Councillors in this process is to facilitate meaningful engagement with their communities by hearing the outcomes from deliberation, considering, sharing, taking on board general feedback and then making final decisions.

Central to everything we do is our drive to achieve better outcomes for the community and provide opportunities for all.



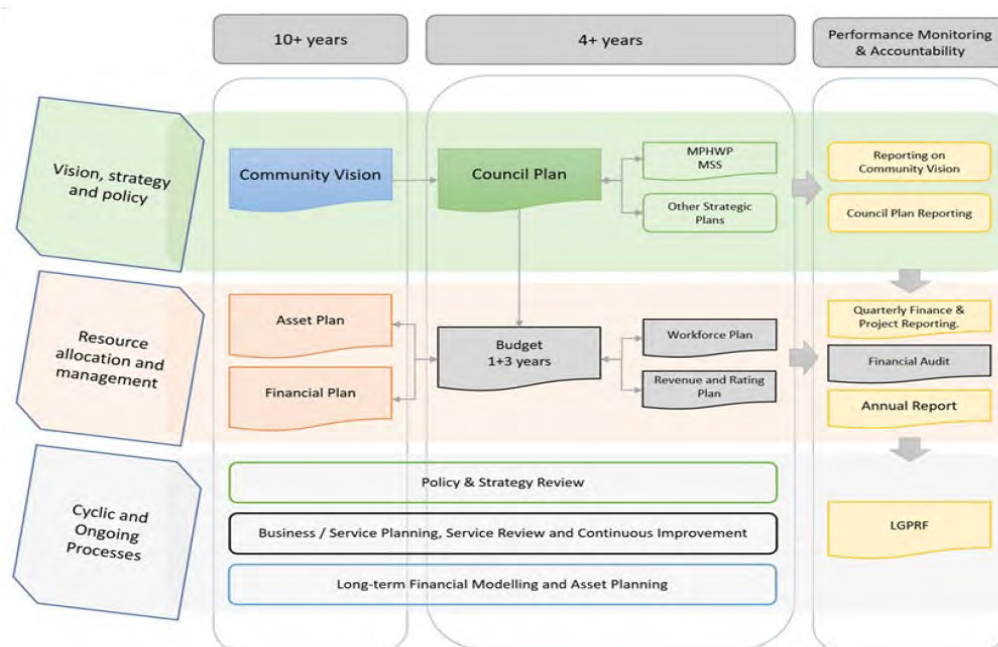
*Left to right: Cr Geoff Neil, Deputy Mayor Mark Ridgeway, Cr Dominic Bonanno, Cr Janet Pearce, Cr Rob Guthrie, Mayor Jennifer Anderson, Cr Anne Moore, Cr Annette Death and Cr Bill West*

# What is the Council Plan?

The Council Plan is our strategic direction for the future of the Macedon Ranges Shire. It outlines our key priorities for the next four years, covering the term of the current elected Council, and supports the achievement of the Community Vision through planned objectives and strategies.

The Local Government Act 2020 introduced strategic planning principles for Victorian councils, which include an integrated approach to planning, monitoring and performance reporting. The Council Plan forms part of the core legislated elements of the Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting Framework.

Figure 1. Integrated Strategic Planning and Framework



Source: Victoria State Government Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

Council regularly reports its performance in its quarterly reports, Annual Report and performance statements, which are published on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website. Council’s performance against the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is published annually on the ‘Know Your Council’ Victorian Government website.

## How we developed our plan

This plan was built on the following key processes:

- The current Council Plan that was developed in 2017
- Multiple years of feedback and consultation on the plan (which has resulted in limited changes)
- The 2021 deliberative engagement process with the Community Vision Assembly

Council's existing strategic priorities were used as the basis for framing the conversations that were held with the Community Vision Assembly. Strong and reliable government, as a key administrative focus, was excluded from their remit discussions, on the basis that this function supports all others and ensures appropriate compliance with our regulatory and statutory obligations.

The three remaining priorities framed comprehensive discussion, which has reaffirmed that the existing strategic priorities align well with the expectations of our community and enabled the deliberative process to provide significant input.

## How we used your input

In developing the Council Plan, Council has considered:

- the existing Council Plan
- the feedback received from the Community Vision Assembly
- community needs and aspirations for the future, as expressed in the Macedon Ranges Shire's Community Vision 2021–2031
- Council's role, and organisational capacity and capability over the term of this plan.

Much of the new information used in updating the Council Plan 2021–2031 came from the deliberative engagement process we undertook with the Community Vision Assembly.

Facilitated by specialist deliberative engagement practitioners, i.e. community, the Assembly met on five occasions during March and April 2021, working together for a total of 22 hours to produce the Community Vision, and related themes and recommendations. The Assembly was provided with information from Council officers and community surveys during the process, as well as written answers to questions raised at each session.

Councillors then took time to work through the input from the Community Vision Assembly via a workshop and briefings, including hearing directly from some of the Assembly members at a Councillor briefing.

Council is committed to using the work produced by the Community Vision Assembly to inform our strategies and plans for the future of the Macedon Ranges Shire. Council is also committed to delivering the intent of the Local Government Act and Council's engagement policy, to strengthen the relationship with the community.

The broader shire community is now provided with an opportunity for formal submissions on the plan during a statutory public consultation period in July and August 2021.

Council looks forward to hearing further from the community regarding what has been developed from the deliberative process.

## Our role

Our role is to provide local communities with a wide range of services, facilities and infrastructure that improve the liveability of the Macedon Ranges Shire. We work alongside state and federal levels of government to represent the needs of all residents and plan for the future.

Local government as a sector plays an important leadership role in advocating to other levels of government on a range of issues, in order to meet the needs of our communities. This includes our role at a regional level through partnerships and targeted advocacy with specific groups, such as the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance, Central Victorian Primary Care Partnership, and the Central Highlands Local Learning and Employment Network.

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 recognises the significant role of councils in improving the health and wellbeing of people who live, work, study and play in their municipality. This Act requires councils to develop a municipal public health and wellbeing plan every four years (within 12 months of each general election of a council). The next municipal public health and wellbeing plans are due in October 2021.

Victoria has faced major public health challenges in 2020, with bushfires, storm events and the COVID-19 pandemic, which will continue to have significant impact over the coming years. Councils will have a key role to play in supporting their communities to recover from the resulting broad-ranging social and economic impacts, while continuing to respond to the major causes of ill health.

As part of these recovery efforts, there are significant opportunities for councils to promote healthier and more sustainable communities. It is for these reasons that Macedon Ranges Shire Council has produced a four-year standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan in 2021.

The Disability Act 2006 requires all councils to have a Disability Action Plan, as prescribed in the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992.

The Disability Action Plan needs to focus on:

- reducing barriers to people with disabilities accessing goods, services and facilities
- reducing barriers to people with disabilities obtaining and maintaining employment
- promoting inclusion and participation in the community for people with disabilities
- achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices that discriminate against people with disabilities.

The Disability Action Plan has previously been embedded in the Council Plan. Council is committed to working alongside our community to create a place where people of all ages and abilities can achieve optimal health and wellbeing.

Council has developed a four-year standalone Disability Action Plan in 2021, to align with the standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–2025.



# Our framework

The community’s vision for Macedon Ranges Shire Council has been developed by the Community Vision Assembly. It forms part of Council’s strategic planning framework, guiding future planning across the shire, considering both short-term and long-term priorities that shape this Council Plan, as well as the annual four-year projected budget and 10-year Financial Plan.

Council looks forward to working alongside the community and external partners to work towards the community’s vision for Macedon Ranges Shire Council.

## The Community Vision statement

As voiced by our community to shape our shire’s future:

*With our unique regional identity, Macedon Ranges Shire embodies a caring, resilient approach to community through our robust local economy, protection of the natural environment and a collaborative commitment to inclusivity for all.*

The Community Vision Assembly developed three community vision themes, which we have used to shape this Council Plan, along with delivering strong and reliable government.

Further details on the Community Vision can be found on Council’s website or by contacting Council on (03) 5422 0333.

Figure 2. Community Vision Assembly’s Vision Statement and themes



## The Community Vision becomes the plan

Our Council Plan has been developed to improve four key outcomes for Macedon Ranges Shire Council. The Council Plan brings together the themes of Council’s Community Vision Assembly and links the themes to the strategic objectives of the Council Plan. This Council Plan is a new plan required to be prepared under the Local Government Act 2020. Councillors have recognised a number of strategic objectives that will enable them to serve the community during the current Council’s four-year term.

Our strategic priorities describe what we will focus our resources towards to ensure we achieve our strategic objectives.

Annual actions are identified and linked to a strategic priority, and resources are allocated annually to achieve the actions.

Finally, at year-end, our actions are measured against what was set out to be undertaken during the prior 12 months. This process forms part of our key performance indicators (KPIs).

The Council Plan process is represented in the graphic below.



*Bike riders in autumn*

# Strategic objectives

Community Vision – themes	Council Plan – strategic objectives
<b>Connecting communities</b>	
<p>A connected community is where people have access to the services they need and are empowered to contribute, creating a sense of belonging.</p> <p>Our community is diverse and has a range of needs. We need to ensure we are addressing all of them. We also need to bridge any gaps between Council actions and community expectations.</p>	<p>We will maintain our built environment – including roads, paths, buildings, open space and other assets – in a fiscally, environmentally and socially sustainable way. This includes effective land-use planning, which has a direct impact on the liveability of our shire.</p> <p>We will provide support for volunteers, community groups and organisations in recognition of their work in contributing to social connections.</p>
<b>Healthy environment, healthy people</b>	
<p>The community prioritises the protection of the natural environment and recreational facilities. There is also strong community support for initiatives to minimise our shire’s impact on the earth and its resources.</p> <p>Resilient communities and robust economies rely entirely on a healthy environment.</p>	<p>We will contribute to positive health and wellbeing in our community by proactively supporting mental health, the prevention of violence against women, healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities, social connection and inclusion, community safety, and arts and culture.</p> <p>We will protect our natural environment through proactive environmental planning, advocacy and policy to address climate change, support biodiversity and enhance water catchment quality. The Macedon Ranges Shire declared a Climate Emergency in 2021.</p> <p>We will take action to reduce waste in order to protect public health and the environment.</p>
<b>Business and tourism</b>	
<p>Business and tourism is about prioritising and promoting the people, resources, services and our regional identity to ensure economic growth.</p> <p>Economic development is crucial for the continued growth of the economy of the Macedon Ranges Shire.</p>	<p>We will foster economic vitality in a way that promotes positive individual and community health outcomes, including business diversity, housing, transport, information and communication technology, and employment options. Investment attracted to the shire will be consistent with the community vision.</p>
<b>Deliver strong and reliable government</b>	
<p><i>While this was not part of the Community Vision Assembly’s discussions, it is a requirement of Council’s responsibility under the Act.</i></p>	<p>We will demonstrate the qualities of good governance, including a clear vision and culture, transparency, respect, consistency, accountability and responsiveness.</p>



# Strategic priorities

Strategic objectives	Strategic priorities
<p><b>Connecting communities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve connectivity and movement, and provide transport choices to the community, including walking trails and bike paths</li> <li>• Integrate land-use planning, and revitalise and protect the identity and character of the shire</li> <li>• Provide well-designed, fit-for-purpose, multi-use open spaces and infrastructure for the community to connect, engage and participate in a financially sustainable way</li> <li>• Target community needs through development programs and grants</li> <li>• Continue to deliver improved outcomes for and recognition of our First Nations People</li> <li>• Promote a more inclusive community by supporting community groups and vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Explore opportunities for affordable and social housing in the shire</li> </ul>
<p><b>Healthy environment, healthy people</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity</li> <li>• Lessen the severity of climate change through actions that enable Council and the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Improve the quality of recycling, minimise the generation of waste and establish alternatives to landfill disposal</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to experience open space and bushland reserves</li> <li>• Improve the management of water, including flooding risk, water quality of creeks and waterways, and the efficient use of water</li> <li>• Maintain systems and capacity to manage and respond to emergency events</li> <li>• Encourage active and healthy lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities</li> <li>• Engage families to promote the importance of early childhood education and health</li> <li>• Support our community to ensure better access and connection for facilities and services</li> <li>• Assist to improve mental wellbeing within the community</li> </ul>
<p><b>Business and tourism</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage economic vitality (including tourism, agribusiness and local employment options)</li> <li>• Support local industry sectors that align with our vision and strategies</li> <li>• Support small business and the local economy</li> <li>• Engage with emerging technology solutions and initiatives to increase the liveability of the shire</li> </ul>
<p><b>Deliver strong and reliable government</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure sustainable financial management and the strategic allocation of resources to deliver planned infrastructure and services</li> <li>• Enhance strategy, policy and plan development, and identify alignment to allow for prioritisation of services that are efficient, well planned, accessible and meet community needs</li> <li>• Lead advocacy engagement and enhance relationships with all tiers of government and key stakeholders</li> <li>• Enhance customer experience through the transformation of our services to ensure they are easy to access, and provide seamless transactional and interational experiences</li> <li>• Support transparent and evidence-based decision making through sharing Council data and clear reporting on our measures of success to the community</li> </ul>



Strategic objective 1. Connecting communities		
We will maintain our built environment – including roads, paths, buildings, open space and other assets – in a fiscally, environmentally and socially sustainable way. This includes effective land-use planning, which has a direct impact on the liveability of our shire.		
We will provide support for volunteers, community groups and organisations in recognition of their work in contributing to social connections.		
Four-year strategic priorities	What we will do in 2021/22	Council role
Improve connectivity and movement, and provide transport choices to the community, including walking trails and bike paths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to improve continuous accessible paths of travel to key destinations, such as recreation and community facilities, through the funding of the Footpath Construction Program</li> <li>Continue the delivery of the Macedon Ranges Shared Trails project</li> <li>Advocate to the Victorian Government for improvements to bus and rail public transport services</li> <li>Develop and adopt an Asset Plan to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020</li> <li>Undertake the Woodend corridor study to investigate the movements of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles within Woodend’s main road corridor, identifying areas of concern and possible solutions</li> </ul>	Deliver  Deliver Advocate  Deliver  Deliver
Integrate land-use planning, and revitalise and protect the identity and character of the shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress the Kyneton Town Centre Urban Design Framework to Council for decision, and consider implementation into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme</li> <li>Progress the Gisborne Structure Plan incorporating the Neighbourhood Character Study and Town Centre Urban Design Framework Plan to Council for decision and consider implementation into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme</li> <li>Progress the Romsey Structure Plan to Council for decision, and consider implementation into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme</li> <li>Progress the Planning Scheme Amendment to incorporate the heritage study for Woodend, Lancefield, Macedon and Mount Macedon into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme</li> <li>Enhance planning protection of the shire’s heritage assets. The Macedon Ranges Shire Thematic Environmental History will guide Council’s strategic approach to identifying and protecting the shire’s heritage, done systematically, within a contextual understanding of land-use development over time</li> <li>Progress the review of Council’s Developer Contributions Plans (Gisborne and Romsey) and consider any future changes to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme recommended by its findings</li> </ul>	Deliver  Deliver  Deliver  Deliver  Deliver  Deliver



Four-year strategic priorities	What we will do in 2021/22	Council role
Provide well-designed, fit-for-purpose, multi-use open spaces and infrastructure for the community to connect, engage and participate in a financially responsible way	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress the development of a new Open Space Strategy and consider implementation into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme</li> <li>• Commence construction on stage 1 of the Macedon Ranges Regional Sports Precinct project and continue advocacy for funding towards future stage delivery</li> <li>• Deliver the annual capital works program</li> <li>• Update the Kyneton Showground precinct Master Plan</li> <li>• Update the Romsey Sports precinct Master Plan</li> <li>• Commence the Macedon Ranges skate park strategy</li> <li>• Continue implementation of the funded Romsey Ecotherapy Park. Deliver stage 2 and 3 projects with Regional Development Victoria and the community</li> </ul>	Deliver Deliver/advocate Deliver Partner/deliver Partner/deliver Partner/deliver Deliver
Target community needs through development programs and grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage and consult with the community, groups and organisations to better understand community needs and program design</li> <li>• Promote community centres and their programs</li> <li>• Continue Council's grants programs</li> <li>• Build connections between volunteers and volunteer organisations</li> <li>• Promote the library programs of the Goldfields Library Corporation to engage the community</li> <li>• Review Council's role in supporting playgroups and toy libraries, and develop opportunities to strengthen the connections between users of early years and maternal and child health programs</li> <li>• Explore the development of a youth projects funding program to support young people applying to Council for community funding</li> </ul>	Facilitate Deliver Deliver Facilitate Partner/deliver Deliver Deliver
Continue to deliver improved outcomes for and recognition of our First Nations People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance Indigenous reconciliation through working with First Nations People on the implementation of Council's Reconciliation Action Plan</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Develop and implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural awareness training strategy that is integrated into Council's Learning and Development Strategy</li> </ul>	Partner/deliver Partner/deliver Deliver

Four-year strategic priorities	What we will do in 2021/22	Council role
Promote a more inclusive community by supporting community groups and vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support targeted initiatives for young people of diverse backgrounds that enable them to express their identities, such as raising the Rainbow Flag on International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia</li> <li>• Continue to demonstrate leadership in advancing gender equality through the implementation of Council’s Gender Equality Action Plan, including delivery of year one actions</li> <li>• Construct a designated modular change room at the Gisborne Aquatics Centre, which will enable Council to meet Child Safe requirements, and improve service provision and accessibility</li> <li>• Provide referral services through our Neighbourhood House programs and increase funding for 2021/22</li> </ul>	Deliver  Deliver  Deliver  Partner
Explore opportunities for affordable and social housing in the shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare a social and affordable housing policy</li> <li>• Work with the Victorian Government to increase supply of affordable housing, including social housing, in the shire</li> <li>• Commit to participating in the development and, where relevant, the implementation of the Loddon Mallee Regional Housing Action Plan</li> </ul>	Deliver Advocate/partner  Partner



MRSC Youth Awards 2019



Strategic objective 2. Healthy environment, healthy people		
<p>We will contribute to positive health and wellbeing in our community by proactively supporting mental health, the prevention of violence against women, healthy lifestyles for all ages and abilities, social connection and inclusion, volunteers, community safety, and arts and culture.</p> <p>We will protect our natural environment through proactive environmental planning, advocacy and policy to address climate change, support biodiversity and enhance water catchment quality. The Macedon Ranges Shire declared a Climate Emergency in 2021.</p> <p>We will take action to reduce waste in order to protect public health and the environment.</p>		
Four-year strategic priorities	What we will do in 2021/22	Council role
Protect the natural environment and enhance biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress action items in the biodiversity strategy</li> <li>Continue the healthy landscapes for healthy livestock project</li> <li>Finalise the review of the Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan and commence implementation of priority actions</li> <li>Finalise the Roadside Conservation Management Plan that aims to enhance the conservation value of Council-managed roadsides, while mitigating fire risk and maintaining road safety</li> <li>Protect, preserve and enhance bushland and biodiversity</li> </ul>	Deliver Deliver Deliver Deliver Deliver
Lessen the severity of climate change through actions that enable Council and the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and adopt Council's Environment Strategy</li> <li>Implement a suite of environmental upgrades to Council buildings to enhance energy efficiency and environmental performance</li> <li>Replace all remaining standard street lights with energy-efficient lights through the Central Victorian Greenhouse Alliance Lighting the Regions Project</li> <li>Continue delivery of a program of community climate change action plans across the shire's townships</li> <li>Research ways for Council to support the use and uptake of electric vehicles across the shire</li> </ul>	Deliver Deliver Deliver Deliver Facilitate/deliver
Improve the quality of recycling, minimise the generation of waste and establish alternatives to landfill disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence implementation of actions to phase out single-use plastics, based on the audit findings and action plan</li> <li>Actively promote the use of reusable nappies through the Maternal and Child Health Service</li> <li>Commence the implementation of the actions identified in the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy 2021–2026</li> <li>Decrease tonnes of waste to landfill per capita</li> </ul>	Deliver Facilitate/deliver Deliver/partner Deliver



Four-year strategic priorities	What we will do in 2021/22	Council role
Provide opportunities to experience open space and bushland reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards amending the Planning Scheme to introduce new policy and planning controls to implement the Significant Landscapes Study</li> <li>• Commence implementation of recommended master plan actions at the Gisborne, Kyneton and Malmsbury Botanic Gardens, including the delivery of an entry garden (western entrance) at the Gisborne Botanic Gardens</li> <li>• Riddells Creek Street tree planter boxes – determine a solution to retain the existing trees while providing new planter boxes developed with a different construction methodology</li> </ul>	Deliver Deliver Deliver
Improve the management of water, including flooding risk, water quality of creeks and waterways, and the efficient use of water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commence priority waterway restoration works that implement adopted waterway environmental plans, which includes completing the master plan of the Woodend Five Mile Creek, and continued delivery on the implementation of the Romsey Five Mile Creek Master Plan</li> <li>• Continue the water conservation works program</li> </ul>	Deliver Deliver
Maintain systems, capacity and capability to manage, respond to and lead recovery after emergency events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor and mitigate key emergency risks</li> <li>• Leverage partnerships with key agencies and community groups to improve response to and recovery from emergency events</li> <li>• Contribute to Municipal Emergency Management Planning</li> <li>• Learn from emergency management response to improve future responses</li> </ul>	Deliver Facilitate/partner Facilitate/partner Partner



Woodend outdoor pools

Four-year strategic priorities	What we will do in 2021/22	Council role
Encourage active and healthy lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimise accessibility and usage of open space and facilities through a program of development and renewals for open space, playgrounds and sporting infrastructure</li> <li>• Work in partnership with health, education and community organisations, including sporting clubs and community groups, to enhance opportunities for improved health, and participation in passive and active recreation</li> <li>• Adopt the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–2025</li> <li>• Adopt the Disability Action Plan 2021–2025</li> <li>• Continue to deliver the actions for Elevate – Council’s Youth Strategy 2018–2028</li> <li>• Facilitate/partner with health service providers within the community</li> <li>• Participate in the Healthy Heart of Victoria initiative to improve health and wellbeing outcomes in Macedon Ranges and advocate for ongoing funding</li> </ul>	<p>Deliver</p> <p>Partner</p> <p>Deliver</p> <p>Deliver</p> <p>Partner</p> <p>Deliver</p> <p>Facilitate/partner</p>
Engage families to promote the importance of early childhood education and health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Department of Education to support current education reforms, such as the rollout of three-year-old kindergarten in the Macedon Ranges Shire and School Readiness Funding.</li> <li>• Provide and support access to quality kindergarten programs across the shire</li> <li>• Improve social connection for children and families with barriers to social engagement</li> <li>• Deliver the first-year actions for Council’s Early Years Plan – CREATE</li> <li>• Strengthen municipal planning of early years’ services</li> <li>• Explore feasibility of Macedon Ranges becoming a child friendly community</li> <li>• Continue to deliver maternal and child health, and early childhood services and programs, including immunisation and supported playgroups</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitate/partner</p> <p>Deliver</p> <p>Facilitate</p> <p>Deliver</p> <p>Facilitate/partner</p> <p>Facilitate</p> <p>Deliver</p>
Support our community to ensure better access and connection for facilities and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to monitor the implication of aged care reform on Council’s role in supporting older people</li> <li>• Become members of the Every Age Counts coalition and take the pledge to address ageism</li> <li>• Advocate for access to health services locally</li> </ul>	<p>Deliver</p> <p>Partner</p> <p>Facilitate/partner</p>

Four-year strategic priorities	What we will do in 2021/22	Council role
Assist to improve mental wellbeing within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to increase community awareness and resilience in relation to mental health through initiatives such as Live4Life</li> <li>• Support and promote mental health by continued training of mental health first aid sessions through Live4Life and the Older Person Mental Health First Aid course</li> <li>• Work with Commonwealth and state governments to advocate for the establishment of a youth mental health service in the Macedon Ranges Shire</li> <li>• Continue to support phase 2 of Sunbury and Cobaw Community Health’s Human Code project through the Healthy Masculinities Partnership Grant</li> <li>• Continue delivering Live4life in secondary schools and the wider community across the shire</li> <li>• Develop and deliver a primary school-based mental health and wellbeing model for grade 5 and 6 students across the shire</li> </ul>	<p>Facilitate</p> <p>Facilitate/deliver</p> <p>Partner</p> <p>Partner</p> <p>Partner</p> <p>Deliver</p>



Sanatorium Lake, Mount Macedon

Strategic objective 3. Business and tourism		
We will foster economic vitality in a way that promotes positive individual and community health outcomes, including business diversity, housing, transport, information and communication technology, and employment options. Investment attracted to the shire will be consistent with the community vision.		
Four-year strategic priorities	What we will do in 2021/22	Council role
Encourage economic vitality (including tourism, agribusiness, buy local and local employment options)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subject to Council adoption, commence implementation of actions contained in Year 1 of Council's Economic Development Strategy</li> <li>Progress the Events Strategy 2021–2025, including development of the Autumn Festival</li> <li>Progress the Rural Land Use Strategy (incorporating the 'In the Farming Zone Strategy') to Council for decision</li> <li>Continue delivering actions from the Arts and Culture Strategy 2018–2028</li> </ul>	Implement/Facilitate Deliver Deliver Deliver
Support local industry sectors that align with our community vision and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to support local business and tourism associations (BATAs) and industry-sector peak bodies, and look to have geographic and industry-sector coverage</li> <li>Continue to increase the engagement of the business community with the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Business Awards</li> <li>Continue to provide a package of support measures for the community and local businesses to assist the shire's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic</li> </ul>	Partner Deliver Deliver
Support small business and the local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver obligations under Small Business Friendly Charter:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver 14-day payments to local suppliers</li> <li>Engage with businesses</li> <li>Streamline business applications</li> <li>Help set up and support local business networks</li> </ul> </li> <li>Support the local economy by encouraging procurement to be undertaken locally</li> </ul>	Deliver Facilitate
Engage with emerging technology solutions and initiatives to increase the liveability of the shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for improved communications infrastructure</li> </ul>	Advocate

Strategic objective 4. Deliver strong and reliable government		
We will demonstrate the qualities of good governance, including a clear vision and culture, transparency, respect, consistency, accountability and responsiveness.		
Four-year strategic priorities	What we will do in 2021/22	Council role
Ensure sustainable financial management and the strategic allocation of resources to deliver planned infrastructure and services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and implement a new Risk Strategy and Strategic Risk Register</li> <li>Develop and implement a new procurement policy (for adoption by or before 31 December 2021)</li> <li>Regularly review and update long-term financial and infrastructure planning to guide our budget decisions to ensure they are responsible and sustainable</li> <li>Deliver a new project management framework and software for delivery of capital work projects</li> </ul>	Deliver Deliver  Deliver Deliver
Enhance strategy, policy and plan development, and identify alignment to allow for prioritisation of services that are efficient, well planned, accessible and meet community needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and adopt a Workforce Plan to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020</li> <li>Continue to identify and implement agreed actions from employee surveys</li> <li>Provide appropriate training and development of staff to ensure continuous improvement and access to the required skills</li> <li>Support and resource the effective operation of Council's Audit and Risk Committee</li> <li>Develop and adopt a suite of new governance related policies and procedures as required by the Local Government Act 2020</li> </ul>	Deliver  Deliver Deliver Deliver Deliver
Lead advocacy engagement and enhance relationships with all tiers of government and key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actively participate in community and government networks and regional alliances</li> <li>Establish a Child and Family Services Network</li> </ul>	Partner/facilitate Partner/facilitate
Enhance customer experience through the transformation of our services to ensure they are easy to access and provide user-friendly experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Council's Complaints Handling Policy to ensure a flexible approach that assists people with varying abilities to outline their concerns in a variety of ways</li> <li>Develop and implement the Customer Experience Strategy</li> <li>Develop and implement the Community Engagement Framework</li> <li>Pilot web chat software to enhance the customer experience</li> <li>Improve our digital platforms, ensuring they are fully accessible for all residents and ratepayers</li> </ul>	Deliver  Deliver Deliver Deliver Deliver
Support transparent and evidence-based decision making through sharing Council data and clear reporting on our measures of success to the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure compliance with legislative external reporting and disclosure obligations, and ensure internal reporting frameworks are delivered to demonstrate transparency to the community</li> <li>Strengthen community engagement practice and relationships with the implementation of a Community Engagement Policy and procedures</li> </ul>	Deliver  Deliver

## How we will measure success

Strategic indicators provide Council with measures to monitor how we are progressing towards our outcomes. Council's level of influence over the result of each measure is shown, as often Council does not control the results, but seeks to influence with advocacy, partnerships and the community.

Connecting communities	If we are successful, we will see:	Outcome measures
	Delivery of the annual footpath construction program	Delivery of minimum 80% of the projects included in the 2021/22 budget are completed
	Delivery of the Woodend corridor study	Study to be completed and actions identified for future budget consideration
	Development and endorsement of the Asset Plan	Delivery of a compliant and endorsed Asset Plan in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 by 30 June 2022
	Delivery of the annual capital works program	Delivery of a minimum of 70% of the annual capital works program, with a stretch target of 80% by 30 June 2022
	A finalised Gender Equality Action Plan	Gender Equality Action Plan to be adopted by Council
	An event to be hosted in support of raising the Rainbow Flag on International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia	Event is hosted and the Rainbow Flag is raised in recognition of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia
	The Reconciliation Action Plan finalised and launched	Host event to celebrate and acknowledge the Reconciliation Action Plan
Healthy environment, healthy people	If we are successful, we will see:	Outcome measures
	A reduction in Council's corporate net-zero emissions	Council emissions in 2021/22 will reduce from the previous year
	A decrease in tonnes of waste with an increase in kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill per capita	An increase in the percentage of waste diverted from landfill
	A finalised Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan	Hanging Rock Environmental Management Plan to be adopted by Council
	A finalised Roadside Conservation Management Plan	Roadside Conservation Management Plan to be adopted by Council
	Delivery of mental first aid training throughout the year	Deliver one training session per quarter, subject to COVID-19 restriction

Business and tourism	If we are successful, we will see:	Outcome measures
	Council continuing to meet with business networks	Hold at least four meetings during the year
	A commitment to being a small business friendly Council	Implement goals of the Small Business Friendly Charter within 12 months
	Delivery of the Autumn Festival	Increase in business and community events registered as part of the festival

Deliver strong and reliable government	If we are successful, we will see:	Outcome measures
	Council continuing to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020	Implement a new Procurement Policy by 31 December 2021 Adopt a new Council Plan 2021–2031 by 31 October 2021 Monitor and report on the Council Plan actions each quarter Adopt the Financial Plan 2021–2031 by 31 October 2021 Adopt the Community Vision 2021–2031 by 31 October 2021
	A review of Council policies and frameworks	Implement a new Risk Strategy and Risk Register Adopt a revised Complaints Handling Policy
	Our staff completing relevant training to ensure continuous improvement	100% of Council staff complete online training
	The implementation of the Community Engagement Framework that will strengthen community engagement practice and consultation with the community	Increase in community satisfaction with community consultation and engagement Develop and implement the Community Engagement Framework

## Evaluation and reporting

Our Council Plan 2021–2031 consists of a range of actions that will contribute to the achievement of our priorities and vision.

The Action Plan shows only a small part of what we will do in the coming year, with many other activities contributing to achieving the Macedon Ranges Shire Community Vision 2021–2031.

Council regularly reports its performance in its quarterly reports, Annual Report and performance statements, which are published on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website. Council's performance against the Local Government Performance Reporting Framework is published annually on the 'Know Your Council' Victorian Government website.

It is the role of the Mayor to ensure that Council reports, at least once a year, on the implementation of this Council Plan. We commit to communicating our progress, both positive and negative, to the community through our many communication channels, including media releases, our website and social media.



*V/Line railway heading towards Woodend Station*



## Strategic planning principles

The Local Government Act 2020 contains a number of key requirements in Section 89 regarding the need for a Council Plan to be prepared in accordance with the outlined strategic planning principles. The following summary outlines the correlation between those principles and this Council Plan.

In terms of needing an integrated approach to planning, the Council Plan has been updated to reflect the new Community Vision, which was developed through a deliberative engagement process by the Macedon Ranges Community Vision Assembly. The Assembly's vision and themes have been incorporated into this document. In addition, a number of the strategies that the Assembly developed have either been incorporated into the Council Plan as new items, or have enhanced existing strategies.

In developing an integrated approach between the outputs from the deliberative engagement process and the key strategic documents of Council, it became evident that many of the goals identified in this process could not be achieved without effective correlation with the Budget document. This key strategic document outlines the funds that will be made available to deliver outcomes, and many of the ideas out of the Community Vision Assembly will require further assessment, evaluation, prioritisation and funding before they can progress.

To ensure there is integration, those items are included as a separate section of this Council Plan for consideration in future budget processes when funds are allocated.



*Romsey Ecotherapy Park*

Outlined within the next section of this Council Plan are those items that will require further evaluation in regards to the resources required for their effective implementation. The Community Vision Assembly has developed some ideas that Council is not currently resourced to deliver.

In order to ensure clarity and transparency regarding those items, they are identified within this document for future consideration. This will ensure that matters relating to the resources required for their effective implementation can be taken into account and funding requirements identified, before they are considered for progression.

The ideas of the Community Vision Assembly that cannot be completed without additional resources need to be further evaluated and considered, in order to ensure that resources can be allocated and those ideas are not constrained by other factors.

The separate identification of these ideas and their referral to Council for further evaluation allows for other matters to be considered, such as alignment or otherwise with legislation and existing policy, constraints to delivery, and the role already played by others in helping deliver outcomes for our community.

A Community Vision Assembly idea may transform from seeking Council to be initially responsible, to working with existing partners and/or advocating for an outcome from another organisation.

This Council Plan contains a number of specific actions for which monitoring of their progress will occur in Council's quarterly report.

Consistent with Council's past practice, it is also intended to review the Council Plan annually to ensure annual actions are reviewed and set, and that strategies can be conferred to be in line with any changing circumstances.

Resources are provided by Council each year to ensure business-as-usual activities continue and to deliver new initiatives that are specifically highlighted for funding.

Therefore, where an idea is outside the capacity of current organisational resources, consideration will need to be given to prioritising that idea within the financial constraints that exist.

There are not unlimited funds for new initiatives as Council is largely reliant on revenue from rates, which are restricted by a rate cap.



*Children playing at Riddells Creek Kindergarten*

# Community Vision Assembly focus ideas for future evaluation

Consistent with Section 90 of the Local Government Act 2020, the Council Plan must be reviewed in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices. This Council Plan reflects the outcomes of the deliberative engagement process that has been conducted, and integrates the vision and themes of the Community Vision Assembly.

It also reflects the Assembly's strategies, and seeks to enhance and reinforce the existing strategies in the Council Plan.

Council needs to ensure that what we set out to achieve is able to be resourced, and continues to reflect priorities as external and internal factors change.

The following are ideas of the Assembly that will be considered in future annual action plans of the plan. Those ideas that could not be completed within Council's existing resources are outlined below, both for the purpose of transparency, and for referral to future processes that evaluate and then provide funding for the delivery of those outcomes.

## Connecting communities

- Implement local transport options for towns not currently serviced (such as similar to Gisbus and Woodend Flexiride)
- Greater consideration to the connection of developments to existing community services and infrastructure, given the increase in population in the coming decades
- Signage for amenities to aid different demographics of the community
- Cycling pathways, outdoor exercise equipment, sporting facilities, signage with distance and approximated timeframes, and gradients for all walking trails, making them accessible for everyone
- Ensure amenities are immaculate

## Healthy environment, healthy people

- Greater commitment to community health programs and initiatives
- Access to health services locally for those who can't afford it
- Better connection between services (include 24 hours) and Council as a conduit (for example, for domestic violence)
- Reduce the stigma associated with mental ill-health, suicide and suicide prevention, making it easier for people to seek help and support, especially concentrating on the impact of COVID-19
- Respond to socioeconomic disadvantage and equity
- 'Diversity' will come from equitable processes, such as mandatory inclusion of low-cost housing and community facilities, and upgrades to public transport in all new housing estate developments
- Services to address mental health issues
- Mental health connection to our economic groups of where we go for that financial assistance – how do we get the messaging out?
- Prioritise car-use reduction through an inter-town and intra-town network of safe walking and cycling tracks, and effective, easy and cheap public transport

- Consideration of innovative closed-loop resource use (for example, the local biodiesel facility using waste oil from within the region to produce fuel)
- Regulations for new developments, such as a 7-star rating, in the planning process
- New subdivisions to include the capacity for solar
- Council to provide native plants (bird/bee/butterfly attractants) for local residents to plant at home
- Continue the focus on Biolinks revegetation with greater investment required
- Defined walking and cycling trails to protect the surrounding environment within flora and fauna areas
- Emissions from agriculture/livestock or potential resource recovery (for example, could proactively work with a university for cattle CO2 methane reduction or reuse as an energy source)
- Prioritise solar and wind power
- Protection against urban sprawl development on large farming areas
- A clear concise environment plan (long term)
- Achieve 100% renewable energy by Council, residents and business
- Council to transition to electric transport by 2030 and implement an electric vehicle policy for all operators in the shire

## Business and tourism

- Local online shopping interface promoted and managed by Council
- Showcase local produce, products and services within and beyond the region
- In lieu of outdated business awards, fortnightly spotlight on local businesses, community groups and individuals, to showcase local activity. This could be online, but also in local print media, including small-town-specific publications and in local community facilities, such as the library
- Reduce friction between Council and the business community by reducing red tape, permits and fees, and simplifying processes
- A business directory
- Provide resources and facilities for small businesses, such as a tool library and training
- Council should facilitate innovation and development, without the pressure to invent them itself
- Community-led and driven activities to engage residents and encourage a local focus with support of Council (for example, waiving venue hire fees)
- Attracting diverse industries (and their jobs) to the region through incentives, including a reduction in bureaucracy and offering rated deductions over the first few years
- Council should audit developments prior to approval to see if development really 'needs' to be approved (for example, are they fit for purpose, and why approve development for four shops when there are already nine empty shops?)
- Blueprint developments – communication of what's needed, and better access to development applications and information

## Deliver strong and reliable government

- Community-triggered review of Council decisions, more deliberative engagement

**Macedon Ranges Shire Council**

PO Box 151, Kyneton VIC 3444

Tel: (03) 5422 0333

Fax: (03) 5422 3623

Email: [mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au](mailto:mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au)

Website: [mrsc.vic.gov.au](http://mrsc.vic.gov.au)

Find us on social media    

**Office locations****Kyneton Administration Centre**

129 Mollison Street, Kyneton

**Gisborne Administration Centre**

40 Robertson Street, Gisborne

**Romsey Service Centre**

96-100 Main Street, Romsey

**Woodend Service Centre**

Corner High and Forest Streets, Woodend

<b>CC.5</b>	<b>DRAFT FINANCIAL PLAN 2021-2031</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Travis Harling, Manager Finance and Reporting</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Financial Plan 2021-2031 (under separate cover) <a href="#">⇒</a></b>

### Summary

The Financial Plan is a new requirement under the *Local Government Act 2020*. It will be a ten-year plan starting on 1 July 2021. The Plan describes the financial resources required to give effect to the Council Plan and other strategic plans of Council. The Plan provides information about decisions and assumptions on which it is based, outlines any other resource requirements considered appropriate or contained in the regulations and an overview of Council's strategic financial planning context and drivers used to develop the Plan.

A summary of the submissions and an officer response has also been included in this report. Therefore, the purpose of this report is to note a summary of the submissions received in relation to the Financial Plan and to adopt the Financial Plan 2021–2031.

### Recommendation

#### That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Financial Plan 2021-2031, prepared in accordance with Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020 and gives public notice of its decision;**
- 2. Endorses the officer responses to submissions as contained in this report;**
- 3. Requests the Chief Executive Office to write to all submitters, thanking them for their submission;**
- 4. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to carry out all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under the Local Government Act (1989 and 2020), in relation to the finalisation and publication of the Financial Plan 2021-2031.**

---

### Background

Under section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020, Council is required to prepare a Financial Plan by 31 October following a general election. The plan covers a period of ten financial years, with the document describing the financial resources required to give effect to the Council Plan and other strategic plans of Council.

The Financial Plan demonstrates the following financial management principles:

- Revenue, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments and financial transactions are managed in accordance with Council's financial policies and strategic plans.
- Management of financial risks, the financial viability of Council, the management of current and future liabilities of the Council.
- Financial policies and strategic plans are designed to provide financial stability and predictability to the community and

- Council maintains accounts and records that explain its financial operations and financial position.

The Financial Plan contains the following key statements:

- 10-year income statement
- 10-year balance sheet
- 10-year cash flow statement
- 10-year statement of changes in equity
- 10-year capital works statement

At the Scheduled Council Meeting of 25 August 2021, Council resolved to:

1. *Endorse the draft Community Vision 2021 – 2031 and the draft Council Plan 2021 – 2031 for the purpose of public display;*
2. *Undertake community engagement and consultation in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council’s Community Engagement Policy;*
3. *Note that following hearing from submitters at a meeting of the Submitters Delegated Committee, a report and recommendations will be presented to a Scheduled Meeting of Council on 27 October 2021, to enable Council to consider the submissions and adopt the Community Vision 2021 – 2031 and Council Plan 2021 – 2031.*

### **Discussion**

The Financial Plan was developed in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council’s Community Engagement Policy. This document forms part of Council’s Integrated Strategic Planning and Reporting and provides for the following for our community:

Service levels to continue at current levels:

- \$194,231,000 spend on renewing Councils assets
- \$76,528,000 spend on new assets
- \$29,898,000 spend on asset upgrade
- \$17,265,000 new borrowings to undertake new asset works listed above

The Financial Plan has been based using the following assumptions:

- Annual rate increase of 2%
- Employee costs increase 2.2% (based on current EA)
- Other operating line items, 2% is used as an annual growth factor

### **Submissions**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2020 and Council’s Community Engagement Policy, the draft Financial Plan was released for public display on Thursday 26 August 2021, for a 28-day period.

A total of 29 submissions were received as part of the community consultation process which include the draft Community Vision 2021-2031, draft Council Plan 2021-2031 and draft Financial Plan 2021-2031. Of these 29 submissions, seven provided feedback specifically in relation to the draft Financial Plan. A list of these submissions and officers response is provided below:

No	Summary of submission	Officer response and recommendation
02	Financial Plan is too conservative and fails to appropriately consider increasing borrowings to fast track the infrastructure and upgrades that our growing communities need.	Noted: Council's Financial Plan has been developed in line with current asset management plans and balances Council's service delivery, along with delivery of new major capital works projects.  <b>Officer recommendation:</b> No change.
04	Support for allocation of some money to drainage and open space  Seek clarity on why spending is so high on roads.	Noted: The allocation of funds to roads each year is what is required to maintain the road network across the shire.  <b>Officer recommendation:</b> No change.
06	Inclusion of emphasis on the importance of our environment to be recognised and emphasised. Request for support for Council to get involved and educate locals on how to do and maintained local native plant and animals in the region.	Noted: The work currently being undertaken is recognised. While the Environment may not have a separate strategic objective within the Council Plan, working with the environment in a sustainable way to ensure acceptable land management practices remains a key action of Council.  <b>Officer recommendation:</b> No change.
07	Request for inclusion of dog park.	Noted: Council is currently preparing a new Open Space Strategy which will consider the strategic provision of dedicated dog parks in major towns.  <b>Officer recommendation:</b> No change.
08	Request for all financial transactions to be available online to the community.	Noted: It is not practical to publish all financial transactions. The Annual Budget, Quarterly Financial Reports and Annual Report are documents that provide financial information to all interested parties including the community.  <b>Officer recommendation:</b> No change.



23	<p>Noted that document was clear and comprehensive.</p> <p>Request for further explanation on Development Contribution Plans.</p>	<p>Noted:</p> <p>An explanation is provided within the Financial Plan in regards to the Development Contribution Plans. Officers will contact and explain further with the submitter.</p> <p><b>Officer recommendation:</b></p> <p>No change</p>
25	<p>The draft Council Vision and Council Plan fails to recognise the Shire's environmental importance and significance or the critical role our community-hub towns and priceless heritage play in the Shire's liveability and identity. Please add an additional 'theme' of protecting our natural and built environments to ensure Council's direction is representative of most residents' values as shared in 2017 community consultation and also reflects its legislative responsibilities.</p>	<p>This submission is not specific to the Financial Plan. A response has been provided as part of the Council Report for the adoption of the Community Vision and Council Plan.</p>

### Summary of changes

Officers have considered the community feedback and recommend that no changes be made.

### **Consultation and engagement**

The draft Financial Plan 2021-2031 was placed on public display and submissions were received from the public.

The Financial Plan has been prepared under the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020 and has been prepared via deliberative engagement method and Council's Community Engagement Policy.

### **Collaboration**

Nil

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2020 requires councils to develop or review the Financial Plan in accordance with its deliberative engagement practices and adopt the Financial Plan by 31 October in the year following a general election. The Financial Plan has effect from 1 July in the year following a general election.

**Relevant law**

Nil

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

Local Government Victoria Planning and Reporting Guidelines, Financial Plan 2021/22.

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

The preparation of this plan considers the Budget Management Policy for this first year of this plan.

**Financial viability**

The Financial Plan sets out Council's long-term financial resourcing requirements.

**Sustainability implications**

Nil

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>CC.6</b>	<b>MUNICIPAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2021-2025</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Fiona Alexander, Manager Community Care</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>1. Promote health and wellbeing 4. Enhance the social and economic environment 5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 (under separate cover) <a href="#">⇒</a></b>

## Summary

Following a period of community engagement, this report recommends that Council adopt the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

## Recommendation

### That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 which will then supersede the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan integrated in the Council Plan 2017-2027.**
- 2. Requests that the Chief Executive Officer write to those who provided submissions and thank them for their feedback.**

---

## Background

Under various laws, local government has a responsibility to protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing. One of these laws, the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (PHW Act), requires councils to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Council's previous Public Health and Wellbeing Plan was integrated in the Council Plan 2017-2027. A new Council Plan is being developed to align with the Local Government Act 2020 and is before Council for adoption in the October 2021 Ordinary Meeting of Council.

The development of a standalone Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan was endorsed by Council at its Scheduled meeting held 23 June 2021, with consideration of discussion with Council's Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee.

The draft Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 (the MPHWP Plan) was presented to the August 2021 Scheduled meeting of Council, at which time Council resolved to:

- 1. Place the draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 on public exhibition for a period of no less than twenty eight days*
- 2. Note that following community consultation, officers will report back to a Council meeting with a summary of community feedback and draft plan for adoption.*

Following adoption, the final plan will supersede Council's previous approach of integrating public health and wellbeing planning in the Council Plan.

## Discussion

Development of the draft MPHWP Plan has considered

- the views of external stakeholders, primarily health agencies, community groups and education providers
- input from Council's Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee
- population data from many sources
- Commonwealth and Victorian Government priorities
- evidence about what works
- our current actions and resources available in each goal area

The draft goals align with requirements under the PHW Act and local need. The draft goals are:

1. A community where people are understood, respected and supported, and people are confident that they can contribute to community life
2. An environment that supports people to eat well and be physically active
3. A community that is safe and free from violence
4. A community that strives to reduce harm resulting from gambling, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs
5. An environment that reduces potential public health risk to our people
6. A community that is committed to tackling the climate emergency change and its impacts on health
7. A community that effectively prepares for, responds to and recovers from emergency events (including COVID-19)

### **Consultation and engagement**

The draft MPHWP Plan was on public exhibition from 26 August 2021 to 28 September 2021. An engagement program leading to release of the draft document was conducted from 29 July 2021 to 25 August 2021.

Engagement focussed on consulting the wider community, Council staff, Council's Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group, health service providers and organisations/groups.

People were invited to provide feedback via Council's website, email, phone, participation in online discussions and participation in Council's Submitters Committee. The opportunity to participate was promoted via media releases, advertisements, social media and email.

Twenty-six people provided feedback via survey, six via online discussion and four submissions were received. Two of the submissions were considered at Council's Submitters Committee meeting 13 October 2021.

Feedback received has been incorporated in the final draft MPHWP Plan before Council.

### **Collaboration**

Collaboration was not required with other councils, government and/or statutory bodies in relation to this report.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

The outcomes that Council will work towards are consistent with those set in the *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework*. The framework reflects the public health and wellbeing priorities identified by the Victorian Government and the intent of the PHW

Act. It brings together a comprehensive set of indicators drawn from multiple data sources. These indicators can help track whether the efforts of many, including government, non-government organisations, businesses, health professionals, communities, families and individuals, are improving the health and wellbeing of people over time.

**Relevant law**

This report is directly relevant to requirements under the PHW Act. The report is indirectly relevant to requirements under the Victorian Disability Discrimination Act 2006 and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006.

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019–2023 is the Victorian Government's vision for the public health and wellbeing of Victorians. Councils must develop their public health and wellbeing plans with due regard to the focus areas in the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. This requirement is met in the draft MPHWP before Council

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

The draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan has been prepared to align with the draft Disability Action Plan. Both plans will be in effect for the period 2021- 2025. The draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan considers the draft Community Vision developed for the new Council Plan.

**Financial viability**

Council's current role and resource capacity has been considered in the development of the draft MHWP Plan. Actions include functions to be delivered via Council's recurrent operational budget, annual budget process and grant funding.

**Sustainability implications**

There are no sustainability issues identified related to release of the draft MPHWP Plan.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.

<b>CC.7</b>	<b>DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2021-2025</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Fiona Alexander, Manager Community Care</b>
	<b>1. Promote health and wellbeing</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>3. Improve the built environment</b>
	<b>4. Enhance the social and economic environment</b>
	<b>5. Deliver strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Disability Action Plan 2021-2025 <a href="#">↓</a></b>

## Summary

Following a period of community engagement, this report recommends that Council adopts the Disability Action Plan 2021-2025.

## Recommendation

### That Council:

- 1. Adopts the Disability Action Plan 2021-2025 which will then supersede Council's Disability Action Plan in the Council Plan 2017-2027.**
- 2. Requests that the Chief Executive Officer write to those who provided submissions and thank them for their feedback.**

## Background

A Disability Action Plan is a legislated requirement for local government and becomes a publicly listed document. A Disability Action Plan is required to meet obligations under the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Victorian Disability Act 2006.

Council's Disability Action Plan was integrated in the Council Plan 2017-2027 from July 2019. A new Council Plan has been developed to align with the Local Government Act 2020.

The development of a standalone Disability Action Plan was endorsed by Council at its Ordinary Meeting held 23 June 2021 (CC.2).

The draft plan was presented at the August 2021 Ordinary Council meeting, at which time Council resolved to:

- 1. Place the draft Disability Action Plan 2021-2025 on public exhibition for a period of four weeks.*
- 2. Note that following community consultation, Officers will report back to a Council meeting with a summary of community feedback and a draft plan for adoption.*

Following adoption, the final plan will supersede Council's previous approach of integrating disability action planning in the Council Plan.

## Discussion

The new Disability Action Plan, when adopted, will guide Council activities to cultivate an inclusive community where people with disability feel valued, safe and connected.

Development of the first draft considered consultation findings from 2019, and external stakeholder workshops facilitated by consultants in 2021. The plan was developed to align with the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025.

The areas in the Disability Action Plan 2021-2025 align to requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 2006, namely:

1. Reducing barriers to persons with a disability accessing goods, services and facilities
2. Reducing barriers to persons with a disability obtaining and maintaining employment
3. Promoting inclusion and participation in the community of persons with a disability
4. Achieving tangible changes in attitudes and practices that discriminate against person with a disability

In easy English format, the actions in the Disability Action Plan 2021-2025 are set across:

1. Access to buildings and places
2. Jobs
3. Joining in
4. Helping people to know about disability
5. Safe and healthy

### **Consultation and engagement**

The draft Disability Action Plan 2021-2025 was on display from 26 August 2021 to 28 September 2021. An engagement program leading to release of the draft document was conducted from 29 July 2021 to 25 August 2021.

Engagement focussed on consulting the wider community, Council staff, Council's Health and Wellbeing Advisory Group, health service providers and organisations/groups.

People were invited to provide feedback via Council's website, email, phone, participation in online discussions and participation in Council's Submitters Committee. The opportunity to participate was promoted via media releases, advertisements, social media and email.

Twelve people - including professionals, carers and residents with disability - provided feedback on the draft Disability Action Plan via survey, ten via online discussion and two via email submission. Sixty people provided feedback across the Health and Wellbeing Plan and Disability Action Plan.

Feedback received has been incorporated in the final Disability Action Plan 2021-2025.

### **Collaboration**

Collaboration was not required with other councils, government and/or statutory bodies in relation to this report.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

The \ Disability Action Plan has been prepared as a standalone document in Easy English, with actions replicated in the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan CC.3. This approach reflects local government's responsibility to protect, improve and promote health and wellbeing for all residents. The approach meets requirements under the Disability Discrimination Act 2006, and has been tested with the Victorian Government's Office for Disability.

**Relevant law**

This report is directly relevant to requirements under the Commonwealth *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and the Victorian *Disability Discrimination Act 2006*. The report is indirectly relevant to requirements under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

**Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

The Victorian Government is developing a new State Disability Action Plan. Consultation has now closed. The current State Disability Action Plan *Absolutely Everyone 2017-2020* will be in place until the new plan is released.

**Relevant Council plans and policies**

The Disability Action Plan has been prepared to align with the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. Both plans will be in effect for the period 2021- 2025.

**Financial viability**

Council is not a disability service provider under the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and does not receive recurrent grants that are specific to the needs of people with disability. Council does not have a dedicated role to promote disability inclusion. Noting this, the actions proposed are drawn from existing Council strategies and plans, or are achievable within operational budgets. Council may, from time to time, apply for grants to support actions.

**Sustainability implications**

There are no sustainability issues identified related to the adoption of the Disability Action Plan.

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in the preparation of this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest in relation to the subject matter.





# Disability Action Plan 2021-2025

## Easy English

**Hard words**

This book has some hard words

The first time we write a hard word

The word is in blue

We write what the hard word means

**You can get help with this book**

You can get someone to help you

- Read this book
- Know what this book is about
- Tell us what else we can do to support people with disability

**About this book**

Macedon Ranges Shire Council wrote this book

We work on Aboriginal land

We respect Aboriginal elders

This book is a Disability Action Plan

It says how we will make access and inclusion better for people who live, work or visit  
Macedon Ranges

We have also written a Health and Wellbeing Plan

The things that we say in this book are also in the Health and Wellbeing Plan

**Access** means information and places are easy for people with disability to use

**Inclusion** means everyone feels like they can join in

Both plans will go from 2021-2025.

### About a Disability Action Plan

The [law](#) says that there are some things that Council must do. Laws are rules that we must obey. The law says we must

- respect everything about you, including:
  - your age
  - your gender
  - your sexuality
  - your cultural background, religion or faith
  - whether or not you are married
  - whether or not you have a disability
- provide information in a way that is right for you
- support you to take part in the community
- respect your privacy

We want everyone with disability to feel like they can join in the same as everyone else

We will work to help people in our community

- be safe
- be proud of who they are
- be kind to others
- be healthy and well
- give children a good start in life

At Council we will

- have staff who are well trained and who are good at their jobs
- have a good way of working with people who make enquiries. [Enquiries](#) are questions.
- offer different ways for people to have a say
- listen to the things that people tell us
- work with other [organisations](#) in the community. Organisations are where people work.
- be prepared to change the way we work if there is a problem

- always work hard to make sure our services are good

**Things we will do to help people with disability**

There are five areas in the Disability Action Plan

1. Joining in
2. Safe and healthy
3. Helping people to know about disability
4. Access to buildings and places
5. Work

## 1. Joining in

### Council will

- Support families and carers of babies with disability to join parent groups and playgroups
- Help children with disability to learn skills, get support and to move between kindergarten and school
- Teach more children [Auslan](#). Auslan is the sign language some deaf people use to communicate
- Teach more children [Key Word Sign](#). Key Word Sign helps some people to learn and understand words
- Learn about the supports that a person with disability needs to join in
- Help young people with disability to join the Youth Spaces Program
- Help young people with disability make friends at other programs and groups
- Help sporting clubs to be inclusive
- Work with other community groups and clubs to help them to be inclusive
- Help more people in the community to share ideas with each other and with Council
- Help people with disability use Council programs and [grants](#). Grants help groups and clubs to get money for projects.

## 2. Safe and healthy

### Council will

- Work toward a community where all people are safe – no one is allowed to hurt you
- Have information on our website about [rights](#) and who you can talk to if you feel unsafe or have been hurt. Rights are things that everyone should be able to get, have or do.
- Help people with disability in an [emergency](#). We will keep a list of people who may need more help in an emergency. Emergency is when a bad thing happens and you need help – for example a fire, a bad storm or a flood.
- Have places to go and be active
- Have information on our website about staying safe and healthy
- Offer programs that teach families how to help their babies and children with disability to learn and grow
- Support families to understand different types of disability and how to get support for children with disability early
- Provide services to help keep people healthy – for example, when you have a baby or when you need a [vaccine](#). A vaccine can help you to not get sick.

### 3. Helping people to know about disability

#### Council will

- Teach our staff about the needs of people with disability
- Support staff to make sure children and young people with disability are included
- Help the community to understand disability
- Help people know about the [National Disability Insurance Scheme](#). The National Disability Insurance Scheme is called the NDIS. The NDIS helps people with disability, their family, carers and the community.
- Help people to see how people with disability make communities better
- Tell people about programs and activities that other [organisations](#) offer to people with disability. Organisations are where people work.
- Tell other carers about things that might help them



#### 4. Access to buildings and places

##### Council will

- Make sure builders follow [standards](#) so that new buildings are accessible. Standards are like rules. We will give builders a standards book with rules to build new buildings in an accessible way.
- Tell people about our [Changing Places](#) toilets in Gisborne, and where to find other accessible toilets. Changing Places is a large bathroom with a toilet with side rails, a high bench, a hoist to lift the person and a place to sit down.
- Tell people about grants to make work places accessible. Grants help people get money for projects.
- Tell people about which Council buildings have products to help people hear, like a Hearing Loop System and sound panels
- Help people to understand and follow laws about keeping pathways clear for good access
- Make more accessible car parks
- Make more good footpaths in places where people need them
- Ask the government for money to make more buildings and places accessible
- Ask the government for more public transport
- Ask the government to build [social housing](#) in the shire. Social housing provides homes to people in need.

## 5. Work

### Council will

- Offer work experience for young people with disability
- Look at how we support people with disability to work with us, and try to do better
- Help other workplaces to understand disability, and access and inclusion. This will help more people with disability to get work experience and jobs.

**How we will make the Disability Action Plan work**

The Disability Action Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan will work together. There are some things that are the same in both books.

We will

- Start to do the work on the plans
- Check the work
- Change things if we need to.

We will tell you

- If we have met our goals, or
- If there is more work to do

**14 DIRECTOR ASSETS AND OPERATIONS REPORTS**

<b>AO.1</b>	<b>UPDATE ON THE OLD LANCEFIELD ROAD WOODEND PETITION</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Gary Randhawa, Manager Engineering and Resource Recovery</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>3. Improve the built environment</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

**Summary**

This report provides an update to Councillors about the current status of the work undertaken by Council officers in response to the petition received from the residents of Old Lancefield Road, Woodend, presented to Council at the March 2021 Scheduled Council Meeting. The petition requested that:

*'Council prohibit heavy vehicles using Old Lancefield Road for access to and from the Industrial Estate and Shire Depot in Woodend North.'*

**Recommendation****That Council:**

- 1. Notes this report and actions taken by Council officers to date to minimise reported risk along Old Lancefield Road;**
- 2. Continues working with the Department of Transport on the Woodend Integrated Transport Study to investigate long term sustainable solutions to address the transport issues identified along Old Lancefield Road;**
- 3. Receives an updated report with final recommendations from the Woodend Integrated Transport Study by the April 2022 Scheduled Council Meeting;**
- 4. Notes the temporary solutions implemented along Old Lancefield Road highlighted in this report; and**
- 5. Notes that officers continue to identify a researched and legal solution to the transport issues along old Lancefield Road.**

**Background**

Old Lancefield Road runs between Romsey Road and changes name to Clancy's Lane, continuing to Honour Avenue in Woodend North. The current road environment consists of residential developments between Romsey Road and Honeysuckle Lane, ranging in lot sizes 710sqm to 815sqm.

There is also an industrial subdivision between Cronks Lane and Honour Avenue that includes Council's Operations Centre (among other businesses).

There are no footpaths located on either side of the Old Lancefield Road until Manifold Road, where a 1.50m wide concrete footpath is present. This footpath was built as part of the recent subdivision and finishes at Honeysuckle Lane. The residences between Manifold Road and Honeysuckle Lane, constructed between 2016 and 2018. North of Honeysuckle Lane, the Lot sizes increase significantly from approximately 32,000sqm to 363,000sqm.

Along Old Lancefield Road, the current speed limit ranges from 60km/h between the Romsey Road/Lancefield Road intersection and Honeysuckle Lane and increases to 100km/hr past Honeysuckle Lane.

### **Discussion**

Old Lancefield Road is a 'collector' road, and the road width ranges initially from 7.0m to 8.6m in front of the recent developments completed in 2016 and 2018. It exists to collect traffic from local residential streets and link traffic to higher category roads.

Historically businesses in the industrial estate utilise Old Lancefield Road daily, as it directly links to Romsey Road and the Calder Freeway. The current road geometry at the bend of Clancys Lane and Old Lancefield Road provides difficulties for truck drivers as it is a greater than 90-degree bend and makes the turning movement difficult for them. For this reason, truck drivers prefer, and can legally use, Old Lancefield Road to access to and from the industrial estate.

Due to the heavy vehicle movement along Old Lancefield Road, Council's Road Safety team has received many resident requests in the past to ban or divert this traffic movement. Officers advised residents that under current road rules and National Heavy Vehicle Regulations, Council's cannot restrict or prohibit heavy vehicle traffic movement from Old Lancefield Road.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) administers laws for heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass. The NHVR provides freight, and other heavy vehicle users, permits to use specific routes through different Road Manager's roads (e.g. Council's Road). The businesses in the industrial estate along Old Lancefield Road do not require this permit because of the type of trucks, and heavy vehicles do not need a permit. For these reasons, officers cannot prohibit heavy vehicles and neither can the heavy vehicle traffic be diverted around Old Lancefield Road to other roads.

To date council officers, have:

- sought the goodwill of business within the industrial estate (including Council's vehicles) to use Clancy's Lane, especially seeking to reduce northbound traffic;
- invited residents to make direct contact if they witness high volumes of trucks and heavy vehicle traffic travelling northbound on Old Lancefield Road to enable officers to remind businesses of the goodwill request to limit traffic northbound;
- met with residents on multiple occasions and identified alternate pedestrian and cycle routes to Romsey Road to reduce the need for pedestrians to access Old Lancefield Road (noting that there is a school bus service utilising Old Lancefield Road);
- identified that there will be a need to reconstruct the 'residential' section of Old Lancefield Road. Subject to future budget approval and or grant funding, this reconstruction scope could increase to include underground stormwater and enable the installation of a further path network to Romsey Road, noting this work is potentially \$2.5M-\$3M more than the road reconstruction.

### **Consultation and engagement**

In March Council received a petition signed by 54 residents requesting that Council prohibit heavy vehicles using Old Lancefield Road for access to and from the industrial estate and Woodend Operations Centre (Depot) in Woodend North.

Later in March 2021, Council officers undertook an onsite public consultation with concerned residents along Old Lancefield Road and surrounding roads. The public presented the following concerns:

- the increased volume of heavy vehicles along Old Lancefield Road,
- seeking existing industrial signage to be relocated from Romsey Road and Honour Avenue to Clancys Lane and Honour Avenue,
- currently, Old Lancefield Road has no footpaths, which makes it difficult for children and other users to walk safely along there,
- state of the existing road pavement along Old Lancefield Road from Romsey Road to Manifolds Road,
- relocating school bus stop location from Savages Lane intersection to a safer location,
- permanent road closure of Old Lancefield Road to heavy vehicles, and
- reduce the current 100km/h speed limit north of Honeysuckle Lane to 80km/hr.

Council officers commenced an investigation of concerns raised by residents.

### **Collaboration**

#### **(1) Partial Road Closure**

Residents requested that Old Lancefield Road be closed permanently north of Honeysuckle Lane. Council officers do not support this request for many reasons:

- The road is planned for and classified as a Connector road. It should remain as such as it provides access to and from the industrial estate and other residential properties located along Whitelodge Road, Clarkes and Kronks Lane to efficiently and effectively use Romsey Road
- Emergency Services will require the additional access options during an emergency
- In case of a fire, the industrial estate needs to have the second option, Old Lancefield Road, if Clancys Lane is not accessible.

#### **(2) Speed Limit assessment**

Officers completed the V assessment along Old Lancefield Road north of Honeysuckle Lane as its current 100km/hr is deemed too high and not suitable for the current environment. Council's Traffic Engineer has submitted the assessment to the Department of Transport (DoT) to reduce the speed limit to 80km/hr up to Honour Avenue in June 2021. Council is awaiting an initial approval and agreement from DoT to proceed with the formal application.

#### **(3) Heavy vehicle traffic**

Council officers investigated past traffic counts and volumes of heavy vehicle usage along Old Lancefield Road. Comparing the most recent traffic count data with the data obtained, the traffic count has decreased, not increased, from a daily average of 1627 movements (in 2017) to 1244 movements (March 2021). Officers note that due to COVID restrictions and people working from home, residents experience more significant exposure to heavy vehicle movements than in the pre-pandemic period, where most residents would not be home during business hours.

Council has undertaken important steps to minimise heavy vehicle movements along Old Lancefield Road. These steps include:

- Directed all Woodend Operations Centre (Depot) staff to use alternative routes travelling in and out of the Depot during work hours
- Met with Barkers Trailers, Organs Coaches and other businesses within the industrial estate to discuss the use of Old Lancefield Road and encourage using alternative routes. The business owners agreed in principle that they would use Clancys Lane during business hours and reduce their use along Old Lancefield Road as much as reasonably possible
- Officers submitted to RRV, in June 2021, a request to relocate the directional signage at Romsey Road and Old Lancefield Road intersection, re-directing traffic servicing the industrial estate to Clancys Lane. This request is pending RRV review.

Following these meetings, Council officers placed traffic counters along 3 locations on Old Lancefield Road to measure the reduction in heavy vehicles. The traffic counts show there was a significant reduction in heavy vehicles.

Please note that buses and garbage trucks are still required to use Old Lancefield Road to provide essential services and therefore add to the heavy vehicle count.

Council has recently commenced the Woodend Integrated Transport Study, including the Old Lancefield Road issues, amongst other areas of concern within Woodend.

The study is scheduled for completion by early 2022. The study will recommend several actions having taken into account the community concerns and other improvement opportunities to ensure permanent long-term solutions are applied.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

Council has committed to investigating and presenting broader strategic solutions to residents concerns of Old Lancefield Road in a holistic approach according to the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Council will continue to encourage and promote temporary solutions that have been put in place along Old Lancefield Road as highlighted in this report and continue working towards finalising the Woodend Integrated Transport Study to ensure long term permanent solutions are applied.

### **Relevant law**

The current road is compliant with the *Road Management Act 2004*, and any future proposed changes will be compliant with the *Road Management Act 2004*.

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

*Road Management Act 2004*.

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

The following Council plans and policies guide the consideration of this report:

- Road Management Plan
- Woodend Structure Plan
- Woodend Integrated Transport Management Study
- Transport Accident Group

**Financial viability**

The outcomes from this investigative study are likely to result in recommendations that will require future funding by Council or grant opportunities. Financing for any proposed actions will be via Council's budget deliberation process for 2022-23 and/or future financial year's.

**Sustainability implications**

N/A

**Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in preparing this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest relating to the subject matter.



<b>AO.2</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE WILDLIFE SAFETY ON OUR ROADS</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Gary Randhawa, Manager Engineering and Resource Recovery</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>2. Protect the natural environment</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Nil</b>

### Summary

This report provides an update on the investigation underway out as part of the Road Safety and Mobility Strategy to explore opportunities for the planning and management of roads to reduce wildlife road trauma.

### Recommendation

**That Council notes this report and that work continues on the Road Safety and Mobility Strategy, which includes the comprehensive exploration of opportunities to improve wildlife safety on roads across the shire.**

### Background

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 24 February 2021, Council resolved:

*“That Council receives a comprehensive report outlining opportunities to improve wildlife safety on roads across the shire at its October 2021 Scheduled Council Meeting.”*

### Discussion

The 24 February 2021 resolution resulted from a petition to reduce the speed limit on certain council roads to reduce wildlife trauma and death.

In researching this, Officers have identified that there are better opportunities to reduce the potential for wildlife trauma and death at the time of road construction. It becomes more challenging to retrofit existing infrastructure. As officers are already undertaking a Road Safety and Mobility Strategy to guide road planning, construction, and safety within the shire, the work now includes wildlife safety.

Work continues on the Road Safety and Mobility Strategy, and this includes the comprehensive exploration of opportunities to improve wildlife safety on roads across the shire. Officers will present the Road Safety and Mobility Strategy to a Council meeting prior to 30 June 2022.

### Consultation and engagement

As stated in the March 2021 Council report, Council officers will consider wildlife road safety as part of the upcoming Road Safety and Mobility Strategy. The community consultation for the Road Safety and Mobility Strategy commences in October and will run until late October. This consultation provides the community with the opportunity to provide their concerns and feedback regarding wildlife issues. The consultant will thoroughly review those concerns and incorporate wildlife safety in the document.

Council’s traffic officers will utilise existing information on the active wildlife in the shire.

Using this information, the consultant will consider and recommend the most appropriate solutions for adoption as part of the Council's ongoing approach to improve safety and reduce wildlife trauma.

### **Collaboration**

The Transport Accident Commission (TAC) has approached council officers about their upcoming campaign for wildlife improvements on Victorian roads. The TAC is partnering with Wildlife Victoria to develop a community campaign to inform and educate Victorians to slow down and be alert on their road trips to keep all Victorian motorists and animals safe. With the closure of Victoria's borders and the expected easing of COVID 19 Victorian travel restrictions, both the TAC & Wildlife Victoria anticipate a significant increase in regional road travel for holidaymakers. This increased travel will potentially increase the risk of wildlife trauma resulting from road accidents. In addition to wildlife trauma, hitting a large animal such as a kangaroo or wombat whilst travelling at high speed can result in significant vehicle damage, injuries to occupants and even fatalities.

The objectives of the TAC campaign are:

- Encouraging the community to reduce speed and be alert while driving on regional roads;
- Raise awareness around the risks of a collision in highly populated wildlife areas if they do not drive to the road conditions and reduce speed;
- To make the community aware about contacting the Wildlife Victoria Emergency Response Service for assistance if they collide with an animal or encounter injured/deceased wildlife.

Council officers will participate in the campaign and share the de-identified information/feedback received through the Road Safety and Mobility Strategy consultation with TAC and Wildlife Victoria.

The TAC will send a community education information package to the council for publication on Council's website and social media channels. Furthermore, if the restrictions permit, Council, TAC and Wildlife Victoria will collaborate on a pop-up campaign with the community to discuss and promote the message about wildlife safety. As part of the pop-up campaign, Council will proactively invite wildlife volunteer groups within the shire and other key stakeholders.

The TAC advised the council that the pop-up campaign would occur in Gisborne due to reported wildlife death. However, there is a possibility that these sessions may be held at more than one township within the Macedon Ranges Shire.

The TAC plans for the pop-up community campaign to occur between November to February for confirmation in the coming months. Council aims to publish the online education material on Council's website and social media channels by mid-November 2021.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

Officers will consider the following innovations and continuous improvements in the consultation:

- Pop up sessions with the community to engage with and educate regarding wildlife in our region;
- Social media education and awareness;
- VMS boards with messaging to be displayed (by TAC).

- The investigation to improve wildlife safety on our roads is also a continuous improvement opportunity, not having had a high focus in previous studies.

The investigation to improve wildlife safety on our roads is also a continuous improvement opportunity, not having had a high focus in previous studies.

### **Relevant law**

The *Wildlife Act 1975* indirectly related to this matter, setting the rules around protecting, conserving, sustainably manage and using wildlife in Victoria.

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

The officer actions recommended considering the *VicRoads Speed Guideline and Fauna Guidelines*.

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

The following Council plans and policies guide the consideration of this report:

- Local Laws and Environmental Plan
- Community Engagement Policy

### **Financial viability**

Resource requirements for undertaking the work are within the current budget resources. Any actions arising from the Road Safety and Mobility Strategy are subject to future budget consideration.

### **Sustainability implications**

Wildlife safety is a sustainability consideration that is relevant and important across the Macedon Ranges community. This process seeks to improved wildlife safety.

### **Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in preparing this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest relating to the subject matter.

**15 NOTICES OF MOTION AND RESCISSION**

Nil

**16 URGENT BUSINESS**

**17 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS**

Nil